OUTREACH PILLAR Report

AUGUST 2025

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

Welcome to our August 2025 Outreach Report! We hope that our updates will be of interest to you, particularly if you intended to come over for a Mission Trip visit but you did not make it in the end. Through the Summer we have a lot of visitors, as most of you will know, this season was no exception, but as usual, we all had great time.

The housing programme that Smiles has run for many years might not be in the spot light anymore, but there are still important things going on in it! Back in the day, Smiles would buy small houses in the villages of Bihor County, to make them available for the people needing shelter - that was a way to help with their immediate residential needs. In time, we decided to allow these families to buy the house they were living in, for a very good price, if they wanted and were able to.



But we had also situations when families approached us to help them buy a house. This is the case with Andrei and Gabi, whom we've helped for more than 10 years - we also bought a house for them, which they were meant to repay within three years. As they ran into various difficulties, not least being the seven children that came along, they did not manage to do so. As a result, instead of three years, it took them seven, but eventually they were able to pay the balance and get the full property in their name.



We were very happy to help them and we consider this to be a successful process, despite the challenges presented! Now, Andrei and Gabi are proud to have their names on the property documents! It is indeed an amazing outcome of their own efforts and our support, which makes them no less than any other regular family, which tries the best for their own future!

Adi Matiș, *Director of Smiles Outreach Pillar*

PILLAR updates

Our activities are a lot about being out on the field and we are happy to take visitors who join Mission Trip teams in Romania to see the people out there. We had some very good opportunities to share about various needs and we had some great responses from our friends! A lot has been achieved and we put a lot of smiles on people's faces this Summer!

We continue to progress with Dezna Outreach Centre updates, although slower than we wanted. There are new issues everytime when we check and we need to go through a very detailed process of putting a lot of paperwork in order, not only the physical works - a huge headache, no doubt!

When it comes about community work, we are looking carefully at how Rapa has progressed since 2013, when we started in there, and we need to make a proper assessment of what are the ways forward. Of course, this is a bigger topic and we will keep you updated in future reports.

There were also some very important events to some of us - I will mention here only the most notable one: Andreea Mureșan became Buzle, by marriage to Marcus! We mentioned this last time, so we are happy to report it was accomplished! We wish them all the best and God's blessings upon their future!

As always, I want to remind you to email me, as I will be happy to update you with any information you would like. Just send a few lines and I will be happy to reply, as soon as possible! Thank you!

FIELD VISIT updates

We thought we should share with you, although in a brief manner, some little updates about our friends, some encouraging signs of progress.



Emilia, one of our young beneficiaries, received financial support to cover her University tuition fees, by the generosity of some great supporters we had here on a Mission Trip. With deep gratitude, she shared her strong desire to continue her social work studies and become a support for others going through difficult times. We appreciate her commitment, despite so many challenges she faces.



Adelina, a mother of three, was supported as well by some of our generous sponsors to help pay for utilities and reduce her family's outstanding debts. This assistance brought much-needed relief and stability during a financially challenging period.

We also had the joy of celebrating Cipri's birthday. He particularly expressed his desire for this special day - not to be alone! Our team, along with a few of our mission trip visitors, joined him for a small gathering, where he entertained everyone with his magic tricks and positive energy. Of course.

Additional to helping our enrolled beneficiaries, we also visited several new families currently facing hardship. Following these visits, we will assess each family's situation to determine who is most in need of our intervention, but we have a pretty clear idea about their needs. We will keep you updated in future reports.

Andreea Buzle - *Social Worker Outreach Pillar*



LIFE STORIES SERIES

Recently, as we were looking for new families to support, we realized once again it is not always easy to find those in real need. In July, a friend connected me with a lady who was aware of a few struggling families. So, we decided to meet with her, shared about our approach to helping and she told us more about the situations in discussion. We decided to visit the families together.



One family especially touched my heart. Ilona, 29 years of age, lives in a small village social house, owned by the Mayor's office. She and her husband are raising 8 children, aged 1 to 13. The house is overcrowded and poorly equipped - very little furniture, clothes everywhere, and no proper storage. Ilona suffers from epilepsy, and they also care for her husband's sister, who also has epilepsy and other mental health issues. The income they have is their children's State allowances and the father's wage, which isn't quite enough for their needs, understandably.

What moved me the most was their attitude. Despite the difficult conditions, they send all their children to school and nursery, and do their best to care for them properly. They are not giving up on their hopes and they do want a better future. Seeing their heart and willingness to improve, we decided to include them in our support list!

Andreea Andrei - *Social Worker Outreach Pillar*

COP's *updates*

One of our most favourite and enjoyable programmes is back for the Summer, that is the Children's Outreach, whereby we visit various communities and we have presentations with a message from the Bible - accompanied by games, crafts, music, presents and prizes.



The contribution from our Mission trip guests is very important, so every time when we prepare for these meetings with the children, we all have the opportunity to serve by pretending (read to impersonate a character from a Bible story) and by behaving funny (read making children have a good time). And we were proud to have the right teams with us, to make this a success! All in good fun - in fact the stories, the crafts, the verses we taught the kids, these are all memories that will stay with them and will help them remember the most important thing - that God loves them and Jesus wants to be their friend!

We have some more COPs scheduled for this season and we look forward to welcome the next teams of actors and entertainers!



Prayer Points

"From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God..." Jonah 2:1 NIV

Just recently, I was challenged with this thought: would prayer be my first concern, should I end up in a fish's belly? Indeed, it might be my only concern; but would I take time, if I was constrained by such a serious emergency, to actually stay quiet before God and wait for His intervention?

Let us pray that:

1. We will seek and pursue God's will and desires for our lives, no matter how we feel about one issue or another. When we are tempted to do things immediately, by our own resolutions, rather trust Him and wait for His best guidance.

2. Our beliefs and principles are only as strong as our actions! By declaring our Christianity, we embrace also the whole lot of "good works" that are prepared for us to do - let's pray that we will be ready to do them as soon as God reveals them to us!

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!

www.thesmilesfoundation.org
info@thesmilesfoundation.org