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## REPORT OF ACTIVITY ON PERIOD 2004-2005

“Pro Prietenia Arad” Foundation came to life as an answer to the needs that my wife and I noticed in the Romanian society after year 1989.

In a society in which ideals were turned upside down, in which moral and spiritual values ended up on the last places, we would like to be an example regarding attitude in relationships, we would like to get involved into the social life of our city showing love and forgiveness, offering material and spiritual help, teaching those that desire what it really means to live in peace, joy, good understanding.

All of these could be called “Changing mentality”.

We started in this enormous and heavy job without proper knowledge or special training, but with a heart from God, who gave us health and power, wisdom and discernment.

The beginning was pretty shy, but year after year God surrounded us with special people who got involved in the foundation’s activity, so that today the impact into the social life of our city is noticeable.

In order to implement in society our vision we considered working in two fields of Arad’s community: social and educational.

### The social field

#### A. Social services

Even from the beginning of our activity a collaboration protocol was signed between Pro Prietenia (Friendship) Foundation and Local Department for Social Assistance and Child Care (D.G.P.D.C.). The agreement targets the protection of street children, the achievement of specific programs and projects of this category of children, through material and logistic support offered by the foundation.

The involvement of the foundation with the Child Protection is in the following departments:

-The Emergency Office (C.P.M.) (On-going project)

The target group of the Emergency Office is the children with difficulties, children with moral and physic integrity in danger, street children. The C. P. M. functions during the Emergency Office, where there are children with difficulties between 1-18 years of age. Here they benefit from special attention; the job of the institution and personnel is to replace, as well as they can, the family. An important objective of the office is for the minors that are at the C.P.M. to be taught something on a short period. For this reason they have instructive activities, didactic games, learning activities of reading and writing.

Monthly, for the children from this department we provided clothes, shoes and food supplies.

-The Permanent Refuge for Street Children (Morcoveata) (On-going project)

The Refuge provides accommodation and schooling for 16 children at one time. These are children who have left their homes for various reasons and have been living rough on the streets of the city. Factors contributing to children leaving home include family breakdown, unemployment, alcoholism, physical and sexual abuse, death or illness of a parent. Many of them come from large families where the parents are simply unable to cope, particularly if the child has special needs. Some are abandoned as small babies because the family cannot afford to keep them.

The purpose of the Refuge is to provide short-term accommodation and schooling for such children while the social workers try to establish contact with the families and explore the possibility of the child returning home. Where this is not possible, foster homes are sought for the children.

This year we have helped the Refuge with food supplies, clothing, a refrigerator for saving the medicines, there were bought 2 (two) tables and 4 (four) benches for outdoor activities in the yard of the Refuge. There were also donations of vitamins, school materials, toys, and books.

On the celebrations of Easter, Christmas and Child's Day we organize for the children from the Refuge and the ones on the streets dinners and give out presents.

Our involvement with the Refuge and the Emergency Office has another face:

Regular meeting with the personnel that works in direct contact with the children, meetings of encouragement for patience, openness love and acceptance, all toward the children.

A direct involvement in organizing and administrating the Refuge. The young lady (Gyongy Macavei) that is in charge of the Refuge is inexperienced in management, and many times I help her in resolving the specific problems of the Refuge.

-Juvenile Delinquency Center (On-going project)

This department deals with juvenile delinquencies. It is sad to say but most of them are coming from good families. Most of the times these youngsters get here because their parents offer them everything they want, materially speaking, but not enough love and time "spent together". Working many hours in order to have money, they "forget" they even have children.

We have donated for this department different educational material.

-Center of preventing abortions and counseling for young mothers (On-going project)

This center is a new department in Child Protection System (it is functioning for about a year). This department tries to diminish the abortion issue and the abandonment right after birth of the child.

The target group is young mothers within the age group 15-25. We helped this department with clothing for the babies, perambulator for children, payment for the mother's medical analysis, food supplies. Also, in special cases we financially supported, for a short period of time (1-3 months), different mothers:

Taxes of pre-kindergarten care until the mother found a job;

Rent for a month

Transportation home, if the mother was from Arad's county.

-Treatment center for disabled children (On-going project)

For some time now, we turned to the children with disabilities, which are mostly because Bob Sumner brought many devices in accordance with these needs. In Arad, there is a treatment center for children with physical and psysical problems. This center offers treatment for 50 children – physiotherapy, kinetotherapy, treatment based on physical exercises, massages, and a special treatment in water. There is a pool, but unfortunately the children can benefit from it only during wintertime; in the summer time warm water isn't

permanent, and the possibility of maintaining the temperature constant is inexistent. We consider that a support would be most welcomed so that all these children can benefit from this necessary treatment (especially the exercises in water).

### **Social services of the City Hall (On-going project)**

Recently we decided to be involved in being some support for the social services of the City Hall, with different special devices, particularly for people that are unable to move. All these devices were donations from England with the help of Life Line Romania Foundation from Southport.

#### **-HIV Center (On-going project)**

This center consists of 22 children who suffer from this disease. 8 of these children have lost their parents. Another 8 have families who live in the country and they go home every weekend. The others return to their families daily. Here all of them benefit from medical treatments, and schooling according to each of their levels. I mention the fact that they are not accepted in normal schools within the society because of their disease, nor in camps, etc. Because of this they are forced to live apart from their society.

I've organized a camp for these children, together with some other foundations. What is important is that starting at the beginning of next year, the government of Romania will no longer supply medication for these youth.

#### **-Elderly people's house (On-going project)**

Together with a missionary group from America (Anton and his family) we got involved in to the lives of the these elders helping the by providing them food supplies, drugs, clothes, hygienic products.

## **B. Families with special needs**

### **Agneta and Claudiu (On-going project)**

They represent an old case already. Agneta (the mother) lived for a long period of time in a deep state of depression, which transformed her into an inactive person (like a vegetable). Facing a serious health condition, she wasn't able to stand, but had to lie all day in her bed. Claudiu was raised without a father starting with the age of 10. I must say that the beginning in this case is due to our children. Our son Claudiu started to play and have fun with the other Claudiu. After a while Dorina was having different conversations with Agneta, and for almost a year Dorina went to their place every day teaching her how to organize their life, their family (how to cook, clean, remodel the interior etc). We started taking care of this case in 1998. Today, Claudiu (Agneta's son) is one of the best students in his school and has very serious plans for his future.

We continue our help for them because Agneta has serious health problems and she is unable to work (spine problems, hepatitis C).

### **Samuel (On-going project)**

Sometimes our families or our loved ones from around us deal with special situations that come out of nowhere. In situations like this, for the question "WHY", only God can have a correct answer. Samuel was born in a young Christian family, whose future couldn't be anything but happy. Samuel is very sick. His immunity system is below minimum, and today he lives only because of some special treatment that is very expensive. He is suffering from the disease called DOWN Syndrome.

The foundation paid a good part from Samuel's treatment. At present Samuel is better, medically speaking, but he still needs to continue his treatment of a special massage to develop his muscle system.

**Timotei (On-going project)**

He is a little boy who was born without the abdominal wall and without a penis. He had surgery in Germany after his first operation he is doing well, started to walk (with help) and he has even gain some weight. His present health condition makes us feel very optimistic regarding the next two operations. Both of them will take place in Germany, the first one in 2005 and the second one will be set on a later date.

His family moved to Tipari, a village 60 km north from Arad. The house they moved in costs 1500 Euro and it is functional, but it still needs a few repairs: the roof, the walls on the exterior, a few windows and doors. They would also need a fireplace and firewood for the winter and also an electric pump to actually be able to get water. As you can see, there are some urgent matters that need solution until autumn. I am glad to say that Timotei is doing very well with his health, he eats regularly, grows normally and he's walking on his own.

This case is a difficult one. Here I am referring to the parents. They are a case apart. What I want to say is that they are unstable emotionally and rationally. For example, the father is unable to remain more than two (2) months at a job. \*They have sold the house in Tipari, and moved about 200 kilometers away from us. Communication between us is very expensive, only through mobile phone. In October, if his parents are in agreement, Timotei will have a second operation in order to implant a penis.

This project has developed together with Sabine and a group of sponsors from Germany.

**Andrei (On-going project)**

Andrei is a six (6) year old boy that has a serious walking problem. He developed a form of paralysis that led to muscle atrophy in his legs. We are working together with a foundation from Oradea that has dealt with similar cases. They are offering qualified help with the adequate equipment and a case like Andrei's can actually benefit.

In September Andrei had three (3) weeks of physiotherapy in a treatment center in Oradea. The results of the treatment are spectacular. The foundation supported the costs on this treatment.

In Oradea we had a conversation with the medical therapist who recommended surgery. If the parent will approve Andrei's surgery we would like to financially support the costs of it. For the moment, Andrei has started a recuperation program. The treatment is through injections at intervals, allowing a longer time in between for them to take effect.

Monday, June 13th Andrei had an operation on his appendix and will stay approximately a week in the hospital. We have the possibility to help Andrei and his family in this situation.

**David (On-going project)**

He is a child who spent some time in the Emergency Office. We became involved in this case at the exact time when, legally, his mother would have been forced to abandon the child. Because she had no job or a place to live, the mother (Nadia) and David lived on streets.

The foundation supports taxes for David's weekly kindergarten program and helped Nadia to find a job and a place to live, thus the mother and the child are still together.

We are still continuing on with this case, we have helped Nadia many times with medicine, and every winter we buy them wood to heat their home.

**Daniel (On-going project)**

He is another child (6 years old) for which we pay the taxes at the weekly kindergarten. Daniel comes from a very poor family, both parents are unemployed, and have a hard time finding a job because they are emotionally instable and they can't cope with the day to day problems.

## **Elena**

Elena is a 41 years old lady and after having a car accident she lost a leg from the knee down. She had the accident 10 years ago and from then on Elena didn't go out of her house much. Two years after the accident she received an old artificial limb and she was able to move a little around the house.

The meeting with Elena happened like this: one of the girls which we worked with in the "Misca" project asked me to help a neighbor of her with a wheel chair. We set a date and we visited this person. We rang at the door, but to our surprise another door opened (the next door) and a woman asked for help (she didn't have a leg). Being impressed of what happened, after giving the wheel chair we went to Elena, we talked and we gathered information about her case. Then we informed her about our line of activity. We told her that we are Christians and that we believe that God sends us the cases and that He also solves them. I told her that there is a possibility for her to get a better artificial limb so that she would be able to be more independent, but we didn't make any certain promises.

As you know we collaborated with a foundation from Oradea (about 120 km north of Arad; in Andrei's case). I talked with them and we made an appointment and visited them together with Elena. They started the process; we had another visit with them and after this one they became involved in Elena's case. The artificial limb offered from those in Oradea would cost approximately 1500£. From the discussions I had with Jacob, the president of the foundation from Oradea, they could help Elena with about 500£.

## **C. Financially needed families (On-going project)**

Even from the beginning of our activity we focused toward poorly families donating them clothing, shoes, food supplies, cleaning products, hygienic products, vitamins, books, and exercise books for children etc.

We have helped over 400 families in this way, just in this year.

## **D. Needy students (On-going project)**

Young people represent the future and in our minds they should always have a special place in the current activities of the foundation. Starting with this attitude we considered normal to guide a part of our activity to a local school. Here we selected 10 young people whose material problems caught our attention because of the special situations they were in: unemployed parents, one parent family, families with many children.

Maybe the monthly taxes as a sum of money represents a little, but through the opportunities that came along the way, we had great impact with this project.

## **E. Ministry of Justice – Victim's Protection and Offender's Social Reintegration Services by Arad County Court (On-going project)**

We collaborate with this office since it has come into being, we are official partners in this plan of reintegrating into society those who have made mistakes and broken the law. This office has organized programs of recuperation in which we also are involved. Also, we form a team to go and visit the families of those who are being reintegrated. Monthly, over a period of a year and a half an evaluation is made to see if progress has been made.

### **1. Florin (On-going project)**

This is a boy who has grown up on the street and is currently in jail for stealing a phone. We go once a month to visit him.

## II.

### The Educational Field

#### **“Misca” Project** (On-going project)

In the year 2001, through the ProPrietenia Foundation three children from the village Misca of Arad district went to a Christian camp organized by a foundation from Arad, in collaboration with a support group from Scotland. The camp is situated in the Varfuri town, in Arad district, surrounded by mountains. The camp offers a great place for children between 8-15 years to receive knowledge about moral values, education, in an opened environment, full of love.

In the year 2002, with the help from sponsors, we managed to cover the expenses of the camp for 8 children from Misca, and in the year 2003, 18 children enjoyed a week of camp in Varfuri.

In the year 2004 we were able to provide 22 children with the benefit from the experience of going to camp. Two of these children (Elena and Silvestru) were living on the streets of Arad, at present time being reinserted into their families from Arad and living a normal life as any other child.

With the purpose of building the child's character there can be people that through their simple way of life can bring up questions in the parent's minds.

Country life is very different from city life. There is that simplicity that we want to keep, but unfortunately the access to knowledge and the level of schools in villages is very low. The majority of the children go to school only for a few years and those who finish school move to the city and realize they can't keep up with the demands of the city. We believe that these children have the right to be taught better in school and to learn more about life, because they are the next generation.

I am convinced that the “Misca” project will have a gradual progress. I think that it is something God put on our hearts because we didn't force the children from Misca to go to camp (for 4 years already) or to start a club.

We are at the beginning with this project, and it is difficult, but it is something that has never happened before in Misca. The result of this activity can already be seen. The children shared with us some of the changes from their lives (i.e. their parents don't fight so often, their father's don't drink so often, they brush their teeth twice a day etc).

This year, 2005, from 12-17 July we will have 22 children again attending the camp.

#### **Kindergarten**

This is a topic about a kindergarten in which one of the boys we help, David, attends. Here they “live” weekly, Monday through Friday, and there are 100 children from the ages of 3-6 years. These children come from poor families where the parents don't have the possibility to stay at home with their children because of the need to work. David and Daniel are two children who have benefited from the services of this kindergarten. I've helped the kindergarten with some toys that have been donated from England and Germany, a computer, a printer, and a copier. A plan has also been organized with a carpenter who has worked before with our foundation to repair all of the old furniture at the kindergarten. Also, in January we donated many food/sweets from Germany. This year, in January, a business- man tried to close the kindergarten, in order to open an expensive retirement home for the elderly. I met with other foundations and with the school inspector and we were able to stop this plan from happening. Furthermore, city hall has given the kindergarten funds in order to buy more computers, a fax machine, furniture, and more toys for the children.

#### **General school Nr. 21 – Aurel Vlaicu** (On-going project)

It is a school in which more than 1000 children are learning. This school has not only Romanian classes but also Hungarian and German classes. Our involvement as a

foundation has been going on for a few years and consists of sustaining some projects with an educational character. Also because of the many connections which I have, I helped the school board in resolving the current problems of the school.

#### **“School” project (On-going project)**

In the school year 2003-2004 there have been a number of meetings with students with the main purpose of changing their mentalities in their relationships (in family, school, friends, church).

A module was for a primary level school and there were two presentations to children (9 groups) and two presentations to their parents. The module was called “Pokemon, Influences that shape the mind, the heart, and the behavior of our children”.

Between March the 15th 2004 and the 19th 2004 we held four seminars on the theme “Influences that shape the mind, the heart, and the behavior of our children” at the Christian high school in Arad.

Two seminars were held for the children in the first, second, third and fourth grade (9 groups). There were about two hundred children at this seminar. We also held two seminars for the teachers and the parents of these children, about 60 people.

There have also been five seminars in the two high schools in which we had established relationships. The topics of the seminars were the relational part of life and the consequences of anger/wrath in teenager's relationships, and some aspects of communication.

One of the high school is a Christian one, and the other one is a non-Christian (it doesn't approach life from a Christian perspective), but both are state high schools. The Christian high school has 10 groups, and the other one has 25 groups, about 25 - 30 students each. We think that these groups are already more than we can handle (in number).

There was also a meeting with the principal and the professors from the non-Christian high school. The idea of cooperation was discussed and the project for the school year 2004-2005 was presented and a strong relationship was established.

The meeting went well, the principal and the professors were very open and they were presented an outline of the six lessons module that are in our project. Our project is designed for a semester's time. This would give us the opportunity to cover a larger number of groups.

In the school year 2004-2005 we want to reach the students by presenting a module called “The adolescent's identity and its perspective in relationships”.

#### **The context**

In a modern democratic society, less and less adolescents from Romania reach to an answer to the problems they face in this time of their lives (identity, sexuality, consequences to violent behavior, tensions with authority structures, relinquishing education, running away from home). The pressure from peers and others is very powerful and can lead to unwise choices made by the adolescents. The increasing confusion among the youngsters is a consequence of the diminishing Christian moral values and lack of important figures in their lives.

The problem: too little of the adolescents from Arad's high schools find answers to their problems regarding their identity and its implications in their lives.

#### **The project's motivation**

Lack of systematic education, a curriculum regarding the identity of the adolescent.

Lack of an appropriate approach in a comparative, integrative way of aspects of life, and in an interactive, modern style, using all appropriate methods of teaching a lesson.

Lack of moral values in the present modern society.

The neglect of this aspect of education by parents and school, the majority of information about identity being gathered from movies, magazines, books, peers (many adolescents look for answers in regular newspapers, magazines)

The obvious increasing of bad behavior patterns among youngsters with unwanted consequences: depression, suicidal thoughts, violence, sexual relationship, robbery, alcohol, drugs, unwanted pregnancies, abortion, relinquishing education, etc.

Arguments for the project

a. The request from the National Educational Ministry and School Inspectorates for a curriculum regarding identity, contemporary sexual education, preventing all forms of abuse in relationships, all this by the year 2005.

b. The need of an interesting, interactive and dynamic approach, expressed by the teachers.

Target group of the project

Boys and girls, adolescents between age 12 and 19, from the schools and high schools of Arad.