

shelter of care update

news : transitional time

The work of Shelter of Care reached the end of an era in November 2006 as the transition home apartment was sold.

The transition home has always been an important part of Shelter of Care's work, helping young women to complete the difficult journey from life in an institution to independent living.

Since 2001, 16 young women have benefited from this program, holding down jobs and learning to keep house and manage their money in a supportive environment. It has been a delight to see these girls now living in their own apartments.

However, this year, we

made the difficult decision to sell the apartment and use the finances to begin work on the new counseling and resource center.

With the money raised from the apartment sale, we will be able to pay the balance on the land at Bârnova, approve our building plans and pay for the utilities. We might even be able to start work on the communal areas—the sports area and the playground.

We would like to thank all our supporters who donated the money that allowed us to buy the

apartment. Your generosity has transformed the lives of 16 wonderful young women.

Now, our faithful God has blessed us by multiplying that money so that we can use it to benefit untold numbers of young people in the future. How wonderful to be a part of His amazing plans!



Learning lifeskills—the transition apartment helped 16 young women to find a better future



profile : sorin and genuța erhan

It was while training as an attorney at university in Iași that Genuța first fell in love with the kids she saw in an orphanage each day as she went to class.

This was back in 1992 and

Genuța had only recently become a Christian through a friend at university, but she was ready to give up her career dreams and instead dedicate herself to helping these children.

Genuța and Sorin, a mechanical engineer by

trade, met each other around this time and soon became good friends.

Sorin started to work with orphan boys in 1997, living in a transition apartment with four boys. He also worked with them on a farm project, helping them to

learn practical skills.

In 2000, Genuța and Sorin were married, and in 2001 they established Shelter of Care, working with local Christians and volunteers from all over the world to bring hope to kids in institutions in Iași.

praises and prayers

- We give thanks to God for the quick sale of the apartment—it is a relief to be able to pay for the land
- Genuța and Sorin's trip to England was a blessing for them personally and for Shelter of Care—a real answer to prayer
- Please pray that God will continue to confirm His vision for the new center to us
- Pray also for the Children's Club—that we will be able to touch the children in a new way
- Please continue to pray for the girls who were touched at Summer Camp, and for local volunteers to maintain follow-up relationships with them
- We always thank God for the many people who pray regularly for us. Please keep up to date by checking the 'Praises & Prayers' page on our website

focus : children's club

In mid-September, as Romanian children returned to school after their long summer holiday, Shelter of Care's Children's Program at Bucium Placement Center was resumed.

The Children's Program aims to give abandoned kids some of the same life experiences as children in families—the chance take part in youth clubs,

computer clubs and sports training. Children who grow up in orphanages often miss out on these things because there is nobody to take them there or provide the equipment or money needed.

Shelter of Care runs a Children's Club each Friday afternoon at Bucium where up to 20 young girls and boys meet together for games, sports, crafts, cookery and a short Bible lesson.

Life at Bucium is very unstructured for young children. Unlike in a home setting where a family might sit down together to eat a meal, talk about

their day and so on, children at Bucium are left largely to their own devices, not even sitting down to eat together.

The Friday afternoon club brings some welcome structure to the week, giving children a more constructive way to spend their time.

Children's Club is also a valuable opportunity for Shelter of Care staff and volunteers to build up relationships which can lead to more focused support for individuals when it is needed, e.g. targeting children for optician's

appointments, or providing career counseling or transition support.

As well as the Club, Shelter of Care have also been able to provide children at Bucium with 20 internet capable computers. This is particularly vital, as children don't have access to the internet at school or in libraries and often had to resort

to unsuitable internet cafes to research their school assignments. Now, kids at Bucium have free access to computers, and a trained supervisor providing computer lessons five times each week.

Image removed to comply with child protection regulations.

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extra : language lesson

The work of Shelter of Care centers around the university city of Iași, north-eastern Romania.

If you are not familiar with the Romanian language, you may be surprised to learn that Iași is actually pronounced 'Yash'.

How's that?

Well, Romanian is basically a phonetic language—words are pronounced largely as they appear— but there are a few accents and rules to be learned.

In Iași, the initial letter is 'i', which, when at the

start of a word is always pronounced 'y' as in 'yacht'.

The accented 'ș' is pronounced 'sh' as in 'shop', and 'i' at the end of a word is essentially silent, making Iași into 'Yash'!

A group of overseas volunteers were heading to Iași for the summer. As they travelled from Bucharest by train, they wondered how they would recognize the right station. Alighting nervously from the train at what they thought was Iași, they all left the station and went into the first building they saw. Going up to the counter, the leader of the team said, in English, 'Where are we?', adding 'Please speak very slowly so I can understand you.' The young Romanian lady behind the counter stared at him for some moments, smiled and then replied slowly and loudly: 'Mc-don-alds!'

'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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