



Enriching the Lives of Romanian Orphans

www.HeartsAcrossRomania.org

During your volunteer experience, you will enjoy free time to explore the local community. In Brasov you will find a wide variety of shops, markets, museums, restaurants, internet cafes and much more. Our Romanian hosts will also plan day trips for the volunteer group to areas outside Brasov. In the past, our volunteer groups have taken day trips to Sinaia to visit the magnificent Peles Castle, to Bran, home of Dracula's Castle, and to Sighisoara, a medieval town surrounded by beautiful hilly countryside.

Typical Workday Example 1

A typical volunteer workday begins at 9:00 am with a visit to an orphanage in the countryside. Before arriving at the orphanage, the group stops at a store to buy fresh fruit for the children. The children at this orphanage are familiar with many of volunteers in this group and are very excited to see everyone. The children put on a little play for the group which is very much enjoyed by all. The volunteers bring donated shoes and socks to the orphanage and assist in fitting the shoes and socks on each child. After a morning playing with and reading to the children in small groups, the volunteers leave the orphanage for a quick lunch in the village.

After lunch, it's off to a toddler group home. On this day there are 10 toddlers in the group home and the volunteers bring each child new pajamas. When the group arrives the children have just woken up from their afternoon nap. The volunteers help with their afternoon snack. The toddlers are happy to see visitors and are eager for the attention from the volunteers. After snack, the group spends time with the children playing outside.

In the evening it's back to Brasov for a little shopping and dinner near the square.

Typical Workday Example 2

A typical volunteer workday begins at 9:00am with a visit to a rehabilitation program in Brasov. The children in this day program are different ages, most are in foster care, and each has a disability. The program provides physical and occupational therapy and the therapists work with each child individually. The volunteers break up and work in different areas of the facility. Some are helping with Down's syndrome children in occupational therapy, and other's are in a therapy session with children with physical disabilities.

After a delicious lunch in Brasov, the group heads off to an orphanage outside the city where many teenagers reside. This is an orphanage Hearts has been visiting for many years and some of the group has followed these children as they've grow up. A group takes several of the teens into town to buy some much needed socks and sneakers. Back at the orphanage, another group of volunteers is visiting with a group of teens who

are very good artists. These talented teens are showing our volunteers some of their wonderful artwork. It is important for these young adults to have someone show special interest in them. The teens have been studying English in school, so they are able to communicate with the volunteers.

Once back in Brasov, the group splits up for an hour or two before dinner. Some members browse the shops in Brasov, while others go to the internet café to catch up on their e-mail. The group gets back together early in the evening for a dinner at one of Brasov's wonderful restaurants.

Typical Weekend Day

On a beautiful Sunday morning, the volunteer group begins the day by taking a short walking tour of Brasov. Brasov is a beautiful city and there is much to see. Then it's on to Mount Tampa and a cable car ride to the top of the mountain. On the way up, you are treated to impressive views of the city below. Once at the top, the views of old and new Brasov are spectacular. In the background, the Carpathian Mountains frame the city. Lunch is at the base of the mountain at a wonderful outdoor restaurant.

In the afternoon, the group breaks up. Some volunteers decide to do some sightseeing around Brasov. There are so many things to see! The other group takes a short drive to Bran to visit Dracula's Castle. After a tour of the castle, there is shopping in the village of Bran.

The group gets back together for dinner at the home of one of our Romanian hosts. It's a special evening of delicious food and friendship.