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Your sponsorship for SOS Satul Copiilor Bucuresti

Dear Sir or Madam,

It's time again to celebrate Christmas, to see the joy on children's faces, opening the gifts under the Christmas tree! With this occasion, I write you this letter, to tell you a few words about children and life in the village, about events over the year. Welcome back in childhood times, near your little friends!



Summer activities and creativity, floral arrangements made by the children

For all children living in the village, summer holidays were great! One Saturday morning children dressed up for carnival with costumes and masks they made at creative workshop! You can imagine the enthusiasm and fun, because they couldn't recognize each other! They had a costume parade and got prizes for the most special disguising!

Making a movie must be fun and children could learn that too, acting and directing the theatre play 'Faust', rehearsed for many months before. 'We were glad to see children expressing their emotions and feelings on stage. It's a good exercise for the real life!' says Irina, the Program Director. Children learn communicating better, understanding the emotional side, developing and getting self-confidence.

For enjoying activities together, children from the community affected by poverty and at risk of separation from their families were invited to attend all events. There are 106 children and



Carnival with masks and costumes, summer 2018 in SOS Children's Village Bucharest

young people getting support together with their families through Centre of SOS Family Strengthening Program. Specialists of this Centre help 38 families developing alternatives and solving immediate problems that affect children's lives. One of these children is Paul* of 15 years old, coming from a family with nine brothers and sisters. 'Last autumn, Paul returned to school after two years of interruption' explains Adina, the Coordinator. Like Paul, all children from the program are encouraged to go to school



for integrating better in the society. Specialists of the Centre help them with counselling and support, stationary, clothing and a certain fund for education. 'It happens that parents learn reading and writing from their children' says Adina.

For elder children who moved from the village to SOS Youth Facilities, summer holiday was a time for fun and work! They visited places at the sea and mountains, some of them experienced part-time jobs. 'We encourage young people to set their plan for the future, for starting working on it' says Sorin, the Coordinator. Teenagers accomplish a few steps for reaching independence, assisted by advisors: they study for a few professional qualifications, for the driving license, then graduating school they start job applications. They leave SOS Youth Facility as adults ready to face life's challenges.

In SOS Children's Village Bucharest live today 68 children, including the young people from SOS Youth Facilities visiting their SOS moms for winter holidays. It is a family atmosphere in the houses these days, SOS moms are cooking, a nice smell of homemade sweets surrounds the place; children are noisy and excited, can't wait to meet Santa! These are the news about children living or assisted by SOS Children's Village Bucharest, established 25 years ago in the capital city of Romania. Since then, almost 200 children found here a home, a family and a mom to take care of them! Thank you for being part of the large SOS family, helping with your generous contribution and loving support! We wish you blessed winter holidays and a Merry Christmas!

Kindest regards,

(*the names of the children in the text have been changed for protecting privacy)

Luciana Georgescu
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator

