

A COLD AND SNOWY EASTER!



Two of our Easter delivery days were met with snow this year! *At Left* - I captured a shepherd with his flock amidst a snowy afternoon the week before Easter. Though cold outside, the children we delivered gifts to were meant with warmth and the love of Christ from our volunteers!



CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM UPDATE

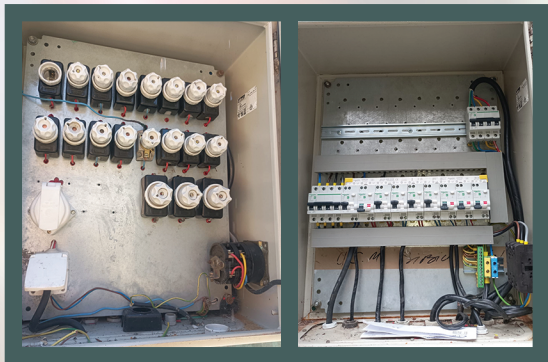


The Romanian government has set up protocols for children that cannot live with their biological parents – whether due to abandonment, abuse, or neglect. Protocol #1 is to find any biological family member the child might be able to live with – a grandparent, aunt, cousin. Protocol #2 is to find a family friend or someone familiar to the child, perhaps a neighbor. Protocol #3 is a paid foster family. And Protocol #4 is a Placement Center or what is now being called a “Residential Home”. As of this year, all Placement Center children in our county have been placed in Residential Homes. These homes house 12 children each with their own staff.

This Easter we delivered new shoes, shower gels, deodorants, and an Easter treat to celebrate the risen Savior. Romanian volunteers that had worked with these youth last summer accompanied the distribution. I’m pictured at left, with Anna, who wanted to show off her new shoes and send a hello to those that worked with her at camp last year. The bright white you can see behind the windows in

the pictures is snow! The kids joked we had brought them Christmas presents, lol! The majority of kids in the ‘residential homes’ are over 8 years of age as it is difficult to find foster parents for that age range. These are the youth we will happily have at camp this year to embrace with the love of Christ, thank you for any consideration you can give for them!

WINTER MAINTENANCE & REFURBISHMENT AT CAMP OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



Out with the old and in with the new! We were finally able to upgrade our electrical panels from old ceramic conductors to modern switches, yay for easy

circuit breakers! Another improvement our volunteers will appreciate is the replacement of dormitory

flooring that had long been outdated and 'lovingly' over-used! Volunteers will be greeted with new water- resistant flooring and repaired and freshly painted rooms waiting for their important service!



HOME OF HOPE UPDATE - GETTING READY TO FLY!

2025 is a very big year for the young women at Home of Hope. We have 6 young women all ready to transition to independent living over the next few months – all have or are completing their education and thankfully, all of them are working! I'll be highlighting each young lady as they are transitioning out.

Sara came to us from the Orlat Placement Center during the covid lockdowns in December of 2021. In her own words, *"Before arriving at the foundation, I had already known some of the volunteers, especially Rebeca and Debbie, whom I first met when I was 9 years old during a camp at Lotrioara. Coming to the foundation, I built beautiful bonds and memories, one of the most special being the opportunity to volunteer every summer at camp with children from the system. I learned a lot, especially about how much effort, love, and dedication are put into caring for children in the system. During my time at Heart*

of Hope, I graduated from high school and passed my baccalaureate exam. I am deeply grateful for everything that was offered to me, and I am so happy I had the chance to come to this foundation. Now, I am about to move into my new apartment. It will be a new challenge for me, as I have always lived with others, but now I will be living on my own. However, I feel ready and excited because I finally have something of my own — something I have long wished for: a home."

Sara qualified for a unique program open to young adults from the Placement Center System – she has received what she calls, and I think you'll agree, a 'miracle'! Because she finished her education, is working, has no criminal record, and with good recommendations – she has received a studio apartment from the government. As long as she keeps her employment and makes 5 years of payments, the title will be put in her name and she will own her own apartment!

Above: Sara with an ironing board, iron, and microwave in preparation for her move! Sara was also gifted the beautiful quilt at right, lovingly hand-made by volunteer Beverly Kropp. Beverly had purchased the 'handkerchief' squares in 1998 when she was on a therapy team to a baby orphanage in Medias, Romania. She donated this beautiful quilt for one of our young ladies – and I thought it only fitting for Sara who grew up in the system. Sara was thrilled to receive it and will be taking good care of it in her new apartment! She is expected to move in June.



With deepest gratitude
to our donors,

Debbie

and your
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