

FOUNTAIN OF HOPE



OFFERING A BETTER FUTURE TO DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN THROUGH HOMEWORK SUPPORT, HOT MEALS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PREVENT SCHOOL DROPOUT

I like being active!

On September 5th, 2015 there was a festive atmosphere of excitement as children, teenagers and grownups from the Panatau community gathered to compete in their first ever bicycle race! A banner about the race had spanned the main road leading to Panatau for weeks, and the street was full of blue shirts

Started by the "Fountain of Hope" Center, the project was designed to encourage sports in the rural areas, and indeed after the race, many of the children and adults were already planning to practice and better prepare for next year's race. There was a prize ceremony at the end, with the mayor of Panatau awarding gold, silver and bronze medals to the winners, while

all of the participants received certificates and a bag of sweets!

"I want to be active" also included a Ping-Pong Tournament, organized on the 21 of November. Even the mayor participated this time - in fact, he was quite a formidable opponent!

This phase of the project involved 75 people: 50 adults and 20 children. Several local volunteers from the highschool were very involved and worked side by side with the the EVS volunteers and our young people from AMURTEL Family in registering the participants, organizing the prize ceremony and distributing water.

"I like being active" is a project of AMURTEL Romania, which was financed by the County Council of Buzau and the Panatau Town Hall. These two events were designed to encourage sports in the community, as a way to improve health and fitness as well as developing a strong character and sense of fair-play.

The project was a real success for the Panatau Town Hall and for our organization, that's why we hope this is just the beginning of a new tradition for the village!



BOTH YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS HAD A GREAT TIME PLAYING PING PONG



OUR EXPERT IN CYCLING, DANIEL BUSUOIC GIVING THE START



THE MAYOR AWARDDING MEDALS TO THE INN

CREATING HAPPY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AT THE FOUNTAIN OF HOPE

The Fountain of Hope Day Center was founded for the school children of the village of Panatau. These children come from economically and socially disadvantaged families. The village Panatau is located in the countryside, far away from cultural centers and with no recreational opportunities for children.

One of AMURTEL Romania's main objectives is to offer a better future for these children. The after-school center was designed in response to the need for nutritional support as well as educational enrichment. So, in 2007, in partnership with the Panatau Townhall and Cooperating Netherlands Foundation (CNF), AMURTEL Romania founded the Fountain of Hope Day Care Center in Panatau. The services provided by the center are: hot meals, homework

support and extracurricular activities, designed to develop life skills and artistic skills in the children. However, the role of the center in the community has expanded, becoming a hub of innovation and positivity.

In 2015 we had 65 children enrolled. Although this increased the expenses, everything worked out well in the end. Our main financial base comes from the regular monthly donations of our AMURTEL online sponsors, and is supplemented by donations from "Valea Lupului" Hotel run by Gopi Cornelia Fischer. At last, after a long period of financial crisis, the local Town Hall of Panatau has been able to again contribute. We thank everybody for the involvement and support!

3rd SUMMER CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The Summer Children's Festival is already at its 3rd year! It has become a summer vacation tradition for the children of the Panatau community to gather at the "Fountain of Hope" centre for a week of arts, sports and games. This year, our volunteers Anca and Valentin returned with Crina to offer painting workshops, clay, handmade puppet making, felting alongside our EVS volunteers. They made a great team and enchanted the children in a creative, artistic way.

Through the festival, children are exposed to new activities, learn practical skills and practice teamwork, cooperation and good communication!

SHARING JOY

When Christmas time comes, the children from "Fountain of Hope" prepare carols and food and, together with the EVS volunteers, they visit the lonely elderly people from the village. Kids experience the joy of giving, not only receiving gifts. The joyful tears in the eyes of the elderly touch the children's hearts and encourage them to develop their altruism.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

This is a national yearly event organized to involve as many organizations to celebrate voluntary services, to draw attention of the civil society on volunteering, to get the support of the community for public recognition of volunteers' activity.

This year the "Fountain of Hope" Center has involved the kids into cleaning and planting activities: we cleaned the clinic yard and we've planted flowers here and in a small local community park. We all enjoyed our efforts results!

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ACTIVITIES



HOMEWORK HELP



HOT NUTRITIOUS MEAL



ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES



PLAYING OUTSIDE

MY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: BRUNA PELICA

My experience as an EVS (European Voluntary Services) volunteer in AMURTEL Romania began in April this year. I left Portugal with a lot of enthusiasm because I really identified with the project "Whispering to wild horses" which has as main goal to help children through holistic non-formal educational approaches. I was attracted to learn more about yoga, meditation and vegetarian lifestyle, so I came with me many plans, dreams and ambitions.

Upon arriving to Bucharest for the first time I came across with my first challenge in Romania, taking a taxi. Fortunately, Didi, the coordinator of the project had warned me previously and given indications about what procedures should I take. I arrived around 5 am to the house where other volunteers (Nuno and Giorgia) lived in Bucharest. I was very well received by Giorgia who was kind of sleepy but with a smile on her face opened the door of her house as if she knew me already.

The next day I went to Panatau, which would become my new home. The coordinator of the project drove me there and my new adventure in rural Romania began. That day I had the opportunity to know more details of the project and about the work I have to do there. I also met the young people from Familia AMURTEL and the other EVS volunteers, Jone, Luca, Antonio and Emanuele.

The first week I was in Poieni, at the AMURTEL Organic Farm. Along with the other volunteers we prepared various activities for the children related to the nature in order to create greater environmental awareness for them. I also had the opportunity to work in the kindergarten in Bucharest on the day of Earth Day Festival where I had the joy of being a fairy for a day.

My volunteer work is mainly in Fountain of Hope. For me this center is an important place because it makes the difference in this rural environment; they provide a hot and tasty vegetarian meal and the opportunity to do extracurricular activities in an intercultural environment for the children who attend the Panatau school, usually children between the ages of 6 and 14 years old.

My volunteer work consists mainly in helping to serve the meals and prepare extracurricular activities for children. I must point out that some of my favorite activities were during the month of May, the intercultural month. In these four weeks we've shown a little bit of our countries to the children: the Basque country, Portugal and Italy; through non-formal education we've taught some words from our languages, a little bit of geography and culture, we've elaborated traditional games, craft activities and typical recipes for each country.



LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

Slowly, step by step, the volunteer spirit is catching on with the local youth of Panatau! This summer, besides our "veteran volunteers", we involved new young volunteers from the community.

We also were delighted to have the support of the young people from Familia AMURTEL who have internalised the spirit of helping others deep within. They were joined by the students from the Patirlagele Highschool and a group of students, college students were given inspiration and motivation by the principle, Nicoleta Alba. Together with the involvement of the principle and teachers, we are doing our best to kindle the flame of volunteer spirit within the new generation in Panatau!

Here we introduce the young people that were involved in helping make the "I want to be active" project a success, and who were involved in the summer festival: Botan Adelina - student, Ghinea Delia - student, Luntraru Petruta - student, Gherghe Adelina - student, Ghitan Ana - student, Gavrilă Emy, Rusen Irina - student, Bratucu Madalina - college student, Visan Andreea - college student, Moise Irina - student, Vrancianu Florin - student, Radulescu Stefan - student and Bratucu Marina - teacher.

"DIFFERENT WEEK": ECO ADVENTURE AT THE AMURTEL'S ORGANIC FARM

The "Different Week" is a special period in the school calendar when students can learn hands on through field trips. The volunteers organised an Eco-Adventure for the first time this year for a class of students from the school of Panatau. We visited the AMURTEL Organic Garden in Poieni. There the children had the opportunity to discover new things about nature: they made soil samples and discovered its structure, they learned that plastic takes hundreds, even thousands of years to decompose, all through interesting interactive experiences and learned about organic farming techniques. We are already planning more similar activities that stimulate love for nature.



FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	EURO
AMURTEL international sponsorships	9.058
Panatau town hall	2.455
Income generation	325
Buzau County Council project	666
Other donations	900
TOTAL	13.404
EXPENSES	EURO
Food	3.211
Supplies	1.376
Reparations	198
Salaries and wage tax	7.843
Transport	92
"I want to be active"	480
Authorizations	22
TOTAL	13.222



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

THE PROJECT TEAM:

DIDI ANANDA DEVAPRIYA –
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IULIA HĂLĂNGESCU – EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR AMURTEL ROMÂNIA;

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LUCA BINI – VOLUNTEER

JONE ARGINTXONA – VOLUNTEER

BRUNA PELICA – VOLUNTEER

VERENA DALLASERRA – VOLUNTEER

We wish to extend our gratitude to all of our sponsors whose continued dedication and support makes this project possible.

Thank you to our partners, the Panatau local community for donations of wood and for covering the utilities expenses, as well as increasing financial support so that more children could attend. Special thank you to the parents of "Gradinita Rasarit" Kindergarten in Bucharest for helping Santa Claus to bring gifts to the children

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Regular monthly donations add up and give stability to the project! Join us: www.amurtel.ro/donate-now