

Outreach Project Newsletter

Spring-Summer 2020



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 in such times, we ask for your continued prayers and support for those in the Smiles Team, working on the front-line in Romania.

At this time, we must put our trust in the Lord. He is at the centre of it all, knows what tomorrow holds and is right by our side. The Smiles Foundation along with the staff and beneficiaries of all our projects, need your support. As the impact challenges each of us, please consider the needs we have, to maintain our support of those who need it most. We pray during these dark days, we can continue to be a light, giving hope to others.

Thank you for your love and support.

Kevin D. Hoy - CEO The Smiles Foundation

The season for **COPs** has not started yet. We were looking forward to the summer weeks when we had planned several meetings with children, in various places.

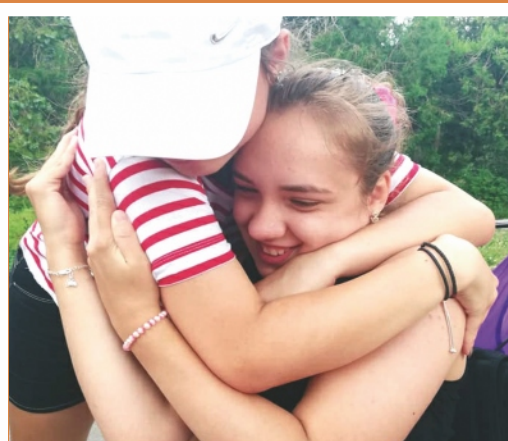
As we are preparing, we realized once again how much these meetings mean for those attending - there were numerous kids coming to us at the end of each programme to ask us to be back "tomorrow" or "next week". We are looking forward visiting old and new friends, once we can start the programmes - we will need to go back into some of the villages where we've been already, because we couldn't leave last time without promising we'll be back!



With the support of **Mission Trip visitors**, we introduced a good variety of activities when we scheduled a COPS meeting. They helped us to not only do the Bible story, but also the verses to learn, the crafts, the games and the action-songs. And on several occasions they even taught us something new! They were great!

For this season too we are hoping we'll have a good number of teams coming over to help us do the COPS. It is part of the enjoyment to have friends from abroad, it is also something "exotic" for children - often, they are very excited to interact with people coming from different places and culture and many times we were surprised to see how interested these kids are in making friends with our visitors!





Last year, **Dezna Camps** presented us with the opportunity to share God's word with children and youth in a manner we've not had the chance before. We were so excited to give it a go and the results really encouraged us for this summer too!

Given the latest developments with the Global Pandemic, we are a little bit concerned about the possibility for some groups to actually come to the camp. Despite their desire to be there, we do not know how easy, or if it will be possible at all to participate. There is a lot of unknown for the moment.

We are trusting though and hopeful that at least for the second half of this summer we will be able to allow some of the groups to join the programmes at Dezna Outreach Centre.

You are all invited too! If you thought there is something you'd like to contribute with, or even if you just want to spend some time in a camp with kids and youth, please do call our offices, or send an email and we'll see how that can be done, once the complicated days we're going through now are finished.

And in the meanwhile, continue to pray that our work in Dezna, and overall in the Outreach Project, will be successful and relevant for the needs of children and youth!



Our **(Christian) Faith** is often seen only as a gift from God, as the Scripture says, and because of that sometimes we forget it is also something we need to present and to encourage people to seek. Being a gift for us, we forget it could also be a gift for many others, but we need to let them know that - basically this is what Outreach Ministry is.

So, at its core, our mission is to present as best we can, the good news that everyone, child or adult, can receive this gift from God, if they so desire. And of course, this does not refer to a particular Christian denomination which is still a huge issue among many Romanians but it presents a genuine conviction that we can live a proper life here on Earth and then go to Heaven one day only through what Jesus did for us on the Cross!

Our Outreach Programmes will continue to help people understand that God is love and his grace is available for everyone, young or not so young anymore. Please pray for this project as most likely we will have difficulties through the Summer with less Mission Trip visitors this season on one hand, but then the restriction concerning gatherings, due to health risks. We are willing and determined to do something, but we are aware of the limitation this time.

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Thank you for being a supporter of the Outreach Project. Your support is very important and enables us to continue our work among people. Through these programmes we want to bring the best hope there is to all people. That is Christ! Thank you very much!

**The Smiles
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