

Veritas View

Sighisoara, Romania

Fall 2019

Veritas Adopts New Mission and Vision Statements

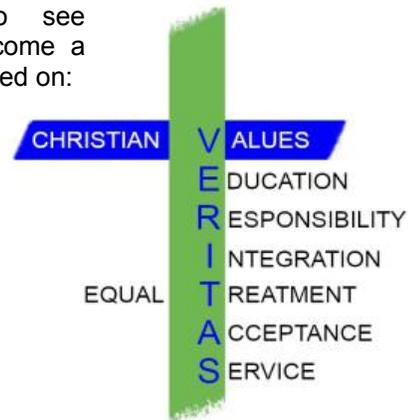
New guiding statements for Veritas were developed during a series of meetings and adopted by the Leadership team in late October. Our mission statement is shorter than in the past, but our mission remains unchanged.

Our mission

Veritas is an ecumenical Christian organization, providing education and social services to bring about positive change in the lives of people in Sighisoara.

Our vision

We want to see Sighisoara become a community based on:



Founder of Veritas and Long-time Board Chair Steps Down

Dorothy Tarrant has moved home to Scotland and stepped down from her role as Chair of the Veritas Board of Trustees. Sheri Hartzler, a volunteer from the US has agreed to a two-year term as Chair. Sheri has lived in Sighisoara for the past five years and has served on the board for the past three years.



In an internal change to the board structure for this period of time, Sheri, along with Josh Herndon, District Superintendent for Church of the Nazarene in Romania will serve as an Executive Board, working closely with Director Petra Popa. Other board members will serve as consultants for this Executive Board with Ana-Maria Goga taking a more active role with Sheri and Josh. Roberta Bustin has resigned as she will be returning permanently to Arkansas in the spring of 2020. Dorothy will continue to serve on the Consultative Board.

We would like to encourage you to make a donation in Dorothy's honor as a way of thanking her for her work during these last two decades. The changes have been enormous, from when she first came to Sighisoara in 1995. Let's recognize her and the wonderful work that has been accomplished by those who have come to Sighisoara and to Veritas as a result of her passion for the ministry and the people in this town. We welcome your comments along with your checks. Please put "Veritas Romania DT" in the memo line. (Note donation information at the end of this newsletter.)

As we enter the next 20 years of Veritas outreach into the community, **will you consider a gift of \$20, \$200, \$2,000 or more to honor Dorothy's work** and to help insure that it continues in the future? **A \$10,000 matching grant has been offered**, and donations in honor of Dorothy will go toward reaching this goal.



New staff – Answered Prayers

Three new staff have joined the Veritas team. We have experienced their arrivals as an answer to prayers from many people, and we continue to request prayers for God to call people to this work. Staff, as well as clients in the Elderly and Special Needs Clubs, are especially enjoying the enthusiasm of Helga and Felicia, the joy they bring to their jobs, and the way they share their faith. Krisztina has just started work in the past month and we are already enjoying her youthful energy.

Felicia Hantau began work at Veritas in April of this year, leading elderly clubs that meet at the Veritas Family Center and in a building in the neighborhood of Baragan. Each group meets twice a week in the morning. In the afternoon, Felicia assists Helga with the Special Needs club. Before coming to Veritas, Felicia worked in quality control in a confectionery factory. She is enjoying her work with the elderly very much and took the job because she wanted to help people. When she's not at work, Felicia enjoys reading and baking and being with her friends. Felicia is married and has two adult children.



Helga Cotoarba-Kloosterman has a university level degree in speech therapy and works with the Special Needs Club half-time. She also teaches Dutch language classes online. Helga feels God called her to this job, and made it possible to work a half-time job. She values most the relationships she is forming with the special needs group and says she learns a lot from them. Helga came from the Netherlands with her Romanian husband in 1997, and they began a ministry with children and a church in Valchid, which still continues today. She has eight children.

Krisztina Majlat is the youngest Veritas staff member, joining the kitchen staff in October of this year. She is working as an assistant to the cooks and as housekeeper for the facility. She graduated from high school in 2016. Her dream is to become a cook and to be a good mother for her two-year-old twins and a good example to them. Krisztina and the twins joined us for our staff retreat and the children had plenty of “grandmas and aunts” to shower them with attention.



Kindergarten Program Closes

The decision was made in September to close the kindergarten program for this year. Even though Veritas values helping children get a head start in school, parents sometimes don't see the need for early education. The number of students was not consistent enough to run the program, and we did not have a qualified preschool teacher. The remaining children were helped to find an alternate kindergarten program in Sighisoara and they are happily settled there.

Y's Men Grant Received

Two years ago, a grant proposal was sent to the Y's Men organization. The particular chapter to which Veritas applied was based in Holland, but there are members of the Y's Men organization here in Sighisoara as well. "Y's Men International is a world-wide fellowship of persons of all faiths working constructively together, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, in partnership with and supporting the YMCA. Its mission is to strive through active service to develop, encourage and provide leadership to build a better world for all humankind."

Veritas was selected for a 26,000 Euro grant toward the purchase of a new heating system for Veritas' main building.

In order to put in the heating units on the second floor of the building, walls needed to be constructed. That work began the first day of November, beginning with spraying fire retardant and adding insulation.

A huge thank you to the Y's Men organization and their assistance in making this Veritas building a warm, inviting place for staff and clients alike.



Special Needs Club Moves to New Building

The Special Needs Club had been dividing their time between the building called the "Sala de Sport" and a room in the "Historical Monument" which they shared with one of the Elderly Clubs. This fall, the decision was made to move all activities of the Special Needs Club to the building they had used only for exercising. This space has a kitchen, an area for exercise equipment, and a large meeting area. There is more space to move around, which is particularly helpful with the wheelchairs. Helga Cotoarba-Kloosterman, coordinator for this program, feels like the clients have begun to take more ownership in the space, setting up their own coffee/tea and snacks and doing the clean up in the kitchen. We are grateful for a large campus and the options to change spaces when it benefits the programs.



Construction Update

We want to thank those of you who contributed to the construction costs to date. We have wood structure, ceiling insulated, outside doors and windows installed, wall dividers in place, and floors laid, but we are still in process for all the permits required because of our historical status.

While sometimes it seems like a never-ending project – the end is in sight and we look forward to the additional space for a library/prayer room, bookkeeping office and secure space to keep files, a large meeting room, kitchen, bathrooms, and space for a number of offices. We anticipate work teams this spring who will paint and help with finishing touches.



Fall Retreat

It wouldn't be a fall newsletter, without a picture of this year's staff retreat in a mountain cabin near Paltiniș, two and a half hours from Sighisoara. Nazarene mission worker Jonathan Phillips led in a study of Max Lucado's book, "Just Like Jesus." We have been studying this in Friday devotions this fall. Thanks once again to Lois Rosenberry for making this retreat event possible.



Your Donations are Valuable to Us

Not only do your donations meet our financial needs, but they are a concrete symbol that you desire to see the work of Veritas continue. Missio International is no longer processing donations to Veritas, so we encourage you to send your donations to NCM (Nazarene Compassionate Ministries). All donations are tax deductible.

Our apologies that an online giving option isn't available at the moment. We are working to get that set up very soon.

In the meantime, your checks (with "Veritas Romania" in the memo line), will help us continue to serve the people of Sighisoara. If your check is in honor of Dorothy, please include "Veritas Romania DT" in the memo line. In the U.S. please mail to:

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries
PO Box 843116
Kansas City, MO 64184

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.

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