

shelter of care update

news : Project Amos

Saturday February 9th 2008 was a landmark day for Shelter of Care as we were finally able to officially open the doors of Project Amos, our city-based resource center.

To mark our very first day of operation, we invited several of the older girls who came with us on summer camp last year, for an afternoon of fun, games, reminiscences and cookies!

It was lovely to be able to renew and strengthen our relationships with these young people, and to explain the new project to them and see their enthusiastic response.

The success of this first day was a real encouragement for all of us, after a challenging month preparing the offices for use. Minor repairs had to be carried out, and of course the whole office suite needed to be thoroughly cleaned. The delivery of office

furniture that we ordered in early January was delayed until the end of the month, and equipment had to be brought out of storage and cleaned.

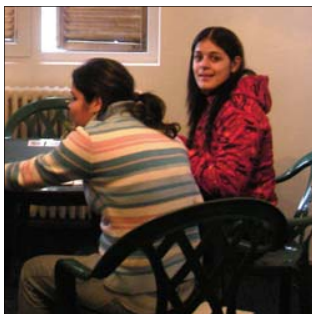
And our work of preparation is not over! We are still unpacking boxes of equipment and supplies, sorting through paperwork and awaiting our internet/telephone connection, but the office is now manned on a daily basis, our Saturday meetings have become a well-attended and regular feature, and plans for future events are well under way.

Some of the girls were very interested in coming regularly to the project for other classes and activities, and the director of the orphanage that supervises their care is enthusiastic about working with us to ensure that our activities are tailored to the young people's needs.



Thanks to generous donations by supporters in England, we will be able to equip the office with five computers which we will use to provide free internet access for our young people. We also hope to run accredited courses in basic computer skills.

We have added a new Project Amos page to our website, in English and Romanian. Just go to our home page, www.shelterofcare.com and follow the 'Proiectul Amos' link on the right.



Genuța and three of the girls with the banner that was made by young people at summer camp. This banner will take pride of place in our office.

**Sfaturile în inima omului sunt ca niște ape adânci, dar omul priceput știe să scoată din ele.
Proverbe 20:5**

This scripture is printed on the banner in our office that was designed for us by English volunteers, and made by the girls at summer camp. See your own Bible for the translation!

praises and prayers:

- We are full of praise for the initial success of Project Amos, and the new opportunities we have to work with the young people in Tătărași (see page 2).
- We also give thanks for the generous donations that have enabled us to equip our office base.
- Please pray for the right young people to be drawn to Project Amos. We could do a lot of activities with lots of different people, but we only want to do what we are called to do. We still need to hear God clearly each day.

feature : Projects and Opportunities

The momentum created by the launch of Project Amos has continued in subsequent weeks with the creation of two brand new projects.

It has long been our intention to run an after-school club at Tătărași orphanage, but this has been frustrated by delays in obtaining the proper clearances and permission from the authorities (not to mention the Christmas holidays!).

Thankfully these hurdles have finally been overcome and the first of two weekly English Clubs was held at the orphanage on Thursday 21st February.

These two clubs will run back-to-back on Thursday afternoons, each catering to around 13 young boys aged

8-16. The aim of the session will be to support the young people in the learning of English through introducing games, activities and crafts in sessions led by a native speaker. The sessions will be conducted in English, and the boys will be encouraged to build on the English they already know through their lessons at school.

Older boys will also be encouraged to bring their English homework if they need support to complete it.

Many of the young people we work with are under-achievers at school. They have no chance of getting access to a private tutor, and some of the older boys show clear signs of disaffection with school and with learning in general.

Abandoned children already have enough to deal with,

without the added cost to their self-esteem of falling behind in their school studies.

Through the clubs we hope to give these boys an advantage that will allow them to stand side by side with other children in their classes, and maybe even pull ahead in English lessons.

A second and, for us, equally important objective, is to establish relationships with a new generation of young people at Tătărași so that as the time draws near for them to leave the orphanage, their link with us is already established and they can easily access our transition support programs.

As our previous work with young people at Tătărași has mainly been with the girls we have met through summer

camps, we are delighted to have the opportunity to build relationships with these 26 boys.

Our second new project is a similar weekly English language club that will take place at the Project Amos offices, catering to the teenage girls who have become regular attenders at our Saturday Club.

The girls are all either nearing the end of high school, or students at the university in Iași. They study English already and are enthusiastic about developing their skills in a fun and informal setting.

At Shelter of Care, we are delighted with the new opportunities we have been given to reach out to Iași's abandoned children, and we pray that this momentum will continue over the coming months.

extra : Palatul Culturii

Iași's most famous landmark, Palatul Culturii (The Palace of Culture), is due to close very soon for an extensive five-year renovation program.

The Palace was commissioned in 1906 by King Carol I, but construction was delayed by World War I. Completed in 1926, it stands imposingly in the center of the city at one

end of Bulevardul Stefan Cel Mare, from where it has an uninterrupted view up to Piața Unirii. From the windows in the Palace, a visitor can see clearly all the way to the ornate Hotel Traian building.

Today, the Palace of Culture houses several museums, including an ethnographic museum of Moldavian

Culture, and an impressive Art Gallery.

Unfortunately if you want to visit the museums, you will have to make a trip to Iași very soon, or wait until 2013!

But don't let this deter you from visiting Iași this summer—there is still plenty to see in the city, including the Metropolitan Cathedral, the 'Three Hierarchs'



monastery and the beautiful botanical gardens, which are among the largest in Europe.

'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

