

Veritas View

Sighisoara, Romania

Spring 2017

Licensure Received

In January, 2017 Veritas received the Centru de Zi pentru Copii licensure. This is a state government issued license that required two years of work on the part of staff to complete all the paperwork required. The license covers all the programs Veritas operates for children and youth: preschool, Kids' Club, and the teen club. Without this license Veritas could face fines or even closure. Once the standards are met for accreditation, which Veritas received in 2012, work began to receive licensure. Standards include building, staff, work with local government, and interventions plans. The license is good through 2021. Congratulations to the staff for their hard work to make this license a reality.



After two years of research, tears, long hours, stress, sitting, regulations, developing plans, programs, education, work, and much more, director Petra Popa brought the staff who had worked on the license together for a celebration meal.



Staff Changes

February 1 was the last day of work for Rebeca Șonieru, social assistant for the adolescent program (and part-time helper for the special needs program). She will work in Germany several months, before returning to Romania to get married and begin the next chapter of her life in Sibiu. We wish Rebeca God's blessings as she makes this transition.

Please pray for God's direction in finding a replacement for Rebeca. For the months of February through May, the teens met with current staff Karol Frank and Monica Pazsint.

Kinga Orban left Veritas on Feb. 1 for maternity leave. Kinga had worked in the Kids' Club program and will be on leave for two years (government subsidized). Tania Voica has been hired to replace Kinga. Tania has a social work degree and seven years experience working with children with special needs. She joins Alina Drăgan in this program. Tania loves kids and working with them and says this job is "good work for my soul."



Tania, our new Kids' Club social worker

Training....

...for parents



7-year-old Sebi

Every Wednesday for five weeks in February, a counseling training was held for parents of Kids' Club children. Ten people (nine women and one man) attended the training called "Educate This Way," which was taught by preschool teacher Elena Uifalean-Marioara. It was designed to give parents tips regarding the education of children, setting limits and solving problems they face daily. Through role plays and case studies of real situations, parents learned techniques for showing appreciation and paying attention to their children, and how to set boundaries.

Mihaela Faghiura, mother of 7-year-old Kids' Club member Sebi said she "learned to play more with my child and to communicate better with my husband. The relationship with my husband has improved after the course and I learned to talk more with him and the children."

...and staff

Pam Harrington, social work consultant from the U.S., presented several workshops during a week in April. One seminar for the Romanian Studies Program students focused on international social work, and how their cross-cultural practicum can transfer to their work back in the U.S. A second workshop was held for the Veritas leadership team and a third for all program staff, focusing on team-building and organizational culture. In the Friday staff meeting, the group celebrated Floare de Colț (domestic violence program). Pam was part of the original group of grant writers to get the program started, so it was appropriate that she was here to celebrate 14 years of this Veritas program.

RSP teacher/supervisor Casey Bloom and Coordinator of Educational Programs Adela Romanica presented a training on teaching strategies. They focused on the importance of program planning, different learning styles, and specific tips for dynamic teaching such as capturing the students' attention, presenting an objective, connecting to previous lessons, presenting information in an animated way, and giving practical applications.

In another series of three training sessions for staff, Dorina Lazar, legal counselor for Veritas, talked about the processes for reporting and dealing with abusive situations. She also discussed agency rules and regulations.

We value the expertise that visitors and our own staff can provide as we work together to carry out the Veritas mission: **Veritas is a Christian organization that seeks to make a positive difference in the lives of the people of Sighisoara through service to the community, a variety of educational programs, and intercultural exchange.**

Celebrations!

There's always something to celebrate at Veritas. If not a national holiday, we create our own event! Here's a photo story of some of these celebrations.

International Women's Day and Ziua Mamei

(Mother's Day) are celebrated on March 1 and 8. All Veritas programs celebrated their grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters and daughters through songs, poems, activities for mothers and children, and flowers.



La Mulți Ani! Happy Birthday!



Members of Elderly Clubs bring snacks on their birthdays and are the recipients of many bouquets of flowers.

Kids' Club birthdays are celebrated with food, party hats, and games.



Celebrating Just for Fun! Carnival!



After watching a film on the circus, the Special Needs Club held their own circus, complete with clowns, acrobats, a magician, and wild animals.

Juggling, ventriloquism, acrobatics, games, a dance and a raffle added to the excitement.

Romanian Studies Program (RSP)

Four American university students spent this past semester in Sighișoara. Along with assisting in Veritas programs: kids, special needs, and elderly clubs, one student helped at Crown Ministries, a foster care agency in Sighișoara, and two others assisted in the kids' and teen programs at the Tigmandru Nazarene Center. The students were Lara Hoaglan (Olivet Nazarene Univ., Ill.), Madison McRill (Asbury College, Ky.), Ashley Shingleton and Amber Friscia (Malone University, Ohio). Casey Bloom, now in her second year in Sighișoara, is the RSP On-Site Coordinator.



In May, Elizabeth Patterson Roe (faculty at Malone University) brought a group of five students for a three-week May term and in September another group of RSP students will be coming to Veritas for a semester.

We are grateful for the students' energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn the language and culture and assist in the Veritas programs in a variety of ways.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

With elderly and clients with special needs coming to the Veritas Family Center daily, it is important that our facilities be completely handicap accessible. One way we can improve our current property is to pave the courtyard so that when clients need to move between buildings they have a smooth surface rather than loose gravel. You can partner with Veritas by sending a contribution toward the 11,000 (USD) needed to pave this 410 square meter area.

In the U.S. write checks to Missio International and mail to Veritas Advisory Board, 6450 Weatherfield Court, Suite 3, Maumee, Ohio 43537. Be sure to put Veritas in the memo line on your check. U.S. donors can give tax deductible donations online at: <http://veritas.ro/get-involved/u-s-donations/>

In the UK, donations can be increased through Gift Aid by sending them to the Titus Trust. Mail c/o Dr. Paul Tarrant, 129 Mains Drive, Erskine, Renfrewshire, PA8 7JJ or directly to The Titus Trust (IBAN GB85 BOFS 8013 5306 0009 36) Bank of Scotland, Bridgewater Shopping Centre, Erskine, Renfrewshire, PA8 7AA

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