



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

15 December 2021

**Your sponsorship for SOS Children's Village Bucharest**

Dear Sir or Madam,

How have you been doing? I'm writing to you bearing good news about children, beautiful stories to melt your heart, even during these cold months of the year. But first, let me introduce myself: I'm Luiza and I am the national sponsor coordinator, here, in Romania. My job is to keep you informed about children you are sponsoring so generously, to bring you glimpses of their lives in this envelope you have just opened. Thank you so very much for your generosity and personal involvement, for making such a big difference in the lives of the children of Bucharest!



'The music is not in the notes, but in the silence in between' (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart)

At the time when I write this letter to you in October, COVID-19 is still influencing the lives of the children, young people, and families that we support in Romania. The situation changes regularly and we are doing our very best to make sure that the children, young people, and families stay healthy. We follow official guidelines to make sure they can continue to grow, and develop, and can continue to go to kindergarten, school, or training and take part in other activities.

**A visit that makes a lot of sense**

After a period of Covid related restrictions, when the children were involved in extremely limited events, the holiday season was very welcomed by all. For several children from the village, the vacation started with an exciting visit to the Museum of Senses in Bucharest. It was incredible! The children were keen to explore the different colorful rooms, weird mirrors, optical illusions, and adventures in the museum. 'The room with optical illusions was very cool. We had a lot of fun when we saw the pictures of us, because my SOS sister Veronica looked enormous compared to me, even though she is normally smaller', Elena laughs.



What is real and what is imagination? Reality is imagination and imagination is reality. Questions at the Museum of Senses in Bucharest

**When the village becomes a Musical Village**

But let me tell you about another very interesting experience children had this last summer. It's about



emotions and thoughts and how we can mindfully experience them. Children spent seven days at the Musical Village, an event where they were joined by professional musicians and, of course, the pedagogical team.

No, of course, they didn't learn how to play musical instruments in just one week, but do you know what they have learned? They learned how to let their emotions speak through their instruments. The children learned to create sounds using objects and to listen to their bodies, relaxing through music therapy. Without lyrics, without interruptions, without limiting words like 'right' or 'wrong'. Because there is no such thing as 'right' and 'wrong' when we talk about feelings. Right?

Marius and his little sister, Monica, who is 8 and 7 years old, told me about their experience. 'This way, it's easier to explain what we feel. If I am really hungry, I will just smash the drums harder. If Monica is upset, she will make some soft sounds with the violin. The only problem is to express what you feel when you're proud of something. Like when I was proud to see Monica making music in front of the other children, getting over her shyness' says Marius with a content smile. When I heard this, I realized how pure these moments are for the children and how they bring them closer to one another.

Musical Village project taught children about the power and excitement of music and showed them alternatives for their future. On the last day, each group presented their musical project, then we enjoyed a classical music concert together at the village patio. It is an essential experience they couldn't have had without you! So, let me be their violin and express their feelings towards you with a big 'thank you' on their behalf! This essential experience wouldn't have been possible without your sponsorship. Thanks to you, they will always remember how to sing their emotions. Please insert a photo of this if you have in the letter

Only thanks to your support could we teach these values to the children! Thank you once again for your involvement in children's lives! You are making a huge difference! They now can enjoy their childhood, like any other child of their age.

This is the news from the children of Bucharest. I will be glad to write to you more in the next letter.

I wish you all the best and stay in good health!

\*All names were changed in this letter due to data privacy.

Warm regards from Romania,  
Luiza

Luiza Moldovan  
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator