



Christmas 2019

Dear friend and supporter of Fundatia,

Ten years ago, during one of our annual trustees meeting in UK, someone came up with the idea of sending newsletters to all the people who are faithfully supporting Fundatia (through prayer, donations or both) and our work at Amara. We felt the need to keep in contact with you, to share with you news about the boys, about the house and to let you know how the money we receive from you are being spent.

When the time comes for a newsletter, weeks before I start thinking about what happened at the house since we sent the last one; has anything major happened that is worth talking about? What is the most important thing that needs to be shared?



This time I want to share with you about the people without which our work at Amara wouldn't be possible: the staff!

Back in the orphanage, staff was always a big problem. There are hundreds of stories about the children being physically and mentally abused by the staff, or staff stealing food, clothes or shoes intended for the children. This is why, when we tried to find staff for the house, back in 2003, one condition was that they had nothing to do with the orphanages before. So, we decided to find ordinary people from the community, to train them and to teach them how to care for our boys.

Finding the right people wasn't easy! It was a long process but very rewarding at the same time. Now, I can proudly say that we didn't just find the right staff but, more importantly, we have found a family for our boys! I would like to say a few words about each one of them.

Gigica – a very hand-gifted woman.

She joined the team by „mistake” but I think it was all God's plan. In the early days of the house, 2 years after the opening, one of the staff members had to retire due to age combined with some medical problems. It was something unexpected and we desperately needed someone to come for a short period until we could find somebody to hire full time. She agreed to help for a couple of weeks but after she met the boys, she never left!

Mother of two girls, she is very close to the boys. She is very creative and her skills are just incredible, from sawing, painting, drawing, hand-crafting to fixing anything in the house!



Simona – the best cook in the world

Back in the orphanage, the food was so bad that you wouldn't even dare to feed your pigs with it! Because of bad food and lack of vitamins, most of the orphans will get hepatitis. I will always remember the first meal our boys had at the house! How they tried to cover the plates with their bodies and looking around to see if somebody would come to steal the food! Even years after they come to live at Amara, we could find bread hidden under their pillows!

Simona's food is absolutely fantastic! She can prepare a great meal out of nothing! And there is no need to mention the amazing cakes she makes for the birthdays at the house!

Radita –

After working for Fundatia for 15 years, she has got to know each one of the boys very well. Even though most of them can not communicate, she knows their needs just by looking at them. If one of the boys wakes up at night to go to the toilet she can tell which one it is, even though she is in a different room, just by the noise he makes when he walks. She never misses any trips with the boys and she often takes the boys for a walk down the street.



Nicoleta (Nina) -

She is the last one who joined the team at Amara, two years ago, in a very difficult time for all of us.

When Lucretia died, we all said that it will be impossible to find someone to replace her. Even though Lucretia was unique in her work, Nina has found a way to the boys hearts! I was very impressed with her when, just a couple of months after she met the boys for the first time, we went to a camp in the mountains. She did not hesitate to share a room with the boys when we realised that there is not enough space for the staff. She is now very close to the boys and she can talk to them for hours and they love that....



Adrian – the big brother

I have known Adrian for more than 20 years now. Abandoned by his family, he spent all his life in the orphanage. When he had to leave the institution at the age of 20, he came to live in one of our flats. In time, Fundatia offered him a job as a carer. Since then, he has been a great support for the staff, caring for the boys. As they grew up together, they see him as the big brother, who looks after them!



Ionut – the nurse guy

He joined the team as a nurse but he does way more than that. He is also responsible for all the work in the garden or any other work around the house. He was a great help when we did all the construction work last summer.

Each one of the staff at Amara is unique in their own way and we all have different skills. Because we are different, we make such a good team! But, the most important is that we all love the boys and we love what we do at Amara.

Most of our boys have never met their natural families but we have become their family. One big, happy family!

In Romania, at Christmas time, families get together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is the time when people remember the loved ones. In the same way, we - the Amara family - are thinking of each one of you who have made this possible. Because of you and your sacrifice and commitment, the boys can celebrate Christmas again this year!

Happy Christmas to all of you!

Marius Istrate
Romanian Project Director