

shelter of care update

news update : the future draws closer

The project that will most clearly define the future work of Shelter of Care took a giant leap forward earlier this year as we purchased a beautiful piece of land in the village of Bârnova, just outside of Iași.

It is on this land that we plan to build the purpose-designed Counselling & Resource Centre that will become the base for Shelter of Care's operations in future years.

Orphanages in Iași are



currently being closed down in preparation for Romania's entry into the European Union. However, this does not mean that there are no longer abandoned children in Romania. At Shelter of Care we recognise that these changes do not mean that our work is finished; rather that the nature of our work must change.

We plan to move many of our current activities to the Counselling & Resource Centre, and also to use that building to develop our work in new directions, providing therapy to adults who were abandoned as children, providing careers and legal advice to those transitioning from state care into independent living, and



Architect's impression of the proposed Counselling & Resource Centre building.

much more.

You can find more detailed information on the project and photographs of the land on our website: www.shelterofcare.com

Currently, it is estimated that the building project will cost around 230,000 euros (£155,000). If you would like to contribute to this project, please see the information on the back of the newsletter, or visit our website.

profile : claudia's story

When Shelter of Care first connected with Claudia (not her real name) at the age of 14, she had spent her entire life in institutions.

At seven years old Claudia learned that she had a sister who was also in an orphanage. Being abandoned as a baby, it was hard for Claudia to develop a close relationship with an

older sister she didn't even know she had. Like other abandoned children, Claudia has had to struggle to overcome her attachment disorder and learn to trust other people.

When Claudia graduated and had to leave the orphanage, she came to live at our transition home. Later, Shelter of Care helped her

and her sister to buy a small apartment together.

We are very proud of Claudia. She keeps a job and takes good care of her place. Most of all, she has a very positive attitude and is helping younger kids at the orphanage, "mentoring" one of the girls and teaching her what life "outside" is going to be like.

Welcome to this first edition of Shelter of Care's new, regular newsletter, 'Shelter of Care Update'.

Whether you are familiar with our work among abandoned children in Iași, Romania, or just hearing about us for the first time, we hope you will find this newsletter both interesting and informative.

For more information about the work of Shelter of Care, or any of the articles in this newsletter, why not visit our website: www.shelterofcare.com

If you would like to receive a newsletter automatically by email, simply send your request to: info@shelterofcare.com

prayer update:

- We give thanks for a great Summer Camp this year. See over for details.
- Please pray for the quick sale of Shelter of Care's land in Iași—the money is needed to pay the balance of the newly-purchased land at Bârnova.
- Pray that Sorin and Genuța's upcoming visit to Rochdale, England will be fruitful, envisioning many new people about Shelter of Care's future plans.

focus : summer camp report 2006

If I had to say what the highlight of this camp was, I would say without hesitation: relationships.

This year, out of 22 girls, ten were new, not only to the camp programme, but to us all, since it's the first time we have invited girls from Tătărași orphanage to come with us. And I am so glad we did that. They were amazing girls, willing to learn, willing to listen, and willing to share!

During teaching times, we presented women from the Bible – women with different emotions – and we tried to teach the girls how to handle certain feelings, especially the negative ones. I was amazed how open the girls are about what they feel once they see you are really interested in what is going on in their lives.

Many girls came to me after each session of teaching and asked me where in the Bible is the story they just heard so they can read it again!! Alleluia!!

We did miss some people this summer; volunteers that for different reasons couldn't come to camp. So, we were a much smaller team than usual. But the worship time was beautiful as always, and the crafts that the volunteers brought challenged the girls to creativity and I think this is a very good thing. At first, it was hard for the girls from Tătărași to understand that they could keep whatever they made. When they realised it was for them to keep, they put even more effort into it.

The weather was great and the food was very good. In

fact at the end when each of the girls did her own evaluation most of them placed the food very high on their list of "liked"!

Image removed to comply with child protection regulations.

I don't want to paint a perfect canvas here. I am not saying that everything was ideal. We are looking at a whole new generation of girls. They don't like sports anymore, they love make-up. They prefer to play with their mobiles instead of spending time with you sometimes. The way they dress is very different from what we are used to.

But once you give them a

chance and accept them the way they are, you soon discover that they are not different from any other girls: still hurt, still abandoned, still worried about the future, still in desperate need of salvation. So it's a relief to know that no matter who you address your message to, it should be the same: we all need Jesus in our lives – He is the only hope we have got. And all the girls without exception thanked us at the end of the camp for teaching them about God, and especially that you can have a personal relationship with Him.

These girls will always remember the volunteers that came to camp. They ask me every summer about each one of them. My challenge for you all today is to live your life so that someone will remember you.

Genuța Erhan
(for a fuller camp report, please go to www.shelterofcare.com)

extra : how to give to shelter of care

We need 230,000 euros to make the Counselling & Resource Centre a reality. This may seem like a lot of money, but in reality it means 250 people giving just 77 euros per month for one year—that's just £52 each month.

Could you be one of 250?

We welcome any one-off or regular donation you would wish to make, whatever the amount. You can donate to us through our partner agency in the UK.

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

Our partner agency in the UK is Project Agape. 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.

'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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