

Veritas View

Sighisoara, Romania

Spring 2022

This edition of Veritas View will give you the broad scope of the various ways Veritas is impacting our clients, our community, and our neighbors from Ukraine. The work of Veritas grew out of the initial vision and work of Dorothy Tarrant, over 25 years ago now, so our first article features a well-deserved award for her.

Dorothy Tarrant honored by British Government

Dorothy Tarrant, founder of Veritas has been awarded an MBE (*Member of the Order of the British Empire*) from her Majesty Queen Elizabeth for her work developing the Veritas Foundation and the Romanian Studies Program. The MBE is awarded for an outstanding achievement or service to the community which has had a long-term, significant impact.

In 1993 Lynn Powers, an experienced social worker, came to Romania to help supervise students in the Romanian Studies Program (RSP) who were caring for toddlers in Bucharest's Orphanage Number 1. During her time here Lynn was moved to begin the lengthy procedures for adopting a little boy from the orphanage. She named him Joshua. Now a grown man, Josh wanted to recognize Dorothy's work because of the huge influence it had on his life. In 2018 he asked others to join him in writing letters of recommendation and he sent these to the British government.



Four years later, Dorothy received a letter saying she was selected to receive this honor. At some point Dorothy will be invited to one of the royal palaces to receive her MBE Medal from either Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles or another member of the royal family.

Congratulations, Dorothy! We are grateful for the vision and the work that went into creating RSP and the Veritas Foundation. Hundreds of students have been impacted by the Romanian Studies Program, and Veritas continues the work that Dorothy began. Her actions created a legacy that inspired others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more. Thank you!

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"Like" our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/VeritasSighisoara



Ukrainian refugees arrive at Veritas

On April 13 four refugees from Ukraine arrived at the Veritas Family Center. Casey Bloom, Nazarene missionary who is coordinating Veritas' involvement with refugees, welcomed our guests. Staff had just finished preparing rooms in the historic building for this purpose when the call came that a man and three women would be arriving the next day. Two bedrooms, a kitchen, a large living/dining room and office spaces are available for the refugees.

At the time of writing this newsletter, our experience with hosting refugees is brand new. We don't know if guests will stay a week or a month, or how many we may host. Check our Facebook page and monthly emails for updates.

Pictured at left: Jan Hockensmith Laun and George Laun, visitors from the US, helped make the refugees feel welcome.



Program Location Changes

We've made some changes on the Family Center campus. Until recently Elderly Club program director Felicia Hantau worked with the two clubs, one on the Family Center campus and the other in the neighborhood of Baragan. The apartment in Baragan is owned by the Nazarene Sighisoara Church and has been a great location for the elderly clients who live in that neighborhood. However, the church has now made the apartment available to refugees, and the elderly club has been moved to the Family Center property.

While this move means a van ride to Veritas, instead of a walk to a building in their neighborhood, there are some advantages: a warmer building, a chance for the two clubs to meet together for special events, and an opportunity to interact with other staff members. The building where the Elderly Clubs meet in the mornings also houses the Special Needs club in the afternoons, so the building has been named "Casa Impreuna," which means the Together House.

**8 Martie Party
for Elderly Clubs**



Board President announces retirement

Sheri Hartzler (with her husband Jay) came to Veritas for the first time in 2013 to spend one year. Nine years later, after living in Sighisoara nine months of most of these years, they are retiring and returning home to Virginia in June. Now in their early 70s, Sheri and Jay say they have been privileged to live and work in the Sighisoara and Tigmandru communities during the first years of their retirement.

At Veritas Sheri was involved in a myriad of activities: writing newsletters, emails and Facebook posts; managing the Veritas website; organizing clothing donations and distribution; organizing schedules for visiting work teams; working closely with Petra and the Leadership Team in making decisions for the Foundation and serving as President of the Veritas board for the past three years.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24) Petra Popa says this verse came to mind as she thought about Sheri’s time at Veritas over the years.

She commented, “Sheri was a great example of serving others in many different ways: teaching, carrying boxes, singing, encouraging people, preparing special devotional and celebration times, organizing cabinets, rooms, and even buildings, offering professional advice, being the engine for any action, and coming up with more than one solution for any problem. For all of these, I am so grateful. I feel privileged to have a friend like Sheri and a co-worker in building God’s kingdom.”

With Sheri’s retirement, Jonathan Phillips has been elected as the new Veritas Board Chair. Jonathan has been involved in Romanian culture since his early days as a student in the Romanian Studies Program in 2001. He is a district superintendent for the Church of the Nazarene in Romania, fluent in Romanian and enthusiastic about serving the community in his new position.



I've received more than I've given during my time here in Romania and will always treasure the friendships and memories I have made.” - Sheri



Jonathan Phillips

New staff

Eugenia Das has recently joined the Veritas staff as Assistant in Public Relations and Communications, with responsibilities in fundraising. She is also assisting in the Kids' Club program. Jeni was born and raised in Sighisoara. Because of her love for people and her wish to fight against any form of discrimination, she chose to study law at Simion Bărnuțiu Law Faculty, Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu and has been accepted for a Master's program in European Law at the same university. During her studies, Jeni met her husband online, married him in Bangladesh, and then moved to Saudi Arabia where they had two sons. After 12 years in Saudi Arabia, they returned to Romania.



Eugenia Das

Jeni wanted to work for the Veritas Foundation because it has been a dream since she was a child to be of service to people. In her spare time she likes to read, listen to music and hike in nature.

Doriana Kadar has been hired to manage the Veritas Bazar. She has been volunteering in this position since the bazar first opened two years ago. Clothes for the shop come from Hands of Mercy, a Dutch organization, which has been sending truckloads of clothing to Veritas for the past seven years. We are receiving excellent second-hand and new clothes which can be sold to people in the Sighisoara community, with sales income used to help cover Veritas program expenses. We still provide free clothes to our clients and staff.



Doriana Kadar

Doriana teaches kindergarten in a village school in the morning and manages the Bazar from 3-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and on Saturday mornings. She also handles special requests for free clothes, shoes and bedding from clients. Doriana loves what she does, having wanted to own her own store since childhood. Veritas is giving her that opportunity.

Prayer Requests

Pray for staff as they interact with the refugees living on our campus. Pray for all the refugees and those working with them in the Sighisoara community, and continue to pray for peace in Ukraine.

You Can Help

We now have three clubs using the Casa Impreuna building (see article on Program location changes) and it is obvious that some much-needed repairs are needed. Along with one of the members of the elderly club, Petra is working on a grant request that would allow us re-do windows, insulate, paint the outside of the building, and make roof repairs that will include solar panels. Your donations will also help with these updates.

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.

