

Veritas View

Sighisoara, Romania

Fall 2018

A Family Story with a Happy Ending

One of the Veritas families with five children lived in an apartment building in Sighisoara in one room with no running water and no bathroom. Because the conditions were so poor and they didn't have jobs, the parents had a hard time raising and educating their children. They survived for many years on the children's allowances and social aid from the government.

At the beginning of 2017, the father got a job in a bakery, while the mother stayed home to take care of the littlest children (one and three years old). The atmosphere with their neighbors was tense. The children came to the program at the Veritas Center for Children but they were often agitated, barely integrated into the group, and were tired and often ill. The family received material assistance from Veritas including clothing, footwear, a baby bed, and stroller, and also financial aid for food and medicine.

One of the benefits to parents when their children attend the Veritas children's programs, is that home visits are made three times a year and parents are offered training courses on various topics. The parents were not married, but following the discussions during family counseling classes, they understood how important it was to get married and to go to church.

Because they got married, the father kept his job and after getting the necessary documents from the City Hall, they were able to get a two-room apartment with a kitchen, bathroom and central heating, in a new neighborhood. Shortly after they moved, the children made friends and were accepted by their new neighbors. Living conditions have become better and this has improved their self-esteem. However, in order to live in this apartment, the mother had to find a job and now works as a sales person in a grocery store.

In spite of a longer distance to school and Veritas, the parents encourage their children to go to kindergarten, school and the day center programs. The mom says, "The children have changed greatly for good and have learned many new things." They have made progress in their relationships with the other children, their behavior has improved, and their results at school have been better.

Currently, there are 25 enrolled in the kindergarten program and 70 in the after school program at the Veritas Center for Children. Eight staff members are involved in providing all of the services available to program participants.



Celebrating 25 Years of Dorothy Tarrant's Work in Romania



Dorothy wearing the traditional Romanian blouse given to her by the Veritas staff.

Sixty Veritas staff (past and present) and friends of Veritas gathered on Sept. 14 in a private garden in the citadel in Sighisoara, to surprise Dorothy Tarrant with a 25-year anniversary celebration. Dorothy came to Romania in 1993 to establish the Romanian Studies Program (RSP). The program began in Bucharest and in 1995 moved to Sighisoara.

RSP (initially a program of Eastern Nazarene College) has provided more than 500 American students with the opportunity to spend a semester, summer or January term in Romania.

In 2001 Veritas was legally registered as a Romanian NGO, with Dorothy as the Executive Director. The name Veritas, a Latin word meaning truth, was chosen to identify the NGO as a group of people seeking to live as disciples of Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Dorothy says of the past 25 years: "When I agreed to accompany the first group of students to Romania in 1993, I had no idea that God's plan would be for me to live such a significant part of my life in Romania. In the beginning, living conditions were hard, and I learned to rely heavily on God's guidance and provision. God opened doors and brought wonderful people to join with me in demonstrating God's love to the people of Sighisoara. It has been a privilege to see Veritas mature into the organization it is today, bringing help and hope to so many."

Dorothy now lives in Edinburgh, Scotland, where she enjoys being closer to her family. She tutors immigrants in English, is taking Arabic classes at the university, volunteers at a neighborhood park and is active in an inner city church. She continues as President of the Veritas Board of Directors, and stays connected with Veritas staff on frequent visits back to Sighisoara, through email, and by continuing to pray for the work that continues.

We are grateful that Dorothy followed God's call to Romania. Many people's lives have been touched by her and the city of Sighisoara has been impacted through her work. THANK YOU, DOROTHY.



Petra and Dorothy



Open House

On September 13, approximately 250 children plus adults enjoyed a sunny day on the Family Center property. A little over 4,000 lei was made from sales of food and children paying small fees for games, face-painting and the very popular popcorn. The money will be spent for a sound system and window shades to make it possible to show films in Kids' Club. Money will also purchase two soccer balls for Kids' Club, and provide transport for preschoolers from a neighboring Roma area of Sighisoara so they can attend the preschool program.



Special Needs Parent Outing

On October 10, members of the parent support group for persons with special needs traveled with Emese Kiss and Antonia Bertalan to Brasov where they visited the Piata Sfatului and the Black Church. They also went in the cable car up the mountain to Poiana Brasov. The purpose of the trip was for socialization, recreation, to visit a tourist site, and to enjoy the time together. Everyone was happy for a break from their routine and are already planning their next trip. The excursion was funded by the Sighisoara Primarei in the "Impreuna de 20 de ani!" project.

Harvest Day – was celebrated on October 18 at the Veritas Family Center. Members of all three elderly clubs brought food for refreshments, and Special Needs and Kids' Club participants sang for them. All enjoyed making a fall craft together.



Two Missio International staff and two friends visited Veritas the end of October. (MI is one of the agencies handling U.S. donations to Veritas.) They gave us ideas for using media in our work, Heather led the staff devotions, and all of them helped stain the wood on the terrace. We are grateful for their contributions in time, ideas, physical labor and funding and their enthusiastic support for the work of Veritas. Their visit was encouraging to all.



Veritas staff on a retreat in Paltinis in October. Thanks to Lois Rosenberry for making this retreat possible.



Veritas Staff Member Dies in Accident

Herta Cioanta (Imi) died Thursday, September 20 on the way to work. She was hit by a car at a pedestrian crossing in front of the Korona Hotel at 6 a.m. Imi was the cook at ProVeritas and made pies and cakes for sale in the International Cafe for the past 15 years. Her baking was done in the early morning in the basement kitchen of what was Dorothy's home in the citadel in Sighisoara. She was a diligent and faithful employee, a loyal colleague, and a good friend to many. Her daughter, Maria worked for almost 10 years at Veritas. We will miss Imi very much. The Veritas team continues to process their loss, the suddenness of Imi's death and their grief. We ask you to pray for the staff, especially those who worked closely with Imi in the International Cafe and for Imi's family.

We Still Need a Van!

As we wrote in our spring newsletter, funds are needed for a 9-passenger handicap accessible van. We have received \$4,100 USD to date so we have a long way to go to reach the estimated cost of \$40,000 USD. The people who will benefit from this van (special needs clients, elderly and children) can't be served without this much-needed purchase.

What can you give?

It's the end of another year and a good time to think about end-of-year gifts. We continue to rely on your donations to continue the Veritas ministry. In the U.S., write your check to Missio International or Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and mail to Veritas Advisory Board, 6450 Weatherfield Court, Suite 3, Maumee, Ohio 43537. Be sure to put Veritas in the memo line. And write Veritas – Van if you'd like your donation to specifically go toward the purchase of the van. 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 BOFS8013 5306 0009 36) Bank of Scotland, Bridgewater Shopping Centre, Erskine, Renfrewshire, PA8 7AA.

Thank you for your support!

Please continue to pray

We send a monthly email of what's happening at Veritas, and include specific prayer requests for Veritas staff and clients. Write to Veritas@veritas.ro and put Constant Contact in the subject line to be added to this email list. We do not give your email address to others and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Visit our website: www.veritas.ro
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www.facebook.com/VeritasSighisoara