ACTIVITY REPORT – 2024 "CASA BENJAMIN" BOYS GROUP HOME

"Project Romanian Rescue" Foundation is a non-governmental foundation that carries out activities in the field of child protection, being accredited by the Ministry of Labor and Social Justice according to Accreditation Certificate series AF no. 004183 issued on 15.03.2019.

In 2024, the PRR Foundation carried out two protection projects in the residential and day care system:

"Casa Benjamin" Boys Group Home located in Murfatlar, Constanța County, Nufărului Str. no. 9, operated until 25.05.2024 based on the Operating License series LF no. 000771, issued on 25.09.2019 by the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption and

"Casa Ellen" Day Center – public day social service for children at risk of being separated from their parents, subordinated to the "Project Romanian Rescue" Foundation, based in the town of Constanța, str. Twilight no. 48B, social service code – 8891CZ-C-II and operates under the Operating License series LF no. 0001070 issued on 20.03.2024.

Considering the fact that on 14.05.2024, the Board of Directors of the "Project Romanian Rescue" Foundation unanimously decided that the social service with accommodation "Casa Benjamin" Boys Group Home will not be relicensed and will close its activity starting from 24.05.2024.

Since the leadership of the Foundation wanted to reorganize the activity, on 30.09.2024, the Board of Directors decided to establish a Day Center "Casa Speranța " Murfatlar, CAEN code 8891-CZ-II for children/young people at risk of being separated from their parents. Day care activities, meals, education, recreation-socialization, counseling, development of independent life skills, school and professional guidance for children, support activities, counseling and education for parents and legal representatives of children/young people will be carried out here. In the summer of 2024, the mentioned building was reorganized, painted, sanitized and remodeled according to the minimum quality standards provided by law.

The Day Center "Casa Speranța" – Murfatlar will carry out its activity in the building located in Murfatlar, Nufărului Str. no. 9, based on the Donation Contract No. 1259/14.06.2021. In order to obtain the authorizations and approvals necessary to complete the licensing file of the above-mentioned service, the steps have been started and currently authorizations issued by the Constanta Public Health Directorate and the Constanta Veterinary Sanitary and Food Safety Directorate have been received.





The Foundation maintained contact with the former beneficiaries and their families, assessing their situation and providing them with help in the identified problems.

The Foundation also provided assistance to individuals and families in need in a holistic way and continued its support for Ukraine by providing aid to refugees from certain shelters within Constanța County.

"CASA BENJAMIN" BOYS' GROUP HOME

The services offered in Casa Benjamin during 2024 were:

- hosting;
- access to education, information and culture;
- free and compulsory schooling in mainstream education and, when needed, in special education;
- group activities and individualized programs for each child/young person;
- daily care and maintenance, in a living environment as similar as possible to that of the family;
- general medical assistance, permanently adapted to the individual needs of children/youths/young people;
- learning and applying hygienic skills;
- affective climate favorable to the development of the child's complex personality;



- stimulating the communication capacity of children/youths/young people, by creating a climate of trust and mutual respect;
- the involvement of children/youths/young people in the decision-making process, of consultation in order to establish the individual educational project, depending on the age/degree of psycho-social maturation;
- developing the feeling of belonging to a social group, family, the feeling of understanding and acceptance of his situation, of his own history;
- the development of the child's relations with the community, by carrying out and participating in various activities organized within the family home and outside them (cultural, artistic, sports, religious shows, etc.);
- systematic observation and evaluation of the evolution of the child/young person;
- religious education.



The services offered in the family home in 2024 until 25.05.2024 were provided by a staff composed of 12 people, of which: 9 employees with C.I.M. (social assistants (2), social worker (2), childcare worker (1), specialized educator (1), educator (1), pedagogue and economic director, volunteers (2) – psychologist and medical assistant and a PSI (C.P.S.) inspector.

The beneficiaries of Casa Benjamin were children temporarily or permanently separated from their parents, as a result of the establishment, under the law, of the special protection measure - placement within the P.R.R. Foundation.

Since on 25.05.2024 the operating license of Casa Benjamin expired and the Foundation's management did not want to request the relicensing of the service for the 4 existing beneficiaries on that date, the specialist team proposed the termination of placement measures at the P.R.R. Foundation and found optimal solutions for them. Thus, one of the beneficiaries was reintegrated into the family with his father, for another the measure







of family placement was established with the director of the P.R.R. Foundation, and for two young people, until the completion of the professional courses and until their professional integration, assistance contracts were concluded and they were allowed to live at the headquarters of the family-type house until the beginning of July 2024.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN "CASA BENJAMIN" BOYS' GROUP HOME DURING THE PERIOD 01.01.2024 – 25.05.2024

The general objective was socio-professional reintegration and the reintegration of young

people into their natural family. Thus, the appropriate preparation for their exit from the foundation was pursued, through the development of independent life skills and other necessary conditions for



reintegration or family and/or socio-professional integration; the young people's knowledge of the concrete characteristics of the future way of life, ensuring a sense of continuity of life after reintegration and discussing the



ways in which, after leaving the service, the young people can continue to maintain communication relationships with colleagues and with the staff of the Foundation.

Until the placement measures were revoked, young people were guaranteed the right to privacy, personal space and confidentiality. Young people benefited from safety, trust and respect in all aspects of their lives. They were encouraged to express their opinions on all aspects that concern them, including everyday life at home, and they received an answer on how their opinions influenced the making of a certain decision.





EDUCATION

The school situation of resident children/youth in 2024 was as follows:

- 2 beneficiaries, students at "Gheorghe Miron Costin" Technological High School Constanța professional education;
- 2 beneficiaries, students at the Technological High School of Electrotechnics and Telecommunications Constanța professional education.

During the school year, the Foundation's staff provided educational support according to the school program and the specific needs of the beneficiaries. Among the beneficiaries of the home, a child and a young person benefited from individualized curricular adaptation according to the School and Professional Orientation Certificates for children/young people with special educational requirements and disability classification (Medium).



The educational process of the children/young people required special attention: emphasis was placed on school preparation, the children/young people being assisted and supported in the preparation of school lessons/homework/reports. The staff of the house continued to monitor the school progress and constantly kept in touch with the teaching staff. Also, the children/young people were offered the resources necessary for the smooth development of the educational process (supplies, clothing, shoes, etc.).

The educational activities organized in 2024 were aimed at improving knowledge in the studied fields, developing personality and self-knowledge, shaping personal skills and abilities.

In Casa Benjamin, the objectives set out in the educational program were implemented and fulfilled, and other activities were proposed according to the identified needs. They were planned by the specialized staff, adapted to the level and development potential of each child, with the aim of promoting and improving school skills.

The information/training/counseling sessions scheduled for 2024 aimed at: bring knowledge and awareness of one's rights and responsibilities, enrichment of general culture, knowledge / compliance / reminder of work procedures - admission, termination, regulations, Emergency Plan, protection and security in emergency situations (earthquake and fire), correct management of pocket money, behavior in school, prevention of school dropouts etc.



Also, during these sessions, the beneficiaries were informed about the communication methods (written and/or verbal) of a notification or complaint: to whom to address, the method of registration, the method of response and the resolution process.

Equally, during the periodically organized information session, emphasis was placed on preventing and combating the risk of abuse and neglect, the respective procedure was read, each form of abuse was listed and defined (physical, emotional-psychological, sexual; neglect, discrimination, intimidation and exploitation of children) and the signs and symptoms evocative of abuse, neglect and exploitation were listed. Children/young people were encouraged to report any form of abuse, no matter where it happens, and to call the emergency telephone number 119 (this was often presented to children).

Beneficiaries were encouraged to follow and implement the issues discussed during the information/training/counseling sessions. These sessions were organized periodically and were supported by the social worker.

In order to prevent, reduce and stop delinquent behavior, the support of the Local Police in the city of Murfatlar was requested. Thus, in February 2024, the representatives of the Local



Police held an information and counseling session, in which they provided information on issues related to the prevention and combating of juvenile delinquency and criminality (definition, sanctions, legal provisions). Discussions were also held regarding the awareness of the choice of the

entourage and the manifestation of a correct behavior and attitude in society. In order to increase the degree of road safety of the beneficiaries and to reduce the number of traffic accidents, during the session aspects related to traffic rules, how to travel safely on public roads and in public transport were also mentioned.





HEALTH

Until the end of May, all resident children/young people were monitored by the family doctor, Mrs. Dr. Sabău Nicoleta Marieta, and by the volunteer medical assistant of the Foundation,

Mrs. Hiriczko Mihaela Florentina. When it was necessary, the children/young people benefited from specialized medical check-ups according to the identified needs and the recommendations of the family doctor, child psychiatry, psychiatry, ophthalmology, endocrinology, pediatric neurology, etc. Some of the children benefited from specialized dental services provided within the S.C. dental office. Rio Dent. Dental X-rays and other necessary imaging investigations were paid for from Foundation funds.



For the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and the formation of responsible skills and behaviors regarding health status, the health education sessions continued as scheduled.

FAMILY AND PARTNER REINTEGRATION – PROFESSIONAL

Given the fact that the placement measure was terminated for all beneficiaries, the Foundation's psychologist organized individual and group counseling sessions aimed at supporting them in developing the personal, social and professional skills necessary for a successful transition from education/foundation to family and the labor market. Counseling focused on identifying the needs, interests and skills of the beneficiaries. They were guided to make informed decisions about their professional, family and social integration.

The Foundation's staff encouraged the beneficiaries' social skills, provided information about employers' requirements and, depending on their wishes, accompanied the beneficiaries to the offices of various economic agents. The purpose of the counseling was also to increase confidence in oneself and in others, so that all beneficiaries could properly reintegrate professionally and in society.

Opportunities were also created for the beneficiaries to assert, express their options and initiatives through free discussions, apply questionnaires/tests/worksheets to assess the degree of satisfaction, implement activity plans according to the preferences of the beneficiaries.

At the end of the 2023–2024 school year, the beneficiaries of Casa Benjamin achieved good academic results and passed with honors. Three of them completed the professional cycle and successfully obtained professional qualification certificates for the following specialties: low-voltage electrician, cook and baker-pastry chef.



Until the completion of the educational process, the young people lived at Casa Benjamin. In mid-July 2024, they rented a living space in the city of Murfatlar. Thus, the young people were instructed to assume their responsibilities as tenants and to pay the monetary obligations towards the owner (rent, utility payments, etc.) on the agreed date.



The beneficiaries of the family home were advised and

informed by the case manager and the social worker of the Foundation regarding the provisions of art. 55 para. 2 and 3 of Law 272/2004, Order 1954/20868/2022, Law no. 191/28.06.2022 for the amendment and completion of Law no. 272/ 2004 regarding the protection and promotion of children's rights regarding the receipt of a monthly allowance in the amount of 4.8 ISR, until reaching the age of 26, for young people who request the termination of the placement measure if they prove that they follow a form of education or have a job.



Also, the young people were informed about the fact that, once the option for the termination of the special protection measure has been expressed, the establishment of a new special protection measure is no longer possible, under the conditions of Law 272/2004, republished, with subsequent amendments and additions, therefore they cannot return to the special child protection system.

The main beneficiaries of the house were supported and guided by the Foundation staff in order to prepare the file for obtaining a social housing. Thus, in March 2024, the files with the necessary documents were submitted to the Murfatlar town Hall registry.

For the professional integration of the beneficiaries who have completed the educational process, the staff of the Foundation offered support for job identification. The social worker went with the young people to different economic agents and to the Work Force Office of Constanta. Here two of the beneficiaries were taken into account, one of them enrolled in a welding training course and got a job identified by the agency. The other young man moved and is currently employed in Bucharest. We mention the fact that both young people applied to County Agency for Payments and Social Inspection to benefit from the allowance for young people leaving the protection system. For this, the young people were advised and encouraged to properly manage the money coming from the allowance and from the earned salary so that they remain free of debt and can pay the monthly expenses related to the living space. They

were guided how to plan their weekly/monthly budget, what payment methods to use to save money for transportation, etc.

The young people were advised that it is important to pay great attention to the choice of surroundings and behavior in society, to avoid dubious and dangerous people, not to bring strangers into the home, not to disturb the peace of the other tenants.

We mention that between July and December 2024, two of the former beneficiaries were periodically helped by the Foundation with food packages and occasionally with money needed to pay the house rent.



DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

Beneficiaries were involved until the end of May 2024 in various activities aimed at developing independent life skills, harmonious personality development, identifying resources and realizing one's own potential.

In order to develop the attitude and behavior of responsibility and initiative, the beneficiaries were involved in various practical activities (maintaining cleanliness in the environment, organizing the personal space, purchasing supplies, clothing and other personal things, shopping for



various food and products needed in the home, etc.).

Under the guidance of the service staff and volunteers, the young residents participated in activities aimed at developing skills in culinary art (preparation of the daily menu, traditional Easter dishes, cakes, cookies, homemade bread, etc.).

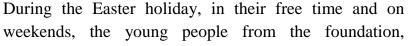
Together with the staff of group home and under their supervision, the young people participated in the agricultural activities carried out in the garden of the house. Thus, in the spring they prepared the garden: weeding, digging, sowing and planting seedlings, etc. Beneficiaries participated in information sessions during which they learned to properly manage their financial resources obtained from school, social or professional scholarships, pocket money, donations, etc.



All residents were encouraged to make clothing choices consistent with the weather conditions, but also to the social contexts they participate in, to express their tastes and preferences regarding the menu, home decoration, footwear, clothing, personal image.

RECREATION / SOCIALIZATION

The recreation and socialization activities were diversified, programmed according to the young people's desire, their age, their level of development, the season, etc. They aimed for our residents to integrate into social groups, establish interpersonal relationships and develop correct communication skills with those around them.





accompanied by the staff of the house, went on various trips organized in Constanța County. Thus, they were able to enjoy walks in Tăbăcăriei Park, in the Holiday Village, on the Constanța seafront, they spent time at the beach in Mamaia and Mamaia Nord Resorts, in the Malls in Constanța, etc.

Many of the activities organized by the Foundation were aimed at the development of social relations and the formation of moral traits such as: friendship, trust, sincerity, competition, tolerance, empathy, etc. Thus, during the four months of 2024 the children/young people enjoyed spending time together with visitors from the local community, their families, friends and sponsors from America and England.







BIRTHDAY PARTIES

In the group home or in other locations, in a festive atmosphere, the birthdays of the young residents were celebrated. These anniversaries were attended by the other beneficiaries, the Foundation staff with their families and friends from the community. The menus served considered the wishes of the celebrants.









MAINTAINING THE CONNECTION WITH THE NATURAL FAMILY AND WITH FORMER BENEFICIARIES

To develop and strengthen family ties, Foundation staff continued to encourage beneficiaries to regularly call their natural families/relatives or important people and, where possible, visit them.



In the first four months of 2024, the children/young people from Casa Benjamin visited their parents, extended family members or various people in the community. They kept in touch with families and people with whom they had developed bonds of attachment on Facebook, WhatsApp or through phone

calls.

The places where the beneficiaries traveled between January and May 2024 (sometimes accompanied by Foundation staff) were: Istria, Nisipari, Castelu, Hârșova, Movilita and







Constanta.

After the placement measures were revoked, the young people who left the Foundation were monitored post-service by the social worker and by the local town halls, and when the need arose, support and counseling was offered in the identified problems.

Between January and May 2024, the children/young people in the family home kept in touch with the former beneficiaries and were visited by them.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING 2024

According to the 2024 annual professional training plan, the Foundation's staff regularly participated in training/training/information sessions aimed at learning and deepening work procedures, the organization and operation regulations, the correct preparation of work tools, general rules for work protection and intervention in emergency cases. They also participated regularly in supervisory and

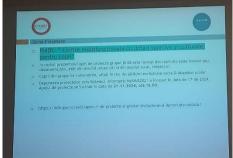
administrative meetings and were concerned with their professional training.





In January 2024, the staff/volunteers took part in the annual evaluation that highlights professional performance. All employees/volunteers have accumulated maximum points. The staff complied with the rules and norms regarding the performance of the tasks (the procedures specific to the quality standard Order 25/2019, internal regulations; Organization and Operation Regulations, Code of Ethics, Bill of rights for the Beneficiaries, other provisions,







etc.).

The Director of the Foundation participated in the meetings of the Commission for Child Protection, part of General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Constanța, to those of the Local Intersectoral Team for preventing and combating child exploitation through work and to those of the Evaluation Commission within the Constanța County Center for Educational Resources and Assistance.

Also, the social worker of the Foundation participated together with other specialists in the field of public and private social services from Constanța county and with students/masters students of "Ovidius" University of Constanța – Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences - Social Work specialty in various workshops, etc. Among them we list: The workshop organized by the CNASR Territorial Branch on the occasion of the Days of Social Assistance "Buen Vivir" - a common future for a



transformational change, at the event organized at the "Ovidius" Constanța University - "Together for the development of social assistance", Presentation of the Code regarding the practice of social assistance, Professional standards, Stages of the professional act, Supervision, Current challenges and opportunities in the development and professionalization of social assistance in rural areas and the Career Fair in social assistance - professional opportunities for social workers, master's students of the Ovidiu University in Constanța.

The last three regional events were held within the project "Workforce from social services that supports the expansion of the minimum package of services" implemented by the National

College of Social Workers in Romania in partnership with UNICEF Romania and with the support of the Association of Municipalities in Romania (AcoR).

The social worker participated online in the webinars organized by the National College of Social Workers in Romania: "The importance of the relationship", "How attachment theory can help us in social work", "The role of the National Child Observatory", "In dialogue with the winners of the National Gala of Excellence in Social Work", "30 years since the first promotion of social workers", "The future of children, their rights", "Using the evidence-based practice model and its structure in social assistance", "Your well-being" and "Using the Evidence-Based Practice model and its structure in social assistance".

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Voluntary activities carried out on the territory of Romania and Ukraine to support Ukrainian citizens, victims of the armed conflict, continued in 2024.

Periodically, the Foundation's staff, divided into teams, traveled to Ukraine with humanitarian aid for the population that did not want to flee the path of war. The aids were purchased from the funds of the donors HOPE International Partners from the USA and Hope for Life









Our Foundation's support also consisted in procuring the necessary building materials for the reconstruction of the house of a family with many children in the affected area.





During the whole year various events were organized in Ukraine with refugees from the affected areas. We mention the event organized in the Ismail region at the headquarters of the Skinia church where 700 people (400 children and 300 adults) took part. The purpose of the event was to celebrate Children's Day and the 400 children present received gifts consisting of shoes and sweets.













Also, between January and May 2024, with the help of HOPE International Partners organization and Constanța Food Bank, P.R.R. Foundation supported a large number of refugees living in various shelters in Constanța and its surroundings (Marea Neagră Hotel, Independenta village and Murfatlar city).

Periodically, the Foundation supplied the shelters with food and other things necessary for the daily living of the refugees. The food was donated by Constanța Food Bank and purchased from the funds of HOPE International Partners organization.







Also, to maintain the state of health in optimal conditions, the Foundation procured, upon request, the necessary medicines for children, the elderly and other people living in the shelter at Marea Neagră Hotel and, in collaboration with World Vision Romania organization the









refugees sheltered there were offered shoes and clothing in February 2024.

In the first four months of the year, the support of Ukrainians continued and, depending on the situation and needs, social counseling was provided in order to obtain residence permits in Romania, enrollment of children/young people in mainstream schools, support for accessing social services and enrollment with a family doctor, identification of jobs and guidance to local authorities that can provide support.

Occasionally, for an effective relationship and for the recreation and socialization of refugee children, P.R.R. Foundation together with other volunteers, supported diversified game programs, organized according to the age and level of development of the children, and















participated in the birthday of a little girl whom we have known since the beginning of the war.

In order to maintain the connection with the refugees supported by the Foundation in collaboration with Flame of Hope Church in Constanța, an event was organized in September where 100 adults and 50 children participated. An evangelistic program was held here and a special game program was organized for the children present.



All participants received gifts provided by the organization HOPE International Partners consisting of candy boxes for children and personal hygiene items for adults. Also, many of the Ukrainian refugee families in the city of Constanța who attend the aforementioned church were supported with various food products.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- During 2024, several contracts and collaboration agreements were signed and renewed with: S.C. Chimpex S.R.L., Bank for the Collection and Distribution of Food, Stepping Forward Association, S.C. Black Villa.
- The collaboration with Constanţa Food Bank continued and, periodically, food received from Metro, Mega Image, Penny and Lidl Romania is distributed to families and vulnerable people in the south-eastern region of Romania and to partner NGOs.
- In the summer of 2024, the interior of the family-style house was completely sanitized and painted, remodeled and adapted for the opening of the day care center. The kitchen furniture was changed (a new one was purchased), the kitchen was equipped with new crockery, the floor tiles were changed, a new sink, part of the kitchen appliances were renewed (stove, oven, roaster, electric kettle, etc.), the former bedrooms on the ground floor were transformed into classrooms, etc.





During the calendar year 2024, our Foundation collaborated and was supported by individuals from the country and abroad and by various entities and organizations (from Romania, USA, England, Norway, Germany, Spain and through various means Italy) and



sponsorships, among which we list: Murfatlar City Hall, S.C. Optima Store S.R.L., S.C. Speranța Prod Medgidia, Rio Dent Dental Office, The chicken Farm in Galeşu, S.C. Chimpex S.A., S.C. Admitec S.R.L. from Oradea, S.C. Exponential S.R.L. – Black Sea Complex, S.C. Vipgroom S.R.L., S.C. Ovipol S.R.L. and other individuals from Roamnia and abroad.

In 2024, with the help of S.C. Chimpex S.A., the yard of the family house was landscaped with the asphalting of the parking lot and the redevelopment of the sidewalks. The equipment, improvements and equipment purchased in the kitchen of the house were paid from the funds provided by Chimpex company.







During Easter and winter holidays, the Foundation's staff participated in the National Collections organized by the Constanta Food Bank. We were happy to see that people in

the commu nity were empath etic and donated many product The foundat ion together with all











the donors was able to bring joy to the hearts of many families in Constanța County who received packages with the collected food.

• In December 2024, with the help of the Company OX2 A.B. Stockholm, Bucharest branch was purchased and given a number of 185 gifts to children from the town of Deleni, Constanța County.



GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR 2025

- Obtaining authorization/denial from the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations Dobrogea;
- Licensing of the social service Day Center "Casa Speranta Murfatlar";
- Providing quality services by complying with the provisions of Order 27/2019;
- Collaboration with school units, etc. for the identification of children in difficulty in order to prevent family abandonment, school abandonment, juvenile delinquency and other risk situations;
- Development and diversification of social services, according to identified needs;
- Information and counseling activities carried out with the support of the community assistance service such as: public awareness and sensitization regarding the risk of social exclusion, respect for social rights and the promotion of social assistance measures, social mediation, etc.;
- Encouraging volunteer actions initiated by various social factors (school, kindergarten, university, etc.) and attracting volunteers to the actions organized by the Foundation and to the daily activities carried out within the day center;
- Facilitating the exchange of experience of best practice models and identifying the most appropriate ways of intervention in social practice;
- Carrying out exchanges of experience for the implementation of successful initiatives applied in other non-governmental organizations;
- Continuous professional training in order to increase the performance of the employed staff participation of the center's staff in various conferences, seminars, workshops, webinars;
- Distribution of informative materials regarding the activity carried out in the day center;
- Identifying potential partners from the community and submitting collaboration proposals;
- Promoting the concept of non-violence through organizing meetings between the beneficiaries of the Day Center and representatives of the Local Police;
- Prevention of addictive behaviors (organization of persuasive and educational activities aimed at preventing substance consumption and addictive behaviors in collaboration with

the National Anti-Drug Authority, the Center for Training and Documentation in the field of drugs, etc.);

- Updating the website and the Facebook page of P.R.R.;
- Activities to optimize the conditions of the center: daily sanitization, periodic deratization and disinsection, maintenance and repair activities;
- Supplementing the necessary funds for the Foundation's activity by identifying potential partners, by attracting additional funds and material resources;
- Drafting of the Organization and Operation Regulations, the Manual of Procedures and the other documents provided in the Minimum Quality Standards;
- Preparation of the Annual Action Plan for the year 2025 for the day care centre.
- Involvement of the community in the social assistance activity through volunteer actions, donations, sponsorships, etc.;
- Promotion of activities and services carried out by the Foundation in the community;
- Improving and adapting the environment for licensed social services and for future established services;
- Organization of summer camps/excursions, hikes, joint activities with other institutions (kindergartens, schools, NGOs, etc.);
- Facilitating the constant maintenance of relations with the former beneficiaries of the Foundation.

Social worker, Matei Lenuța Executive Director, Şerban Nicuşor- Marian