

## shelter of care update

### news update : festivities

**We finished off our first year at the Project Amos Center with a Christmas party for some of the young women we regularly work with.**

And we had a lot of fun! We played some games, including the very popular



The chocolate game— fun for every age group!

chocolate game. The sight of these very 'grown-up' young ladies throwing themselves down onto their knees and trying to get into a bar of Milka with a knife and fork was a wonderful one. We laughed uproariously!

We also took the time to talk to the girls about the year that they have had. This has been a year of huge changes for some of them as they have gone to university, or taken their first steps in living independently. For some, the changes have been positive, bringing new friends, new challenges and a real sense of growing up.

For others, independent living has been a lonely struggle, where even the basic necessities of life have been hard to find. We sent two of the girls home with bags of leftover party food.

You can read a little of what they shared over the page. For us, listening to what they were saying just served to confirm once more how important our work here is. We are already preparing new practical support action

plans for two of the girls based on what they told us that day.

Towards the end of the party, quite unexpectedly, some of the girls lined up in the office to sing us a few Christmas songs that they had practiced together.



Our party-goers!

Watching them sing their hearts out made me think of so many children's nativity plays I have seen, and reminded me that inside each of these young women is a child that longs to be accepted and approved of.

### a christmas message

**On behalf of everybody at Shelter of Care** we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to each one of you that has prayed for us, sent money and gifts for us, visited us or supported us in any way over the past year. Your generosity is truly appreciated, and we wish you a wonderful

Christmas and blessed New Year.

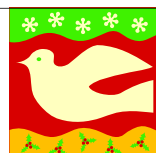
As we think about the New Year, we must consider our future here at the Project Amos Center. Our first year was funded by a major one-off donation, but from March 2009, we will need to find the money each month to pay for the rent and

utilities. Our landlord kindly allows us a month-by-month contract, and the rent here is comparatively cheap for the city (\$840 approx. plus \$280 for utilities) but without this money we will have to close the centre, which will have a serious impact on the work we can do.

Could you help us? We have made so much progress this year, and we still have so much to do. Please see our website for details of how to donate.

Or perhaps you could organize a fundraiser? One imaginative idea could keep us in business for a whole month or longer! You can share your ideas and tell us about your activities through our Facebook group. We look forward to hearing from you!

*Trăciun fericit și un an nou fericit*



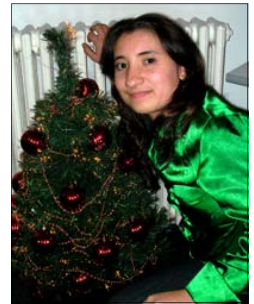
## feature : getting to know you

As we come towards the end of our first year at our Project Amos city center base, we thought it would be good for you to meet some of our clients. These are some of the young women that we support most regularly, through face-to-face meetings, counseling, practical support and most importantly, through developing long-term relationships with them.

At our Christmas party, these girls shared with us as we reflected on the year that had passed, and considered what the coming year might bring. Here are some of the things that they shared.



**Ana-Maria** has lived through a big change this year, moving from one community placement center to another, and is facing more change next year as she finishes high school. If she does well in her exams she hopes to go on to university and become a social worker as she loves children.



**Fraga** said that one thing she loved this year was her summer job. She will complete her education at vocational school in February and will then need to find a full-time job and a place to live.

**Lăcrămioara's** year has been a smooth one, but, like Ana-Maria, she will complete high school this summer, taking important final exams. After that she wants to go on to university to study sports.



**Crenguța (Katy)** said that she has had a wonderful year. She settled in at university very well, making lots of new friends and enjoying her studies. She is looking forward to next year and feels very positive.

**Mihaela** started living fully independently this year and has found things very hard. She lives in one room of a family's apartment and feels very uncomfortable there. She did have a job, but doesn't right now, and is finding it hard to make ends meet. She feels very bleak about the future.



**Cristina** was studying at vocational school but has transferred to high school and so, like Ana-Maria and Lăcrămioara, will take final exams this summer. She isn't making plans about what she will do after that, as she isn't sure whether her results will get her a university place. The worst part of this year was a nasty break-up with her long-term boyfriend. On the plus side, she did really enjoy her summer job.

**Roxana** came late to the party and missed the sharing time because she was at work. She has an excellent part-time job teaching sports at the children's community center, which helps to support her as she studies sports at university. She has just completed her second year, which included a successful trip to Germany with the university's girls' soccer team.



**Petronela** will, like Fraga, complete her vocational school education in February and will then need a job and a place to live. She enjoyed the summer job she got this year, and is looking forward to starting work, but has no idea what she will do.



**Giovana** lives semi-independently in supported accommodation with another girl and an older lady who supervises them. This is a sort of half-way house for Giovana as she needs extra help with day-to-day living. She has found this move a big change from the more supportive environment of her community placement center, and isn't very happy there. She makes some money cleaning apartment buildings but doesn't have much idea or hope about what the future might bring her.



'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

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