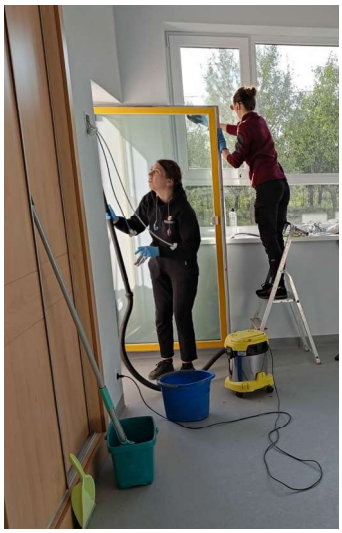
OUTREACH PILLAR Report

NOVEMBER 2024

The Outreach Pillar of The Smiles Foundation is all about sharing with people God's Kingdom and the ways He can change their lives.



We are happy to release our third report on the Smiles Outreach Pillar, for our special partners, standing with us, as we share the good news of the Gospel with many here in Romania. The past three months were very busy and particularly exciting for us, not only as we had the mission trip visitors with us, here in Romania, but also because of the big thanksgiving event over 12-13th October, the celebration of Sunset House project. While not an Outreach event per say, it was still something we were very much involved with and we contributed as we could for getting all the preparations done, so we share the satisfaction with our colleagues from the Residential Pillar.

In these little articles you'll read some of the updates from the Outreach Pillar, but our activities spread quite a bit more than what we can briefly describe here. Those of you who were part of a mission trip with Smiles this Summer, got to be involved more and we hope you all enjoyed the experience! Many blessings!

Adi Matiș, *Director of Smiles Outreach Pillar*

PILLAR *updates*

Since our last report, we continued our work with the families and communities around Bihor County. We had another good three months to go out accompanied by the mission trip visitors. In August and then October we had the chance to do more visits to both currently supported, as well as some of the long-standing beneficiaries from the previous years.

The team had to adjust quite fast and significantly, at the news that Sidonia will need to be off on medical leave for an indefinite period. Her health was problematic for a while, but then in the end of August she went through an operation (thyroidectomy) and even that should have been a quick break only, but some complications made it a much longer process, unfortunatelly. We still do not know when will she return to work, we just pray for God's intervention and a fast and succesful recovery.

In terms of other updates, as always, there are many issues, big or small, which make our work. Some of them we can put in this report, so you have an idea, but that's quite a lot that does not get mentioned. Through everything, we make an effort to ensure that those who are on our support list, formally or not, will get attention and will hopefully find a solution with us.

COMMUNITIES *update*









We have presented Stefan to many of you coming here, as he is one of the people who are still out on the streets, part of our Homeless programme.

He was very keen on having a place of his own, as the improvised house where he used to live is going to be demolished, anytime now, by the authorities, as the area is now developing and the city needs to clean it!

So, some time ago, we started presenting his condition to you, our supporters, and we were thrilled to hear that Caitlyn and a group of friends from her church decided to do some fundraising with the purpose of assuring the needed support for buying a caravan. That came in as great news, and although it took a while to find a good buy, in terms of price vs. quality, in the end we found a very suitable caravan, which we bought for Stefan. One week later, after having the caravan cleaned, arranged, double-insolated against water and moisture, freshly painted and ready, we took it to him and so delivered our promise!



Here you can see Stefan and Caitlyn this October, when she came over to see him and the caravan, for the first time. Stefan is so grateful! And now he is thinking and planning for the winter, to get a heating source for inside and be ready for the tougher months ahead!



One very significant way we can bring joy to people is for us to visit the Smiles Residential Centres, to spend some fellowship time with those who live in there and encourage them with verses and stories from the Bible.



We are so privileged to do this once a week, usually on a Wednesday, sometimes together with Mission Trip friends, and we feel encouraged ourselves to be able to serve in this way. We see again and again how God touches their hearts. Despite many challenges in the later years, we should never lose hope and always trust in His goodness and love!

FIELD VISIT *updates*



Cita is a middle-aged woman living alone in a social housing apartment provided by the local authorities. Despite the challenges of her early life, which left deep emotional scars, her mind and spirit remain childlike. Her wishes are simple and innocent: sweets, toys, and small things that bring her joy. However, her real needs, like food, are more essential. Recently, Cita received from us a radio with CD player, which brought her immense satisfaction. Music helps ease her loneliness, bringing a little light into her life, we're happy we could provide it.

Volunteer's Corner



Today we introduce to you another volunteer that has spent 7 weeks in Romania this year, helping at the Mission Centre, but also on the field, in Sunset House, with the homeless proiect, and many areas of Smiles.

Emma Lipscombe loves people, children, animals, the blue sky and green grass, and everything between! We appreciate her desire to come and serve here in Romania, and we say thank you for your time and energy invested for the benefit on others! Come back to see us sometime soon!

Prayer Points

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

This is one of the most well-known and powerful verses of the Bible, and this we want to be our encouragement for you to pray with us.

Here are a couple of prayer points for you:

1. Throughout our work, we often feel unable to come up with good solutions for our people, and we need guidance from God so that all we do will point toward Him as the ultimate solution!
2. We pray for His blessings over all of those who work together in Outreach areas, be it here in Romania or anywhere else in this world!

LIFE STORIES SERIES

Today I want to write shortly about a different kind of activity we were able to serve with one of our families. We have this family in the village of Carandeni, it's about two sons living with their 82 year old mother, sadly both of the sons have behavioral disorder and mental disability, which all makes the situation rather difficult for the mother.



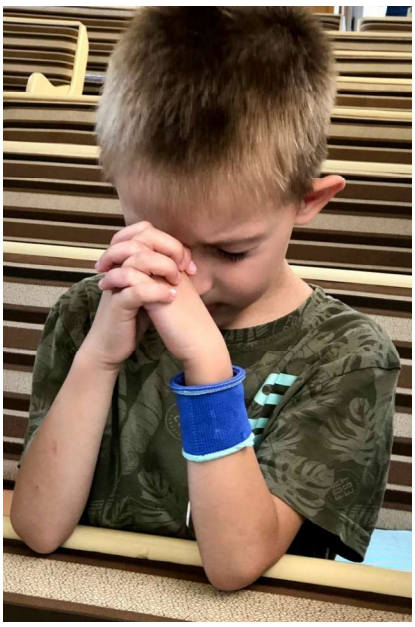
Recently, they both had some medical reccomendations to go for some medical examinations, but being far from the city it wasn't easy for them to do so; here's where we were able to help them, we scheduled them for the appointments, and we went with them in the city to see different doctors: urologist, neurologist, psychiatrist, and ophthalmologist. This way they were able to receive treatment for their medical needs.

For us it is always a great satisfaction to know that we could help and while doing so, we provide a service which really makes a difference, like in this situation!

COP's *updates*

We couldn't have missed this opportunity to report again on COPs! These are such great little ocassions for the kids to play and have fun, but equally to learn from the Bible something useful!

We pray together as well, and sometimes it becomes very clear what our Lord means by "receive the Kingdom like a child"! From simple, funny prayers to rather serious and difficult ones, the children do get the point easily - we need our friend Jesus to hear us and help us, we can always rely on His love and compassion!



Thank You!

Please accept our thanks and appreciation for your support towards The Outreach Pillar's Programmes! Your kind generosity makes possible the work we do here in Romania.
Thank you for being our partner in doing God's work among people in need!

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