

FCE's projects in Romania

**“I am glad
that I got
a chance!”**



FCE

Fundația Creștină Elim
Romania

How it all started ...

After the Romanian revolution in 1989, the situation for abandoned children was acknowledged. TV and newspapers showed terrific pictures of children who were tied down in their beds, malnourished and robbed of human care and love. Who can forget such things?

People from different places travelled to Romania to help people in need. After having seen the same needs, they decided to establish a long term operation.

The churches that sent help to the vicinity around Marghita in north west Romania began to collaborate and FCE was formed. This is a Romanian organisation set up to run the projects and is legally responsible for the work.

As the years have gone by, more and more people have become involved, not just Romanians and Swedes but also people from the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and other countries.

The work is completely reliant on voluntary contributions and gifts. Many people contribute in a practical way to the work in Romania in a voluntary capacity both short and long term. This can involve the care of smaller or older children and also building and renovation work.

Furthermore, there are many people in their home countries who faithfully support through prayer, financial assistance and other forms of sponsorship.



What does FCE do?

The first aid trucks were sent in 1990 to relieve desperate need. These have since been followed by long term help, enabling us to help those in

need to help themselves. The main purpose of FCE is to help abandoned children and young people gain a dignified life.

The work impacts approximately 200 abandoned children and young people, 80 poor families and elderly and disabled people in two state run institutions.

FCE has around 40 employed people. In addition, there is a team of approximately 25 people from different countries who come to help. Missionaries and volunteers do not receive economic help from FCE's funds; they pay all the costs themselves.





*FCE gives abandoned children
a chance in life.*



A future for the children

Those children who have been abandoned as babies and grown up in an orphanage have been robbed of most things that a child needs. The ideal solution is for such a child to go to a loving family.

Some children have been taken home by their biological families. Many of the children have gone to adoptive families in other countries while others have been placed in Romanian adoptive or foster families. The children also need the chance to be integrated into mainstream schools. A lack of good upbringing and healthy values make it very difficult for the older children to fit into society.

FCE's aims are to create rights for the child-

ren and young people, give them a value and support them fully until they are no longer dependent. Those who have grown up in orphanages need help to attain inner healing and restoration.

Romania is an EU country but still finds itself in a difficult financial position. High prices and low salaries contribute to the fact that many continue to live in misery. Therefore, aid organisations such as FCE have a big role to fulfil.

Young people who would otherwise be without a chance, now receive help towards education, employment and learning social skills. Some of them are employed in FCE's own projects.

FCE's projects

► Children's unit at the hospital

Abandoned small children at the hospital are placed into foster care by the state or go back to their biological family, if possible. Volunteers go to the hospital to make sure that children who stay there for a longer period of time receive extra care and stimulation.

► Casa Alba

Casa Alba opened in 1996 and 24 abandoned children from the hospital in Marghita moved in. They are now in adoptive or foster families or back with their biological families. Other children have taken their places. Previously these children came solely from the hospital but more recently children have moved in who were taken into care by the local authorities.

When it is time to start school they attend main stream schools. They receive love and security from staff and volunteers until a permanent solution is found. The aim is for each child to have their own family.

► Casa Silvia

As children moved from Casa Alba, those with special needs were left behind. Casa Silvia opened in 2003. For children who did not receive families, a family was created. Employed staff and volunteers take care of them.

► Special needs school

In collaboration with the school authorities a

special need's school opened in Marghita in 2001. This was the first time that children with special needs were integrated in a main stream school in Romania. Without this possibility they would have been without any education.

► Cadea

Up until 2004 there was a teenage orphanage in the village of Cadea for teenagers who had grown up in orphanages. A great deal was done by FCE to support these young people whilst living in a miserable environment and to receive those who, after finishing school, would have ended up on the street.

In the same village is an institution for young adults with mental health problems, all of whom have grown up in orphanages. They receive visits and encouragement from volunteers.

► Popesti

In the village of Popesti there is a state run orphanage for children who have been abandoned. FCE has completed renovation work but invests first and foremost in the rehabilitation of these children's institutional damages.

Volunteers go there on a regular basis to give hope to, and support the children as they develop in life.

► Transit program/Family homes

The first family home opened in Marghita in 1998. This was followed by the homes in Chiribis and Poiana. In each family home there is an employed parental couple and space for six young people. During the transit period they learn about respect, how to behave appropriately, hygiene, cooking, money management and more. They are taught all that is needed in order to integrate into society. The family home model is good; love and sound limits produce results.

Some of the boys together with the parents in the family home, Poiana.





The girl who has given her name to "Casa Silvia".

➤ Final help

When the young people move out from the transit home where they have been living for a few years, they are still in need of support. Social workers and volunteers keep contact with them. The aim is for them to be independent.

➤ Halfway house

In a beautiful place in Marghita the building of a halfway house commenced in 2008. For the first time ever, the Romanian state is providing financial support for one of FCE's projects.

The house has got space for 48 beds and food, accommodation and support from staff will be provided during the period of stay there. This is a good transition out into society for the young people who have lived in the transit homes but still struggle to manage on their own.

➤ Camp ministry

All FCE's children experience unforgettable camps. Every summer there are teams from abroad who come and run these camps.

➤ The Youth Centre

A Christian youth centre in our own venue opened in 2006 and is called 'The Club'. There are opportunities for games, courses and fellowship. There are also meetings including song, prayer and teaching. The Club is a longed-after venue.

➤ Help for poor families

Families who have taken their children home from either the hospital or Casa Alba can receive monthly support in terms of food, clothes, shoes etc according to needs. Support can also be given to families where somebody is disabled or has other difficulties.

➤ Ciutelec

In the village of Ciutelec there is state run home for elderly and young people with disabilities. FCE has a team that visits each week. The quiet time in the chapel and the opportunity to have social contact with people outside the home means a lot.

➤ Depot and construction

Trucks come from Sweden and Scotland with food, clothes, hygiene articles, construction materials and more. Things are given out from the depot to help meet the needs in the different projects, to the poor families and even to state institutions. At Christmas thousands of presents are handed out! Much of the construction material is donated and is put to good use within the construction and renovation projects.

➤ Roma mission

FCE supports a social-evangelical work in a Roma village. People who overcome alcoholism, start to work and look after their children. This proves that the work is successful.



Young people enjoy spending time in FCE's youth centre, "The Club".



Barbro and Lars Gustavsson lead FCE's work in Romania.

The help from FCE's donors means life for many children.

You can help through:

» Gifts

FCE's ministry relies entirely on freewill gifts. There is a big need of money as well as material gifts.

» Company sponsorship

Companies can sponsor the work financially or by providing materials.

» Construction teams

Trips are organised for construction teams who stay for one or two weeks and help with renovation and construction.

» Regular donor

As a regular donor you support all the projects with a regular financial gift and receive a newsletter every quarter.

» Voluntary work

In the ministry there is a need for volunteers who are willing to pay their travel and accommodation expenses and work for a period with the children or with other practical work.

Contact details

If you want to support FCE's work:

Gifts

Banca Comerciala Romana
Sucursala Marghita
Cod: SWIFT: RNCBROBU

Account number: GBP – RO58RNCB0035022151630003
(IBAN) USD – RO85RNCB0035022151630002
EUR – RO31RNCB0035022151630004
CAD – RO47RNCB0035022151630007

From the U.K.

For details on an alternative way to make donations and becoming a regular giver, please send an Email to fceuk@yahoo.co.uk and you will be sent the relevant information.

From the U.S.

Donations to FCE can also be made through Mercy Ministries. Donations can either be made by sending a check to the P.O. box address (below) or by making a donation online through the Mercy Ministries website.

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Contact people

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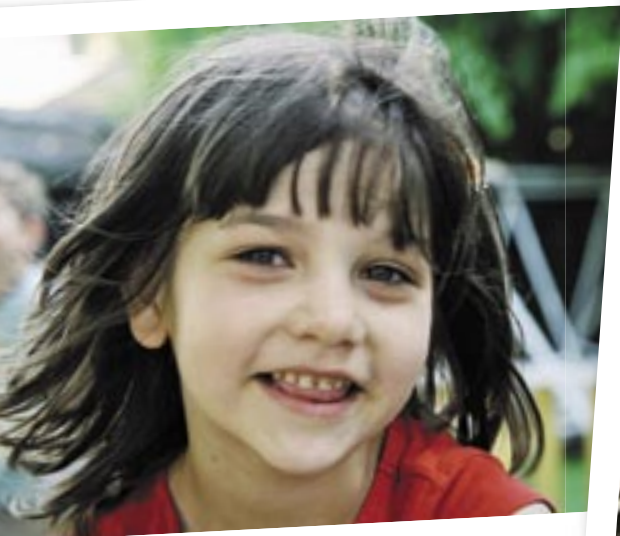
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Romania's abandoned children need your help!



- FCE is helping abandoned children in Romania.
- The goal is to rehabilitate the children and provide them with a family.
- The young people receive help in order to prepare them for a life on their own.
- As a volunteer you can help for a longer or shorter period of time.
- Donors give a regular gift to provide the projects with financial support. The gifts are used where they are most needed.
- The ministry relies entirely on donations and is led by a Swedish couple, Lars and Barbro Gustavsson, who live in Romania.

*"Whatever you did
for one of the least
of these brothers of mine,
you did for me."* Jesus