



A GIFT FROM THE HEART EASTER CELEBRATING THE RISEN SAVIOR!

Easter in Romania was celebrated April 12th, a week later than our American celebration.



It was a wonderful time reconnecting with the children in the 'family homes' (the new name for Placement Centers). We distributed to 6 family homes and provided each child with new shoes, hygiene items, sweets, and an opportunity to talk about celebrating Easter and greetings from past and future camp volunteers. Most of the family homes now house teenagers who are either new to the system or have been returned from foster care. They can be a tough crowd, but they also know we truly care for them in a world that barely sees them.

Our next distributions were to the children in the foster care system in both Medias and Sibiu. We were able to have 2 Easter parties with the true Easter story of hope found in the risen Savior. Each child also received a stuffed animal with sweets, new socks, Easter egg ornament, and an Easter devotional book. Our Romanian camp volunteers helped facilitate the day!

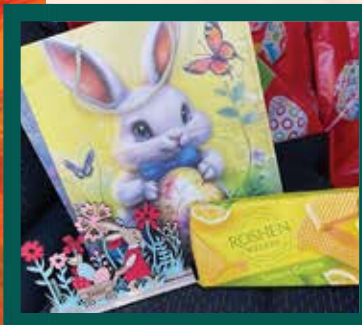


This year for our village family distribution we asked the children that come to camp to meet us at the Mayor's office park. We avoided chaos amongst the village and were able to provide family care packages of rice, pasta, tomato sauce, soup mix, sweets, socks for men, women, and children, tea, and traditional Easter bread - Cozonac. One bag was given to families with 3 or less children, 2 bags to families with 4-7 children, and 4 bags to families with 8 or more children!



A NEW EASTER OPPORTUNITY...

This year presented us with a new opportunity to bless some elderly patients residing in a care facility. My dear friend Cati has been helping this facility stay open, meet strict state requirements, and over-seeing staffing. Their budget has been tight and she asked if we would like to visit for Easter just to provide a little joy!



The request was simple, the gifts were simple, the experience heartfelt from both sides!

We arrived just after lunch and before naptime. A simple Easter gift bag with a little room decoration and lemon cream or vanilla wafers brought joy

to 23 patients the day before Easter!



We are celebrating **25 YEARS** of Camp of the Good Shepherd!

This year marks our 25th anniversary at Camp of the Good Shepherd! We bought the bare land (approximately 5 acres) in 1999 and had our first full summer of camp in 2001. We are so grateful for the many donors and volunteers who have contributed to the growth and development of Camp of the Good Shepherd which has been able to stay true to the mission of exhibiting the love of Christ to those most in need.



We are blessed to have the Romanian volunteer leaders that will direct our camp programs this year already in preparation mode!

Pictured at left: Ruth has a deep love for the children at the special education family home at Turnu Rosu. She will once again lead this year's camp for Turnu Rosu and a second week with the boys from the foster care system. Ruth also accompanies us at Christmas and Easter to keep the contact and arranges the gatherings in Medias for the foster children!

Pictured at right: Anca will lead the camps for girls in the foster system and our most challenging week with the teenagers from the 'family homes.' Having herself been raised in very difficult circumstances, she has a special heart and understanding for the challenges these particular groups come to camp with.



Pictured at Left: Cati has a year-round ministry to children in remote impoverished communities. She and her team focus on providing humanitarian assistance with a focus on educational support. In the village we visited with the family care packages she has increased the rate of school attendance from less than half to a whopping 84% attendance among minor children! These children can earn a week at camp with consistent school attendance and good behavior. We look forward to supporting this ministry with our camp program, back to school support, and food assistance.

Grateful to our Home Team
for your continued support!

Yours in Partnership,

Debbie and your
HHMI Board