

## Dear supporters and all of you who are interested in our work!

It is time again for a greeting from Marghita in Romania. It is thanks to all of you that FCE has the possibility to care for, support and give hope for a better life for many children, young people and others in need.

For some of our 60 employees it is holiday time but work with people cannot shut down for the summer. Looking after those who are in our care continues 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. Thank you for being with us and caring!

In a Newsletter written in the Summer, we cannot help but mention the summer camps! The whole summer, camps are taking place in our camp building in the village of Chislaz which is 15 km from Marghita. Most of the camps are from Monday to Friday and in each camp around 25 children and camp leaders attend. It is a great building with sleeping accommodation and space for different activities both inside and outside. Breakfast and the evening meal are prepared in the kitchen at camp while the lunch comes from FCE's own catering kitchen in Marghita. Many of the camp leaders are Romanian volunteers and they do everything they can to provide the children with rich experiences which carry them through the year. Many of the children live a very difficult life and they need a taste of heaven which these camps can give

them. Thank you to everyone who made a big effort and sacrifices to give these children an unforgettable camp week this summer.

### A visit to Chişlaz

"Since 1991, God has given me the opportunity, joy and pleasure to know the Swedish – Romanian foundation, 'FCE', from Marghita, Bihor. Timidly, I started to draw close to the group of volunteers by sometimes attending their Christian gatherings on Thursdays. They were the only ones who came to visit us and through songs, teaching and bible verses, they talked about God's greatness and majesty. The group visited us not only to build in us faith and love for Jesus, God's Son, but also to help us with different things, however big or small. The group was constantly accompanied by a person with a noble soul who knows no malice or what it is to refuse anyone. This person was Barbro Gustavsson.

Over the years, I have discovered that FCE has had a great impact on the lives of people living in difficult circumstances in and around Marghita, helping wherever the need was greatest. Through a partnership between FCE and the nursing/care home in Ciutelec where I live, we



Children in the "After School" project



have been helped many times with donations and different trips out. I, Fencea Valeria, and my roommate Szucs Tunde receive a lot of support and help from Barbro and also FCE. We talk together often about the different projects and activities and through this I found out about the summer house/camp venue in the village of Chislaz. We knew that in that village there is a hot thermal pool and really wanted to be able to visit the camp there. One lovely sunny day in July, our dream came true! Across the field from the pool, a very nice house has been built with dormitories, bathrooms, dining room and space for leisure and free time. The outside is nicely arranged with paved alleys and surrounded by trees.

At that time, a group of children from poor families in Marghita who are part of the After School project were enjoying camp together with the leaders. The project manager, Anița Crăciun, explained to us about the camp program and all those who benefit from it. For the children and young people in FCE's projects, the camp is a wonderful place! It's an escape and a place where joy and games come to life. Each person benefits from 3 meals a day plus two snacks, a program of games and relaxation, Christian teaching and activities and the opportunity to go to the thermal pool where they are given a reduction on the entrance fee."

*Valeria Fencea*

## **Casa Albă**

This year it is 20 years since we moved the first 24 abandoned children from the Paediatric ward at Marghita hospital to Casa Albă, 'The White House' – an important house for important people. Since that first group, over 100 children came and lived in Casa Albă for a period of time in their life. Some children moved to their biological families, others were adopted or fostered by new families in Romania or abroad. Some of the children are still in FCE's care and today they are teenagers and young adults.

Since the children's home, Casa Albă, closed in 2009, the building itself has been used for a number of other activities and purposes and has given even more children the possibility to develop which was one of our highest goals when we prepared for the first group of children to move to Casa Albă back in 1996.



*"The big move" in may 1996 the first group of children moved from the hospital to Casa Albă*

## **Special needs School relocated**

"As you are probably aware, two classes for the special needs children were located in the same courtyard as the mainstream school but in an old wing of the building. Years ago, the school asked for Government funds to replace the old wing and build a canteen and sports facilities. The project was approved, but put on stand by due to a lack of funding. Now the school has got the funding and they will put their plan into practise. Sadly enough, they don't have another building or area available for the special needs classes.

For this reason, these classes will move to Casa Albă, joining the other special needs classes but using the downstairs of the building. A team of young people from Culloden Academy in Scotland came to volunteer at FCE for two weeks. One week they spent helping on a camp for FCE's foster care children and the second week, they painted the downstairs of Casa Albă, preparing for the move. It has been the right people at the right time and in the right place!

## Sensory room

The whole idea started years ago when some of our training partners from Colorado introduced us, staff and volunteers from FCE, to the concept of Sensory Integration and its benefits. Children with nervous system dysfunctions, children with special needs, children who suffered early deprivation or even premature birth need supplementary stimulation in order to regulate, integrate and organise the sensory input. This can help them understand the world around them, relate better to their environment and plan their actions in a more successful way, with a better outcome.

I realised that not only is it an expensive project but it also requires a lot of knowledge and training. Years later, volunteer Julia Davis asked me if we would be interested in a sensory room. I jumped at the idea without knowing the real cost. Furthermore, when looking up on the internet for equipment and prices, I made a huge mistake! Instead of 60,000 lei, I read 6,000 lei so I thought it would be possible to start and continue with this project. Soon after that, I realised the mistake but Julia had already sent a sum of money.

A year passed by being unable to fund the full project. Then a person who I had never met before, told me about 'The program for Child health' funded by a big Romanian private oil company called MOL. There were funds available for our project but FCE also had to contribute. We already had the money from Julia's church waiting. We sent in an application which was approved and we received the money from MOL this Spring. Furthermore, we could use the funds to pay for a very good trainer from Cluj to come and teach Sensory Integration Intervention to a group of 12 people, both from FCE and from The Special Needs School.

God certainly works with us and in our individual plans because if I would have realised

the cost from the beginning, I would probably have held back. I think that the sensory room is a very good asset, helping us to provide better services to our beneficiaries and I now feel comfortable that the staff are knowledgeable and can do a good job. The course leader is also available to supervise the work in the sensory room so we can ask her for advice whenever it is needed.

The room is located in the old Casa Albă building and both FCE and the Special Needs school have access to it. Thank you Lord for your gift!"

*Lidia Micula*

## After School

After-School is a project that started in 2013 and is financed by the organisation 'Eriks' in Sweden. The activities take place on the ground floor at Brândușa, a large building on the outskirts of Marghita. In the same building (upstairs) is also FCE's half-way home.

The children who come to the After-School project wouldn't have the possibility to attend school at all without this opportunity. Here they receive a hot meal, have the possibility to wash themselves and their clothes and they receive help with their homework. There are so many children in Romania, most of them Roma children, who lack all of this at home. This is the reason why so many children do not attend school at all in Romania.

The nursery age children who attend the After-school project have a particularly good chance to learn and do well when it is time for them to start school. Most of the children in the project have improved their school grades.

Two of the pupils finished 8<sup>th</sup> grade in June and one girl was the first one in her community to complete eight years of school. Two groups of children from the After-School project have been on camp in Chișlaz in July and that brightened up their summer.

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

Jesus, Matt 25:40

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and pass the link onto others!

You will find it on our website

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Warm greetings to all of you  
from all of us

FCE

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