

P.R.R. newsletter January – April 2021

He is our Light and our Salvation

Dear friends of PRR,

Since our last newsletter, the frosty winter slowly receded to make way for a lively spring with renewed nature, with multicolored flowers and chirping birds. Everything is revived in the spring, including our faith in the One who is the Resurrection and the Life. We recall how great His love is that made Him give His life for us all. We celebrated Easter and His Resurrection power on the 2nd of May, with the whole eastern world.



But before that, according to tradition, everyone decorated their houses, gardens and trees. Our residential homes had that same spirit, each child being part of the preparations organized by our staff. With joy and excitement, the children also helped with preparing the traditional Easter food, painted eggs, and they sang in front of Maranata church in Murfatlar.



Reintegration of Păun brothers into their natural family

A special event we had on April 19th was a farewell party for the reintegration into their natural family of the Păun siblings, Nicu, Georgiana and Rodica, Casa Benjamin and Casa Anna residents. They came to live in PRR in November 2018, after spending six months in the state child protection system. They wanted so much to be reunited with their family, but the lack of finances prevented their parents providing the proper conditions for taking home at least the children in our care (three other children they have are in maternal care). Our project supported their family financially and practically by buying the necessary materials to complete a room that had only the walls erected. Our volunteer men did all this work, fitting and painting the ceiling and the walls, pouring the screed, plus they put in place all the electrical system for that room. A toilet in their yard and a sidewalk from the gate to the house were provided by our Foundation. Also, we were able to help them with firewood and food. All this meant many trips to their village and also to Mangalia town to obtain legal documents necessary for the reintegration.

Now the Păun family have three of their 6 children back home thanks to God, to people who donated to help, to volunteers, and our whole team who made a huge effort. We also had the excellent cooperation of the Child Protection Representatives, the case manager being part of our special party to wish the Păun family (father, mother, Nicu, Georgiana and Rodica) a happy life together.



Our children had their school holiday all April, much longer than their normal Easter school holiday. It was a good opportunity for them to relax and take part in various activities indoors and outdoors (see the pictures) such as a short excursion to Fântânița forest, a visit to the animal micro-reservation in Constanța, a tour to the Black Sea resorts; birthday parties (Vasilica – 13, Dani – 14, Jitianu – 16). Some children went to spend Easter with family and friends in the community, enjoyed online Church services on Sunday mornings and youth programs in Maranata church on Saturday evenings. We had outings to Constanța City, invited by people from the community who bought for each child shoes, t-shirts, and trousers.



Birthday parties:

Florin (Jiti) – 16 yrs – left;

Vasilica – 13 yrs – centre;

Dani – 14 yrs (right, with his older brother, Ștefan)

The children were also involved in practical activities around the house. They were happy to work the gardens, paint neighboring walls and the exterior of Casa Anna. They levelled the ground they also dug it; they sowed seeds, grass, peppers, tomatoes, parsley and flowers, and planted four fruit trees.



Casa Anna – **Mihaela has her ID card after becoming 14! She is so happy for that! **Daniela needed more visits to the dentist because of her poor teeth. **At the end of April, for four days, our resident girls had the joy of getting to know three new girls from a state centre. That was a probation visit to see if we could take them at Casa Anna. All the girls loved spending time together, but we haven't made our decision yet.

Casa Benjamin – **Alex has three diseases in one eye and needs special spectacles. We take him to see a specialist twice a month and we need to cover the fuel. At some point he will need eye surgery, as his condition is serious, and he risks losing his sight. **Dani is on treatment for his growth problems, and we need to see an endocrinologist regularly to monitor his growth. **Dani, Ștefan, Florin Jitianu, are all in the 8th grade, the final year, and they are faced with an important decision – what trade school in Constanța to choose.

Administrative – **We had an inspection at both residential homes by the Fire department in Constanța in March. **A part of our permanent staff in the homes took the “Combined arts workers” course. **With the help of the owner of Casa Benjamin, we managed to build a grill in the back yard.

Families



Furniture for the families that lived in almost empty houses (left), food and diapers (centre and right)

To have more detailed records of the families we assist, our social worker conducted social surveys and identified all members of each family in Siminoc village and their current situation. In the wintertime the needs of these families are greater than in the rest of the year, so we continued to visit them twice a month and give them necessary things like food, clothes and furniture. For Easter we also distributed food parcels to all the families in our care. We included in our ministry the families of some of the former beneficiaries we helped through our Casa Charis day centre in Constanța. Through our volunteer, who used to work at Casa Charis, we kept in touch with these families that don't have anything to eat before going to bed every night.



Former beneficiaries – Some of the former beneficiaries expressed their desire to come and visit the current beneficiaries in the homes and spend time with our staff members.

Others call us, their family, just to say hello, or to ask for help when they are in need. Of course, we help them with counseling, in practical ways, or financially, according to our possibilities.

Our joy is great and difficult to express in words when they contact us, and we hear of their achievements.

The picture above – The smallest (and the youngest) children in Ganea family, Mihaela and Vasilica, our current Casa Anna residents, met their sisters at the christening of the baby boy their sister has with a former Casa Benjamin beneficiary, Marian, whose twin brothers (Cosmin and Mihai), also Casa Benjamin residents, were present too at this special family reunion.

Plans for the future – We are preparing for a summer camp in the mountains (in July) where we want to take 50 children from the disadvantaged families we assist in the villages. God willing, we'd love to run a sports camp again this summer where 100 children will be invited and will find out about Jesus Christ.

We also pray to take in more girls in Casa Anna, 3-4 girls and we need guidance and God's intervention in directing to us the girls who need us and also help the new girls integrate quickly and well.

God protected us during these months and none of the children or staff was affected by the virus.

Part of the staff is already vaccinated and one of the boys (17 yrs) expressed his desire to get the vaccine.

We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

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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