



# MINISTRY OVERVIEW 6/2021

**VISION:** Provide care for vulnerable children that produces Christ-like disciples in Romania.

**MISSION:** Engage, evangelize, and equip Romanian orphans and at-risk kids for life and ministry.

**VALUES:** Jesus-Focused, Relational, Grace-Oriented, Biblically-Based, Disciple Making

**CALLING AND HISTORY:** What began with a dream of overflowing orchards in 1991 has blossomed into weekly outreach to hundreds of orphans and at-risk Gypsy children and full time family-style residential care. Our calling is based on Isaiah 61:1-3 from which we care for and share the Gospel with vulnerable kids to see “a planting of the LORD for the display of His splendor.”

- o 2001 Livada incorporated and orphan outreach began in Targu Mures, Romania
- o 2003 We began taking older orphans out of state care into Mentor Apartments
- o 2004 Our first private group home was built and staffed for 10 orphans
- o 2005 Two more group homes built and staffed for another 20 abandoned children
- o 2006-2009 Livada continued to deepen therapeutic care, private Foster Care ministry established, along with increased evangelistic efforts through the purchase of Camp Vetca. Dutch Partnership with Stichting Livada established. Fundraising from EU and RO efforts expand.
- o 2010-11 Our Prevention of Abandonment ministry was doubled to serve Apalina and Ogra. 2012 Agricultural self-sustaining initiatives- Strawberry Farm & Greenhouses, Casa Rene facility addition, Romania Without Orphans Alliance (ARFO) established, and literacy projects in Gypsy villages started
- o 2013 Foster to Adopt ministry begins placing babies in Romanian families
- o 2014 Casa Juliana Therapeutic Toddler Transition Home opened. First ARFO national Summit.
- o 2015 Trauma Competent Caregiver Training for all Mures County and nationally via ARFO. First child adopted into forever family. Family Pack events offer practical help by US families.
- o 2016 Therapy Center and new LOC office constructed
- o 2017-2020 Expansion of ARFO all over Romania and country of Moldova. Counseling training/lobbying efforts grow
- o 2021 Ogra Gypsy village Learning & Counseling Center constructed and established. Post-Covid ministry resumes.

**MINISTRY MODEL:** There are an estimated 60,000 abandoned children and 400,000 highly at-risk vulnerable Gypsy children in Romania today. UNICEF reports that the abandonment rate has remained unchanged in the past 30+ years. Our holistic approach begins by nurturing orphans in the cradle and ends with them becoming faithful, interdependent, contributing members of society. Today there are four major departments of our local ministry and one major department that allows us to multiply our experience nationally.

- o **Full-time, Family-Style Residential care.** This is made up of private group homes, mentor apartments, and foster care.
- o **Orphan Outreach** to orphans in state care (orphanages and group homes. This involves highly relational weekly Christian clubs, humanitarian aid, dental care, & evangelistic summer camps.
- o **Cradle Care** to abandoned infants and toddlers in hospital wards, foster care and adoption.
- o **Prevention of Abandonment** to at-risk Roma (Gypsy) kids and poor families. This ministry offers weekly Christian clubs, humanitarian aid, educational and crisis intervention.
- o We have co-founded the **Romania Without Orphans Alliance** of orphan care providers to multiply out our efforts to learn from and to aid other like-hearted ministries throughout Romania
- o The goal of all programs is a discipleship process leading to life change and Church growth

## **SUCCESS INDICATORS:**

- o Full time residential care: 100+ children to date have been or remain in our guardianship care
- o Cradle care to abandoned babies providing human attachment, prayer, aid, and foster care/adoption; 12 hours per day with five full time staff members serving 7 days per week
- o Orphan outreach via Christian clubs meeting life needs: Maximized at 400 children per year
- o Gypsy village outreach: Maximized at 300 children per year via literacy, clubs, aid, camps
- o Train local volunteers in evangelism and discipleship: Average of 50 students trained per year
- o Annual expansion of teen discipleship groups made up of orphans, Roma teens, and local volunteers and partnership with local churches and new church plants
- o Host short term teams: Average of 120 short term mission trip participants annually

- o *Romania Without Orphans* Alliance national network of 60 national like-hearted organizations
- o Missionaries assisting full time Romanian staff: 40+ missionaries to date; 4 currently in country
- o Twenty full time Romanian national staff via Fundatia LOC partnership

### **PRAYER STRATEGY**

The Livada Prayer Team is virtually coordinated with an annual face-to-face meeting and monthly conference calls. Strategic urgent and weekly prayer requests are emailed to them directly for daily prayer on Livada's behalf.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Kerri Dunkelberger, Executive Director, Olive Crest, Orange County  
 Adrian Stanciu, President, AWANA International Romania  
 Daniel Maier, Engineer, Stefanini, Inc.  
 Viorel Gaga, Executive Director, Fundatia LOC  
 Bruce Thomas, Founder/Executive Director, Livada Orphan Care

### **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

*US Staff:* Bruce Thomas- Executive Director, Jennifer Howard, Finance Manager, Mauria Morrell, Operations Manager, Scott Rosene, Social Media/IT volunteer coordinator  
*RO Executive Staff:* Viorel Gaga, LOC Executive Director, Ramona Purescu Finance Manager, Rodica Maier- Group Homes Director, Sarah Moore- Orphan Outreach Director, Niss Tinca- Prevention of Abandonment Director, Mira Pogaceanu- Sponsorship Coordinator, Jo Fletcher- Cradle Care/Adoption Director, Emil Moldovan- Orphan Graduate, Mentor Apartment, and Gabi Simon-Foster Care Ministry Director, (plus 15 other Romanian staff members and 50+ local volunteers)

### **FUNDING PLAN:**

- o From four sources: 57% Individuals, 5% Businesses, 19% Churches, and 19% Grants.
- o Child Sponsorship, Corporate Matching, Foundation Grants, Church mission budgetary support, Fundraising Events, and monthly/annual donations from individuals are the main income venues
- o Mission trip administration fees and minor investments are the other sources of income
- o Our Board of Directors contributes 8% of our budget through these sources.
- o An active database of 3000 donors is communicated with monthly by email/quarterly letters.

### **RESULTS TO DATE:**

- o Today Livada weekly touches approximately 500+ orphans & at-risk kids and 300 poor families.
- o We host an average of 120 mission trip participants per year.
- o We have built and administrate three group homes, a counseling center, camp, & day center.
- o We have established private foster care, orphan grad care, & Christian mentor apartments.
- o Since our inception in 2001, Livada has raised over 20 million dollars.

### **CURRENT NEEDS:**

- o Sponsors to join sponsorship teams for private family-style care: It costs us \$550/month/child
- o Sponsors to join sponsorship teams to place abandoned infant in foster care: \$400/month/child
- o Sponsorship teams for outreach/Roma prevention of abandonment clubs: \$120/year/child
- o Project Needs:
  - o Day Center Greenhouse Project for Roma families and church plant partnership - \$350,000
  - o Group Home Renovation Projects -\$35,000
  - o New Counseling/LOC Office Facility final projects- \$50,000

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*"...a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." Isaiah 61:1-3*