



AMURTEL ROMANIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



General Presentation

Asociatia de Ajutor AMURTEL Romania is an N.G.O. founded in 1992 by a group of national and international women volunteers. It is a local, women-managed branch of the international disaster relief and development agency, AMURT. After assessing the needs in post communist Romania, AMURTEL Romania specialized in the areas of inclusive education for children with special needs and social disadvantages and social services for abandoned children and youth. AMURTEL Romania's main projects currently include 2 inclusive "Neohumanist Education" kindergartens in Bucharest for 45 children, the "Fountain of Hope" after-school center in Panatau for 50 disadvantaged schoolchildren, "Familia AMURTEL" a home for 12 abandoned children, and "Vistara Social Integration Program" for 3 young adults leaving care.

Mission:

The mission of AMURTEL Romania is to create inclusive programs for the economic and holistic personal development of children, young adults and parents at risk of social exclusion, as well as to intervene in disaster relief situations.



EDUCATION

Awakening the thirst for learning



NEOHUMANIST EDUCATION CURRICLULUM

In order to accredit Neohumanist Education on the national level, as an officially recognized system of alternative education in Romania, the educational team of the Gradinita Rasarit kindergartens worked all year long on articulating the curriculum, which was submitted to the Romanian Ministry of Education in November. As Neohumanist Education is the pillar of our organizational culture, this represents a significant achievement, reaping

the more than 20 years of experience accumulated in Neohumanist education to be able to disseminate it more widely and have an even greater impact in Romania. The process of accreditation is a lengthy one, and requires sustained effort, but it will mark a major milestone for our organization and a significant contribution to the field of early childhood education.

Exchange of experience with Holland

In the month of March, the organization's president attended a Neohumanist Education Teacher Training Seminar at the Den Bosch "Zonnelicht" kindergarten, where she held two seminars on "Educating Balance in an Accelerating World" and

"Personal Development for Neohumanist Educators" with approximately 35 participants. In addition, a project proposal was prepared and submitted to Comenius to obtain a grant for Ecological Education.

Renovation of the Gradinita Rasarit kindergarten

Thanks to the generous contributions and combined efforts of so many friends and sponsors – the Bucharest “Gradinita Rasarit” kindergarten in the Bucuresti Noi neighborhood successfully completed an extensive renovation and reopened its doors in time to celebrate its 20th anniversary in September 2011. There was a special celebration to commemorate the anniversary, as well as the new face-lift that has added more years to the life of the kindergarten! The newly constructed spaces are luminous, open and beautiful. The renovation has improved not only its aesthetic aspect, but also reinforced its structural resistance and safety.

Special thanks to our principal funder, “Amici Nel Mondo”, AMURTEL Fonte Nuovo, AMURT Italia, Neohumanist Foundation (Norway), AMURT UK, the Ananda Marga River School (Australia), AMURTEL



RENOVATION BUDGET

Total:
22881,74 euro

In-kind
donations:
4211 euros

Amici nel
Mondo:
12,000 euros

Private
sponsors:
10,881 euro

USA, our friends in Salorno, and many private contributions from individual sponsors.

Roxana Pirvu, whose young son Tudor attends the kindergarten, served as our architect. She not only generously volunteered her time for the planning and supervision of the renovation, but also secured several donations of construction materials. Her involvement was invaluable. Thanks to her promotion of the project, the Finnish roofing

company “Rukki” donated the roofing materials, Tassullo donated construction materials, and Romstal donated tiling.



Many new and old friends came to the anniversary party in the newly renovated kindergarten

Youth in Action Training

In the month of March, the executive director Iulia Halangescu participated in a project proposal writing session for “Youth in Action” projects. The result was a project proposal aimed to provide young people leaving the care system with skills in building houses using ecological materials.

Training in Social Animation

In the spring of 2011, Larisa Bratucu, the director of the Fountain of Hope after-school center took part in a training course together with one of our young girls from the Vlstara program, working at the center. They learned cooperative games and other animation techniques and successfully applied them in the center.



SOCIAL WORK

"Obstacles are helping forces"



DISASTER RELIEF TEAM TRAINING

After our first successful course in 2010, AMURTEL Romania organized its second annual Disaster Relief Management Training. The first course resulted in a motivated team of volunteers that organized a small scale intervention in August 2010 at a camp of families displaced by flooding in Braila.

The goal of the courses is to strengthen and build the AMURTEL volunteers to be ready to be part of a "Rapid Response Team" responding to disasters both on the national and international levels.

The training was led by Dada Nirmalkrsnananda who led the AMURT and AMURTEL relief efforts for large scale disasters in Indonesia and Myanmar. In particular the course focused on creating "Child Friendly Spaces" programs, based on the successful experiences of AMURT and AMURTEL in recent disaster relief situations. Our partners from the "IGSU" (Romanian National

Guard) also contributed with a training on Earthquake preparedness. AMURTEL volunteers distributed Earthquake preparedness materials in different conferences and NGO events throughout the year. The course trained 9 volunteers in Disaster Relief interventions and preparedness.

Course in fire prevention for Neohumanist Educators:

In the summer of 2011 we invited our friends from the fire brigade to present to our teachers, methods of fire prevention and managing the crisis moments during a fire. Everyone also had a chance to practice using the fire extinguisher.

Promotion of Volunteering and Networking E.Y.V. Tour

The Year of 2011 was the European Year of Volunteering. During this year the Tournament for the European Year of Volunteering took place. AMURTEL Romania took part in this event and made a presentation to volunteers on how to intervene in case of disaster and how to work with children affected by trauma. During another event aiming at promoting volunteering, AMURTEL Romania presented methods of intervention in disaster relief situations, using the "Child Friendly Space" model to teachers at the "Casa Corpului Didactic" (Teachers Institution) in Bucharest. Results from our 2010 Intervention in Lacul Sarat for families affected by severe flooding was presented (pictured above.)

Development of New Services: "How to Embrace a Cactus" course:

In order to apply knowledge accumulated in the 2010 course "Beyond Consequence" held by Heather Forbes, the AMURTEL



president and executive director elaborated a Romanian version of the course, adapted it to Romania and trained other 4 instructors in the methods. This activity aimed at supporting Romanian social workers and adoptive parents in relating to kids and young people affected by trauma in their past.

Permaculture Course:

In July 2011, AMURTEL organised a permaculture

PROMOTING VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

AMURTEL's actions in 2011- Year of Volunteering events



course held by Dada Subudhyananda in Poieni. On the field of the Summer House in Poieni the permaculture plan was developed to build an organic farm in order to support AMURTEL Family Placement and to use the land in an ecologic way. Volunteers identified 23 types of medicinal plants and elaborated a plan to reconstruct the soil.



VISTARA = "expansiune"

VISTARA

Social Integration of Young people leaving care

Vistara is our program of social integration of the youth going out from placement centers. February and April this year, 3 of our youth participated in an international program realised by Pakiv European Network, in which they learned how to use instruments from new media, creating a radio station, making

videoclips and using blogs to promote voluntary work.

The project started in Thessaloniki, Greece and it ended up with an international conference where they had to present their videoclips from each participating countries, Romania, Bulgaria, Germany and Greece, in Berlin. After participating in the program, they had the intention to create their own organization.

Fountain of Hope After-school Center, Panatau

In September 2007, in partnership with the Local Community Council of Panatau and Cooperating Netherlands Foundation (CNF), Asociatia de Ajutor AMURTEL opened

The Fountain of Hope is now in its 4th year of functioning. The center offers a hot meal, homework support and a creative variety of recreational extra-curricular activities for students of the Panatau Elementary school that come from socio-economically disadvantaged families.

This year the Fountain of Hope created an new program to promote local youth active citizenship:

the Centre were redecorated and the youngsters benefited of facilities were they organised a disco and social games.



Club TIP (Smart Youngsters Club of Panatau)

In the framework of the Izvorul Sperantei (Fountain of Hope) Day Care Centre the TIP project was implemented – some youngsters from the Family AMURTEL Placement Centre jointly with youngsters from the Panatau village set up a Club to manage their free time in a constructive way. As a result of the project the walls of



Budget:

Total Expenditure:
9691,25 euro

AMURTEL:
4956,84 euro

Consiliul Local Panatau
4057,14 euro

Income generating:
677,26 euro



Adventures in Sovata for a new batch AMURTEL Family kids

Familia AMURTEL is our alternative family style children's home in Panatau village in Buzau county. . In the month of July 2011, a new batch of young boys from Familia AMURTEL had their first chance to participate in annual tradition of Outward Bound adventure camps in Sovata, Transylvania.

This year, the group was together with Costin, the psychologist of Familia AMURTEL, and our loyal Dada Subuddhyananda – a veteran of these camps. The adventure began with backpacking through the mountains to reach a special lake with an interesting history – it is actually a submerged village that was flooded during Ceaucescu's reign in order to create a resevoir. Only a church steeple can still be seen above the water's surface. The boys learned kayaking and also constructed rafts from truck tires and crossed the lake on them. It was a challenging problem solving experience – but as Ionut said "No problem, we can figure it out!". Meanwhile Stefan and Bogdan swam in the lake, and encouraged the younger ones to

learn swimming as well. They also built catamarans using surfboards, wood planks, string and a piece of canvas. The next day, the group put on backpacks and began hiking. They faced a big challenge – a powerful thunderstorm, with torrential rains and strong winds. But they did not give up nor get discouraged, but quickly divided duties.

The third day, the group hiked through the forests of Sovata and through the village. The children were very enthusiastic and reached all of the destinations

"AMURTEL FAMILY"

Alternative placement center

Annual budget: 60,000 euros
AMURTEL Italia
Vervein Kinderheim



"Nature
itself is your
classroom.
The cliffs,
rivers,
forests and
lakes are
tools for
growing and
strengthenin
g yourself."
Outward
Bound



that the instructor proposed. In the afternoon, they got to go swimming in the salt water "Bear's Lake". The last day was spent in the ropes course – where the group did many difficult exercises, including the infamous trapeze challenge – in which one must climb a 4 meter wooden pole and then jump to a trapeze bar. Stefan and Bogdan were extremely courageous – having performed this feat last year as well. Ionuts overcame his fear and managed in the end to accomplish all of the exercises.



CAPACITY BUILDING

"Help everyone to build their career in a nice way" PR Sarkar



Neohumanist seminar and team building

In August 2011, Gradinita Rasarit organized an annual training seminar in Neohumanist education for the teachers, including new candidates. Monica Eugeniu from "Learning about" led a dynamic team building session, helping the team to identify our core values. She also used drumming and "bhoomwhackers" to teach lessons about communication and working as a team. In addition, a specialist in Eurhythmmy led a session, and Didi led sessions on Neohumanist Education. Magda Zambet led the teachers in their annual planning sessions.

Detox Camp

In August 2011 Didi also organized a detoxification camp for the staff from the placement center Familia AMURTEL, and Fountain of Hope after-school center in Panatau. Besides the relaxing sessions of yoga and the detoxification fast, the team reanalyzed the methods of working with children and youth. Through these activities they identified strengths and weaknesses, as well as areas for improvement. We also reviewed the "How to Hug a Cactus" information based on Heather Forbes "Beyond Consequences" love-based approach to helping kids with attachment traumas.

DEVELOPING COMPUTER LITERACY IN PANATAU

“Developing Computer Literacy” is a project to offer access to education and to build computer literacy skills amongst disadvantaged youth and children from Panatau village, in Buzau county, Romania. AMURTEL Romania was selected by Ateliere Fara Frontiere during the Asocclie competition, and rewarded a donation of 6 computers in order to achieve the project objectives. The project was implemented by the Panatau Elementary School, the Fountain of Hope, and Familia AMURTEL children’s home this summer.

The first phase of instruction took place in the month of August in Familia AMURTEL. The younger boys took part in a training with Iulia Halangescu the executive director. They were thrilled to get to unpack the new computers. When they began learning some basics, they were very excited. They couldn’t believe that they could do it. It was an opportunity to increase their self esteem and help them to feel equal to the grown ups who “know” how to use a computer. Ionuts, one of our beneficiaries, even



“Do all the good you can to all the people you can in all the ways you can for as long as you ever can.”

Carl Sandberg

proclaimed that he could help us by becoming the secretary, so that our secretary Violeta wouldn’t have to do everything alone.

as well for being one of the most active partners they have.

Assoclic Prize

After we were selected in the Assoclic program by A.F.F. – Ateliere Fara Frontiere organisation, that gives the opportunities to unqualified disadvantaged people to have a job qualification in a workshop that recycle computers and electronics, they gave us a prize



Capacity building for AMURTEL workers in India

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING INDIA

In November 2011, AMURTEL Romania’s president and executive director travelled to India to offer project management training during a 10 day capacity building program for women missionaries “Expanding our Potentials”. The training was designed for workers of

Women’s Welfare Organization India, who hosted the event in Jharsugudha, Orissa. It was the result of two years of planning with our partners from Women’s Welfare and Development Jamaica. Didi A. Ragamaya from WWD Jamaica opened the event with a two day module “Pioneering Women Leaders”, that included cooperative teambuilding exercises, visioning exercises, communication skills training and more.

Thank you to our sponsors 2011-2012

Thank you to all of our sponsors - every amount small or large contributed to help us realize so much work this past year. It is not possible without your help, and we are very grateful! Please continue to stay involved! We welcome you to come as a visitor and stay at our vacation house in Poieni.

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Funders:

Vervein Kinderheim,
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Lanesra Foundation,
Phillipines

AMURTEL USA

AMURT Italia

AMURT UK

Libera Associazione AMURT
Fonte Nouva

Infant Massage Association
Sweden

Consiliul Local Panatau

Consiliul Judetan Buzau

Financial Report 2011

Income	157,905 euro	Expenditure	157,610 euro
Kindergarten fees	46,503.00 29%	Kindergartens	42,471
Grants /donations	107,021.00 67%	AMURTEL Office	4,032
In-kind donations	575.00 .3%	Fountain of Hope	9,691
Subsidies	3795.61 2.4%	Familia AMURTEL / Vistara	78240
Bank Interest	104.836	Renovation	22881