

# THE PRR STORY GOES ON!

## Newsletter September 2018 – February 2019

Dear friends and partners,

In the next few pages we'll try to cover the most significant changes that took place over the last few months. We hope you enjoy reading our news.

In **SEPTEMBER** last year, after many discussions and much prayer, the PRR board decided to re-locate Casa Benjamin to Murfatlar. By God's grace, the Kogălniceanu property was sold in and a new exciting chapter started for the Boys' Home and for PRR as a whole. The transfer took a few months, and the official aspects are not finalized, but we expect to soon be granted the license for the boy's home.

***Casa Benjamin*** – The new location is perfect for the boys' needs; a much better school and the local Church are so close, 'just around the corner'. The boys are doing much better in school; no more problems with the Roma community; no more staff time, energy and money wasted on transportation. People from the Murfatlar community are able to come and help with homework and practical things. Casa Anna is very close by, and it's a pleasure to bring the girls and boys together for common activities. In a word, the boys in Casa Benjamin are blooming!

***Casa Anna*** also saw some important and beneficial changes in its day to day activity. Flori returned to work after maternity leave, and Nutzi Iordan decided to return to work after 10 months break.

In **OCTOBER** our prayer of taking in more children was answered, when Child Protection in Constanta asked us to take 3 new girls and 6 new boys into our homes. Initially this was for two probation visits, in order to offer them a better chance in life. There are too many children in the state centres at the moment, and the Child Protection Commission decided it was better for the new children to live in a better protected family like atmosphere such as PRR. The 9 children were officially admitted to live with PRR on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, with the director of the Child Protection Services gratefully thanking PRR for over 20 years of excellence in the area.

All the new girls and boys have settled down very well in their homes, and have good relationships with the rest of the children and the staff. However, because most of them came with deep wounds and even traumas, their healing process has just begun and we trust by God's grace and with the support of our psychologist, their progress will be notable very soon.

**DECEMBER** was again a very special time of celebrating our Saviour and experiencing the receiving and giving miracle. Many people in the community thought of our children and were very generous, so generous that some of the children said they had never seen so many Christmas gifts. Some of the new children couldn't believe that strangers thought of them. All the children were blessed to receive clothing, shoes, sweets and toys, and they felt overwhelmed. They decided to give some of the sweets and toys to other poor local children.

Below are a few short stories of the newly admitted children and photos of them after some time in PRR

**NICU**(07.06.2006, 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

**GEORGIANA** (15.09.2008, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

**RODICA** (28.10.2008, 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

Their parents are married and altogether they have 11 children. Their tiny house, consisting of two rooms and a small hall way is owned by their grandparents whose house is in the same yard. An anonymous local person twice informed the authorities that the mother refused to see a doctor for one of her children. On those occasions the Child protection discovered that the father used to be violent towards his wife and the children were not supervised and cared for properly.

In May 2018 the three children were placed in the care of a social worker for three days, and then placed in a state centre.



**DANIELA** (21.06.2007, 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

**ROBERT** (16.07.2009, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

**MARIAN** (23.05.2011, 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

These children have other five siblings. Their parents are married. They had no electricity in their very small and poor house (only two rooms for their parents and all the children). The bigger problems in their family started when their mother left the house at the end of 2016, their father being a violent alcoholic. The children were neglected and unsupervised. In the day time they were stealing and at night destroying their neighbours property. In school they were violent towards their classmates and their teachers. Their case was referred to Constanta Child Protection and in November 2017 they were placed in state care.



**VLĂDUȚ** (18.07.2006, 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

His paternity is not established; his mother had many passing relationships, and she occasionally lived with her adoptive mother. In August 2014 Vlăduț was placed at his 'grandmother's', as his mother's latest partner was physically assaulting him. Vlăduț's grandmother couldn't supervise him properly - he used to miss school a lot and leave home for many days. The Police became involved in finding him. Vlăduț was exhibiting antisocial behaviour, becoming part of a group of youngsters showing aggression toward other children and animals.

He was placed in a state centre in April 2018. His mother agreed to that, she used to call him and even visited him. He is very intelligent, does well in school, and he is supportive towards the smaller children. He would like to be reunited with his mother.





**FLORIN J.** (03.02.2005, 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

His father died in December 2016. He has two older brothers.

Not having a place to live, he moved to various addresses in his village together with his mother. The local council offered them social housing which the mother couldn't keep. In June 2018 Florin was placed in a state centre, emotionally affected by all the situations he went through. He has difficulty adapting and coping with tense situations, and has a very poor emotional balance.

**ALEX** (07.05.2005, 7<sup>th</sup> grade)

Alex was living with his parents when his mother left him to work abroad. He was only aged 9. Alex remained in the care of some relatives who couldn't take responsibility for raising him anymore and sent him back to his alcoholic father. Eventually he banished Alex from home. He was placed in a state centre in September 2018. He was diagnosed with obvious strabismus, and has a deficiency in his right eye. He says this is due to an accident he had as a child. He wants to live with his aunt very badly, but she says she doesn't have the means to care for him. He is slightly emotionally unstable because of the trauma of being banished by his father and separated from his mother. Alex suffers very much when the word mother is mentioned.



PRR continued to be a blessing for poor families and individuals in the community during the cold season via the help of various partners and sponsors. They donated firewood, clothing, basic foods etc. Both homes were sponsored by a company in Constanta who provided new beds for each of the children. The old beds and mattresses were donated to a needy family with many children. There were other families in the community that wanted to donate goods and didn't know where the needs were most. They asked us to identify families in need and then distribute the goods. We were happy to do that and be part of the blessings God provided help for people in need in our area.

The *after school project* also goes from strength to strength. Around 20 children attend the program and so do very well in school. We are proud of, and thank the Lord for our volunteers, Lia and Andrei!

Our desire for 2019 too is to have summer camps and kids clubs with our children and other children from disadvantaged families and do our best so that the Good News may reach as many children as possible. We want to be a blessing for everyone in our area and live out the love of Jesus Christ – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. ... For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* – John 3:16

**Many people have said they want to take up the 'little and often' challenge, where a dollar or euro or pound each week can make a huge difference to the work, so**

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and the Lord WILL repay them in full!* Proverbs 19:17 (paraphrase)**

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