

# Veritas View

Sighisoara, Romania

Spring 2021

## Program and Staff Updates

Covid continued to be a part of our lives here in Sighisoara, as schools were operating on-line for many of the winter months and were closed the month of April. Some of our staff and their families were ill with Covid, and staff continued to work 50% of their normal time, to help shorten the amount of time they were with clients and other staff. We're thankful that the Romanian government provided financial assistance to cover 75% of the half time they were not working. It has been a challenging time, but we have felt God with us. We anticipate offering one week of English camp and other day-camp experiences for the clubs throughout the summer months.



Even though schools were closed the month of April, children enjoyed coming to Veritas for a hot meal, fun activities, and even some community service. They picked up 16 bags of trash from a walkway near the Family Center.



The Bărăgan Elderly Club celebrating Ziuă Femeilor (the International Day of Women).



Special Needs Club continued their activities as usual during the winter and spring months. Here they enjoy their Christmas dinner.



Staff worked together when a truck from Holland arrived with eight pallets of clothing. Finding a box of hats made the project more fun. Staff also celebrated International Women's Day with a morning of activities which included a craft project.



## Family Center Upstairs

Renovation continues in the Family Center where the new upstairs area is just about ready for occupancy. Recently doors and a small kitchen were installed, plumbers put in bathroom appliances, electricians added lights and outlets, and the floors were sanded and refinished. Our fall newsletter will have pictures of this space and a report on how it is being used. Stay tuned!



## Van Update

The “red van” purchased with donations from our readers, continues to serve Veritas well. Monday through Thursday morning and afternoon Ghita travels to homes of members of the disabilities’ club and transports them to and from the Family Center. It is so much easier for Ghita to get Alex in the van in his wheelchair now! Another use for the van in recent months has been to move furniture from the House on the Rock building in the citadel, to the Family Center. A museum is being developed in House on the Rock, so all the Veritas files and furniture needed to be moved out. We’ve made the move in stages and will have finished moving everything by the time you receive this newsletter. Once again, a big THANKS to those who made the purchase of this van possible.



Top: Dorin (volunteer) pushes Alex into the van.

Bottom: Daniel (right) and Josh Herndon (Veritas board member) helped load up boxes for the move from House on the Rock to the Family Center.

## Teen Learns Craft through Veritas Adolescent Club

Daniel began attending the Veritas teen program as a young teenager six years ago. He was encouraged to participate in a workshop on how to carve wooden spoons, led by Mark Tudose and discovered he had a talent and interest in carving. Mark noticed Daniel’s talent and offered him a job. Currently Daniel spends four or five hours a day carving spoons for Mark’s shops. Mark is very pleased with Daniel’s work and will be displaying some of Daniel’s spoons in the new museum. Mark’s next dream is to have Daniel help teach more Veritas teens this craft, and give others an opportunity for a job.



## House on the Rock

The Veritas Foundation purchased the House on the Rock building in 1998 to serve as a center for education, community development and intercultural exchange. It was built on the site of an earlier building, after the great fire of 1676 destroyed three quarters of the properties in the citadel. It was probably originally occupied by a German master-craftsman and his family and apprentices.

It is appropriate now, after 20 years of use for Veritas educational activities, that a craftsman will once again use the building. House on the Rock is uniquely designed to provide large rooms on three floors for displays. The top floor of the building will be used for hands-on art activities for tourists.

The International Café opened in 2002 on the first floor of the building, providing coffee, tea, homemade pastries, and pies and more. It will continue to serve tourists and museum visitors.

The museum is operated by Mark and Raluca Tudose, Romanian entrepreneurs who have successfully created two gift shops in the citadel. One of these has been in the basement of House on the Rock where they have had a craft shop since 2012.

Their new enterprise is to create a museum of folk arts and crafts of Romania. One of the major features of the museum will be carved wooden spoons. Mark himself is a spoon carver, having learned from his grandfather. He has collected spoons from around the world, attractively displayed and with stories of the craftsmen who made them.

One of Mark's goals in opening this museum is to help Romanian artists find an outlet for their work. His craft stores currently carry only Romanian-made crafts. This museum will also feature artists who are named by UNESCO as "live treasury", a designation for artists who are no longer working, but who were recognized during their lifetimes by the Romanian Ministry of Culture.

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## House on the Rock

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The Museum will focus mostly on wooden spoons, arranged in three areas:

- Traditional Romanian spoons made by craftsmen in Romania. Each artist will have a well-established exhibit with information for visitors to contact the artist directly.
- Spoons from the traditions of the world. Already 150 spoon collections have been donated or purchased from eight countries and counting.
- Different kinds of wood from which the spoons are made. There are at least 200 types of wood used worldwide.



The main purpose of this museum is to arouse the visitor's curiosity, to enrich his knowledge with ancestral symbols explained and to help him find common ground among the cultures of the world.

Besides the spoons, which will occupy the walls, the museum will house exhibits of beautiful pieces of furniture, artwork and traditional objects, depicting the multiculturalism found in the Transylvanian region.

Purchase of tickets for the museum and coffee and food items from the International Café will provide support for the social work programs of the Veritas Foundation.

We congratulate Mark and Raluca and their work to make this dream become a reality. We are grateful to partner with them so that the House on the Rock will continue to be a place of education where traditional arts are featured.

### Prayer Requests

Since our last newsletter, we have been able to keep our programs running, even though several staff and family members of staff have had Covid. Please continue to pray for health for our clients and staff.

### You Can Help

The story of Daniel gives us hope and illustrates that our programs can make a big difference in the lives of those who attend the Veritas programs. Your donations help us offer programs like Mark's workshop – programs that can change a life. Thank you! All donations are tax deductible. Online donations can be made at <https://give.nazarene.org/donate/f/134477>.

You can mail your donations to NCM (Nazarene Compassionate Ministries). Put "Veritas Romania" in the memo line and mail to: Nazarene Compassionate Ministries PO Box 843116 Kansas City, MO 64184

In the UK, donations can be sent to the Titus Trust, c/o Dr. Paul Tarrant, 129 Mains Drive, Erskine, Renfrewshire, PA8 7JJ or directly to the Titus Trust (IBAN GB85 BOFS80-13-53 06 0009 36) Bank of Scotland, Bridgewater Shopping Centre, Erskine, Renfrewshire, PA8 7AA.

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