



Hearts Across Romania

Spring Newsletter

March 2017

College Sponsorships

Education is a gift that keeps on giving, and Hearts is excited to offer opportunities for supporters to invest in the future.

We launched our educational sponsorship program in the fall of 2016, and much success followed with 9 college students currently participating in this program.

Students at Transylvania University do not have to be orphans to qualify as candidates for sponsorship, but they must have an excellent academic record in any field, be able to demonstrate significant financial need, exhibit strength of character, and a willingness to volunteer and give back to their community.

These exemplary young college students represent the future of Romania, and your monthly sponsorship can make a big difference in their lives as they pursue their education.

Sponsorship money helps cover the cost of living expenses, books, and fees. Please go to our website at www.heartsacrossromania.org/what_you_can_do/sponsor-a-college-student/ to find out more about individual students available for sponsorship, as well as a second option to support education through our Adriana Serbanescu Educational Scholarship.

Team One Overview & A Story

because we are so thankful for our committed volunteers!

Two board members were blessed to accompany our first work team trip of last summer. The group consisted of four high school girls, one of whom was adopted from Romania, her mom and her aunt. Their hopes were to spend time with orphaned children to make a difference in their lives, even if for a short time.

And at every orphanage visited, a difference they made. But our volunteers really bonded with the children at Codlea, an orphanage that accommodates children of different ages, some with special needs. Our schedule allowed us to visit Codlea on three different occasions and the joy on the children's faces when we returned was nearly overwhelming. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)**



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



Thank you, Buckner Shoes!!

Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls

Late last year, Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls donated 650 pairs of new shoes to Hearts Across Romania.

The shoes were all sizes, from children to adults, and there were many that will be good for the cold Romanian winter. The shoes were shipped to

Romania with our November shipment (which included not only the shoes but donated clothing, medical supplies, reading glasses and personal items). The large shipment arrived in Brasov at the end of December. Some of the shoes have already been delivered to our sponsored children and college students. The remainder will be distributed in 2017. Thank you so much Buckner!

www.buckner.org/shoes

Thank you, donors!!

Andrea Kirschner
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Keep
Reading!

TEAM ONE Overview, Continued

...The children knew our volunteers' names, and our volunteers remembered the children's names. But, our volunteers didn't just make a difference in the children's lives; the children made a difference in our lives. It was a humbling and remarkable experience.

Because of our experience, the high school girls decided they would make the upcoming Christmas special for the children at Codlea. Between their return to the states in mid-August and the 1st of October, our adopted volunteer, alongside her sister (also adopted), and the rest of our volunteer team worked with the UNICEF Club at their school to collect gifts and donations for 41 girls ages 4-22 and 25 boys ages 7-14+. Appreciating all that the employees at the orphanage do for these children, they also collected for 10 female workers and 16 male workers!

Our volunteers and the UNICEF Club engaged their High School Tech class who made wooden cars and tops to send to the children, and their teacher printed directions (in Romanian!) for the tops.

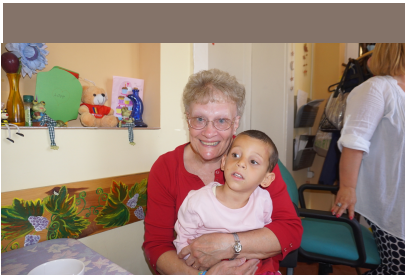
Their total collections equaled nearly 500 pounds of gifts - what a joyous Christmas the children and staff at Codlea had this year thanks to the generosity and kindness of our work team trip volunteers, UNICEF Club and the Tech class!

#GivingTuesday

Hearts participated in #GivingTuesday in November by asking our friends to join our campaign to raise funds for Asociatia Catharsis , a social service organization in Brasov serving needy families, to provide Christmas for the children. #GivingTuesday refers to the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday. #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Since its inaugural year in 2012, #GivingTuesday has become a movement that celebrates and supports giving and philanthropy with events throughout the year and a growing catalog of resources.

This was the first #GivingTuesday Hearts has participated in, and we were so happy and thankful to have reached our goal due to your generous donations. Our campaign raised \$2500 to provide needy children and families assisted by Catharsis gifts and a nice meal on Christmas.

Team Two Overview



Hearts Across Romania completed two wonderful volunteer work team trips to Romania this past summer. Each team spent a two-week action packed and fun filled time in Romania.

Team Two included volunteers from Oregon, Ohio and Texas and was led by Hearts Across Romania (HAR) President Jerry Williams. The two-week adventure began when our volunteers spent the first night as guests of a retired Romanian teacher. Team members had a great time interacting with their host and learning about her life in Romania. A local professor provided us an informative tour of Transylvania University in Brasov, which gave our volunteers and board member a personal prospective of what life is like as a Romanian college student. In an effort to identify the student who would receive HAR's first ever **Adriana Serbanescu Educational Scholarship**, volunteers spent time interviewing students and providing feedback to the HAR board members. In our opinion, all of these college students are winners and deserving of financial assistance. HAR was so impressed with all of the students interviewed that they added them to our Sponsor a College Student program. HAR is proud to report that all college students are now receiving some form of financial support. One received our first full scholarship, five students have been sponsored by donors, and HAR is assisting the remaining students.

2016 Projects:

We spent time playing and interacting with children and young adults through soccer, picnicking, bowling and dining. We visited a newborn nursery and spoke with a very dedicated Neonatologist, and several members volunteered at the local children's hospital. We purchased much-needed appliances for an orphanage and presented a nursing student at a local college with her very own stethoscope, purchased by one of our volunteers. We visited the new transitional center for disadvantaged young men, as well as our sponsored families and children, providing them with food and other needed supplies

One project included transforming the bedroom of a HAR sponsored family. The two boys and their mother were so surprised and grateful for the efforts of the generous financial contributions from our volunteers and their church in Oregon, which funded this project. The family was truly amazed by the transformation. It was an awesome experience, and we were all blessed to have been a part of this memorable project.



Our thanks to our hosts and to the gracious people of Romania!