



Hotel Stefanie
Schick-Hotels Betriebs GmbH
Taborstraße 12
1020 Wien
Austria

Ref.: SOS Satul Copiilor Bucuresti

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Children learn Christmas carols and some dances, all dressed up in young elves! Emotions are high!

Dear Friends from Hotel Stefanie,

After a long and sunny autumn not much different from the summer excepting shorter days, trees till recently covered in yellow and red lost their final leaves! The winter is coming, hope to come with some snow, for the joy of all 50 children living in the SOS Children's Village Bucharest. Rehearsals for the end-of-year festivity just started and children prepare for Santa's coming few songs and dances, to make a good impression (and to get some nice, big presents ☺). Their friends will be here, watching the show, so you are invited to come, dear friend, to share with them the joy of the season! And if you will come, you will also hear them singing from door to door, on December 24th, knocking to every house from the

village, singing, laughing, getting sweets and hugs from SOS moms, like in a large, happy family which is the community of the village.

The English class with volunteer teacher

Some of the elder children from the village started to attend English classes, the little ones will follow them shortly, in a time when school is not the only source of information, and many interesting things can be read also on Internet. They have projects for history classes, geography and sciences, and they feel motivated to learn and find new information by themselves. And when it happens to go in a camp or trip abroad, like was the camp from Caldonazzo or the trip from Austria, to visit a SOS Children's Village, how enthusiastic they are because they can speak with children from different countries and cultures, getting new friends! In this way, children get new communication abilities, become more sociable and open, have the courage to try new things and explore new opportunities. Children develop for the challenging world where they will soon integrate with work and relationships. 'The village is a 'school for life' where children get all the skills and abilities they can learn for their independent lives' says Irina, the Program Director. The recently implemented program with volunteers from the country or abroad, well-coordinated and meant to cover all areas of interest for children's development, has its first good results, as children are eager to learn, more curious and co-operant as before! 'This summer we had the visit of a Circus artists from Norway, it was such a joy for the children to watch them and to try their gadgets!' says Irina, the Program Director. With other occasions, students are coming as volunteer teachers for helping children with exams for school. As for leisure activities, on permanent basis in the village children meet for the pottery workshop, enjoying to use their hands and get dirty with a good purpose ☺!



Young volunteers, mostly students, work with the children for learning English, math and Romanian, for general knowledge or for school exams



A new step for social integration: life in SOS Youth Facility



Young people in a short stop, from their 120 km one-day trip!

Growing as teenagers, children change the place, moving from the village to youth home, for starting their lives as semi-independent young people, learning new and new things. 'Of course the start is difficult, as any change, but after first semester of school they already adapt and change their perspectives' says Sorin, the Coordinator. Results are sometimes amazing, when young people start their first summer jobs: 'We experienced better results to school when they started working' explains Sorin, the Coordinator, and continues 'if working and earning their first money are motivating them, we encourage them to keep both school and part-time jobs'. Even so, young people have time for trips and camps to the mountains and seaside during summer holidays, and what worth to be mentioned is the 120 km trip by bike, completed in one

day by all young people and teachers: everybody took part with joy and determination, all 15 young people living to youth home. 'It was not an easy thing to do, a good experience and an occasion to help each other and to get to know better!' says Sorin, the Coordinator.

Help also for the community

In the social centre of SOS Children's Village Bucharest, specialists offer support for hundreds of families with children living in poverty, at risk of separation, facing complex problems of life. For every family with children, a good word, a good solution, some material help change everything! Families receive counselling and financial support for a minimum period of 6 months, but sometimes happens to receive support for many years until their situation improve.

Thanks to your support, children living in or being assisted by SOS Children's Village Bucharest will have a happy Christmas and hope for a good life. Thank you very much for being part of their lives! I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018!
Kindest regards,

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for every child