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Taborstraße 12
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Austria

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Update on SOS Children's Village Bucharest

Dear Team Hotel Stefanie,

I've been really looking forward to talking to you again! I hope you had a great spring and liked my last letter.

Here, the children are excited because summer break is coming, and there are many new activities.

In this letter, I'll tell you about the fun adventures in the village and our plans for the summer holiday.

On behalf of all children and families, I thank you for being our friend and I wish you a wonderful summer.

All names have been changed due to data privacy.

— Spring Games Day

As spring arrived, the whole village seemed full of new energy and excitement. The days became warmer, the sun shone brightly, and the children were eager to spend more time outdoors. After the long winter months, everyone was looking forward to enjoying the beautiful weather and making new memories together.

One sunny afternoon, the children were walking around the village, wondering what fun activity they could do. Seeing their excitement, one of the educators came up with a wonderful idea. He decided to organise the Spring Games.

The idea was simple but very special. Each child was paired with an adult from the village. Educators, caretakers, support staff, and even the director joined the event. Together, they formed teams and took part in a series of fun challenges. Some activities tested their speed and strength, while others encouraged them to



Rushing to the next challenge

think and work together. The teams raced, jumped, threw cones at targets, solved simple math problems, and competed in an exciting game of tug of war.

Children and adults came together for a day of teamwork and laughter

For many of the children, it was a unique opportunity to see the adults in a different light.

'It was so fun! We don't usually see the adults playing because they work a lot. Being part of a team with them was so cool!' said Rita with a big smile.

The games helped everyone get to know each other better and created a strong feeling of community. Winning was not the most important thing. What mattered most was spending time together, helping one another, and sharing moments of happiness.

'My favourite part was the tug of war because it was a game I had only seen in cartoons,' shared Mihai excitedly.

After all the challenges were completed, everyone gathered together to enjoy a well-deserved ice cream.

It was a day that reminded everyone how much fun can be found in simply spending time together.

— Welcoming spring

One of the most loved spring traditions in the village is making mărțișoare, small handmade gifts that celebrate the arrival of spring. Every year, the children look forward to this special activity, where they can use their creativity and prepare thoughtful gifts for their families, friends, and members of the community.

The workshop room quickly filled with excitement. Tables were covered with glue, colorful paper, clay, glitter, ribbons, and decorations. As music played in the background, the children worked side by side, sharing ideas and helping one another create beautiful designs.

'We always have a lot of fun making mărțișoare. We listen to music, laugh together, and there is so much color and glitter everywhere,' said Elena.

Children welcomed spring by creating colorful handmade gifts for their loved ones

The activity was a chance for the children to practice patience, teamwork, and kindness. They often helped each other with difficult steps and proudly admired one another's creations.



A table full of lovely gifts

'They are very careful and always ready to help each other. Seeing them work together like this fills my heart with joy,' said Ramona, one of the educators.

With smiles on their faces, the children packed their handmade gifts, excited to share them with their loved ones and welcome the new season together.

— Supporting young people as they step into adulthood

Turning 18 is often seen as freedom, but for young people leaving care it can feel like uncertainty. To support them SOS Children's Villages created the Transitional Living Spaces project. In

partnership with local social authorities, the project ensures that children and young adults leaving care are guided into our programs, so no one has to face adulthood alone.

This journey began in 2023, when the first space opened in Bacău for boys turning 18. Here, young people learn how to budget, save money, cook, and manage daily expenses while continuing their studies or searching for a job. In 2025, the support grew as a second space opened, this time for girls. Four young women have already moved in, building lives filled with independence and possibility.

Maria is one of them. She arrived while studying at university, carrying both hope and uncertainty. Today she is finishing her bachelor's degree, managing her savings, and planning for a master's program. 'I am safe here. I have people I can count on, and I know they will be there to help and guide me,' she says.

'We talk with young people to find the best solutions, whether changing jobs or adjusting to independent life, we are here for them', explains the pedagogue Laura.

I will be glad to write to you more in the next letter.

Until then, thank you for all your support. I wish you a wonderful summer.



Teodora Dragoi

National Sponsorship Co-ordinator