

shelter of care update

news : project amos—bearer of burdens

Thanks to a bequest from a much-loved supporter, and a generous donation from the University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, WA (Romania Task Force), Shelter of Care is now ready to announce the foundation of an important new project.

Project Amos will provide life skills training, advice, guidance and advocacy services, holiday activity clubs, Bible study groups and Christian counseling to abandoned children and young people in Iași.

Since Shelter of Care began, we have been offering these services to young people in the institutions where they live, but this has become increasingly difficult as orphanages have begun to close and young people have been scattered to project apartments and temporary foster placements.

With our new funding secured, we are now able to rent premises in the city from which we can formalize and extend this work.

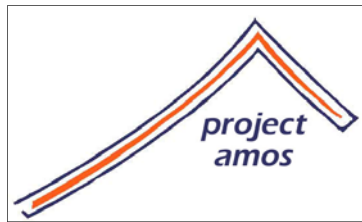
As of February 2007, there were 26,000 Romanian children in institutions, and a further 20,000 in professional foster care. In 2006, on average, nearly 200 children per month were being abandoned in hospitals alone.

Government services for these children are improving, but there is still a huge gap between the provision and the need. At the end of 2006, there were only 31 Government funded services in Romania that offered any counseling for abandoned children, and none of these offered any Christian counseling. There were three services helping children to understand and exercise their rights, and two projects offering life skills training. Just two projects for the whole country.

Of the children living in institutions, over 15,000 are aged over 14, and will therefore need life skills training and transition support in the next 1-5 years.

We have planned a comprehensive scheme of life skills training courses, covering areas such as 'Basic Household Maintenance', 'Meals on a Budget' and 'Preparing for

Employment' which we will deliver to groups of young people at our new base. Participants will receive an achievement certificate at the end of each training course.



We will also provide free internet access, as well as building up a 'service directory' of trustworthy service providers (e.g. plumbers, electricians), accessible to transitioning young people.

As we build up relationships with the young people, we will be able to offer them advice, advocacy services, Bible courses, and Christian counseling.

'Amos' means 'bearer of burdens' and we pray that this new project will form the foundations of what we hope to achieve in the future in our purpose-built counseling centre, helping young people and adults to cast the burden of their abandonment onto their loving Father.

Needs:

We need to equip our office with some basic furniture:

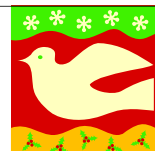
- Two computers and a printer
- Office furniture: desks, chairs, cupboards and shelves
- Folding tables and chairs
- Basic kitchen equipment

If you would like to make a donation to help to furnish our office base, please visit our website, www.shelterofcare.com for details on giving to Shelter of Care.

Praises and Prayers

- We thank God for the timely provision of our new office base, and for generous donations from supporters that have enabled us to finance the rent and maintenance costs for the first year.
- We pray for the finance to furnish the office appropriately.
- We pray for a positive start to our work in the centre in January.
- Please pray for the new club that will start at Tătărași in January.

Trăciun fericit și un an nou fericit



feature : the premises

With Romanian property prices increasing at a startling rate, we knew from the beginning that finding the right premises for Project Amos would be a significant challenge.

The search began in the local newspapers, circling anything that might look feasible and was within our budget, but time after time, properties we viewed were too small, in need of major renovations or in the wrong area of town.

Then, out of the blue, Genuța heard of a friend who was giving up his lease on the middle floor of a lovely building, with an honest

landlord and in a great location. Feeling sure that this was the perfect place, she phoned the landlord, only to be told that the premises was already let.

Weeks went by. Genuța would regularly pass the building, and wonder at the missed opportunity, as every other potential property turned out to be a disappointment.

Eventually, she pleaded with God: "Please send us something in tomorrow's paper to encourage us," and she urged Sorin to buy the paper the next day.

Again, promising prospects were circled, and again estate agents were contacted. One of the properties was the

bottom floor of a three-storey building. As Genuța and Sorin followed the estate agent in his car, Genuța noticed that they were heading towards the same area where the 'perfect' place had been. Then they were on the same street. The estate agent stopped his car outside the very same building.

And this is the premises we have leased. It is every bit as perfect as the middle floor would have been, but with the addition of a large terrace to the side, with fantastic views over the city. At over 100 m2, this property is more than double the size of some others we looked at, for the same rent, and the ground floor location makes it much more suitable for the visiting young people.

We thank God for his provision and for his timing!



extra : children's club

Children's club at Bucium continues to go from strength to strength.

The theme this term has been 'respect', and children have been learning how important it is to show respect to others, and how this respect can be demonstrated through the

way we speak and our body language.

Of course, the children have also enjoyed the craft and cooking activities provided—they love to eat what they have cooked!

One of the most successful projects this term has been

making masks out of felt and other materials. The children have painstakingly sewn together fabric shapes to create highly effective and eye-catching designs.

In the new year, we will be starting a new club at Tătărași, which will include teaching basic English

conversation alongside the traditional crafts and games.

We took many girls from Tătărași on summer camp in 2007, and we are looking forward to strengthening our relationships with them through our new club.

'For I know the plans I have for you', says the Lord.

'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you a hope and a future.'
Jeremiah 29:11

