



# AMURTEL Romania 2013

Increased volunteer participation bringing new creativity and dynamism!


# AMURTEL Romania 2013 - Year in Pictures

Our team benefitted this year from the involvement of 5 international volunteers from the European Voluntary Service program, as well as 6 new Romanian volunteers - each of whom enriched the organization with their talents and energy in unique ways.

It was also a significant year for Familia AMURTEL Panatau, with the team being challenged to take on new roles, as Gopi Cornelia Fischer, the founder of the children's home went into retirement and opened up a hotel nearby. While Mirela took over the role of director, Violeta emerged as the manager of our evolving social enterprise - the AMURTEL Social Garden. The Garden had a tremendous increase in productivity - from 1 ton of vegetables produced in its first season, to 5 tons this season, with 2 local employees, and many of the Vistara young adults being hired to work on harvest and delivery days.

AMURTEL is also beginning a new phase of multiplying best practices in harmony with its Neohumanist Education philosophy through training programs with international guest speakers. AMURTEL hosted many progressive trainings including a Permaculture Design Course, yoga for children teacher training, therapeutic story-writing workshop, a "Futures Mirror" workshop and a series of workshops and courses on Ayurvedic massage and remedies.

In fact, this trend has culminated in the transformation of one of the existing properties into a holistic center, where AMURTEL will have a space dedicated to hosting and promoting such trainings as well as other activities designed to promote health, well-being and personal development.



## *Our volunteers - European Voluntary Service*

AMURTEL hosted its first EVS project this year, integrating six international volunteers from Italy, Germany and the U.K. into its projects. Some worked at the Fountain of Hope after-school center and some at the Bucharest kindergartens. At the Fountain of Hope, the EVS volunteers worked together with two new local volunteers from Patirlagele, one of whom is an artist and the other an outdoors adventure guide. The extra-curricular program at the Fountain of Hope flourished - with new activities such as basketball, archery and martial arts as well as many new arts and crafts projects. There were many opportunities for intercultural exchange - with special projects in which the volunteers shared about their home cultures and promoted volunteering.

A team of volunteers went with the Familia AMURTEL teenagers on an Outward Bound adventure and they also organized summer camp programs both in Panatau and Bucharest.



Valentin, one of the local Romanian volunteers at Fountain of Hope introduced many new sports and games, encouraging outdoor activities!



Valentin with excited assistants putting up a new basketball hoop. Elvira and Francesco playing Red Rover at the Fountain of Hope.





Our EVS volunteers at the kindergarten! Elisa (Italy) painting, Alexandra (UK) storytelling and Jana (Germany) leading a dance.



A Neohumanist Education training for the volunteers focusing on teaching yoga to children.

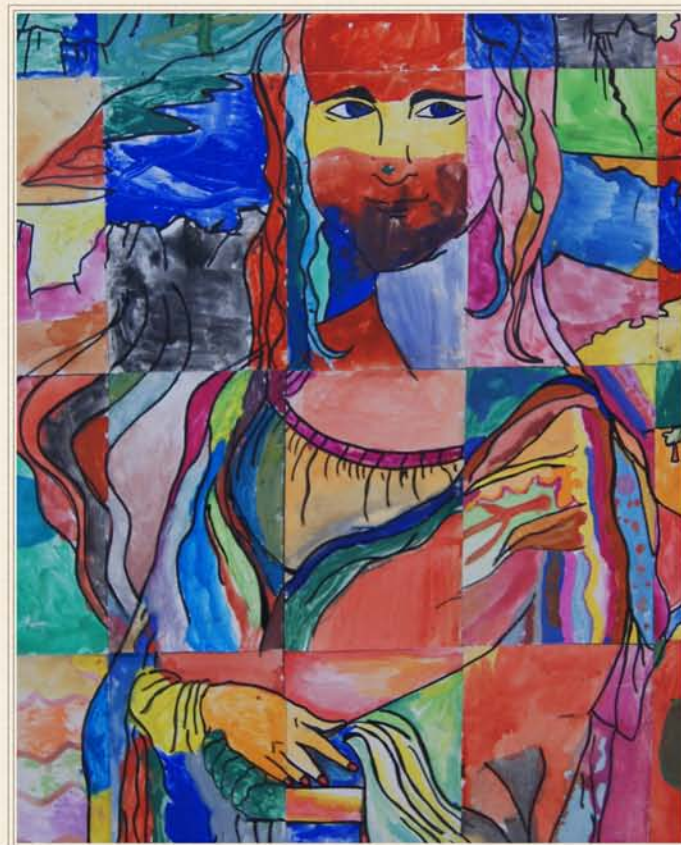




To celebrate Earth Day, our volunteers transformed into Nature Fairies, leading the children to discover Nature's simple treasures. 9



The fairies led the children through the forest, hugging sick trees and gathering plastic bottles to recycle.



The Italian volunteers organized an intercultural week at the Fountain of Hope and Anca, our local artist, led the arts and crafts activities.



“Pizzette” prepared together with the children for Italian week!



Meanwhile in Bucharest, another Italian volunteer Elisa, made tiramisu with the kindergarteners





During the festival, there was T-shirt making, big bubbles, wood-engraving, poi and many adventurous games













In Bucharest, our teacher Laura and volunteer Alexandra organized a summer camp for some of the neighborhood children from poor families.



## AMURTEL Social Garden, Poieni

The AMURTEL Social Garden is a community supported agriculture initiative for the work integration of young people transitioning out of care. Now in its second season, the farm increased its production from one to five tons of vegetables and served 36 consumers in Bucharest enrolled in the program. The farm is also among the first to introduce organic kale and swiss chard to the Romanian market. Some of our clients were from the US Embassy and were thrilled to have access to these greens - otherwise impossible to find in Bucharest supermarkets.

AMURTEL was asked to present the project at various international conferences sharing best practices on work integration - in Spain, Portugal and France. The project was also awarded for its business plan by the Prometheus Project and the prize money helped to purchase another greenhouse. AMURTEL also received 10,000 euros funding from the Province of Trento for installing a modern drip-irrigation system.





Course participants digging a swale, designing a forest garden, and making a “web of life”



The irrigation system, Violeta, our local manager with our volunteer agronomist Gabi (upper right)







Catalin, one of the partner farmers from Ecoshopping volunteered time to guide our new team of workers.



Our hardworking farmers - two local women, Cristina and Daniela, in the new greenhouse!



Familia AMURTEL/ Vistara young adults







Gopi opened a hotel and has already offered short-term work opportunities to the Vistara kids!





AMURTEL organized a therapeutic story writing workshop with author Susan Perrow



## Neohumanist Education in Bucharest

More and more parents are seeking out our “Gradinita Rasarit” kindergarten for its natural, vegetarian menu and holistic approach to education.





Our experienced cooks prepare delicious vegetarian meals with organic vegetables from the farm



The children make pickles, sweets and crafts for our annual Autumn Bazaar!



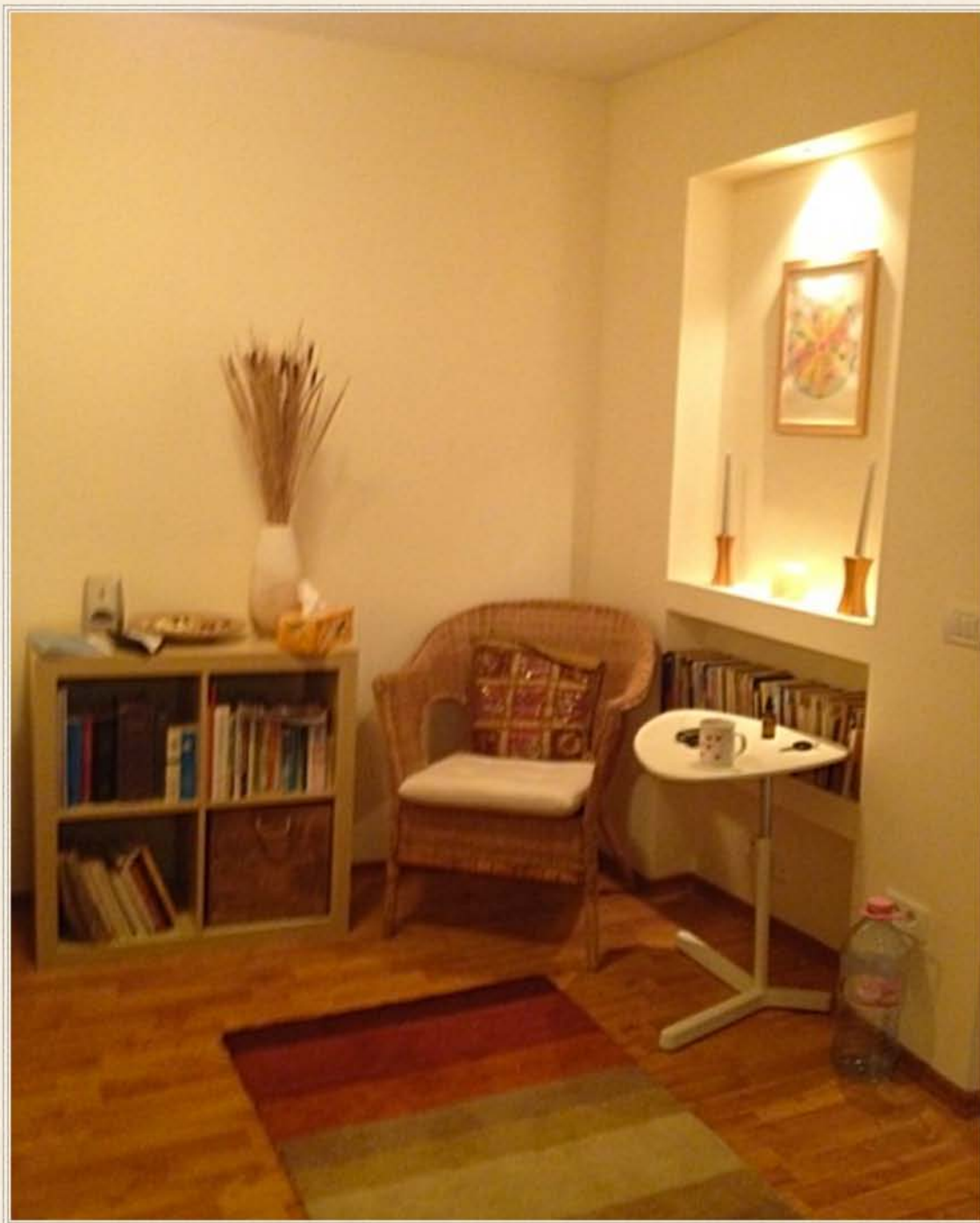


Celebrating diversity by learning about the Roma minority - also a visit to a cloth bag factory.









In the autumn, we decided to transform one of our Bucharest locations into a holistic center!



In November, the center launched a workshop series on Ayurveda, with 20 participants!



Thank you!!

Our sponsors help us bring joy to the lives  
of the Romanian children we work with!



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