



AMURTEL Romania

TOGETHER WE ARE
BUILDING PATHWAYS FOR
CHILDREN IN SEARCH OF
NEW HOPE

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

A FEW WORDS FROM DIDI

It is with deep gratitude that I invite you to take a look at the inspiring impact that your support is having every day in the lives of the children that AMURTEL Romania serves. Thanks to the growing involvement of individual sponsors, businesses and charities, both in Romania and abroad, children whose lives have been marked by tragic losses, abuse, neglect and poverty are receiving the love and support they need to overcome obstacles and thrive. You are entitled and encouraged to learn how we invest your gift into our work.

The AMURTEL Family home has grown in 2019 to offer safety and new hope to eleven children that have survived neglect and abuse. In the same rural village, your support is ensuring that the most vulnerable children in the community are receiving hot meals and the educational support they need to break out of the cycle of poverty. You will also find out about the innovative tools we created and shared with 200+ teenagers in disadvantaged high-schools to prepare them for the transition towards adult responsibilities thanks to a grant from the Fund for Civic Innovation.

Our continued journey in supporting children to have the chance to reclaim their childhoods and become happy, productive members of society, depends on the solidarity that you offer, keeping them in your hearts and minds throughout the year. You create a warm community of support for the children in our care, proving to them that they are not alone in the world, and that love is real.

Thank you so much!



Didi Ananda Devapriya
president





BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT FOR AMURTEL FAMILY

In 1995, Cornelia Fischer left her comfortable life in Switzerland to take care of a small boy, Iosif, and over time, more than twenty other abandoned children. A small group of her friends and family began to form Verein Kinderheim Panatau, which provided a loyal base of support for more than twenty years and continues to be our strongest funding source. However, that as those funds dwindle, AMURTEL has been investing in increasing its long term sustainability by developing similar long-lasting, tightly-knit relationships between the children and sponsors both from Romania and around the world. **In 2019, we were very pleased to welcome 46 new sponsors into our distance adoption program, and 4 new corporate sponsors.** Your support is absolutely essential in creating the stable, safe environment the children living at AMURTEL Family need. Each one of you makes an important difference and we are so grateful. In this year, we reached nearly one third of the number of regular sponsors we will need to continue long term, so we are optimistic that together we will continue to grow and provide a bright future for neglected children for many years to come.

The children are always so curious to find out about and meet those that are supporting them. "Who are my sponsors?" "Do I have a sponsor in Italy, too?" (or Brazil, the US or whichever trip Didi just returned from) "Can I talk to Thomas? When will he come to visit?" These are just some of the myriad questions the children ask us. They look forward to **"Play Days"** with a lot of excitement. During these annual events the children have the chance to meet some of you that support them "behind the scenes" and spend some quality time together - playing!

In 2019 we had two "Play-Days" one in May and one in September. The children were thrilled to meet and play with sponsors from Italy, India and Romania. In May, the event took place in Panatau, and our friends from Italy organized a treasure hunt that led the two new arrivals Alina and Ion to discover their very own bicycles! Several of our "graduates" from the previous group we raised were there and touched everyone by deciding to become sponsors too! In September, the children came to Bucharest and there another group of Italian volunteers organized an improvised theater. It was also Ion's very first birthday party. He didn't quite know what to do with the wrapping paper on his gift, at first. He was afraid to tear it until a grownup gently demonstrated how to gleefully pull it off.



INCREASING LOCAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE VILLAGE: "VOLUNTEERS IN SUPPORT OF HEALTHY LIVING! "

For several years, AMURTEL has been working to increase active citizenship, especially in the younger generation, in the rural community of Panatau where we work. This year, AMURTEL Romania organized the project "VOLUNTEERS IN SUPPORT OF HEALTHY LIVING", funded by the Buzau County Council, which took place during the national volunteer week we participate in annually. It is a great satisfaction to see that slowly attitudes on the local level are changing, and more and more youth participate in the volunteer opportunities we offer at our "Fountain of Hope" After-School Center.

Workshop - Discover your Potential with Volunteering

Volunteers received workshops on harnessing their skills and talents to make a positive difference in their community. They also received a training on the Sustainable Development Goals, a workshop on composting and other meaningful ecological actions they can take.

Medicinal Plant Walk to Building a Sandbox: Panatau Children's Festival

During the summer vacation, the same team of young **volunteers organized the Children's Festival**, with many activities for local children, such as a hike to gather medicinal plants in the woods, painting workshops, clay modelling, crafts, karaoke, sports competitions and a closing celebration with a handmade piñata and raffle prizes. Some of the teenagers from AMURTEL Family also joined the team of volunteers in building a large sandbox in the center's playground.

5th Annual Bike Race Attracts 200+

The fifth edition of the cycling race "I want to be active!", an initiative of AMURTEL Romania that has become an annual tradition in Pănătău, took place on October 13, 2019. **The competition was also organized by our team of young volunteers** from the "Volunteers in Support of Healthy Living" project and received the support of Pănătău City Hall. The race took place on two routes: a shorter 2 km race for younger children, while for older children and adults, there was a challenging longer 5 km race, with almost the entire distance being uphill.

The cycling race creates a festive atmosphere, attracting 200+ participants of all ages, with about 50 cyclists from 5-70 years old and many more fans that come to cheer! In a community with a very low level of participation in sports activities, it is really wonderful to see the teenagers training more intensively each year for the event. This year several well-trained athletes from the Penteleu Sports Club Association participated, increasing the level of competition in the race.

"I AM ALSO PART OF THE COMMUNITY!"

Empowering at-risk teenagers with life-skills for engaging in their community



In March 2019, the "I am also part of the Community!" project run in partnership with **Center of Partnership for Equality** and **financed by the "Fund for Social Innovation"** successfully concluded.

The project offered interactive civic education activities to 223 sixteen-year-old youth from five disadvantaged urban high schools in Bucharest.

AMURTEL designed a series of innovative tools and to give these 16-year-old students a chance to experience a fast-forward into the responsibilities and challenges of adult life. Using interactive, **experiential learning through simulation games** the children experienced and practiced ways to become engaged, active citizens that are ready to be part of solutions rather than contributing blindly to the problems of society.

I HEAR, I FORGET, I SEE, I REMEMBER. I DO, I UNDERSTAND.

The young people played elaborate games designed by AMURTEL **to practice managing a salary to cover rent, bills and food costs while dealing with unexpected twists of fate.** Another module had them take different stakeholder roles in a community faced with a volatile environmental issue and then **to participate in an election.** The youth were also exposed to social enterprises, volunteering, and tools for participating in social change. Each session was filled with laughter, challenge and surprises and the youth gathered at the closing session to express how the sessions gave them a taste of real life.

Didi also visited Lebanon and trained the team there in the same games in order to enhance the youth integration program our partner organization AMURT Lebanon runs there for Syrian refugees and other disadvantaged teens.



FIVE DAYS OF SUN, WAVES AND SAND!

In last weeks of summer, you gave Ion and Alina their very first experience of a seaside vacation when the **AMURTEL Family children went for a five days to the Black Sea** on the Romanian coast! The children in AMURTEL Family mostly come from very impoverished, disorganized families, plagued by alcoholism and domestic violence. Before coming to AMURTEL Family, they have never experienced vacations or other simple pleasures of childhood that most of us take for granted.

The children happily spent the days digging in the sand, swimming in the sea and soaking up the sun. Spending time with the natural elements is so healthy and grounding for them. Thank you!

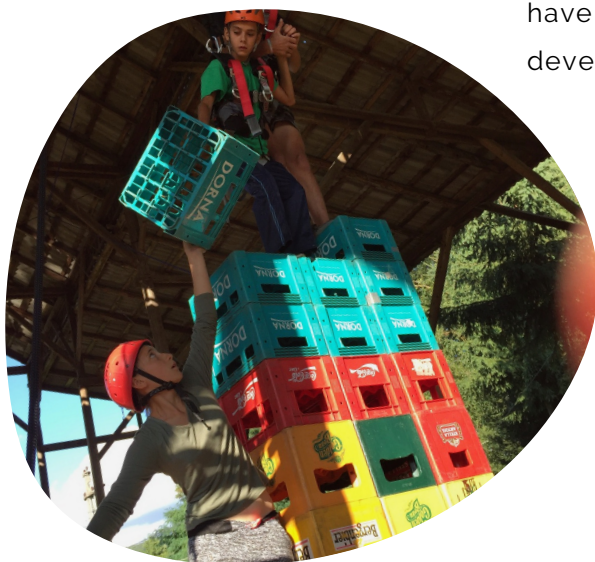


A FIRST WILDERNESS EXPEDITION WITH BACKPACKS ALMOST AS BIG AS THE CHILDREN!



This year, your support also brought the seven pre-teens and teens of AMURTEL Family for **the first time on a wilderness adventure with "Outward Bound"**. It is much more than a camping trip, as the well-trained team of specialists from Outward Bound not only explore the mountainous area around Sovata together, they also involve the children in **cooperative exercises and group discussions that reflect and enhance learning about communication, teamwork and values.**

For many years, Outward Bound has been an important component in preparing previous generations of children growing up in AMURTEL Family for life, and we have witnessed the profound changes in the children's development that it facilitates.



Financial Report 2019

INCOME	euro
Total Income Generation	130,644
Rasarit Kindergarten	107,636
Amurtel Bio Garden	13,794
Morningstar Yoga Center	9,214
Total Donor Organizations:	117,818
Verein Kinderheim Panatau CHF	90,065
Amurtel INC	8,955
Other International Donor Organizations	16,691
Romanian Donor Organizations	2,107
Total from Individual Donors	36,544
Total State Subsidies	24,554
Children allowances	17,395
Redirection of Income Taxes	6,125
Other subsidies	1,034
Total Corporate Sponsors	13,228
Total Income	322,788

EXPENSES	euro
Total Expenditure on Income Generation	128,483
Rasarit Kindergarten	104,852
Amurtel Bio Garden	19,529
Morningstar Yoga Center	4,102
Total Expenditure on Social Programmes	132,763
Familia AMURTEL children's home	107,085
Fountain of Hope After School Center	23,498
Vistara Social Apartment and House	2,180
Total Overhead Administrative Costs	41,812
Total expenses	303,058

Thank you to our big family of supporters!

Our major donors in 2019:

- Verein Kinderheim Panatau
- Jannsen "Your Choice Challenge"
- Amgen matching donation of Raymond Deshaies
- AMURTEL USA
- Amici Nel Mondo
- AMURT Italia
- Cooperativa Sociala Marcovaldo
- Rosemary Deshaies
- Vishvabandhu Valeriano Cheittini
- Sudiipa Mara Grandinetti
- Zonnelicht School, Holland
- Original Marines Bucuresti
- Leroy Merlin
- Ovidiu Ro
- SC Constar Grup
- SC Piccoli Passi SRL
- 01 Jobs RBS SRL
- Agroconcept
- Evida Concept Line
- SIF Moldova
- SISTEC Next Docs
- Ashok Dorairaja
- Raluca Mohanu



Our monthly sponsors:

Jitendra Antonio Gino, Camelia Constantin, Juliette Deshaies, Mihaela Daranga, Mahima Light, Deepa Patel, Olivia Codruta Boar, Alexandru Toni Cretu, Brahmayya Beatriz Casteres Olarreaga, Istadeva Eric Mager, Vijaya Birgit Lambjerg Hansen, Naveen Joshi, Lismarie Quinones, Cirasmita Cyndi Buchanan, Gayatrii Gaia De Muro, Miirabai Mirella Protti, Yaduranii Yolande Koning, Rekha Ruai Gregory, Chiranjiiva Goldberg, Karen Bluemcke, Dada Jagadhiishananda, Vivek Bruce Mc Ewen, Nirmala Clare Boland, Alessandra Giacomelli, Shuddhatman Hideo Nagashima, Samarpan Petter Nataas, Divyajyoti Edward Mogstad, Vanda Pasolini, Shanti Sandra Jimenez Gonzalez, Carolina Lambiase, Ainjali and Tanmaya, Sarita Devii Sara Joppi, Amrita Alexia Martinelli, Madhavii Ada Merz, Cezara Cioloboc, Robert Eklund, Bhaktidevii Michela Urbani, Cristina Mevi, Marc Deshaies, Gunatiita Gerda Dufwa, Laura Liduma, Pashupati Steven Landau, Lalita Lucia Tomassetti, Manika Miria di Marco, Karun Christian Franzelin, Eddy Edel, Chandravati Chastity Rodriguez-Hamilton, Corina Maria Cincan, Rudranii Ruth Li, Vishala Baker, John Riley, Mahima Laura Sarnella, Perrone Patrizia, Rainjan Alvarez, Elia Amristara Crucianu, Maria Stoica, Romel Adrian Neagu, Kasza Paraschiva Monica, Liliana Ariton, Jayanti Devi Thompson, Lavinia Gavrilă-Sturza, Vishvamitra Sid Jordan, Eleonora Di Lauro, Ana Maria Pistol, Laura Mihaes, Sonali SSun, Nicoleta Nedelcu, Dan Teleanu, Gurumayii Chiara Tarracchini, Dan Gross, Surabhi Sermin Boekhoven, Pamela Incao, Vasudeva Lasse Tanderö, Madhuliika Michele Renee, Liliana Lia Comanescu, Lucia Quiroga, Genevieve Mason, Bogdan Woichevski, Pranatosh Pietro Orofino, Liilamaya Mark Benson, Nityaprema Ting Hessellund, Anasuya Ingibjorg Karlsdottir, Ashutosh Giustino Passalacqua, Marisa Martinelli, Ingrid Nogara, Vitranö Erika, Rui Oliveira, Cristi Marius Mazilu, Jeff Chen, Laksman Robert Eklund, Arjuna Edward Moan, Shrivana Shaman Hatley, Amala Asia Gayatao, Gouri Ghosh, Jessica House, Raghava Randy Goldberg, Simona Mihaela Hristea, Rashmii Marjolein Moeijes

