



## *shelter of care update*

### news update : it's officially summer!

**Our first days of the year with temperatures above 30 degrees confirm the rumor that summer is here.**

Schools are closed now, and we have had our end of term party at Bucium children's club, complete with pizza and soda!

Work in the orphanages becomes increasingly difficult during summer, as many of the children are sent away to successive camps making it difficult to continue any regular program.

On the positive side, the summer break does mean that we will be able to see a lot more of our older clients at the Project Amos base.

There will be an important difference between our summer program this year

and that of previous years: this year we are not going away on summer camp.

Although our summer camp program has always been very popular, and a wonderful way of establishing relationships with the young people, we have taken the decision to suspend the program for this year for several reasons.

When Shelter of Care ran its first summer camp in 2000, the opportunity to go away for a holiday was a novel one for most of our girls—the majority of them had never been on any kind of camp before.

Now, with the authorities' increasing reliance on sending children away to camp to reduce staffing needs in the summer months, most of our children

have not only been to many camps, but are in fact tired of camps and would rather stay at home!

A second reason is that the camps are becoming increasingly expensive, and there was a limit to the number of girls that we could invite. Now we have our office base, we have a place to run

summer activities for more young people, for more weeks, for a wider range of age groups, and for boys as well as girls. In this way, the money that we would have spent on camp can now go

much further in providing opportunities for many more young people.

Image removed to comply with child protection regulations

We took some children from Bucium orphanage to a summer party.

We are planning an exciting program for the summer including Bible teaching, craft activities, games, day trips, and a sports program at the local gym. A team of volunteers from England will be coming to support us with this program for two weeks. If you have free time this summer and would like to volunteer for

one or two weeks (or more!), we could definitely find a role for you!

Information for volunteers can be found on our website, [www.shelterofcare.com](http://www.shelterofcare.com)

### profile : moving on

**One of the most rewarding aspects of our work is seeing girls we have worked with since they were children go on to make successful lives for themselves as adults.**

Some of the first young people to be helped by Shelter of Care, are still receiving support from us today, although that support

now takes a very different form.

We were recently able to provide legal counsel to two sisters with whom we have worked for years. Shelter of Care bought a one-roomed apartment for these girls to share when they left our transition apartment. Now, the older sister is married with a baby of her own, and

the younger sister has been working long enough to consider buying her sister's share of the apartment.

It was a delight to be able to provide counsel for these two responsible young women, to accompany them to the notary office to draw up the paperwork, and to see them both making such wise and positive decisions for their

own lives.

The effects of abandonment last well beyond childhood, and so the support we provide for our young people needs to grow and develop as they themselves grow and develop.

Shelter of Care is committed to these relationships for the long term.

## reviewing the year so far

**With 2008 already half over, we are nearing the six-month anniversary of our move into the Project Amos offices, so this seems like an excellent time to review our progress so far!**

Since we opened Project Amos in January 2008:

- We have equipped the offices for their multi-purpose use, including making the internet available for our clients.
- We have started four new projects: two clubs at Tătărași orphanage, the Saturday Drop-In, and English classes at the centre. The existing children's club at Bucium has continued to thrive.
- We have received our first clients for counseling, and

continued and expanded the transition support we provide to older clients.

- We have developed and trialed a Romanian-language 'Safety on the Internet' course for teens.
- We have imported a small amount of plus-size clothing from England to sell in Iași as a fundraising initiative.
- We have continued to work with the architect, the developers and the planning department regarding our future building project on the land at Bărnova.
- We have planned one two-week program for this summer with volunteers from England, and we are awaiting news about the possibility of a team from

the US coming later in the summer for a second program.

In an average month, 37 different children and young adults will be contacted and helped by Shelter of Care.

Between February and May, 2008, we were able to mark a total of 464 attendances in our registers, including all of our clubs, activities, transition support and counseling sessions.

We rely entirely on donations to finance our work. With your support, we can continue to make progress in the coming six months.

**Please visit our website to find out how you can donate to Shelter of Care.**

### praises and prayers:

- We are thankful that opportunities for providing transition support are developing more rapidly as we become established in our office base. We have been able to support new clients, and strengthen our links with young people we have known for years.
- Please pray about the upcoming consultation meetings and the potential for networking that should arise as a result.
- We have been granted approval by the childcare authorities for our summer programs. Please continue to pray for a good relationship with this part of the Romanian government, as their support is vital.
- Please pray that our British volunteer team will have a safe journey and a successful and enjoyable time as they run their program here in July/August.

## extra : consultation process

**We were recently visited by an American missionary, who, in conjunction with World Vision, has begun a process of bringing together the faith-based social care groups in Iași.**

Jonathan Sharpe aims to personally visit as many organizations as possible with a view to creating a website directory of the organizations, their missions

and activities, as well as a resource base for all faith-based groups.

Representatives are being invited to a consultation on June 27th-28th, where there will be opportunity to share visions and ideas, and to pray together for the city.

There are many, many organizations working in Iași, and new groups are still appearing that often have

little or no knowledge of what is already happening in the city. A central source of information would help those who are already at work, as well as those who want to come here to work. Why start something new when you could join a group that is already successfully working in an area?

The opportunity to pool resources and information

would also be valuable.

Please pray for these consultation meetings. Representatives of all Christian organizations, including those of the Orthodox Church, have been invited to join. This could be a very positive opportunity to break down some of the barriers between the different groups, to the benefit of those we are trying to serve.

'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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