

shelter of care update

news : a vision of hope and healing

Helena* was 17 when she came to her first Shelter of Care summer camp. One day, during a small group meeting, she broke down in tears as she told of her need to know why, out of seven siblings, she was the only one that was abandoned.

“Is it because I was not pretty enough? Is it because I was too stupid? Why did my parents not want me?”

Helena is just one of thousands growing up in Romania's childcare system today, each with their own story of abandonment, abuse and rejection. But Helena is relatively lucky. In today's orphanages and projects, children are benefiting from over a decade of reforms aimed at improving conditions. For the hundreds of thousands of children who grew up in Ceausescu's orphanages, conditions were often unspeakable. Now these adults live lives blighted not only by the trauma of abandonment, but also by the ordeal of orphanage life.

The human brain develops and modifies itself in response to experiences. This is why, when a child is brought up in an atmosphere of neglect and persistent trauma, physical and psychological disturbances will occur which will continue to have negative effects into adulthood. Adults with

severe, unresolved attachment issues will often threaten, frighten and abandon their own children, leading to a repeating cycle.

At Shelter of Care, God has given us a radical vision of hope and healing for those living in the shadow of abandonment. Our unique, purpose-built centre will provide free support and counselling designed to alleviate the trauma of abandonment in young people, and repair the damage caused by abandonment in adults, through personal and group counselling, conferences, retreats and camps.

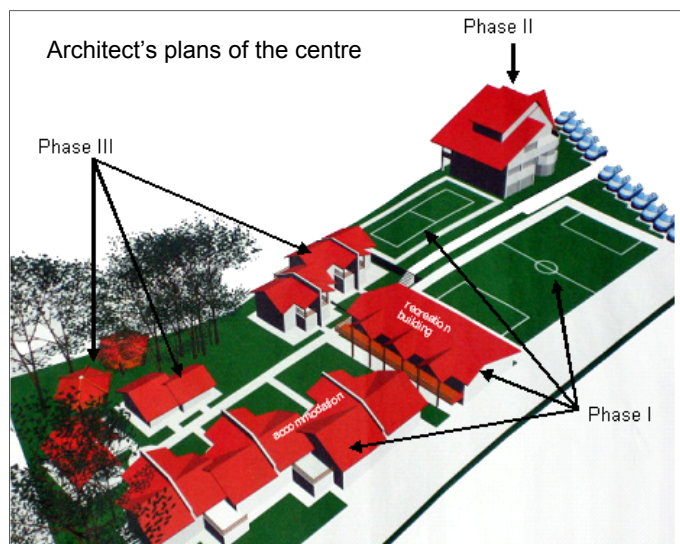
The centre is designed to become self-sustaining, through providing holiday accommodation and functioning as a conference venue for local businesses

and churches. Revenue from commercial activities will be re-invested into our work with the abandoned and orphaned, allowing us to expand our existing activities.

Joel 2:25 tells us that when we turn to God, he will restore to us “the years that the swarming locusts have eaten.” We pray for that restoration in the children we work with; we pray for God to bring healing into their places of desolation; and we believe that this centre will be a place where that healing can take place.

The land is paid for, architect's plans are complete, and we are ready to begin building when funds allow. For more information on how you can be a part of this vision, visit our website, www.shelterofcare.com.

(* not her real name)



Symptoms of attachment disorder in children:

- Defiance and anger
- Argumentative attitudes
- Manipulative behaviour
- Deception and lying
- Poor peer relationships
- Self-destructive behaviour
- Learning delay
- Speech and language problems
- Inappropriately demanding/clingy
- Fascination with violence
- Difficulty forming and maintaining relationships

The Architect's Plans:

- Phase I—Recreation building with counselling rooms, main meeting room, indoor play and sports facilities, and administration offices. A cafeteria and convenience shop. Outdoor sports pitches. Accommodation for up to 39 guests.
- Phase II—Main conference facilities with large conference room, dining room and kitchen, counselling suite, library, advice centre.
- Phase III—accommodation for a further 35 people.

feature : expanding the team

July saw the arrival of a new full time volunteer for Shelter of Care. **Becky White, a long-time summer camp volunteer, moved to Iași on a more permanent basis this summer to work alongside Sorin and Genuța Erhan.**

Becky first came to Iași in 2001 as part of a group of English volunteers running a two-week children's club at Bucium.

Two years later, she visited again with a team of musicians and Bible teachers sent out from Newbold Baptist Church, Rochdale, to serve at Shelter of Care's summer camp that year, and she has volunteered at every summer camp since, leading the worship and helping with craft activities.

Before moving to Romania, Becky worked as a teacher at

Emmanuel Christian School, Rochdale, for twelve years.

"God started speaking to me about moving to Romania in 2004," said Becky. "This was definitely a decision that evolved over a period of time, but He left me in no doubt as to what He wanted from me. Now I'm here, I'm very excited to see what God will do."

In her new role with Shelter of Care, Becky will assist with current projects, as well as helping to initiate new ideas. She will also continue her work helping to publicise the foundation, including maintaining the website she designed in 2006, and writing fundraising and publicity materials.



"One of my main priorities here is to see the vision for the counselling centre move forward to reality," said Becky. "I really believe that this is the kind of substantial project that will bring about long-lasting change for Romania. The time for emergency aid is over. Now we need to look at what we can be doing to ensure that these damaging cycles of poverty, emotional devastation and abandonment, are broken for good."

If you are interested in volunteering for Shelter of Care, you can find out more at our website, www.shelterofcare.com.

Maybe a two-week trip to Romania one summer will change your life too!

Praises and Prayers

- We thank God for several substantial financial gifts received recently at a time of need. He really does know all our needs!
- Please pray for the children at Bucium as Children's Club gets underway there after the summer break.
- Please pray for us as we seek to start a new weekly project at Tătărași. Pray that we will hear God clearly and that the relevant permissions will be granted.
- Becky would appreciate your prayers as she settles into her new life here.

extra : how to give to shelter of care

Our work here is made possible only by the generous donations of our supporters in the US and UK, and we thank God for this continuing provision.

To bring the counselling centre from plan to reality, we will need to raise upwards of 500,000 euros.

Shelter of Care has already raised over 100,000 euros,

some of which has been used to pay for the land itself, and other initial expenses, and we are seeking financial support from major funders in Europe and the US.

We also welcome any one-off or regular donation you would wish to make, whatever the amount. We can use your donation to pay for current projects, or to add to the centre fund.

You can donate to us through our partner agency in the UK, Project Agape.

We guarantee that 100% of the money you donate comes directly to Shelter of Care.

Send cheques made payable to 'Project Agape' to:

Project Agape (c/o P. Turner)
Newbold Baptist Church
Milnrow Road, Rochdale
OL11 5DL

Clearly label the back of your cheque 'Shelter of Care'.

If you are a UK tax payer please Gift Aid your donation. Gift Aid forms can be downloaded from our website.

You can also donate using your credit card directly from our website through PayPal secure online payments.

'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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