

Heartbeat



HEARTS
ACROSS
ROMANIA

A NEWSLETTER FROM HEARTS ACROSS ROMANIA

DECEMBER 2008

SMILING FACES

Some young Romanians have something to smile about, thanks to the work of Nicole Everts, an October, 2008 work team member. A dental hygienist from Colorado, Nicole ran across our website while searching the Internet for an opportunity to do charitable dental work. After talking with Geanie Burns and reviewing the application packet, Nicole decided to join the team. She realized her goal when Mariana Achiriloaie, Board Member, arranged for her to work as a hygienist in the office of a Brasov dentist. The lucky recipients of Nicole's work were 9 young men in a residential transitional program — One Step to the Future — an organization for which Hearts has been a supporter since last year. Many of Nicole's patients had little, if any previous dental care. For some, it was their first time to sit in a dental chair. Most of the young men need additional work, including extractions, root canals, crowns and fillings. Nicole made a financial contribution to Hearts Across Romania to help continue this project with follow-up dental care for these young men, and our organization will partner in this effort.



Nicole Everts working on a patient.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

And our hearts were with young Romanian men needing a place to call home. Hearts Across Romania continued their work with "One Step to the Future", a full-service transitional program providing, among other things, housing for young men after they leave the orphanages. Hearts first began working with Florin Catanescu, director of the program, in May, 2007 when the work team renovated and furnished an additional room for 3 more residents. We expanded our work with Florin on the October, 2008 trip to include the remodeling of two more rooms.

Hearts purchased paint and supplies, carpet, drapes, bedding, lamps, pictures, and new windows and doors for the rooms, and our volunteer team worked alongside the young men who will be soon be moving in in order to complete the job. Geanie Burns and Susan Flanagan, Board Members, took on the task of grilling sandwiches for the working boys, while Kathy Roote, volunteer, swept and cleaned, so it was indeed a team effort.

Hearts would like to thank team members Jerry Williams, Leigh Ann Dibble, Robert Davis, and Nicole Everts for their generosity in purchasing desks, chairs, clothing cabinets and accessories to complete furnishing the rooms and to create more of a feeling of "home".

continued



Jerry Williams and Robert Davis painting beds for the transitional program.

EYEGASSES

Reading glasses continue to be a pressing need in Brasov. Hearts would like to thank the work team members who brought many pairs of reading glasses, and also Friendship Force members Ruth and Dick Jameson and Peggy Benton, who donated prescription and reading glasses, as well as cases. Hearts will continue the eyeglass program, so please let us know if you would like to contribute.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Radu Achiriloaie

Patricia Adams

Phil & Cindy Allbritten

Peggy Benton

Silviu Boghina

Gilbert & Linda Brown

Buckner's Shoes for Orphans Souls

Michael A. Burns & Associates

Robert Davis, Jr.

Jim & Maggie Dunham

Ary & Constance de Vries

Francis & Leigh Ann Dibble

Chris Ely

Nicole Everts

Jim & Cyndi Flake

Simona Gheorghita

Richard & Ileana Grube

Elizabeth Hoyle

Irving Noonday Lions Club

Richard & Ruth Jameson

Linda Lavender

Jack & Laura Matthews

Sami Matthews

Tom & Miki Melsheimer

Microsoft Gifts in Kind International

Fadeela Nastase

Joe Ragland

Kathy Roote

Cathryn Shandorf

Titan Outdoor LLC

Fanel & Mihaela Vasile

Jerry Williams



2544 BROOKSIDE DRIVE
IRVING, TX 75063
972.869.3826



Florin Catanescu (far left) and boys in his transitional program.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS (CONTINUED)

Hearts Across Romania team members celebrated the completion of the rooms with Florin and the residents on our last night in Romania with a party at their place. The joint celebration, complete with cake and champagne, was also a birthday party for one of the boys nicknamed “Steven Spielberg” because he wants to be a movie producer. Looking around at the smiling faces of the young men who have a nice place to call home was a great way to end our trip.

DACIA PICNIC

Our first priority after arriving in Brasov was driving to Dacia, a small village about an hour away, to visit the children in the orphanage there. With new tennis shoes donated by Buckner's Shoes for Orphans Souls program in Dallas, we fitted the 32 children with new footwear — how delighted they were and how grateful Hearts is for the donation of shoes and slippers. Special thanks to Susan Flanagan and her volunteers, Carolyn Betti and her six-year old daughters from Houston, for picking up the shoes.

Later in the week, Hearts' team returned to Dacia, where we had a picnic for the children. We walked down the road from the orphanage to a beautiful area with green meadows and hillsides, a perfect spot for a cookout.

Hearts provided chicken, sausage, coleslaw, cookies and drinks, while Monica, a wonderful cook at the orphanage, worked over an open fire to prepare the meal.

Leigh Ann and Nicole provided plenty of toys for the kids to play with and, of course, they had lots of attention from the adults. And did we mention walking up and down the steep hills with the children? Among the eight of us from the U.S., Mariana set the record for exercise with the kids.



Kids from the Dacia orphanage enjoying the outdoors.

THE VOLUNTEER WHO KEEPS ON GIVING

Hearts Across Romania did not realize what an enduring and valuable relationship they would have with Jerry Williams when he went on our first volunteer trip to Romania in the fall of 2004. On that trip Jerry saw the need for supplies in the hospitals, and he came back to the U. S. and established our medical donations program. Since that time, he has worked tirelessly in gathering and inventorying medical donations and using his expertise to value the contributions for customs prior to shipping. He has enthusiastically supported our fundraisers over the years, giving of his time and financial resources, and he returned to Romania on our October trip, accompanied by two people he personally recruited to go with us. Jerry's energy and passion for the children of Romania continues to be an inspiration, and we thank him for his continued support.



Volunteers Jerry Williams and Leigh Ann Dibble

A HEARTFELT CHRISTMAS

Volunteers Jerry Williams and Leigh Ann Dibble sponsored Christmas for the boys in the transitional program last year, and they were joined by Robert Davis, team member, this year as they again contributed for a holiday celebration and gifts for the young men.