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## Your sponsorship for SOS Children's Village Bucharest

Dear Sir or Madam,

How have the past months been for you?

I hope you are well and healthy, ready for the winter and its magic that are right here. Summer and autumn have gone by very quickly for the children of the SOS village of Bucharest. The summer school-break began with unclarity whether anything memorable will happen due to the pandemic, yet the children were safe and had more unforgettable experiences than they expected. And do you know why? It's thanks to the kindhearted support you offer them, that changes their lives every day!



Artistic moment at the Children Got Talent contest in the village.

Where creativity can grow at home

Have you ever arranged the furniture in the living room when you were a child, to have more room to play? Sorina and her sisters did the same a lot of weekends during this summer. They needed space to have a 'stage' to perform their version of the TV show, Romania's Got Talent! 'Mom, can Ioana, Cristina and Lavinia come to our house on Friday evening? We want to watch Romania's Got Talent! And we need to move the sofa from the living room. We need more space to do our dance!' said Sorina to SOS mom Monica enthusiastically. This was happening a few weeks in a row and they would reassemble the living room so that the girls could watch Romania's Got Talent on TV together. And during the TV breaks, the living room would turn into the 'stage' for the four girls to do their dances and sing their favorite songs, just like they do in the TV show. Rounds of applause and lots of joyfulness would follow the performance from the living room each time. 'The girls were having such a positive outlook on life after each little performance in the living room' said mom Monica 'We had to take this to another level for them and find a way to involve more children'. And so the 'Children Got Talent' project began to get a shape during this



Eliza and her children in their future house.



summer. The SOS mothers and pedagogues formed a mighty team that organized the talent contest in the village – with a real jury, stage and auditions. Two months after, in the beginning of August, everything was set. Their moment had come!

#### Art means therapy and fun

A few weeks back, the children were preparing intensively, rehearsing, crafting their costumes, even writing their own songs. When the contest began, they were behind the stage, hearing the welcome speech of SOS pedagogue Cristina. The sun had just set and it was the beginning of the most awaited evening in the past year! 'Dear jury and audience, we would like to welcome you...' you could hear from the stage 'To Children Got Talent in the SOS village of Bucharest!' I can't put into words how the rest went! The songs, dances and costumes were spotless! There were ballerinas, rap songs, modern dances to name a few of the moments of the evening. More than two hours have gone by in the blink of an eye! The children, SOS mothers and pedagogues, the jury, guests and the whole village were having a prime time, about which they still talk to this day. After the contest, the children's therapeutically art journey continued during the school break. They did hand crafting workshops, film screenings in the village garden and even made a short movie sketch for a film festival! 'The talent contest and the idea of using art as therapy was a way of helping the children use their imagination in a positive way' said SOS pedagogue Cristina 'when the mind is busy being creative, the worries dissipate. This project did wonders for the children.' I wish you were here with them to see!

#### When nothing can stop you

Do you know that moment when you simply have to do your best? This is the story of Eliza, a single young mother of four, who is doing everything in her power to support her children. After separating from her husband, the challenges the family went through were big, but now they that they can be together again. 'Our living conditions are very modest and we are all living in one room' says Eliza. 'But the most important thing is that we're together. Now we're getting help from the SOS team to refurbish our house and have a kitchen and electricity' adds Eliza. She was very serious about this chance, that she had a few savings that she kept for this moment, which she used to get some of the building materials for the house. When you look around, you can see bare cement and unpainted walls. But the four children and their mother can see their little shelter they can't wait to decorate. They see the place where they will study, play together and have their dinners as a family. The children are smiling and running around in what now is the foundation of their future home. 'We're going to have the boys room!' you can hear them say 'nicăieri nu-i ca acasăăă!' they add. It means 'nowhere is like home' in Romanian. And fair enough, home is where safety and love are. It's lovely to see them getting settled in their future home. There are over 200 families like Eliza's, from vulnerable communities for whom SOS Children's Villages Romania offers support and guidance, so that they can be together and have a better future.



**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES**  
ROMANIA

For now, these were the news from the village of Bucharest and the communities nearby. Day by day, it snows a little and it all becomes a little cozier, despite the challenges and uncertainty. Thank you for making all of these things and memories possible for them! I will be glad to write to you more in the next letter.

Wishing you all the best for the New Year and a lot of health!  
(All names were changed in this letter due to data privacy.)

With warm regards from Romania,

**Teodora Nedelcu**  
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator