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"EveryChild" Community Centre Cluj-Napoca

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2nd Community Centre Cluj-Napoca

Str. Dumbrava Roşie, nr. 33, Cluj-Napoca
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Community Centre Cîmpia Turzii

Str. Liviu Rebreanu, nr. 2, Cîmpia Turzii
tel.: 0729-119249
e-mail: frccfcimpia@zappmobile.ro

The "Child and Family" Day-Care Centre Dej

Str. Alexandru Sopos, nr.2, 405200 Dej
tel.: 0264-212117

Oradea Office

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Community Centre Oradea

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tel. : 0259-434069

Satu Mare Office

Str. Mihai Viteazu, nr.19/22, 440030, Satu Mare
tel/fax: 0261-712060
e-mail: frccfsm@rdslink.ro

Community Centre Satu Mare

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www.frccf.org.ro



ANNUAL REPORT 2005



Romanian Foundation for
Children, Community and Family

THANK YOU!

FORWARD

The changes of the 1989 winter triggered a great feeling of human solidarity, immediately materialised in goods being generously sent from Western Europe and North America: medicines, foods, clothes, medical equipment and home appliances that Romanians needed at the time.

Then, private initiatives came forward as nongovernmental organisations. They were set up as sustainable structures to deal with social matters after Western NGOs' would end their mission in Romania. Sixteen years after the events of December 1989, it is time for us to put into practice the concept of the Romanian sustainable NGO, with medium-term and long-term strategic goals. The community can turn this attempt into a success if supporting NGOs' with funds and volunteer work. Although this transition seems reasonable and logical, it is hard to achieve.

Next year, FRCCF will do its best to make these changes because although it still gets support from a thoughtful partner (EveryChild), by 2010 it will have to replace the decreasing funds granted from the West. FRCCF has already started to turn to individuals, private companies and local and government budget holders for sustainable partnerships to find solutions to the still hanging heavily social problems of the children from large low-income families.

We believe that solidarity is growing in Romania and that together we can have the rights of all Romanian children respected, most of all the right to have their basic needs met, the right to grow in a family environment, the right to education and to healthcare.

We thank those who have supported and are supporting FRCCF, proving thus the quality and usefulness of the FRCCF efforts to protect the rights of the child. We hope that even more supporters will join us in our work.



Mihai-Florin Roșca
FRCCF Executive Director

Cluj:

- "Avram Iancu" School, Cîmpia Turzii
- "Emil Racoviță" National College Students, Cluj-Napoca
- "Ion Creangă" School, Cluj-Napoca
- "Iuliu Deac" School, Cîmpia Turzii
- "Mihai Viteazul" School, Cîmpia Turzii
- "Pavel Dan" High School, Cîmpia Turzii
- "Sf. Daniel" Charity Foundation, Turda
- "V. Ungurean" Technical College, Cîmpia Turzii
- 21 Hebdomadary, Turda
- Ad(d)veritas
- Adevărul de Cluj
- Adevărul Turda
- Adventum Association Cîmpia Turzii
- AGS Computer
- Alpha TV
- Apolo Club, Cîmpia Turzii
- ARC, The Association for Community Relations
- ARTEMIS, Women against Violence Association
- Museum of Art, Cluj-Napoca
- Babeș-Bolyai University - Department of Education Sciences, Department of Sociology and Social Work
- Banfy Castle Volunteering Association, Lunca
- BRD
- Bucurom, Cîmpia Turzii
- Bună Ziua Ardeal
- Campan Bazar, Cîmpia Turzii
- Casa cu Flori
- Casa Real Estate
- Celina Prod
- Cîmpia Turzii General Hospital
- Cîmpia Turzii Police Department
- Cluj 24 Fun
- Cluj County Council
- Cluj County Hall
- Cluj County School Inspectorate
- Cluj-Napoca International Airport
- Cluj-Napoca Romanian National Opera House
- Compexit Trading
- Correct Media
- County General Social Work and Child Protection Department, Sălaj
- County General Social Work and Child Protection Department, Cluj
- CREST, Human Resources Centre
- Dani Sound
- Delta
- Department of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Cluj
- Diverta, Cîmpia Turzii
- EIRINE
- Electrica
- Electroglobal
- Elvira
- Embassy of France
- ESPERANDO Association
- Evenimentul Zilei
- Expo Transilvania
- Feleacul
- Fornetti Romania
- FRDS - Romanian Fund for

Social Development

- Fundy
- GPV
- Grup 4 Instalații
- IMPRESS Studio Design
- iQuest
- Jean Valjean Association
- Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.
- JONAS Charity
- Junior Star
- KST Design
- Lecom
- Lions Genesis, Lions Transilvania, Lions Victoria 33
- Măguri-Răcătău Primary and Secondary School
- Marketing Students Association
- Maros Bike
- Media Sound Advertising
- MedSan
- Merlin Consulting
- Military Unit No 01969, Cîmpia Turzii
- The Ministry of European Integration
- Monitorul de Cluj
- The Mother and Child Centre, Cîmpia Turzii
- Napolact
- The National Authority for Children's Rights Protection
- Orange
- Peak Toys
- People to People Foundation
- Phoenix Foundation
- Prietenia Forum Romanian-French Association, Cîmpia Turzii
- Prison Fellowship
- PRO FM
- PRO TV
- Prodcum Cîmpia Turzii
- Puck Puppet Theatre
- Radio Cluj
- Radio Guerrilla
- Radio Renașterea
- Radio Transilvania Turda
- Rondocarton
- Salprest
- Sinterom
- Social Work Public Service, Cîmpia Turzii Town Hall
- Spunk e.V.
- Stars Club
- Suceagu Parish
- Suceagu School and Kindergarten
- Telezimex
- Terre des hommes
- Top Design
- Town Hall and Local Council of Cîmpia Turzii
- Town Hall and Local Council of Cluj-Napoca
- Town Hall and Local Council of Dej
- Town Hall and Local Council of Măguri-Răcătău
- Transilvania Bank
- Transilvania General Import Export
- TVR Cluj
- UNICEF
- USAID
- Vereinigte Aktion für Rumänien
- WinMarkt
- Youth Action for Peace
- Youth Service America
- Ziarul Clujeanului
- Ziua de Cluj

Bihor

- "Bihorul" Sports High School, Oradea
- "Ioan Bococi" School of Trades, Oradea
- "Onisifor Ghibu" High School, Oradea
- Albin Foundation
- ARTEMIS, Women against Violence Association
- Bihary Naplo
- Bihoreanul Newspaper
- Communications Media
- County Employment Agency, Bihor
- County General Social Work and Child Protection Department, Bihor
- County School Inspectorate, Bihor
- Crișana
- Dacor
- Dec-Keysis
- Department of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Bihor
- Electrica Transilvania Nord
- Electrofor
- Greek-Catholic Parish, Oradea
- Jurnal Bihorean
- Kiss Fm
- Life Foundation
- Lotus Market Ltd.
- MarconfPop
- Metro Cash&Carry Oradea
- Național FM
- Oradea State Philharmonics
- OTL-RA
- PLUS GSM
- Popești Helping School
- Pro TV Oradea
- Public Guardians Agency, Bihor
- RDS
- Realitatea Bihoreană
- Rubin King
- SELGROS Cash&Carry Oradea
- The Social Community Administration from Oradea
- Town Hall and Local Council of Nojorid
- Town Hall and Local Council of Oradea
- Town Hall and Local Council of Popești
- Transilvania Radio Oradea
- Transilvania TV
- TVS Oradea
- University of Oradea
- Vocea Evangheliei Radio Oradea
- Zahărul Diamant

Satu Mare

- ACORADA
- Agence Nationale de l'Accueil des Etrangers et des Migrations
- ANZIK Ltd.
- ARTEMIS, Women against Violence Association
- Caritas
- Casa dei Diritti Sociali - Italia
- CBA NORD VEST Ltd.
- Centre for Assistance and Reintegration of Unaccompanied Children or Victims of Trafficking Satu Mare
- Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le

Développement - France

- County Council, Satu Mare
- County Customs Police Department, Satu Mare
- County Employment Agency, Satu Mare
- County General Public Health Department, Satu Mare
- County General Social Work and Child Protection Department, Satu Mare
- County Police Department Satu Mare / Proximity Police Satu Mare
- County School Inspectorate, Satu Mare
- Crasna Domănești Community Association
- Mine de Rien - France
- CREST Resource Centre
- DANTEX Ltd.
- Department of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Satu Mare
- DIEGO BM Ltd.
- Domănești Parish
- FLORISAL
- Fondation d'Auteuil France
- FONPC The Federation of Child Protection NGO's
- FRIESLAND ROMÂNIA
- Friss Újság
- Gazeta de Nord-Vest
- General Council of Seine-Saint Denis Department - Paris
- Glasul Sătmăruului
- GORDIUS Ltd.
- Hans Linder Foundation
- Hors la rue - France
- IND. JONAS Ltd.
- Informația Zilei
- INTERCOMPANY Ltd.
- METEOR Ltd.
- NEPTUN Ltd.
- NEUAUER Ltd.
- NO PARDON Ltd.
- Noua Speranță Ltd.
- OTTO HERMANN Ltd.
- Service for Social Reintegration and Supervision of Offenders Satu Mare Court
- Terre des hommes Lausanne and Romania
- Tes pas Chap - France
- The National Authority for Children's Rights Protection
- Town Hall and Local Council of Bixad
- Town Hall and Local Council of Călinești-Oaș
- Town Hall and Local Council of Gherța Mică
- Town Hall and Local Council of Târșolț
- Town Hall of Moftin
- Town Hall of Satu Mare
- TRANSILVANIA GENERAL IMPORT EXPORT Ltd.
- Transilvania Radio
- Tuberculosis Policlinic, Satu Mare
- UNICEF
- WAJDA & WAJDA Ltd.



YOU CAN HELP!

Nobody has to help somebody else's child, but some choose to do it!

Reaching out one's hands for love and protection is sometimes taken for begging. The underprivileged children enrolled in FRCCF projects reach out their hands to those that support FRCCF, not for money, but to get protection and understanding from those they put their hopes in. Thanks to the generous people who believe in FRCCF's values and mission, these children don't reach out their hands forever, but they get to be hugged.

You can **direct 2% of your annual income tax** to FRCCF by simply filling in the No 230 Statement regarding the non-for-profit organisation to benefit from 2% of your annual income tax as follows: the amount representing 2% of the annual tax, the name of the beneficiary organisation (Fundatia Română pentru Copii, Comunitate și Familie), the fiscal code (9898291) and the bank account (RO32BUCU644091102511RO09).

If you have gained incomes from other sources than salaries, in the No 200 Statement regarding special incomes, which you have to forward to the Finance Department anyhow, fill in section III (2) with the above-mentioned data.

If you are a company decision-maker, you can help the FRCCF-assisted children by directing **20% of your company's tax-on-profit, up to 3% of the turnover**, to FRCCF.

Through **one-on-one sponsorship**, you can help a child in need, who will get the much needed support from the FRCCF practitioners if you make a monthly donation of 65 RON to FRCCF. Sponsors get regular information about the sponsored child's progress.

You can also support disadvantaged children if you buy FRCCF **wristbands**. The light blue "ÎMPREUNĂ PENTRU COPII" (Together for Children) wristbands

are not just an accessory, but the symbol of your commitment to FRCCF's efforts to help children in need. They cost 4 RON, and the funds raised are used to run community projects targeting underprivileged children.

You can transfer any amount of money in the FRCCF account or **donate** directly to one of our offices and, at request, you will get a report on how your money has been used.

To help a child escape from hardship, you can **volunteer** and assist him/her with their homework at our community centres. If you need more information about volunteering, please contact us!

For more details, please visit our web site www.frccf.org.ro or call at + 40 264 594 893.

You can bring a happy ending to these children's sad stories!



Mision

FRCCF's mision is to support the most vulnerable and marginalised children so that they grow up in a safe and secure family environment and to benefit from education and proper medical services.

The Romanian Foundation for Children, Community and Family helps vulnerable and underprivileged children from large low-income families. FRCCF stresses the active and responsible role of the family, community and State in supporting these children so that their rights are respected.

For nine years, FRCCF has been implementing projects in Transylvania (the counties of Cluj, Bihor, Satu Mare, Maramureş and Sălaj) and it is one of the biggest Romanian established NGO's working in child protection.

The children from FRCCF projects have to cope with the lack of a clean home, a decent meal, and positive guidance. The Foundation stands by them and it doesn't let them face hardship alone, making sure they all have equal opportunities.

History

The Romanian Foundation for Children, Community and Family was legally registered in 1997, with the British charity The Christian Children's Fund of Great Britain (CCF GB) as sole founder. The CCF GB merged in 2002 with The European Children's Trust to become EveryChild, FRCCF's main partner.

The EveryChild vision is a world where every child has the right to grow up in a safe and secure family, free from poverty and exploitation. EveryChild works to help the families, the communities and the national governments from the project covered countries develop capacities for providing the best environment for children to grow and develop harmoniously.

In all its projects, EveryChild tries to focus

on the most vulnerable and marginalized children and to implement long-term changes for their benefit, but also for the benefit of their families and communities.

FRCCF has been a member of the Child Protection NGO's Federation (FONPC) since 1999 and founding member of the Social Services NGO's Council (CONSENS). FRCCF is also a part of the national network RuralNet and the European network EFSCW European Foundation for Street Children Worldwide. Two years ago, FRCCF was granted the public utility status by government order 1479 / 2004.

Projects

In Cluj-Napoca, Oradea, Satu Mare, Cîmpia Turzii, Popești and Dej, underprivileged children come to the FRCCF **Community Centres** every day to receive homework support and psychological and medical counselling. To prevent these children from abandoning school, the centres provide the support their parents cannot give them. In view of preventing child abandonment, disadvantaged families get help to overcome critical situations.

The rural community development projects are run in four locations from the counties of Cluj, Bihor and Satu Mare and they focus on identifying and solving community-specific problems, and instilling community spirit.

The institution-based projects aim to ensure proper conditions for the child's full development, and to prepare the children for leaving the institution. This type of project was carried out last year in eight placement centres and helping schools from the counties of Cluj, Bihor, Satu-Mare and Sălaj.

The child migration and trafficking prevention project is meant to inform parents and children from Țara Oașului about the dangers children are exposed to when they migrate to Western Europe unaccompanied.

FRCCF



Community Centres

The children enrolled in FRCCF projects have to cope with the lack of a clean home, a decent meal, and positive guidance. The Foundation stands by them and it doesn't let them face hardship alone. FRCCF makes sure they all get equal opportunities and helps these vulnerable children preserve their childhood innocence and grow up harmoniously.

The underprivileged children get school help through tutoring and homework support and they receive free medical and psychological counselling at the FRCCF community centres. Spare time activities such as dancing, drama, plastic arts clubs, sports and trips are organised at the centres in order to ensure that these children improve their social skills and discover their talents. Children's parents also get FRCCF support to overcome crisis situations and keep their children in the family.

Cluj-Napoca Community Centres

In Cluj-Napoca, there are two community centres where, last year, over 540 children in need were helped to continue school. Over 370 children benefited from homework supervision and almost 170 school children were tutored in Mathematics and Romanian. 30 children with learning problems developed their intellect and learned how to read, write, and count (10 of them with the help of a project financed by FORNETTI Romania). Approximately 150 school children with school adaptation issues were psychologically assessed and counselled in order to identify the cause of their problems. Moreover, they were helped acquire learning skills suitable to their potential. Phare Access 2003-005-551.01.05/05 programme, as part of the project "Setting Up a Community Centre Network to Prevent Abandonment" has been run from the first of November 2005 in EVERYCHILD Community Centre. Forty children took part in personal development groups where they learnt to communicate better, to behave properly

and freely express their points of view. The parents are involved in their children's learning process through individual and group meetings. They are informed on the particular problems their children have and the way they can help them deal with school requirements. The teenagers were provided school guidance, and their parents job counselling. Socialisation activities were also organised drama, day trips, documentary and fictional movie watching sessions to make children want to learn more and acquire proper behaviour patterns.

About 680 families in need received social care. 365 of them benefited from financial aids and from counselling in emergency cases, many of these aids were provided by the Sheffield Group. More than 150 families were assisted by the legal adviser to get child support, social dwellings and were counselled as to legal actions related to child custody, divorce and assault complaints. The medical doctor provided medical counselling and health education to 380 adults and 300 children. She mediated specialised check-ups (cardiology, rheumatology, neurosurgery, internal medical care, etc.) and held two health education groups for children.

Events

FRCCF celebrated Children's Day with the **Joonior Park** event held on June 4th in Cluj Central Park and attended by around 1,500 children. The **International Children's Rights Day** was celebrated on November 21st with a contest of essays on children's right to a family. There were 38 children who participated, 12 of them with papers. Between the 5th and 27th of December, the event **The Children's Christmas** was organised in the Unirii Square. Also for Christmas, the Romanian singer **Paula Seling** performed a **charity concert**. The youngest learned about nature and respect paid to the environment through an **environment cleaning action**, funded by Youth Service America through the Disney Hand Minnie Grant Programme. The mayor of Cluj, Emil Boc, and local mass-media joined the event.

PROJECT TYPE	PROJECT NAME	TOTAL INCOMES 2005				TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2005				
		RON	GBP	EUR	USD	RON	GBP	EUR	USD	
Community Centres	1	Bihor - funds granted by:	244,596	43,607			178,377	33,413		
		EveryChild	211,794	37,748			151,602	28,627		
		L.S.S. Ministry, Bihor branch	19,200	3,429			19,200	3,429		
		Private sector, in-kind	3,749	670			2,724	487		
		Sheffield Group	5,667	1,010						
		Grasp	4,186	751			4,851	870		
	2	Satu Mare - funds granted by:	195,114	34,831			176,207	33,100		
		EveryChild	170,639	30,413			138,841	26,416		
		L.S.S. Ministry, Satu Mare branch	19,200	3,429			19,200	3,429		
		Town Hall	3,000	585			3,000	585		
		Private sector, in-kind	2,275	405			15,166	2,670		
	3	Cluj - funds granted by:	708,457	127,468			500,892	97,279		
		EveryChild	544,803	97,099			409,077	80,345		
		L.S.S. Ministry, Cluj branch	19,200	3,429			19,200	3,429		
		Town Hall	22,800	4,071			22,800	4,071		
	Private sector	18,299	3,261			3,466	618			
	Private sector, in-kind	60,219	11,554			27,353	5,248			
	Transilvania Bank	32,664	6,163			13,747	2,594			
	Lions Club Genesis	2,000	381			981	189			
	Sheffield Group	5,667	1,010			1,652	319			
	Andrew McDowall	2,805	500			2,616	466			
4	Cimpia Turzii - funds granted by:	193,594	34,553			146,601	27,502			
	EveryChild	165,355	29,471			119,594	22,651			
	Town Hall	5,000	893			5,000	893			
	L.S.S. Ministry, Cluj branch	19,200	3,429			19,200	3,429			
	German Forum	4,039	761			2,807	529			
	TOTAL 1	1,341,761	240,460			1,002,077	191,294			
Special Schools	1	Vocational School No 1, Oradea	26,719	4,762			11,435	2,169		
	2	Vocational School No 2, Oradea	9,594	1,710			3,745	894		
	3	Vocational School Cadea	27,336	4,872			11,483	2,151		
	4	Special School Tileagd	14,336	2,555			19,419	3,687		
	5	Special School Popești, of which:	46,947	8,372			51,292	9,575		
		EveryChild	33,447	5,961			37,792	7,164		
		L.S.S. Ministry, Cluj branch	13,500	2,411			13,500	2,411		
	6	Special School Satu Mare	14,618	2,605			12,218	2,302		
	7	Special School Apa	471	84			2,091	396		
	8	Special School Căuș	830	148			1,638	309		
Placement Centres	10	School for the Blind Cluj-Napoca	10,689	1,905			13,331	2,529		
		Special School Șimleul Silvaniei	17,472	1,506			19,544	3,704		
	1	Placement Centre No 2, Oradea	11,160	1,989			19,019	3,585		
	2	Placement Centre Tinca	5,880	1,048			6,491	1,267		
	3	Placement Centre Beiuș					6,332	1,204		
	4	Placement Centre No 11, Halmeu	11,917	2,124			19,190	3,540		
	5	Placement Centre No 13, Petrești					44,254	8,215		
	6	Placement Centre No 10, Odoreu					1,060	201		
	7	Placement Centre Livada					4,960	944		
	8	Placement Centre No 5, C. Turzii	13,859	2,470			5,510	1,054		
	9	Place. Centre No 2 Cehu Silvaniei	327	58			620	118		
10	Placement Centre Jibou	16,041	2,859			12,226	2,343			
11	Placement Centre Jucu	6,733	1,200							
	TOTAL 2	234,929	40,268			265,858	50,186			
Group homes	1	Sântana Group Homes (12)	32,004	5,704			21,966	4,204		
	2	Lipova Group Homes (12)	21,080	3,757			29,107	5,829		
	TOTAL 3	53,084	9,461			51,073	10,034			
Rural Community Projects	1	Leș Community Project	17,371	3,096			30,323	5,740		
	2	Domănești Community Project	36,936	6,583			40,409	7,712		
	3	Suceagu Community Project	10,786	1,922			15,747	2,980		
	4	Măguri-Răcățau Community Project	33,596	5,988			37,480	7,121		
	TOTAL 4	98,689	17,589			123,959	23,553			
Migration	1	UNICEF	7,928	1,49			16,271	3,060		
	2	FONPC	17,880	3,380			17,880	3,380		
	3	CCFD	59,495		15,000		37,632		9,488	
	4	Terre des hommes	164,742		42,000		158,097		40,306	
	5	National Interest Programme	69,552	12,420			53,806	9,608		
	TOTAL 5	319,597	17,291	57,000		283,686	16,048	49,794		
Other projects	1	Fundraising	32,469	5,787			33,623	5,993		
	2	Phare					49,708		13,617	
	3	Fondation D'Auteil	23,797		6,000		4,175		1,053	
	4	Community Services Network, Maramureș	17,234	3,072			20,379	3,806		
	5	Childnet Dej	64,125			22,061	96,487			33,195
	6	Childnet Maramureș					1,700			585
	7	Fornetti	17,890	3,440			7,669	1,444		
	8	VAT Reclaim	75,849	13,519						
	TOTAL 6	231,363	25,818	6,000	22,061	213,741	11,243	14,670	33,780	
	TOTAL PROIECTE(1+2+3+4+5+6)	2,279,423	350,886	63,000	22,061	1,940,394	302,357	64,464	33,780	
1	Services for Cluj-Sălaj projects	140,708	25,078			102,807	19,531			
2	Services for Bihor-Arad projects	99,014	17,647			89,952	17,032			
3	Services for Satu-Mare projects	99,811	17,789			74,270	14,061			
4	Services for Maramureș projects	41,991	7,484			37,168	7,021			
5	FRCCF administration	445,615	79,421			461,078	87,282			
	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	827,139	147,419			765,275	144,927			
	TOTAL ROL/GBP/EUR/USD	3,106,562	498,305	63,000	22,061	2,705,669	447,284	64,464	33,780	

* the previous years' financial surplus allowed a spending level higher than the income level

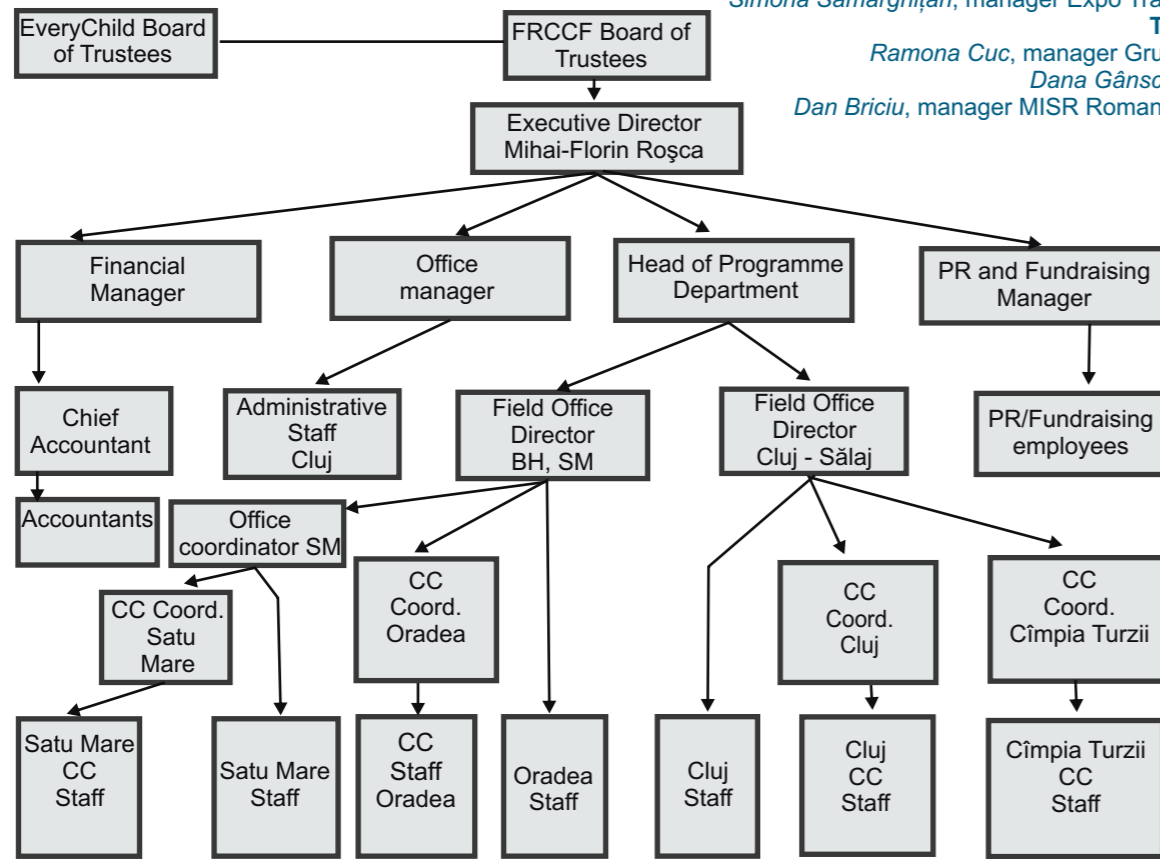


FRCCF Board of Trustees

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ORGANISATION



Last year, we started a Lions Genesis-funded project "You Learn, You Succeed!" aiming at improving the reading and writing skills of 12 children from 2nd to 4th grades. The project is carried out at the EVERYCHILD Community Centre from Cluj-Napoca, in partnership with the Department of Pedagogy of the Psychology and Education Sciences Faculty, and it is a part of the bigger project "Community Account" of the Association for Community Relations.

I am so happy I can come to the Centre and I think it helps me a lot with school. I have better grades, I've taken an A for the first time and my teacher has praised me for that. Sometimes, when I give the right answer, she and my colleagues congratulate me. I like coming to the Centre because we can play after we do our homework. B. G., 10 years old

I come to the Centre because I like all the social workers and the volunteers. They help us do our homework when we don't know how, they take care of us, they give us food and medicines so that we don't get sick. The Centre is very clean, and it's warm and beautiful in winter. We come here during our holidays as well and they let us play outside. In our spare time, they take us to parks and in town. We can also watch movies and cartoons. A. D., 9 years old

The Foundation has helped us so much, it has made us stronger. We had someone to work with and talk to. A kind word means so much if it's said at the right time and from the heart. We think people here have a good heart and we have always appreciated that. My little boy was very sick, he used to have epileptic seizures and we had to give him medicines that were hard to find. The Foundation helped us with that. We had someone to turn to; if they hadn't helped us with medicines, I really don't know how we could have got through it all. I. Groza

I didn't go to school, and as they say, school is hard these days and I'm happy that my kids are getting help and can study

because if I didn't go to school and I don't know much, at least they get to know things. The Foundation helps my kids. They get a roll, a sandwich, they don't starve. They enjoy going there, then they come home and say to me: "I ate such a good sandwich, I loved it" and I, as their mother, I'm happy because sometimes I've got no food to give them and I'm not ashamed to say it. M. Varga

Cîmpia Turzii Community Centre

Over 185 children without proper learning conditions at home or the needed support from their parents receive help from teachers and volunteers at the Community Centre from Cîmpia Turzii.

In 2005, they were tutored in Mathematics and Romanian to catch up with school, and 40 children worked with volunteers to learn basic PC skills and computer programmes.

The Community Centre staff organised fun spare time activities for children: the English language club, the reading club, drama, creative arts and dancing. The Centre's choir has 9 members who took part in an international music festival in Warsaw. Other 80 children went on a camp to the Vidolm Resort.

The FRCCF legal adviser helped over 40 people with divorce, child custody, labour contracts, retirement and National Housing Agency-granted or social dwellings.

Members of 350 families accessed the FRCCF medical services. The medical doctor provided counselling, free medicines, specialised check-up mediation and admissions in Cluj hospitals. She also mediated free medical tests for small children in view of kindergarten enrolment.

The FRCCF psychologist carried out individual and psychological group counselling for 20 children and 15 adults. 47 people were counselled and encouraged to look for a job which could bring them medium-term and long-term financial stability.

Projects of national interest

Between August-December 2005, FRCCF implemented the programme of national interest *Reintegrate and Support Repatriated and Trafficking Victim Children from the Counties of Maramureş, Satu Mare, Bistriţa Năsăud and Sălaj.*

The project comes as a solution to the worrying state of Romanian minors migrating abroad. The number of legal or illegal migrants to Western Europe has risen significantly in the last years and this phenomenon has spread to new regions of the country. An increasing number of unaccompanied children go to the West, at an even younger age than before. These children often end up in appalling conditions and commit crimes.

The child protection authorities and NGO's worked together in programmes of national interest to prevent the risks of unaccompanied child migration, to cut back this phenomenon and break the silence as to the difficult circumstances Romanian children get into abroad. As these children's rights to grow up in a family and get an education to their potential are violated, the project activities had clear children's rights-based objectives:

- 1) Develop the existing specialised social services from the counties of Bistriţa Năsăud, Sălaj and Satu Mare which target children at risk of migration or of being trafficked or that are to be repatriated.
- 2) Facilitate child protection authorities' involvement in reintegrating and supporting repatriated children and in child migration and trafficking prevention.
- 3) Set partnerships with national and international institutions and NGO's fighting child migration and trafficking.
- 4) Raise awareness of child migration risks and means of fighting child trafficking in the counties of Bistriţa Năsăud, Maramureş, Sălaj and Satu Mare.

In every county, staff was hired and trained to deliver proper services to repatriated children and inter-institutional task forces were set up. Among the project outcomes we could name an exchange of experience held in France, partnerships with local authorities and NGO's, mass-media campaign, information meetings held in schools and legal guidelines on child migration and trafficking.

Institution-Based Projects

Şimleul Silvaniei

The Community Services Unit from Şimleul Silvaniei is an institution for children with special needs. The Foundation stands by these children when facing hardship. It helps them grow up harmoniously and makes sure they have equal opportunities.

Over 70 children were supported in their attempts to keep in touch with their family; FRCCF reimbursed the bus tickets or the institution bus patrol costs.

More than 60 children went on trips and visits to museums and monasteries, widening their horizon. The youngest joined the plastic arts club, handiwork and gardening activities. Glasses were made for 11 children from FRCCF funds.





These feelings are often triggered by the family environment: 31% of children say their parents beat them and 30% state that their parents quarrel a lot. Moreover, 29% of the interviewed children say that someone in the family has alcohol issues and 27% admit that sometimes there are physical fights between family members.

A quarter of the questioned children declare that they are sometimes hungry and have no food. 39% of the children say they haven't been to the dentist's for over a year, while 20% of them have never been to one.

Ethnically speaking, the children who attend the Community Centre come from different ethnical groups. 46% of them are Romanian, 49% Hungarian and 5% Roma.

Education: Children and Parents

70% of the children who attended the Community Centre from Satu-Mare in 2005 had at least one subject matter or grade retention during their schooling years. 22 (7.4%) of the school-aged children did not go to school at all in 2005.

The questionnaires applied to project families show that the mothers have finished 9.5 grades in average and they earn around 179 RON, 121 RON less than the gross minimum income. 41.5% of the 130 project family mothers have no stable incomes. The fathers have finished 9.5 grades and earn around 229 RON.

Family Members' Healthcare

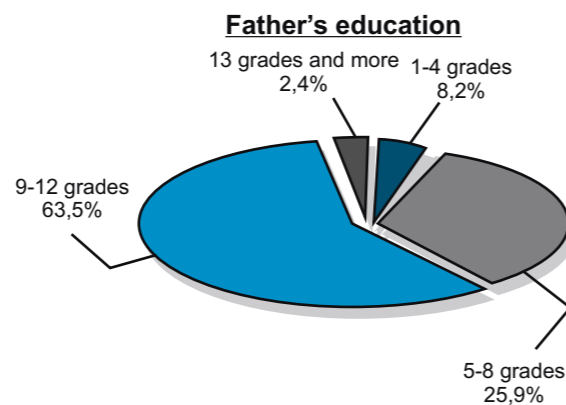
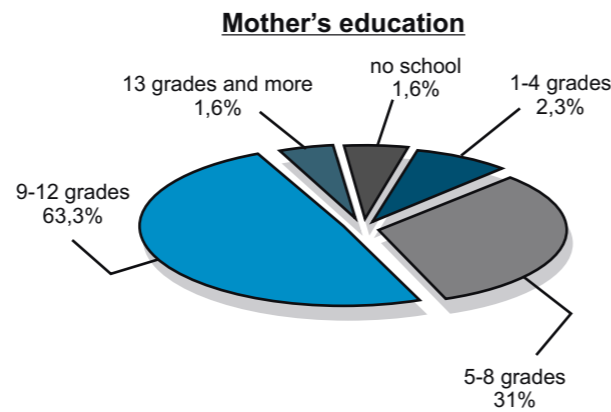
40% of the respondents say they have health problems: 11.2% of the under 18-year-olds and 32.3% of the mothers.

Consumer Goods and Utilities

41% of families don't have a bathroom, 15% a kitchen and 15 families have no electricity. This is way below the northwestern urban average. According to a study, only 3% of the people living in north-western towns don't have a kitchen and only 12% have no bathroom.

50% of the families enrolled in our project stated they had no washing machine,

78.1% a telephone, 34.2% a refrigerator, 95.2% a computer and 98.6% a car.



Almost 250 families in need were monitored and received support to improve their social and financial situation. Some of the problems they managed to solve with the help of social workers were school abandonment, child-parents conflicts, violence, unemployment or lack of housing. Emergency aids were provided to cover gas and electricity bills and prevent the families from being evicted. Furthermore, clothing and footwear were bought for the needy families.

Events

Jonathan Scheele, Head of the European Commission in Romania, visited the Community Centre on the 25th of August. 90 children from town schools took part in trivia contests organised at the Community Centre.

A Christmas show was held with 100 children as young performers and 120 children as spectators. They all received sweets bought from the 1,000 RON donation of the Local Council and FRCCF funds.

With the financial help of Vereichte Action Fur Romanian Ev. Berlin, through Mr. Erik Brockhaus, 9 Roma couples got officially married. These couples already have 21 children, who will benefit from supplementary allowances after their parents' marriage. The families live in dreary conditions, and their biggest problem is lack of housing. Officially married, the couples and their children will have increased access to social dwellings. FRCCF helped the couples to get marriage papers, and birth certificates were made for three of them.

I couldn't meet my child's needs school books, cloths, novels and right when I thought there was no way out, I found out about the Centre. The moment I contacted the Centre, my life brightened up. From the lifeless pensioner who was taking care of her child alone I became a woman looking forward to the future. I started thinking what I could do with the people working at the

Centre to make my child's life better. I saw the spare time activities run with the kids, besides tutoring and school support, how happy and cheerful they were, how much they were into what they were doing, so I signed up as a volunteer and I was accepted. Now, I work with the kids and the results are great. I have a good time and I feel alive again thanks to the moral support of the social workers, of my colleagues here and most of all thanks to the achievements I've had with these children. When you see their eyes, their smile, you are really looking forward to another day to meet their sweet little faces again. Community Centre thank you for being there for us! Feher Lenuța

The "Child and Family" Day-Care Centre from Dej

Low-income families sometimes fail to raise their children on their own and abandon them in childcare institutions. The children from these families are at risk of dropping out of school because they don't have proper learning conditions at home or they don't get homework support from their parents.

The "Child and Family" Day-Care Centre from Dej protects the rights to a family and to education of approximately 45 children of this kind. Last year, they got homework supervision and help, a hot meal every day, psychological counselling and special education teaching, and the pre-school children were prepared for school.

This project is implemented in partnership with the Cluj County Social Work and Child Protection Department and the Town Hall of Dej. It is funded by USAID through World Learning, as part of the ChildNet programme.

The project started in October 2004 and the funding will end on the 31st of March 2006, when the County Social Work and Child Protection Department and the Town Hall of Dej will continue to run it on their own.



The centre teachers are very understanding and kind and they help us a lot with our homework. They are fair and treat us all equally; that's what I like about them the most. All the children coming to the centre are very friendly and nice. The best activities are the day trips, trivia contests and sports competitions. C. A., 12 years old

Rural Community Development Projects

Măguri-Răcățău

Măguri-Răcățău is the largest commune in Romania, located in a mountain region of the county of Cluj. Some of the children there live far from school and they used to spend up to six hours a day on their way to and from school. Once the boarding school re-opened, their school attendance and results improved. The boarding school was refurbished in 2004 with FRCCF help. Since then, the Foundation has been supporting it by covering the daily food expenses for the children accommodated there.

In order to have good grades and get ready for the 8th grade final exam, the children benefit from FRCCF-paid tutoring and homework support from teachers and pedagogues and school books. On holiday, they go on trips and take part in social events. 22 children graduated secondary school and went to schools in Cluj to learn a trade and continue their studies. This is an important step for this community whose most members have only 8 school years.

For Christmas, 23 children from Măguri-Răcățău sang carols at institutions from Cluj-Napoca The County School Inspectorate, The Town Hall and County Hall, and performed on stage at the *Children's Christmas* event. They felt valued and they received presents. On summer holiday, 75 children went on two trips to Moldavia to visit cultural and tourist sites.

Simona is 13 and lives with her parents

and 9 siblings in one of the mountain hamlets, located 4 hours away from the commune centre and village school. Every day, Simona would have to walk a long and exhausting way to school, especially in autumn and winter, when she would have to walk through snow and mire. Once the boarding school opened, Simona's life changed completely. Now, she has better learning conditions, she is rested and motivated for school. Shortly after she had moved to the boarding school, she became one of the best in her class and passed the 8th grade final exam with a very good score. Thanks to this result she could enrol in a high school from Cluj-Napoca and follow her dream to become a school teacher.

Suceagu

In 2005, FRCCF gave to children from Suceagu the chance to study, while during the previous years it got involved in house renovation and connection to the electricity network.

In this village of the Cluj County, the Roma community represents a quarter of the population. The only income source of the Roma is the child benefits and the social security. As parents don't manage to cover all the family expenses, sometimes the children themselves have to find occasional jobs to increase family incomes.

Last year's main project goal was to draw everyone's attention on how important education and proper learning conditions are for children. Tutoring and homework supervision groups were organised, and 8th graders received vocational counselling. All the project families received support and counselling, and 42 of them were granted emergency financial aids to deal with crisis situations: outstanding electricity bill, clothes, footwear and school supplies for children. Medical counselling and medicines were provided for those in need.

Andrei lives in Suceagu with his mother and three younger brothers. Their father left them years ago and their mother has had to provide for them since. As she was alone and jobless, she found it hard to support her children's education.

All children at risk of migration or of being migrated were recorded in a **database**. Until now, 523 children from the four communes were database-recorded, 209 as migrated and 314 at risk of migration.

The project "**A Chance for Everyone**", financed by **Fondation d'Auteuil** from France, provides financial support to twelve 11th graders for continuing their studies. The youngsters selected for the project are at risk of abandoning school and migrating abroad, due to lack of money.

Thanks to a **FONPC-funded project, a county child trafficking prevention and fight network** was set up to draft a joint strategy for future actions. The project manager and three network members went on a **study visit and exchange of experience** in the Republic of Moldavia, where they had the chance to see the working methods and tools used by a similar network from that country. To widen the views and better understand the child migration and trafficking phenomenon, three FRCCF team members participated in an **exchange of experience in France** at project partner organisations and French authorities.

Thanks to **UNICEF's** financial assistance, a **sociological study on Țara Oașului child migration phenomenon was published and released**. The study also comprises best practices of child migration and trafficking dangers prevention. Moreover, legal guidelines were drafted with **Terre des hommes** Foundation funds to compile national and international legislation in the field of human trafficking and illegal migration. In partnership with the association Casa dei Diritti Sociali from Italy, a **study on Romanian unaccompanied children in Rome** was drafted, also with **Terre des hommes funds**.

Between August-December 2005, the programme of national interest **Reintegrate and Support Repatriated or Trafficking Victim Children** was carried out in the counties of Bistrița Năsăud, Maramureș, Satu Mare and Sălaj. In every

county, services were developed to benefit the project beneficiaries.

Ionel is 15 years old and lives in a village from the region of Oaș. He has two brothers, one of 10 and one of 17. The latter migrated to France right after he had finished 8th grade, with a friend and an uncle. In the first months there, all three of them lived in a deserted place, and then the two boys were found in the streets and sent to a halfway home in Paris. Ionel speaks regularly to his brother on the phone and thinks it would be better for him to drop out of school and go abroad too.

Ionel's family has a modest living and his parents have made a lot of sacrifice to pay his high school tuition so that he can study in the town of Satu Mare. To continue his studies, Ionel now receives a monthly scholarship from FRCCF, which covers his board and lodging. Thanks to this support, the boy will not have to drop out of school and the risk of him following on his brother's steps is much lower.

Profile of Satu Mare Project Beneficiaries' Families

In the last two months of 2005, data were gathered in Satu Mare from 146 families (57% of Satu Mare project families), in other words from 747 individuals. Furthermore, in May 2005, 105 respondents provided data regarding children who attend the FRCCF Community Centre in Satu Mare.

Results

63% of the families whose children attend the community centre have at least 5 members. The average number of family members is 6 and the average number of children is 3.2. In 46.5% of the families there is one or no parent present: in 7.5% no parents, and in 39%, just one.

44% of the children who attend the Community Centre say they don't have a place for studying at home, and 17% of them say they don't feel well at home and that their parents don't take care of them.



Hence, 180 school children now have the chance to study in better conditions. A soccer ground was built, and the kindergarten and school playgrounds were endowed with benches, wooden houses and swings.

The children with health problems (retinopathy, nephritis, kidney transplant) were treated and eight asthmatic children were provided treatment at the salt mine from Praid.

The Crasna Domănești Community Association was legally registered in 2005, and consequently in the future FRCCF plans to allocate funds to it for community level management.

I cannot find the right words to express my gratitude for what you did for my grandchild! We had been trying everything with him for years and we thought it was impossible for us to save him. With the help of FRCCF, we took him to a hospital in Cluj where he was diagnosed. Now he is under medication but he is feeling much better already. It's great to see him smile again!

V.K, grandmother of a child who suffers from severe lung and brain damage

Prevention of Child Migration Risks in Țara Oașului

In the last couple of years, a great number of children from Țara Oașului (Satu Mare County) were identified abroad, unaccompanied or in difficult circumstances. Although most of unaccompanied children go abroad because they want to, when they get there they are often exploited through work, forced to beg, to do crimes or get into prostitution. All this turns them into potential human trafficking victims.

The project goal is to prevent migration dangers and the risk of being trafficked for the children in this region. It focuses on raising awareness at local level, setting up

a county child migration and trafficking prevention network and starting partnerships with INGO's working in the field.

The project is funded by UNICEF, Terre des hommes, CCFD, FONPC, Fondation d'Auteuil and FRCCF. Local partnerships were signed with the County Social Work and Child Protection Department (DGASPC), Satu-Mare County School Inspectorate, the Town Halls of the communes of Bixad, Târșolț, Călinești Oaș and Gherța Mică, the French Association Hors la rue and the Italian association Casa dei Diritti Sociali.

The project beneficiaries are children at risk of migration or trafficking, children who have come back home from abroad, but also their parents.

The project team social workers, a psychologist and community workers organized **information meetings** in the schools of the four communes, attended by 750 children. The talks focused on children's rights and the risks to which children going abroad alone are exposed. **Support groups** were held for teenagers, targeting age-specific issues, like: relationship with peers and parents, communication, conflicts, smoking, drinking and prospects. For the 8th-10th graders, HIV/AIDS information classes were held.

The community workers visited about 300 families with children who had migrated or were at risk of migration. These families were informed about the risks to which children going abroad alone are exposed and the agencies they can turn to for help if they are in danger. 14 families benefited from psychological and legal counselling, and social care.

During the school activities and family visits, **informative leaflets** on child trafficking and child migration risks were distributed; leaflets and flyers on HIV/AIDS and the rights of the child were also handed out.

When Andrei's family moved to Suceagu, they knew no one and were isolated from the rest of the community. The FRCCF social workers helped the family integrate. Now, Andrei has started to attend the tutoring classes provided by FRCCF teachers, he has made friends and has started to get better grades. Andrei's mother has confessed to us she doesn't feel alone anymore and that thanks to the FRCCF support she has got used to her new life.

Institution-Based Projects

The School for the Blind, Cluj-Napoca

The project goal is to ensure that the disabled child's rights to education, social integration and medical care are met.

The School for the Blind from Cluj-Napoca is attended by about 250 sight-impaired children. For them, FRCCF organized and financed educational and socialisation activities, clubs (painting, instrumental music, gym, chess, computing and plastic arts).

To help these blind school children socialize better, they are invited to the EVERYCHILD Community Centre, where they join the community centre children in the personal development group. Moreover, they went on trips with children from other schools. These are great opportunities for them to improve their communication skills, gain confidence and open up.

In 2005, the school children's glass paintings were exhibited for sale at the Town Hall of Cluj-Napoca and more than a third of them were sold. The works were also awarded at the Romanian Folk Artists Festival.

FRCCF also funds the Torbal team (a ball game especially created for sight-impaired children) which came first at the international Torbal competition from Bern (Switzerland) last year.

I am happy to say that once a week I go to the gym club sponsored by FRCCF. Last year I also did some physical therapy and it was great for my spine. I sometimes go on trips organized by FRCCF, like the one from October 2005 at the Felix Spa, sponsored by Lions Club. We went on this trip with children from other schools, who didn't have sight problems and were very nice to us. S. K. 13 years old

Profile of Cluj-Napoca Project Beneficiaries' Families

In the last two months of 2005, data were gathered in Cluj-Napoca from 493 families (77.5% of Cluj project families), in other words from 2,544 individuals. Furthermore, in May 2005, 140 respondents provided data regarding the children who attended the two FRCCF Community Centres in Cluj.

Results

80% of the interviewed families whose children go to the community centres have 5 to 7 members. The average number of family members is 5.4 and there are more or less 4 people sharing a room. 32% of the families are single-parent: in 8% of the families there is only the father, and in 92%, solely the mother. In 23 cases (4.7% of all the questioned families) both parents are gone.

58% of the project families are Romanian, 20% Roma, 14% Hungarian and 8% of mixed ethnicity.

Family Members' Education

The families with children attending the FRCCF Community Centres in Cluj have in average two school children, which means that each family has to cover school expenses for at least two children. 33 school-aged children didn't go to any type of school in 2005.

45% of the children who attended the Community Centres from Cluj had at least one subject matter or grade retention during their schooling years. Most of them failed at Romanian and Mathematics.



School failure may also be due to the fact that 45% of the questioned children say they don't have a special place for studying at home (as indicated by the data collected, an average of 4 family members share a room). 30% of the children say their parents beat them and 10% that there are physical fights between family members.

The questionnaires filled by project families show that the mothers have finished 9 school years in average and earn around 195 RON, 100 RON less than the gross minimum income. The fathers have finished in average 9.7 grades and earn around 315 RON. In one of three families, the father is gone, and the mother is the head of the family.

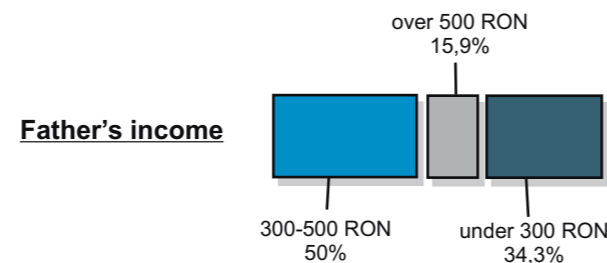
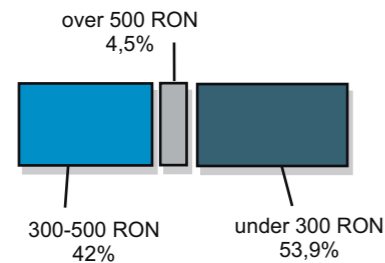
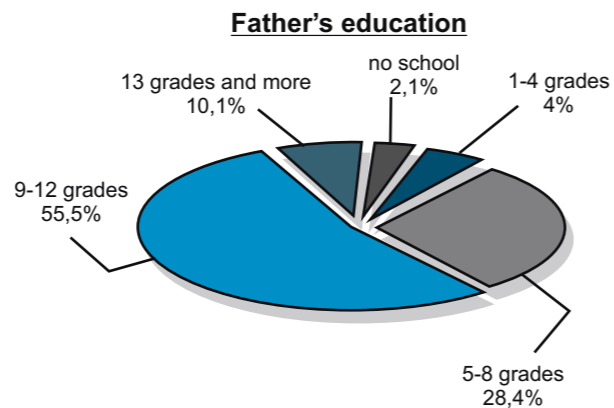
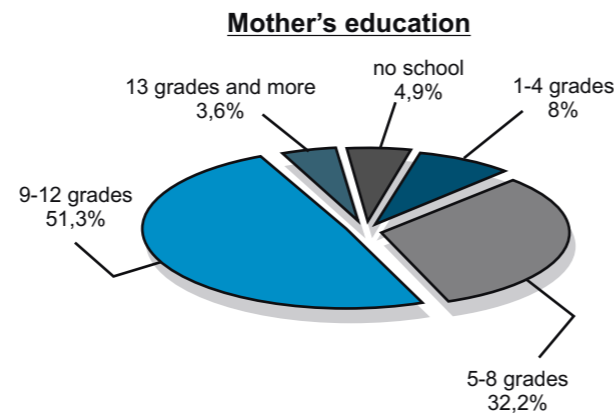
Family Members' Healthcare

27.5% of the under 18-year-olds and 52% of the mothers say they had problems in the past.

Consumer Goods and Utilities

34.2% of the families don't have a bathroom, 15% a kitchen and 16 families have no electricity.

27.8% of the FRCCF-helped families from Cluj don't have a telephone, 37.2% a washing machine, 22.3% a refrigerator, 78% a computer and 93.5% a car.



For Christmas and Easter they got presents from Santa Claus and Easter Bunny.

Although children should benefit from free medical care, in some cases their medical insurance does not cover the medical care expenses (for example a special dioptré or a serious disease for which treatment is extremely costly). Whenever this happened, FRCCF provided financial support.

FRCCF co-organised trips and other leisure activities throughout the entire year. All the children went on at least one trip in the country, 13 of them even had the chance to go to France and 24 to Hungary.

No 1 Helping School and No 6 Placement Centre for Children with Special Needs Satu Mare

In the Placement Centre for Children with Special Needs, 33 children are currently assisted. 256 children attend the No 1 Helping School, including the ones from the Centre. Of all children, 53 have hearing disorders and 203 are mentally disabled.

Thanks to the FRCCF support, 30 children from the Centre could visit their families. In some cases, the parents are too poor to cover the children's travel costs to go home and back to Halmeu. For this reason, even if the parents keep in touch and want to see their child, they often give up and think that it is better for the child to stay in the institution because he/she doesn't go hungry there.

School supplies and materials for (carpentry, painting, tailoring) clubs, magazines, specialised books and notebooks were bought for the children attending the Helping School.

All the children benefited from medical care and free treatment when they were sick.

Last year, all the children received pocket money, they had birthday parties and the

International Day of Deaf People was celebrated. All these activities had an impact on their harmonious personality development and aimed at boosting their self-confidence, self-esteem and sense of property. All the children took part in the Vacation Day activities organised by FRCCF in the Garden of Rome from Satu Mare, and each of them received a present. Furthermore, an exhibition of all the works the children had made at the tapestry work club was organised. The exhibition was attended by children from other placement centres and representatives of institutions from Satu Mare.

Domănești Rural Community Development Project

Domănești village is 32 km away from the town of Satu Mare and it has about 1,200 inhabitants, out of whom 20% are children. The community project set off in 2000, in partnership with the Town Hall of the Moftin Commune, the School of Domănești and the Community Association. The first project outcome was the water supply network, too costly for the Town Hall to cover it on its own.

The main project achievement is the involvement of local authorities and community members in all the project activities, which benefit them.

In 2005, the village Cultural Centre hosted a series of activities, long-awaited by children and youngsters: a computing course (82 children), and a folk dancing and customs course. The children from Domănești enjoyed leisure activities as well: 80 children went on trips to the counties of Maramureș and Bihor and took part in sports events. Shows were performed for Children's Day and Christmas and all school children received sweets and presents.

Teaching materials (maps, tapes, school supplies, etc.) were purchased to improve schooling standards.



A partnership was signed with Hans Lindner Foundation regarding Romanian and Mathematics tutoring for the children assisted by this foundation and who have a lot of catching up to do at these subject matters.

The Community Centre works in partnership with the No 13 School for the school reintegration of the children who are older than school age or have abandoned school.

A new project started with the Artemis Association from Cluj-Napoca: "Improve and Spread Best Practices of Child Sexual Abuse Intervention and Prevention".

Paul is 11 and he is a smart boy with good grades. When his father died, Paul was left in his mother's care, who was living with a drunk. The couple's rows and the man's frequent violence made Paul's mother break up with him as the relationship had a bad impact on the child.

The boy's teacher noticed that he wouldn't do his homework and his clothes were dirty all the time. After having talked to him, she found out that Paul was often starving as he had no food at home. Besides the fact that his mother didn't have enough money to buy food, she had health problems as well and when she was in hospital Paul didn't go to school. Because of the man's scandals, the landlord family decided not to rent them the room anymore.

An FRCCF social worker assessed the family's situation and designed a plan to help Paul and his mother get out of the troubles they were in. As housing was a big problem, after talking to the mother and consulting with another NGO, the Hans Lindner Foundation, which provides group home services, it was decided that Paul should live for a while in a place where he could be well provided for so that he could focus on school. The mother was more than happy that her son would not starve anymore and that someone would give him all the support he needed until she worked things out. FRCCF helps her with counselling, and Paul's school situation is

monitored by a social worker. Paul is currently living in the group home and visits his mother weekly. He is cleaner, he has good grades and he is a winner with the school soccer team.

Institution-Based Projects

FRCCF gives to institutionalised children (from placement centres and helping schools) the chance to develop to their full potential so that they can better integrate socially. A child should grow up in his/her biological family and therefore, when possible, FRCCF helps institutionalised children leave the institution to go home. The FRCCF social workers and institution teachers looked for the children's families and paid them visits to get them ready to welcome their child back home. Still, when for some of the children family reintegration is impossible, FRCCF tries to protect their rights to identity, healthcare, education, spare time and privacy.

No 11 Placement Centre from Halmeu

The Halmeu institution-based project has 79 beneficiary children who live in Halmeu Placement Centre, divided in family-type groups of 13-15 children each. Each group owns dormitories, a kitchen and bathroom, replicating as much as possible a normal family environment.

The children received school supplies and learnt to self-manage so that they could stand on their own feet when they leave the institution. Thus, they could join a *cooking club*, where they learn how to cook, a *carpentry club* to learn a trade and how to fix broken things around the house, a *handiwork club* where they make different items, from small jewellery to clothes, and the *little householders club* teaching them how to garden and raise animals.

Every month, birthday parties were thrown for the children born that month. The birthday children felt valued because they got presents and Happy Birthday wishes.

Profile of Cîmpia Turzii Project Beneficiaries' Families

In the last two months of 2005, data were gathered in Cîmpia Turzii from 106 families (50% of project families), in other words from 485 individuals. Furthermore, in May 2005, 77 respondents provided data about the children who attend the FRCCF Community Centre in Cîmpia Turzii.

Family Structure

The average number of family members is 4.6, with an average of 2.2 under age children. In 32% of the families there are at least three children.

In 40% of the families, one or both parents are not present. In 9.4% of all families, neither of the parents live with the family and the children are raised by aunts, grandparents or other relatives. 31% are single-parent families.

65.7% of the family helper project families are Roma and 34.3%, Romanian.

Education: Parents and Children

Of a total of 189 school-aged children in the project, 8% (15 children) do not go to school, and 31.2% of the children who attend the Community Centre had subject matter or grade retentions throughout their schooling years. 20% of the children coming often to the Centre said they didn't feel well at home, mainly because of family rows. 36% of them admit that their parents quarrel frequently, 33% that there are physical fights in the family and 26% that their parents beat them.

The mothers have finished 6.7 school years and earn around 133 RON a month, less than half of the gross minimum income. 45.5% of the 90 project mothers stated they had no income at all. The fathers have finished 8 school years in average and earn around 276 RON.

Healthcare: Parents and Children

16.8% of the under 18-year-olds had health

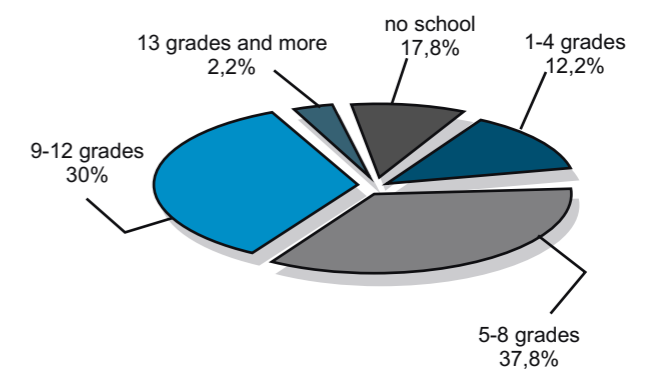
problems. The percentage is higher when it comes to adults: 23.3% of the mothers and 20% of the fathers said they had problems in the past.

Consumer Goods and Utilities

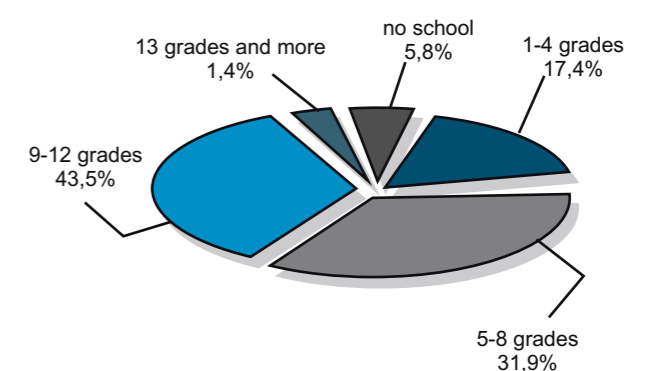
The Cîmpia Turzii project families have fewer consumer goods and utilities than the national urban average:

- 38% of them have no bathroom;
- 9% have no kitchen;
- 6 families are not connected to electricity;
- 65.1% of the families stated they didn't have a telephone, 47.5% a washing machine, 24% a refrigerator, 86.6% a computer and 95% their own car.

Mother's education



Father's education







Satu Mare Community Centre

Children's education is not a priority for some parents, who, because of financial problems and their own lack of schooling, do not support their children as much as they need it to be successful at school.

Every day, at the FRCCF Community Centre, around 50 children received the support they were missing at home. Last year, over 300 children attended the Centre, where they were provided homework supervision (94) and tutoring for Romanian (57) and Mathematics (49). Over 70% of them improved their school results thanks to all this help.

In 2005, seven children and an adult, who had dropped out of school or had never been to school, took up literacy classes held by the two community centre teachers. Later, the children were enrolled in a low-attendance school, which gave them the chance to learn and find a good job in the future.

48 children with various learning disorders or troubles benefited from **special education teaching**. Those who had speech problems enriched their vocabulary and language, while the children with mental disabilities and learning difficulties find school easier now thanks to the FRCCF practitioners' help.

Children and parents in need turned to the Centre for **medical counselling and health education, legal counselling (33 beneficiaries) and psychological counselling (43 beneficiaries)**. The psychologist provided counselling in cases of abuse and behavioural or emotional disorders. The Centre also organises support groups and personal development groups. The practitioners hold school guidance and vocational counselling meetings for those who need this sort of help.

The **spare time activities** give children the chance to learn interactively how to behave

properly. During the summer holiday, a group of young French volunteers from the French organisation STEA organized all sort of games for the community centre children. 10 children of 10-14 found out the secrets of museology thanks to an activity run in partnership with the Satu Mare County Museum. Moreover, the spare time activities benefited the children attending the Caritas Centre "House of Friendship": puzzle contest, soccer championship, painting, handiwork, etc. The "Vacation Day" was an important big event of the summer of 2005, marking the end of school. On that occasion, 300 children took part in many interesting competitions.

Last year, 253 families benefited from **social care**. Many of these families turned to our social workers to help them apply for supplementary allowance or social dwellings. 77 people were counselled and guided towards specialised services, and ten cases were solved in partnership with other NGO's. The most frequent problems families had to face were illegal house contracts, school dropout, abuse, alcohol addiction and family planning. Emergency aids were granted to over 200 families, which, with FRCCF help, finally paid their outstanding gas and electricity bills and the rent so that they wouldn't be evicted. Other families could not afford medicines, lacked fire wood for winter or school supplies for children. FRCCF funded them out of these problems and got a burden off their shoulders.

Every week, the adult beneficiary family members had access to job adverts from local newspapers and County Employment Agency. They could use the centre's equipment (phone, computer, printer, copy machine) and received support to contact the employers and get ready for job interviews.

Local partnerships

Last year, the Satu Mare County Council made the decision to let FRCCF use for free the council-owned community centre facility for another five years.

Community Centres

Children abandon school for different reasons: their family's financial shortages, appalling living conditions and parents' little education. Some parents neglect their children whereas others try hard to solve family's problems but still they don't manage to meet their children's needs. These children's life and future are shadowed by the poor conditions they grow up in. Unfortunately, the social services network is underdeveloped and it fails to provide the long-awaited way out to these marginalised families and children.

Oradea Community Centre

To prevent school abandonment and increase the chances to succeed in life of the children from needy families, FRCCF opened a community centre in Oradea in the autumn of 2002. Every day, the centre welcomes nearly 50 children from disadvantaged families, with great financial problems. The FRCCF practitioners and volunteers provide the much needed support to marginalised children, based on their lacks and problems.

Last year, 21 pre-school children took part in various games and plays and acquired skills which they will find useful at school. This activity started at the request of the parents who couldn't afford to enrol their small children in kindergarten.

The primary school children get homework support from two teachers, and the older ones get tutoring for Mathematics, Romanian and English. Last year, almost 100 children were tutored in Romanian, about the same in Mathematics and 27 in English. Out of 90 children who received homework support, 85% improved their school results while the rest had the same grade level as before. 19 children attended a French language course held by a native speaker volunteer.

A speech therapist works with children with speech disorders, and those who have learning difficulties or behaviour or

emotional disorders can turn to a psychologist. 68 people (36 children and 32 adults) received psychological counselling last year. The issues approached in the 284 sessions ranged from family matters, school integration, and behaviour disorders to sexual abuse and psychological assessment. The child education teacher assisted 17 children and 14 adults, trying to correct the children's speech disorders, improve their psychomotility and counsel disabled children's parents.

34 children learned how to use the computer, and 10 school children took part in school guidance meetings where they received help to make decisions about their school or professional future.

A number of community centre activities target spare time: creative arts club, painting, visits to public institutions, dance classes, drama club, fun games, sports, story telling and day trips. In 2005, around 200 children joined these activities.

At personal development groups and teenagers' club, the youngsters learn interactively about positive communication and find out a lot about themselves and the society they live in. At the end of July 2005, some of the personal development group members took part in a cultural youth exchange in Germany, tackling non-discrimination and tolerance. The youngsters also attended a number of information meetings on social welfare system and services available to people in need. Last year, new activities were started to help children better adapt to school: school motivation groups (12 children) and the "Learn How to Learn" group (34 children). During group meetings, the participants identified their own learning style and acquired learning improvement skills.

Every day, all children attending the centre activities get a sandwich and fruit, which is the main meal of the day for many of them. Those who come from far neighbourhoods get the bus ticket reimbursed.



The Community Centre staff thinks of the children's parents as well. Social workers provide real support to approximately 230 families, which they direct to various services delivered at the Oradea Community Centre or to the specialised services of local agencies. FRCCF gives them financial support in emergency cases (death of a family member, serious health problems, house loss, etc.) and, based on the beneficiaries' needs, it mediates contact with different practitioners (psychologist, speech therapist, medical doctor, legal adviser and teacher). 230 families benefited from over 350 emergency aids last year, many of these aids were provided by the Sheffield Group. The social care service consists in individual and family counselling, crisis solving interventions, after-care, employment support for parents, as well as child and school abandonment prevention. The Centre's legal adviser assisted the beneficiaries who faced legal troubles in keeping their houses or getting the rights disadvantaged people are entitled to by law. Those who had health problems benefited from free check-ups and guidance to medical care services. Families without a washing machine were free to use the one from the Centre. Moreover, the parents with child education issues could join a support group to learn how to overcome down periods in the relationship with their children.

I like it here at the Centre because ever since I started to attend the tutoring classes for Mathematics and Romanian, my grades have improved, and the people here are so kind and nice with everyone. T.S. 12 years old

I like the Centre very much because the teacher here helps me do my homework every day and my teacher from school praises me because now I'm the best in my class. I'm just so happy for that. When we have 10 points we get a gift. I get along very well with the children who come here and I go to other activities as well, to the English classes. In the summer, there are fun games and contests. A.O. 9 years old

I come to the Community Centre because the people here help me do my homework, they explain to me when I don't understand something, they are patient with me, they don't scream, they are kind and correct me when I'm wrong. R.M. 10 years old

"Prietenia" Community Centre from Popești

In the village of Popești, Bihor County, a placement centre hosts abandoned and orphan children. Since 2002, some of them attend with the village children the FRCCF Community Centre called "Prietenia" (Friendship).

Before this centre, the institutionalised children did not have friends from the village and were labelled as "disabled" by some community members. Their confinement within the institution came to an end once the "Prietenia" Centre opened. FRCCF, in partnership with the Placement Centre of Popești, the Town Hall, the Helping School and the Industrial School Group from the village, succeeded in giving to institutionalised children the chance to be a part of the community. This was possible thanks to the Centre, which works as a catalyst between the institutionalised children and the rest of the community.

Through project activities, FRCCF tried to contribute to these institutionalised children's personal development so that they could fit easier in the society after leaving the placement centre.

At the "Prietenia" Centre, most activities are centred on education, psychological counselling, school and vocational guidance and socialization activities, and they are open to both institutionalised children and children from the village.

The children with learning problems, at risk of subject matter or grade retention or of dropping out of school, attended tutoring classes for Romanian, Mathematics and Geography. The school children without proper learning conditions at home received homework support from the volunteers and practitioners of the Centre

Family Members' Healthcare

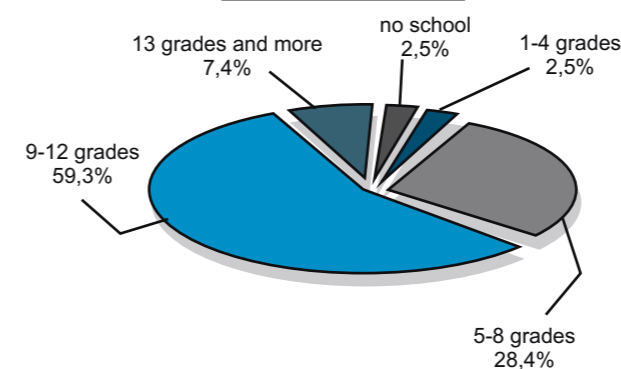
19.3% of the under 18-year-olds had health problems. The percentage is higher when it comes to adults: 52.8% of the mothers and 40% of the fathers said they had problems in the past.

Consumer Goods and Utilities

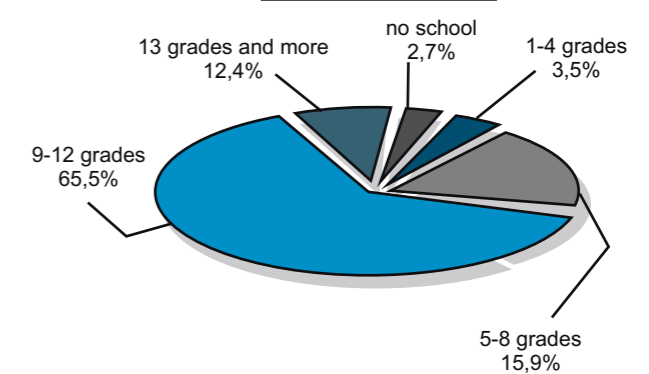
38% of the project families don't have a bathroom, 9% a kitchen and 6 families are not connected to electricity.

43.6% of the FRCCF-helped families from Oradea don't have a telephone, 47.5% a washing machine, 24% a refrigerator, 86.6% a computer and 95% a car.

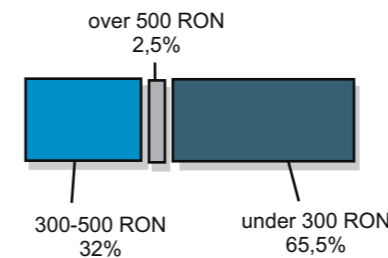
Mother's education



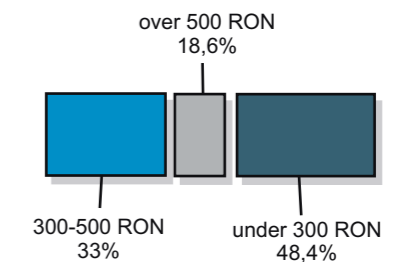
Father's education



Mother's income



Father's income





The children from the school of Leş participated in an essay writing contest What Children Know about Their Rights and the best essays were rewarded. Furthermore, FRCCF funded book purchase to award the best school children from the three schools. The primary school children had the chance to learn how to glass paint at the painting club, co-ordinated by a volunteering teacher.

A group of six youngsters who continue their studies at high schools or the University from Oradea, organised the summer school, held during the summer break. As part of this activity, 16 village children attended painting clubs, played games and went on day trips. The same group got involved in organising Christmas and Children's Day events at the schools from the villages.

Medicines were bought for three sick children, and glasses were made for a child.

My name is N. B. and I live in the village of Şauaieu with my father and my brother. Our mother passed away many years ago. My father is on medical retirement and has some health problems. His pension is so small that it doesn't even cover all of our expenses. Last year, I dropped out of school in the 1st vocational school year in Oradea. This year, I was advised to go back to school but I couldn't pay for the travel costs to go to Oradea. My brother goes to school in Leş and I have found out that FRCCF covers travel expenses for school children. Therefore, I turned to FRCCF myself to help me with the monthly bus card. Now, I am in the 1st vocational school year and I'm happy I can continue my studies.

Profile of Oradea Project Beneficiaries' Families

In the last two months of 2005, data were gathered in Oradea from 180 families (90% of Oradea project families), in other words from 1,023 individuals. Furthermore, in May 2005, 120 respondents provided data regarding children who attend the two FRCCF Community Centres in Bihor County: Oradea Community Centre and Popeşti Community Centre.

Family Structure

The average number of family members is 5.7 and 54% of them have at least three under age children. In 41% of the families there is only one of the parents or neither of them: in 6% of them both parents are gone, and in 35.6% only one of them (in 9.4% of the cases the mother doesn't live with the family, and in 90.6%, the father).

56.6% of the project families are Romanian, 24.5% Hungarian, 6.3% Roma and 12.6% are of mixed ethnicity.

Education

18 of the 8 to 15-year-olds did not go to school in 2005. 21% of the children attending the Oradea Community Centre had subject matter or grade retention during their schooling years. School failure may also be due to family rows: 33% of the children said their parents quarrelled often, in 16% of the families there are physical fights between family members, and 25% of the parents batter their children. In 17% of the families, parents have alcohol abuse problems. Another school failure reason may be the fact that 29% of the children don't have a place for studying at home.

Mothers have finished 9.4 school years in average and earn around 185 RON, 115 RON less than the gross minimum income. A quarter (25%) of the 163 project family mothers said they had no income. Most of the money earning mothers have the following income sources: monthly wages (55), pension (31) and child benefit (11). The fathers have finished 10 grades in average and earn around 316 RON.

Those who wanted to learn English and French had the chance to do it with the help of volunteers.

Seventeen children with behaviour disorders received psychological counselling and attended the personal development group, whose core themes were communication and self-knowledge. Twenty-four school children from the 8th and 12th grades received guidance in choosing a skills-based profession.

120 children took part in small group meetings on health education and learned about first aid, disease prevention, personal hygiene, healthy diet and AIDS.

The spare time activities got the placement centre children closer to the other community children. Together, they signed up for different clubs and groups, with therapeutic purposes, where they practised their artistic skills and improved the way they communicate. They could choose from a wide range of activities carried out at the Centre: environment protection club (14 members), painting (38 members), handiwork - *Gobelin* (28 members), modern and folk dancing (40 members) and puppet theatre (16 members). The children had the chance to spend their spare time together, in a safe environment, under the supervision and guidance of practitioners and volunteers.

Besides these clubs, 38 children took part in music contests where their artistic talent was awarded. Moreover, some of them learned how to play the guitar and organ. Ten children attended the drama club held by a volunteer, and on June 1st they performed the play "The Story of the F Grade" at the Lotus Department Store from Oradea. At the Centre, all children had toys to play with and could play fun and intellectually challenging games.

A kinetotherapist volunteer organised sports activities aiming at helping children get a harmoniously developed body. The children practised table tennis and took up gym exercises. On June 10th, a soccer

contest took place with three junior teams from three different commune villages competing against each other. 26 children from the Prietenia Centre participated in the contest.

Watching movies or cartoons in a safe environment is a great spare time alternative for these children. Those who enjoyed this activity the most were the children from poor families without a TV at home.

To celebrate Christmas and June 1st, all children were involved in competitions and shows. Over 200 children celebrated their birthday and received small gifts. The birthday parties were a good way for children to socialize and get a strong feeling of identity.

The youngest organised a real show to raise funds for the children from other parts of the country whose houses had been flooded in the summer. Using the funds raised, 20 small packages were made and sent to the school from Băila-Budişteni, Argeş County.

My name is Z. T. and I live in the Placement Centre from Popeşti. I attend the Helping School. I come to the "Prietenia" Centre because it can help us make friends with many children from the village, and the children from the village can make friends with us. "Prietenia" Centre is a place where we can learn many things: to love one another and make it all beautiful. I'm afraid of the future. I don't know if I'll have a job. I'd like to paint or if not, help people out. "Prietenia" Centre helps us gain a lot of respect and it helps us have a future. It teaches us how to do things in the future. I am happy there is this centre because here we can do lots of things and we learn many beautiful things. It teaches us how to help each other and love one another.



Institution-Based Projects

FRCCF stands by placement centre children. They are orphans, abandoned by their parents or placed in childcare institutions because their parents have serious financial problems and cannot meet their basic needs.

Tileagd Placement Centre

The Tileagd Placement Centre accommodated 120 disabled children from Bihor County, who were attending the Helping School from the village. The centre was closed down in October 2005, and some of the children were placed in other similar institutions from the county (Oradea, Popești) and, when possible, in their families.

The main goal of the FRCCF project run in this institution was to help 120 children with special needs to develop to their full potential. A major objective was to integrate them in the local community and the society.

Some of the project activities were spare time and social ones: house holding course aiming at teaching children how to self-manage and get ready for the world outside the institution, and craftsmanship, painting and pottery courses helping participants discover and develop their talents and creativity.

Trips, sports events and recovery gym were carried out as a fun way to spend the spare time and to help placement centre children integrate faster in new groups. They had birthday parties with children from the village as guests. They also celebrated together June 1st, Christmas and Easter which improved their self-esteem and enhanced their integration in the local community and the society.

My name is L. L. and I'm in the 3rd year of the "Ioan Bococi" School of Trades from Oradea and I study to become a shoemaker. During school holidays, I used to live in the Tileagd Placement Centre.

The shoemaker trade training is quite demanding for my eyes and it has worsened my sight problems. I had severe strabismus which required surgery. After the surgery I was to wear glasses. At the beginning of 2005, I was operated on at the Oradea Paediatrics Hospital, and all the costs were covered by FRCCF, which also paid for the glasses. I am fine now and I recovered quite fast after the surgery. Thanks to my glasses I see better and I would like to thank those who helped me solve my problem.

Beiuș and Tinca Placement Centres

The goals of the projects carried out in these placement centres were to integrate institutionalised children in the society and improve their healthcare by providing the treatment some of them needed. 38 of the children went on a 7-day mountain camp at Măguri Răcătău and participated in the event "Mountains, the Highest Friends". There they had the chance to work in teams and get some environment education. After these children's situation had improved, FRCCF decided to end its funding.

The Beiuș Placement Centre, which accommodated over 100 children, was closed down. Two group homes were set up in the village where 24 children are currently living. The other children were moved to placement centres in the county or reintegrated in their family. The 24 group home children were assisted and 5 school graduates, who were to be employed and rent a place on their own, were helped buy the things needed to become independent: pots, bedclothes, clothes, etc.

The Tinca Placement Centre, which used to accommodate 50 children, was closed down. 36 of them are now living in group homes, and the others were moved to placement centres in the county or reintegrated in their family.

I am L. M. and I'm 19 years old. I lived in the Beiuș Placement Centre until 2003, when I was moved to the Arc Group Home,

also in Beiuș. I graduated vocational school in June 2005. After finishing school I found a job as a seller. As I earn my own money, I've managed to rent a room at an old lady's. Now I have my own room. FRCCF gave me money to buy the things I needed for my new place. I could buy my own blanket, pillows, silvery, and cooking pots. For the first time I felt I had someone to help me. Now life is finally easier for me.

No 2 Vocational School, Oradea

At the No 2 Vocational School from Oradea, disabled girls study to become a cook, a shoemaker or a dressmaker. The school has 260 places, and 46 of them are for placement centre girls. They live in the school's board during the school year, and on holidays they go back to the placement centres in the county.

In the FRCCF-run project, there are 30 disabled girls from different placement centres. All the girls celebrated their birthdays with their school colleagues and got presents. They went on a 4-day trip to the monasteries from the North of Moldavia where they had the chance to see important sites and have dinner in a restaurant. These activities aimed at boosting their self-confidence and make the girls acquire some skills to better integrate in the society.

My name is M. V., I'm 18 and I'm in the 2nd year at the No 2 Vocational School. I study horticulture. On holidays I used to go to the Tileagd Placement Centre, but starting this year I will go to the Popești Placement Centre because the one from Tileagd was closed down. Last year, I was on a trip to Moldavia with my colleagues. We visited many monasteries and historical sites. It was wonderful. I didn't know our country was so beautiful! I loved the Sucevița monastery the best because it had very beautiful paintings and a nun gave us some advice about life. It was the journey of my life!

Leș Rural Community Development Project

Leș is a small village of roughly 650 inhabitants, positioned at 15 km from Oradea. Only a small percentage of the population is employed, and for many the child benefit is the only stable income. There is no high school in the village, and the children who want to continue their studies have to commute to Oradea.

However, often the parents do not have the financial means to pay for their children's studies and thus many youngsters don't even get the chance to acquire professional skills and access a well-paid job.

The Leș Rural Community Development Project started in 1999 and it is carried out in the villages of Leș, Păușa and Șauaieș. There are only primary schools in the last two villages and from the 5th grade children go to school in Leș.

200 school children from the three villages are enrolled in this FRCCF project. They usually come from single-parent families which face huge financial problems.

The project focuses on education, socialisation, spare time and improved health care for the children of the three villages.

FRCCF and the YMCA Christian Youth Association of Romania from Oradea set up a computing lab in the school of Leș, endowed with 16 computers, a printer and a scanner. FRCCF covered the travel costs for a volunteer from Oradea to go to Leș and teach computing to school children of 5th 8th grade and to a parents group.

FRCCF paid the travel costs for 25 children who go to vocational schools or high schools in Oradea throughout the entire school year and for another 20 children from Șauaieș and Păușa the transportation to the school from Leș.