

Residential 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

Trying to understand the many difficulties which elderly face is not an easy endeavour. Often we have the feeling we will for ever be young, but this crazy idea fades in time. And while some of us get prepared in advance for what will come, some others will face the reality in a hard manner, due to many reasons.

These days we are particularly concerned with the COVID-19 danger - we were protected by God until now, so not one single infected person. However, we need to be very serious about taking all the caution in eliminating all unnecessary risks, so we took some difficult measures, but it is for everybody's best interest we believe. These are essential!

Something of great importance to us, as always, is to keep the spirit up, by encouraging our residents to read and listen to the word of God. Either when Pastor Vasile visits them - or the other ministers from other churches who do that - or through individual readings, we advise everyone to learn more about how God shows His love to us. We pray together too, sing together, praising Our Saviour and learning how to show love towards the people around us ourselves. Particularly when living together with other people this is very relevant.

So, maybe more than for any other project, we ask you to pray for God's continued protection over our beneficiaries from the residential centres. They are the most vulnerable group and we wouldn't want anything dramatic to happen. We are sure this will pass too and once again we will all enjoy the realisation of what a huge difference our work makes in their lives!



One day at the ECO Centre - written by Mioara, our Social Worker in ECO

This period is a very difficult one for all the nations, given the Pandemic outbreak. For us too it is very important to make sure our grannies and granpas will be protected and we are indeed trying to do everything we can in order to keep them safe and in the meanwhile keep the workers able to care for them.

So, being cautious, we decided to restrict the outside visitors and also to limit the negative impact some news on TV, for instance, could have on the morale of people.

All this to try to keep things within the normal routine: in the morning, right after the breakfast, the residents all watch some TV programmes, then take a walk through the centre's garden to enjoy the warm spring sun; then, each one will decide what they want to do - some will play games together, others will read something or might be interested in spending more time outside in the garden. We provide options for exercising too.



After the lunch, which is of course one of the main points of interest, there will be a time to rest and help digestion; soon after that there will be other activities which can keep everyone active. Especially these days, we organize special celebrations for birthdays, but also

extra games and crafts, all of this to maintain a positive spirit and lifted hearts. We also do various competitions which will win nice prizes for those interested.

We need a lot of prayers, wisdom and creativity to keep things in order and to not let residents be affected too much by the various stresses. They miss their families, but we try to compensate by giving a good use to phones and internet.

Thank you for your support and your prayers and may God bless you!

One day at the TAL Centre - written by Diana, our Social Worker at TAL

The work I do with Smiles is a real blessing for me, especially because it allows me to serve God through what I do everyday. TAL means a family to me, much more than a job. And residents are, to me, the grandparents whom I love and respect so much!



I say this is a family to me, because I spend a lot of time in their company and doing various things together. It is very nice to see how much everybody enjoys praising God and using their personal talents to worship. This is in fact one of the things we enjoy the most: reading from

the Bible, listening to Christian songs or praying together.

But we also like to do crafts, to do some exercises - at least three times a week. There is a specialist who comes each time to help our friends stay mobile and healthy. This time of physical activity seems to be very useful and most of the residents are very happy to be part of it, as most of them used to be very active years ago - this will remind them of the old times.

Also, the elderly love to tell stories - real stories from their past. They are very excited to tell us about their grandchildren, particularly. And I find this to be very enjoyable and a real blessing, as I was saying above.

We realize that our work would not be possible without your support! So, please continue to help us and thank you very much for everything you have done so far! I pray that God will bless you and keep you well.



In our **Joint Facility of Love Centre** we are happy to continue providing assistance for elderly, with or without a need for specialized care. Our staff there do everything they can to keep the residents happy, healthy and active. There are many activities we are keen on doing on a regular basis, trying to involve everyone and in the process make it fun too.



Of course, we continued the programmes for the special-needs groups. The therapy and activities are very much appreciated, as well as the pool time, exercises, common activities and spending time outside in the garden.



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Thank you for being a supporter of the Residential Projects. Your support is very important and enables us to do something for the elderly and other groups that are in immediate need of help and they are dependent on others, as they cannot care for themselves anymore.

**The Smiles
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