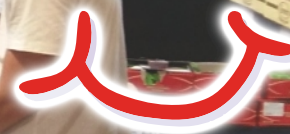




The Smiles
FOUNDATION



series 3 - edition 9

NEWSLETTER

Spring Summer 2020

Your update on Smiles Projects in Romania



A smile is a gift,
for you and for everybody else!
It is the one gift that costs very little and you
can offer it again and again, without
worrying you'll ever run out of them!

A smile is a medicine,
but no bitter taste neither sideeffects!
Doug Horton said: "Smile! It is free therapy!"

A smile is an encouragement,
no difficulties or hassles are stronger than it!

A smile will make a difference,
even when you don't realize it!

There could be so many opportunities to do
good around you, but we believe it all starts
with a smile. And because of that, here at
Smiles we always try to smile!

Welcome to our Spring-Summer 2020 Newsletter

As I write these few words for our latest newsletter, we are in the midst of an extraordinary time as the COVID-19 virus affects all parts of the world and all aspects of life, and we must all look to adjust to a 'new norm'.

My email for our web update at the beginning of March referred to 'always expect the unexpected', and the world's current situation was certainly unexpected. However, we must put our trust in the Lord. This has not taken Him by surprise. We cannot begin to fathom why this is happening around the world, but we need to remind each other - He is right in the middle of it and right by our side.

He holds each one of us in the palm of His hand. He's walked us through lots of difficult times in our lives and will continue to do so. Let's give our worries and fears to Him knowing He holds our future.

Currently, the Smiles Foundation and all our projects - staff and beneficiaries, need your support. Please consider every way you can help us ensure the ministry continues at a time of great need, especially for the most vulnerable in our communities. I pray during these dark days, we can continue to be a light and give hope to others.

Kevin Hoy, CEO The Smiles Foundation

The COPs programmes went to visit many new places in the past season and we plan on having another great round of Bible study in 2020, as we are able!



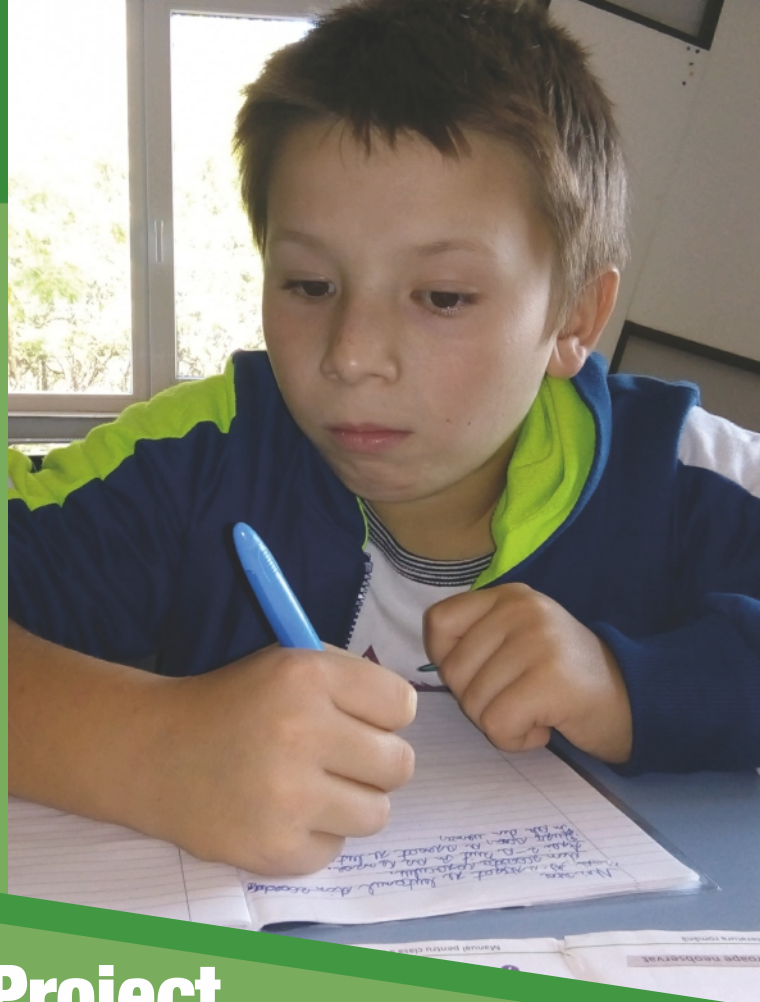


Gepiu Centre

As the years have gone by, the Community Centre from Gepiu meant a tremendous support for so many children that benefited in so many ways from Smiles input. The main concern was always to help kids with their school duties, but we added many other activities that are of interest to them, like crafts - a big one - then sports, arts, Bible study, personal counselling and so on.

Even though the numbers went down significantly, due to serious lack of children in the community, the Centre still provides the much needed services, through the team working there. There are still children who will continue their studies above eighth grade only because Smiles helps them day by day, year after year. And when considering the difference this will make in their lives in five-ten years, we consider this to be a worthy investment of resources.

From grade one to eight, even at the highschool stage, either through direct support or by covering transport costs, we continued to provide opportunities to these kids. We want to thank you for supporting the programme and for always being ready to help a young child have a good start!



Field Project

Smiles Field Project continued its development in the past months, even despite some ups and downs in the process of finding the best workers, right and ready to take it to the next stage. We had various options to consider, but we are now at the point when we can be hopeful and believe something good can be done with new colleagues and revised strategies.

When it comes to the beneficiaries, we decided a while ago to try working particularly with those that are ready to put in their best too, so that we are partners together in trying to make a difference, for their own benefit in the long term. This is not always easy, but we will not disregard the other situations, like working with people who are and will always be dependent on somebody's support.

At this point, we have about 45 families we work with, in various places, throughout the County. At the Container Village we regularly have about 1015 homeless people who are present for each programme, that is 3 times a week.

We have become quite well known among needy people and we receive a lot of messages and requests, not all can be resolved, but we are happy to know we can be of help for many.

The Field Project, as a concept, needs to update and adapt, so a constant change and improvement is necessary, but something does stay the same. That is our desire to support and encourage people into a better life, for themselves and for their family. We share God's love with them and we hope that during this process, they will understand life can be better! But we need to accept that this is not always the case. And no matter how hard we try or what our desires might be, we really need people to be proactive and put in their own efforts, otherwise real progress will never happen!

But we are optimistic and we want to say thank you for helping us do what we do, as true partners in doing good for others!





Tileagd Nursery

The children are always so much fun to work with and particularly in Tileagd Nursery, we believe they are nothing less than amazing! Why is that, you might ask? Is it because they are always nice and always well behaved and never naughty, noisy or restless? Of course... not!

It is because, despite many of them being difficult at times, there is a genuine desire in them to learn more and to find out new things every morning, and when seeing that, everyone feels encouraged that all the effort is paying off. And the teachers too are motivated because of it!

The kids coming to our nursery not only learn "proper education", but they will also enjoy many hours of music playing, painting, games and various other skill-developing activities that are equally important for good personal development. We are delighted to see their interest in these things. Who knows where the next great artist could come from? Tileagd shouldn't be ignored!

We have 40 children enrolled in our programme. Most of them come from very poor families that have difficulties not only with understanding the importance of education, but also with providing a safe and secure environment for the little ones to develop. So, for us it is very important to talk with them and help them see the value of what is provided through our project, and also to be of support to their children, for a better start in life!

So, we are continuing to do our best in working with these kids, to offer the best assistance for a great start in life. As we have both Romanians and Gypsy, we encourage also the friendships that are set in place, as hopefully this will provide a common ground for future years, where everybody from the community is working together for the common good! Please continue to pray for us and thank you for helping us in our efforts to equip the next generation, from the very first years, for having better lives later on!



Smiles' Churches

As you will know, Smiles has always put a major emphasis on providing the opportunity for beneficiaries to hear the Gospel and decide to become Christians. Then, as we wanted them to be able to grow spiritually, we opened the two churches in Tileagd and Rapa. These are meant to help people to better understand God's Will for their lives.

Of course we would like to have the churches full each service but it is not always the case. Often, because of course there are many other distractions, some of our friends will miss these opportunities, but we do stick at it and we believe that what Pastor Vasile and a whole team of other ministers do will have a positive influence and their efforts in leading people to Christ will be well rewarded as the people themselves see the need for a proper change!

In Tileagd we have many elderly from TAL joining every service, which is very nice to see, as well as members of the Gypsy community. In Rapa we continue serving the twelve families in the village and we just recently started some prayer and fellowship meeting in Mierlau, at the Emergency Shelter, where currently there are about 15 participants at every programme, from the local community.



*Please
pray that:*

... parents and children equally
will understand there is much
about education and then
much more beyond it too.

*(Maria - Tileagd
School and Nursery)*

... Brexit and Pandemic will not
affect Smiles adversely and our
supporters will continue to
help our projects.

(Corina - Accounts)

... for God's continuing
provision as we try to grow
the Camps at Dezna and as we
press forward with the new
Field Project structure!

(Luke - Volunteer)

... we will be able to continue
serving through Outreach,
despite the COVID-19 delays
and that God will help those
affected by it!

(Adi - Outreach Project)

Elderly Care thanks



Slowly, as Spring is coming, our residents from the Elderly Centres are getting ready to go out more and enjoy nature! In the meantime, they are able to enjoy daily indoor activities. We make sure that these are regular and everyone has the chance to play games or to spend time with each other talking or drinking a coffee together.

Of course we provide plenty opportunities for everyone to hear a good encouraging message from the Bible too, this is very important for us, to be of good assistance also in this department. We believe the soul needs help equally or even more than an aging body, so we are concerned with this too.

Thank you very much for your prayers and support and may God bless you richly, as yourselves are a blessing for our friends too!



Thank You!

Dear Friends,

We are always happy to be in touch with you, our supporters and friends, because we enjoy your company - even if sometimes it is only a "virtual" one - and because we like telling you about what we are doing here in Romania, through Smiles projects!

So, we want to say thank you for staying in contact with us, for writing emails that encourage us to keep up the good work and for staying faithful in your support for the people who need our help!

This Spring, despite the Global Pandemic, we look ahead to the future and we believe that God's Grace will enable us to continue and take our assistance to a new level, for the benefit of those in need. And we know very well that God is always good!



To you who are partners with us in this, be it through financial support or prayers, we say THANK YOU and may God bless your kind and generous heart! You make possible our desire to see people better off!

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