



HEART OF HOPE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY!

This past Sunday, December 18th, Heart of Hope finished its final distribution for 2023! The Christmas 'Gift of Hope' program brought children and adults gifts of sweets, fresh fruit, hygiene items of shower gels, shampoos and deodorants, and new socks and winter boots and shoes for every child in 4 Placement Centers. The staff was also blessed to receive sweets from us, respectfully acknowledging the difficult job they have day in and day out.



As Romania has been attempting to build its foster care system by placing mainly younger children in foster homes, the Centers we work with now are primarily children ages 7-18. This year our Romanian volunteers that had worked with the children at camp came to assist with distribution and fond memories of camp songs along with Christmas songs were sung during our Christmas visit!



Pictured at left is a young man that we have known since he was a very little boy in the Center. He always expresses his gratitude for all that is given. The teens especially love having their own personal shower gels and shampoos.

As seen in the picture at right, an age appropriate Christian devotional is chosen to go in with the other beloved gifts.





Because of **YOUR** generous donations we were able to provide every child and teen with a new pair of winter shoes or boots! These are good quality shoes and boots sure to provide warmth and long wear this long winter season.



People often ask where do the children go when they finish the Center? For those that are deemed special education or special needs and not expected to manage life on their own, they are transferred to a facility for adults. The pictures at left are of one of the adult facilities where many of the kids we have ministered to over the years now live permanently.

For the first time we were able to visit one of the adult facilities and provide a special Christmas blessing to these special young adults. They were elated to see familiar faces and to know they are not forgotten. Once again **YOUR** generosity has truly provided 'comfort and joy' this Christmas season to some of the least of these.

As we say goodbye to 2023 we are grateful for a year of ministry that was somewhat 'back to normal' after the covid years and the refugee year. We remember fondly the Oaks Christian and Easter teams last spring, the warmth of finally a full summer of Christian compassion at Camp of the Good Shepherd, and the joy of the Christmas Gift of Hope Program – entrusting all that was given with the love of Christ in His care. We humbly and gratefully thank you for your continued partnership in 2024 to minister to those in need in Romania..

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year,

Debbie and your
HHMI Board

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