

Veritas View

Sighisoara, Romania

Fall 2021

Upstairs renovation update

After five years of work on the second floor of the Veritas Family Center, the inside rooms are completely finished! (The only remaining job is to add a railing to the balcony.) The first group to use the space were those who attended English Camp from June 28 - July 2.

English Camp was led by Adela Hermann and Casey Bloom (long-term volunteer from the U.S.), with the help of Romanian student helpers and another American volunteer, Bekah Baxter. Twenty students from three Sighisoara high schools came together daily to discuss such things as “who I am and where am I going?”, qualities in a good friend, careers, how to write a CV and the final test, a mock interview for a job. (All in English, of course!) In the evenings, they learned how to do a traditional Scottish dance, made crafts and went on a treasure hunt. They also interviewed local professionals including a teacher, a social worker, an executive director and a university student.



Other rooms in the new upstairs are furnished and ready for many more activities:



Clockwise from top left:
Prayer Room,
Conference Room,
Visitor Lounge, Petra's
Office, English Room,
and Archives



Program and staff news

Veritas programs ran through mid-August this past summer and restarted again on September 13, 2020. However, on Oct. 25, 2021 the Romanian government closed all schools and after-school programs for two weeks of vacation due to rising Covid cases.

The Elderly Clubs are going strong, with 20 in the Family Center group and 14 meeting in Baragan. The Special Needs Club has returned to 12 members, after reducing their numbers for nine months during the height of the Covid season. Kids' Club currently is seeing 20 some children daily. The Adolescent Club has been discontinued for now due to low numbers and staffing needs.

Thanks to Petra for 10+ years of leadership

We're a year late in recognizing Petra's 10 years as Executive Director of Veritas, but it's never too late to celebrate. Congratulations, Petra, on 11 years! Under Petra's leadership, Veritas has accessed an increasing amount of local, federal and EU funding along with other significant changes.

Of specific note during this time were a grant from the Y's Men International project in 2018-2019 for the heating system on the new upper floor; subsidies from Mures County and Sighisoara City Hall, and a grant for European funds from 2017-2020. Accreditation and licensing work occurred every five years and Petra continues to access City Hall funding. Most recently a monthly per child subsidy for all children in the Kids' Club program was awarded.

Major building changes included moving to the Family Center on Strada H Teculescu in 2011; moving out of the top floors of the House on the Rock in 2020; and finishing the addition of the second floor of the Family Center. The former kindergarten building now holds a weekly clothes bazaar which provides income for the social programs.

While staffing has changed, the programs and services have continued, and we are exploring new ways to meet the needs in the Sighisoara community.



We are pleased that Petruta Gabor joined the Kids' Club staff on October 11. Petruta is a kindergarten teacher at the Miron Neagu Secondary School in Sighisoara in the mornings and works at Veritas in the afternoons. Petruta worked at the Perspective Danes Association as a social pedagogue in 2019, then at Apold Secondary School as an educator (2020-2021). She graduated from the Mihai Eminescu National Pedagogical College in Tirgu Mures with an educator-teacher profile and is currently in the third year of study at Babes Bolyai University for a degree in preschool education. Petruta describes herself as optimistic and creative. She is a welcome addition to our staff.

Remembering Dorina

Veritas staff continue to grieve the loss of their friend and colleague Dorina Lazar, who died on May 29 after a nine-month battle with cancer. The rainbow that appeared at Dorina's wake, reminded us that God will always be with us, even in loss.

Dorina worked at the Veritas Foundation for 18 years, beginning in 2003 as a legal counselor in the program against domestic violence. She also worked in the Children's Day Center and was part of the Veritas leadership team. Her kindness, patience, and thoughtfulness are remembered by all those who worked with her. A recent visitor from Spain stopped at the Family Center to say thanks for the help she had received at Veritas 14 years ago, and particularly the way Dorina helped her move on with her life.



One of Dorina's closest colleagues was Monica Stefanescu. Monica worked with Dorina in the Domestic Violence counseling program and she shares her memories with us here.

When I think of Dorina and what she did for us while she lived among us, I am reminded of the verses about the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23) and the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25).

Dorina embodied the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control. We saw how Dorina was endowed with these talents by God.

The Matthew parable is about love and devotion to people. Dorina's life was a work of dedication and appreciation of the other, often carried to exhaustion, but with much love. Dorina gave and gave herself for her clients and did everything with much modesty and humility. And the Lord said: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

May you rest in peace, our dear colleague and friend! You will remain a living memory in our souls!



Eggplant and peppers, anyone?

On October 11, four staff spent the day gleaning vegetables in a garden in Cund. Petra, Oana, Felicia and Ghita appreciated the rain-free day and found an abundance of vegetables which were preserved for use during the winter and distributed to clients. Staff also processed grapes into juice, plums into jam, and apples.



Staying warm this winter with clothes distribution

In early September, children enrolled in Kids' Club were given clothes and school supplies. Later in the month each family received a bundle of sheets and towels. Then in mid-October, a winter clothes "shop" was held for all clients. Leftover clothes were passed on to a church in Dumbraveni where they will be given out to families in that community. We are blessed with a large amount of clothing through the generosity of Hands of Mercy in Holland.

Prayer Requests

Covid numbers continue to rise in Sighisoara and in all of Romania. Pray that staff and clients will stay healthy and that we will be able to continue to run our programs. Pray for those who have lost family members to Covid, including Atilla in our Special Needs program, whose mother died in September.

You Can Help

Thank you for thinking of Veritas as you make year-end contributions. Specific needs for this coming year include a new dishwasher for the kitchen (3,000 USD); replacing the central heater for the Family Center first floor (4,000 USD); and adding solar panels to the Family Center building (6,000 USD). Please consider prayerfully whether you can contribute to any of these needs.

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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