WHO ARE WE

HOLT ROMANIA – FOUNDATION OF CONSULTANCY AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES is a nongovernmental organization founded by HOLT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES, and has an experience of more than 15 years in child and family protection in Romania.

In 2006 HOLT ROMANIA – FOUNDATION OF CONSULTANCY AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES developed its activity at high professional standards in the **national headquarters** in **Constanta**, in **two sites** in **lasi** and **Tg. Mures** and in **two work offices: Medgidia** and **Sighisoara**, with well-trained professional staff.



Holt Romania's mission is to offer every child the chance to have a family of his own.

Our mission is accomplished by developing and implementing social services aimed at:

- Maintaining children in their biological families, when it is possible and safe, with a view to avoid abuse, neglect, institutionalization and abandonment;
- ? Family reintegration of institutionalized children when this is done to the superior interest of the child:
- ? Placement of children eligible for adoption in Romanian adoptive families.

The general objectives of Holt Romania are:

- ? To support children and their families in order to reduce risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation institutionalization, abandonment;
- ? To promote the right of the child to have a family of his own and to benefit from complex social services:
- ? To develop and implement programs aimed at maintaining the family unit, domestic adoption and parent education;
- ? To develop training and technical support programs, seminars, conferences and other activities with the purpose to develop and strengthen and empower local authorities, nongovernmental organizations and local communities to offer professional social services in child protection;
- ? To cooperate with Romanian and foreign organizations developing social services for children and families and to establish effective partnerships.

The social services provided by our organization in 2006 had the following results:

- ? 13 children were placed for adoption
- ? 11 children were reunited with their biological families
- ? 802 children remained in their biological families

The wonderful **team** of **permanent staff** employed with our organization, those who have unconditionally dedicated their time, knowledge, enthusiasm and energy to achieving the 2006 objectives, consists of the following people:

Constanta national headquarters and Medgidia work office:

- Livia Trif, Executive Country Director
- Mina Negutu, Social Work Supervisor
- Carmen Alexe, Chief Accountant
- ∠ Ludovic Fraico, Psychologist/Resource Coordinator
- Galantonu Bogdana-Raluca, Special Teacher/ Office Assistant
- ∠ Loredana Turiceanu, Social Worker in the « Domestic Adoption » and « Parent Education » programs
- ∠ Margareta Marin, Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs Medgidia
- **Steliana Alexandru**, Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education »

Mures site and Sighisoara work office:

- Elisabeta Buscu, Site Director
- Ada Gabor, Social Worker in the « Domestic Adoption » and « Parent Education » programs
- ∠ Georgeta Salanta, Social Worker in the « Crisis Intervention » and « Parent Education » programs
- Kamelia Borsa, Social Worker in the «Crisis Intervention» and «Parent Education» programs
- Simona Colceriu, Social worker in the « Long Term Foster Care for Groups of Siblings» program

lasi site:

- Stefan Coiocaru Site Director
- ✓ Vasiliu Catalin Accountant/Office Assistant
- ∠ Dumitriu Diana Alexandra Social Worker in the «Domestic Adoption» and «Parent Education» programs
- **Zagan Iuliana Odeta** Social Worker in the «Crisis Intervention» and «Parent Education» programs
- **Diaconescu Anca** Social Worker in the UNICEF program in cooperation with the lasi Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection
- **Doncila Petronela** Social Worker in the UNICEF program in cooperation with the lasi Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection
- **Patras Donose Smaranda** in the UNICEF program in cooperation with the lasi Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection
- Roxana Croitor, in the UNICEF program in cooperation with the Vaslui Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection

I. DEVELOPED PROGRAMS

1. PREVENTION OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION, INSTITUTIONALIZATION, ABANDONMENT AND MAINTAINING THE FAMILY UNIT BY CRISIS INTERVENTION

Program financed entirely by Holt International Children's Services

Services provided

- ? Counseling;
- ? Information (on legislation, family planning, health education, child care and upbringing);
- ? Moral support;
- ? Material aid;
- ? Alternative solutions to surpass the crisis situation;
- ? Alternative solutions regarding the child's future;
- ? Identifying and accessing community resources.

Achieved results;

- ? In 2006 services were provided to a number of:
- ? 35 **children** institutionalized/abandoned in hospitals (maternity sections or pediatrics sections)
- ? 1241 children at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, institutionalization, abandonment
- ? 27 **families** with a view of reintegration
- ? **829 families** counseled to keep the family unit
- ? 4 pregnant women counseled
- ? 450 **new families** assisted financially

The Holt Romania social workers made **sponsorship reports** for **710 children** under this program.

































Children assisted by Holt Romania

2. DOMESTIC ADOPTION

Program financed by Holt International Children's Services and World Learning, by ChildNet Program, DOMESTIC ADOPTION Project

Services provided:

- ? Identification, evaluation and preparation of families willing to adopt a child;
- ? Identification, evaluation and preparation of children eligible for adoption;
- ? Complex pre-adoption and post-placement assistance for families;
- ? Training for domestic adoption specialists;
- ? Training and counseling adoptive parents in order to found Adoptive Parents Associations.

Achieved results:

In 2006, **22 children eligible for adoption** and **52 adoptive families** benefited from specific services under this program.

In 2006 the "Domestic Adoption" project continued, financed by **World Learning**, through the **ChildNet** program, and developed in 12 counties in the country (4 core counties: Constanta, lasi, Mures and Bucharest and other 8 target counties: Braila, Buzau, Suceava, Bacau, Dambovita, Giurgiu, Alba and Covasna). The duration of the project was 18 months. In 2006 the following notable activities were developed:

- ∠ Further development of pre and post- adoption services in the 12 counties involved in the project
- Developing a continuum of services characteristic of domestic adoption
- Preparing and developing post-adoption services in the 12 counties involved in the project
- Quarterly project evaluations and evaluation of the Adoptive Parents Associations activities

Once the new legislation on domestic adoption came into force on January 1st, 2005, the process registered an obvious drawback, especially from the point of view of cases finalized with

a Court's Decision. Although there are still many abandoned children, very few of them have become eligible for adoption due to a very complex child evaluation process. It is for the first time in Romania when the number of families willing to adopt has been greater than the number of children declared eligible for adoption. It is absolutely necessary to resize the communication and close cooperation between all parties involved in declaring a child eligible for adoption in order to make the process smoother and more fluid.

3. LONG TERM FOSTER CARE FOR GROUPS OF SIBLINGS

Program financed by LIFT THE CHILDREN Foundation, CA, S.U.A.

Objective:

Offering institutionalized children a stabile family environment.

Services provided:

- ? Permanent assistance throughout the placement consisting in information and counseling;
- ? Supervision of children placed in the temporary families and of their evolution throughout the placement;
- ? Monthly financial support for the foster families in order to ensure the best conditions for the children in placement;
- ? Additional support: furniture, clothing, transport, medical care for children;
- ? supporting children with private tutors for the subjects they have difficulties in;

PROGRAM'S HISTORIC:

From 1999- 2005 there have been placed in foster care seven groups of siblings; abandoned children or orphans from placement institutions.

In 2006, five groups of siblings have been relocated in family type apartments and only one group remained in foster care.

The children have ages from 5 to 22; two of them are students in Cluj

Achieved results:

In 2006 we have provided services for:

- ? 14 children and 3 families
- ? a group of three siblings placed in foster care
- ? five groups of siblings placed in two family type apartments







The program is developed only in Mures county, and the entire activity is coordinated by a Holt Romania social worker located in Sighisoara, where most of the children and families are.

4. PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT/ EARLY EDUCATION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF LIFE

Program financed by UNICEF Romania.

Period: August 2006- January 2007

The project throughout its two components – the information/ education campaign, and the regional conferences – aimed to promote the importance of early education and the importance of the first three years of life, as a critical period for the child's future development.

Part 1: The education and information campaign of the large audience, parents and all the factors interested about the importance of early education and the first three years of life. The information offered by means of educative/ instructive materials specially produced and through the mass- media, point out the way in which the child's first three years of life have a crucial influence upon his future physical, mental, emotional, psychological and social development. The campaign will take place in partnership with: a local television station, a local radio station and a high audience newspaper, in each of the three fundamental counties of the project: Constanta, Iasi, Mures: Radio Constanta, Jurnalul de Constanta, Cuget Liber, TVR Iasi, Radio Iasi, Ziarul de Iasi, PRO TV Tg. Mures, Radio Tg. Mures, 24 de Ore Muresene.

Part 2: There have been organized three regional conferences in Constanta, lasi and Mures, with participants from all the fundamental counties, as well as from other six neighboring regions (lalomita, Braila, Vaslui, Bacau, Bistrita- Nasaud and Covasna) on the importance of early education and the first three years of life for the child's harmoniously development subject. These conferences looked after the implication of all those interested in the aspect, from all the communities involved, basic or neighboring (mayors, local councilors, community workers, medical staff, educators, etc.), in promoting early education and the importance of the first three years of life for his future development.

Objectives:

The project's general objective:

Protecting and promoting the young child's rights (0- 3 years old) throughout informing and educating the large audience, the parents and all the liability factors, regarding early education.

Specific objectives:

1. Organizing information and education campaigns regarding *Development/ Child's early education and the importance of the first three years of life* in Constanta, lasi and Mures counties

2. Organizing three regional conferences in Constanta, lasi and Mures with the participation of all the liability factors from rural, small- city and county residence communities, with the participation of 9 counties (3 fundamental counties: Constanta, lasi and Mures, and 6 neighbouring ones: lalomita, Braila, Vaslui, Bacau, Bistrita and Covasna) in order to promote the Development/ Early education and the importance of the first three years of life, for the child's future growth.

Acquired **results**:

- There have been realized and distributed 1000 brochures (calendars) of the project: "The first three years of life- the most important ones!"
- There have been realized and distributed 1000 folds of the project: "The first three years of life- the most important ones!"
- There have been realized and distributed 450 posters of the project: "The first three years of life- the most important ones!"
- There have been organized three regional conferences in Constanta, Tg.Mures and lasi, with the participation of 150 liability factors from rural, small- city and county residence communities: Constanta, Ialomita, Braila, Iasi, Bacau, Vaslui, Mures, Bistrita-Nasaud si Covasna.
- There have been implemented 9 partnerships with the mass- media from the three fundamental counties.





Tg.Mures Regional Conference (November 13th and 14th)





lasi Regional Conference (November 16th and 17th)





Constanta Regional Conference (November 22nd and 23rd)

5. PREVENTING ABANDONMENT IN THE MATERNITIES FROM VASLUI AND IASI

Program financed by UNICEF Romania

Objective: Supporting new mothers by offering them information regarding child's development and early education.

Acquired Results:

- Preparing and distributing 400 "Welcome Baby" bags with informational and educational materials and clothes for the child.
- Endowing 2 welfare offices in the two maternities partners in the project.







6. DEVELOPING INTEGRATED SOCIAL SERVICES BASED ON APPRECIATIVE METHODS IN THE IASI COUNTY

Project financed by UNICEF Romania.

In 2006, Holt Romania –lasi site, in collaboration with the Social Services and Child Protection General Office in lasi has promoted a project financed by UNICEF Romania, which endorsed two important aspects regarding social services' development. It was intended for the children and families in crisis situation from lasi county.

Component 1: Monitoring and improving foster care services in rural area is aimed at improving the quality of foster care services in the rural area of lasi county, as well as evaluation, monitoring and placement intervention in foster care, development of a unitary monitoring system and of a community intervention methodology by involving and empowering the community social worker.



Parental education classes in Raducaneni, lasi county



Parental education classes in Dobrovat, lasi county

Component 2: Experimenting integrated social services to prevent abandonment and institutionalization by involving the local community – it is aimed at optimizing the way the local authorities manage the decentralization of responsibilities in the social care field and become involved in developing integrated services focused on families and children, on developing, supporting and involving community support groups, on involving community medical assistants in providing integrated community services, on establishing a unitary evaluation scale of the risk of child abandonment, on applying appreciative methods in community intervention. Within this component, there have been organized 10 parental education classes for the parents from 5 villages in lasi county: Dobrovat, Belcesti, Lungani, Raducaneni si Scobinti.

6. DEVELOPING PARENTAL SKILLS IN LONG TERM FOSTER CARE FOR GROUPS OF SIBLINGS' COUPLES

Project financed by DGASPC Mures

The project's beneficiaries were 16 long term foster care for groups of siblings' couples. Within this project there have been two parental education classes: one in Reghin county (January 17th – March 30, 2006) and one in Tg. Mures county (March 15th – May 30, 2006).

Acquired results:

- 32 parents participated in parental education classes
- 70 children benefited from services under this project

7. ONGOING EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL FOSTER CARE ASSISTANTS

Project financed by Mures City Hall

The project consisted in organizing four parental education classes for professional foster care assistants in: Tg.Mures (June 5th – June 16th, 2006); Tarnaveni (July 6th - July 11th, 2006); Sighisoara (August 21st – August 24th) and Reghin (October 23rd – October 26th).



Results acquired:

- 63 professional foster care assistants participated to parental education classes:
- 146 children benefited from services under this project

8. ACCOUNT IN THE COMMUNITY

Project financed by the Communitarian Relationships Association in Cluj - Napoca.

The project Account in the community offered an intensive learning program which aimed to improve the practice of raising funds from the community.

The project's activities were:

Module I, January 24th – January 27th, 2006, Sumuleu, Miercurea Ciuc "Preparing the organization for attracting funds. Internal and external context"



The following themes have been approached:

- attracting funds myths
- ? internal and external context
- ? present image of the organization in attracting funds
- ? organization's position in attracting funds
- ? types of donors and their motivations

Module II, Methods of attracting funds, April 26th - April 29th, 2006

- ? creativity and messages for attracting funds
- ? methods of attracting/ raising funds (donations, requests in public places, special events, mail-invitations, wage donations, dues)
- ? abilities and attitudes necessary in fund raisings
- ? raising funds activity's evaluation





Advices offered at the organizations' offices during May - September 2006

Module III, planning and managing funds raising, September 6th- 8th, 2006

- ? elaborating the strategy for funds raising
- ? implicating the entire organization in attracting funds
- ? preparing human resources for funds raisings
- ? the management of information in attracting funds
- ? financial management
- ? the ethic of funds raising

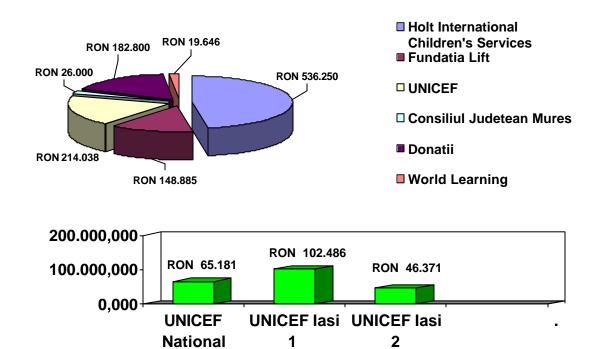
At the end of the program, a realistic strategy of funds raising has been implemented. It was completed by a positive attitude, new methods and new types of donors approached.

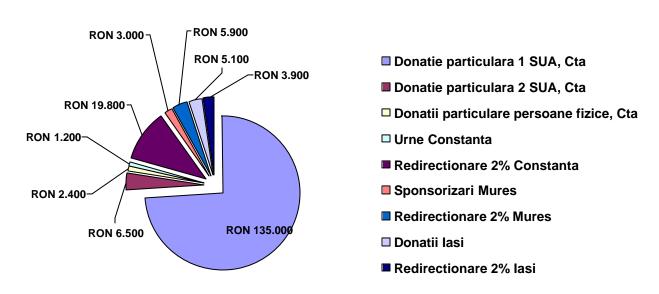




II. BUDGET

For the year 2006 Holt Romania – FCSSCF had a **total budget** of **1.127.619 RON**; the main financer being Holt International Children's Services, Eugene, Oregon, SUA, which is also our founding member.





III. OTHER NOTABLE ACTIVITIES

- ? On January 10, 2006 Holt Romania FCSSCF team has enforced and celebrated for the first time *Holt Romania Foundation's Day*. Hereby, January 10, the day when our foundation has been for the first time registered with the court, is going to be celebrated every year as *Holt Romania Foundation's Day*.
- ? Between March 8, 2006 and March 10, 2006, Holt Romania Foundation organized a retreat in Sugas-Bai, Covasna County. All members of the organization, from all Holt sites in the country attended the meeting.





- Puring March 12th- 21st, 2006, Livia Trif, Executive Director of the foundation participated to the International Conferences organized by the child's protection departments in Tomsk and Novosibirsk Siberia (Russia).
- ? During March 21st 28th, 2006, Natasha Goncearova, the East- European and Asia Director of Holt International Children's Services visited Holt Romania FCSSCF. Natasha toured through Constanta, Medgidia, Tg.Mures and Sighisoara.
- ? Holt Romania foundation promoted during April 1st May 15th, the campaign "It cost you nothing to be generous", which aimed at redirecting a 2% percent from the income's tax.
- Puring April 10th- 21st, 2006, a team of specialists from Holt, represented by Ada Gabor, Diana Dumitriu and Ludovic Fraico organized and carried on the initial shaping of the personnel from family type houses in Olt county.



? On April 12, 2006 Stefan Cojocaru, lasi site Director, participated in Bucharest to the UNICEF gala, an event organized in order to raise funds for the "Welcome Baby" program. ? In the park situated downtown of Tg.Mures, Holt Romania branch participated between May 8 and 10 to the annual fair of nongovernmental organizations.

? Between May 18th and 22nd, 2006, Livia Trif, executive Director of Holt Foundation participated in capacity of an international expert to the conference regarding the



"Improvement of Methodology and Mechanisms on Realization of Activities Aimed to Development of Alternative Forms of Placing the Orphan Children", organized by the Women's League of Creative Initiative, in Alma – Ata, Kazakhstan.

? On June 2nd, 2006, 12 children assisted by Holt Foundation, participated to a special event organized in Constanta by Romtelecom with the International Child's Day occasion.



? Between July 15th and August 18th, 2006 took place the 5th edition of "Summer School in Welfare", which had as main theme "Creativity Stimulation. How to use creativity in social practice". This year edition has been organized by *Holt Romania- lasi site* in collaboration with "Al.I.Cuza" University from lasi, Philosophy Faculty, Sociology and Social Work department, Stagefever Foundation from Holland, Opjono Foundation from Belgium,



Somepro Foundation from Belgium, DGASAPC lasi, DGASAPC Vaslui, "Hello Children from Romania" Association in Vaslui and "Hello, Kinderen in Roemenie" from Holland. Within the Summer School in Welfare, the activities developed on the premises of Bucium Complex of Services and "Guliver" Placement Center. The participants were represented by 10 students, who have been previously selected by means of interview at Holt România, lasi Site and by the "Guliver" Placement Center personnel. As a consequence of all the activities developed

within the Summer School in Welfare, it was published the *Creativity Stimulation Handbook.* How to use creativity in social practice, which represents a way of drawing the attention of all the welfare's field professionals; it also offers some practical examples of how one can stimulate creativity through theatre, dance, music, painting and sports – all of these are some useful sources of inspiration.

? During July- September 2006, 8 members of Holt Romania – FCSSCF team in Constanta, participated and received a certificate of graduation as *Trainers*, from the National Council of Professional Training for Adults.

- During August- October 2006, Livia Trif, national executive director, represented the foundation within the team which mediated the process of merging the two federations activating in Child Protection field: PROCHILD and FONPC. The general convention took place on October 13th, 2006 in Bucharest.
 Between 16th and 25th of October, Livia Trif, Stefan Cojocaru and Elisabeta Buscu
- ? Between 16th and 25th of October, Livia Trif, Stefan Cojocaru and Elisabeta Buscu participated to the International Conference for the 50th anniversary of Holt International Children's Services "Looking Forward A Global Response to Homeless Children". The conference took place in Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A.





? On December 6, 2006, Holt Romania – FCSSCF, participated with its own stand to the NGO's fair, organized by Green Peace on the premises of « Ovidius » University.





• In December 2006, Holt Romania – lasi site offered case management training classes for case managers within the Social Services and Child Protection General Office and the personnel from the Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped People in Sasca Mica, Suceava county.

? Under the name "On holidays, 1% rendered to community", Holt Romania's team organized two special events: one in Constanta on December, 20th and one in Medgidia on December, 18th. As part of these events, with the support of all contributors who in 2005 have readdressed 1% in favour of Holt Romania's beneficiaries, there have been bought and offered 100 packages with presents consisting in toys, school supplies and sweets to children from Constanta and Medgidia, social cases of our foundation.





• Special events on occasion of Yuletide have also been organized in the kindergarten from Valea Izvoarelor, Tg. Mures County on December 20th, and in lasi on December 21st.





PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

- ? Constanta, Ialomita, Braila, Iasi, Bacau, Vaslui, Mures, Bistrita-Nasaud and Covasna Local Councils.
- ? Constanta, lasi and Mures Social Services and Child Protection General Offices.
 - Navodari Town Hall
 - Baneasa Town Hall
 - Castelu Town Hall
 - Cobadin Town Hall
 - Corbu Town Hall
 - ∠ Cumpana Town Hall
 - M.Kogalniceanu Town Hall
 - Racovita Town Hall
 - Marasu Town Hall
 - Movila Miresii Town Hall
 - Gradistea Town Hall
 - Viziru Town Hall

 - ✓ Facaeni Town Hall
 - ✓ Ion Roata Town Hall
 - Movilita Town Hall

 - Traianu Town Hall
 - Andrieseni Town Hall
 - Belcesti Town Hall
 - Cotnari Town Hall

 - Popricani Town Hall

 - ✓ Juvesti Town Hall
 - Lipovat Town Hall
 - Tutova Town Hall
 - Zorleni Town Hall
 - Filipesti Town Hall
 - ∠ Cleja Town Hall

 - ∠ Colonesti Town Hall
 - ∠ Lipova Town Hall
 - ∠ Iernut Town Hall
 - Sancraiu de Mures Town Hall
 - Grebenisu de Campie Town Hall

- Raciu Town Hall
- Acatari Town Hall
- Band Town Hall
- Nasaud Town Hall
- Budacu de Jos Town Hall
- Dumitrita Town Hall
- ∠ Teaca Town Hall
- ✓ Sfantu Gheorghe Town Hall
- Bretcu Town Hall
- Borosneu Mare Town Hall
- ∠ Valcele Town Hall

- "Al.I. Cuza" University from Iasi

Relationships - ARC Romania

Psychologists' and Special

Teachers' Association PROCIVITAS

Association

Regional Center of Resources for

Non governmental Organizations

CENTRAS Constanta

- ∠ Alsacian Group Constanta
- Stefanescu Sorin S.C. Toni's

Trade S.R.L. Constanta

- S.C. Costheva S.R.L. Constanta

- ∠ Arabesque Store
- ∠ Carrefour Constanta

"The little girl with a doll's face"

I met Sinen and her young parents on a cold day of February...

My mind and my soul will probably retain for a very long time those s

My mind and my soul will probably retain for a very long time those stirring images...

I thought I knew, or at least that I could imagine how poverty, misery and pain look like... But when I entered the house where little Sinen and her parents were living, I understood that life can be much more than miserable and ruthless.



The cold, the hunger, the lack of current water and electricity transformed this family's existence in a continuous and unfair struggle. The night falls upon the house alleviating their pain through sleep and oblivion, only with the promise of a sweet dream, about a beautiful morning when the struggle will stop, the sun will rise and every day from that moment forward, will be a wonderful story... But the morning continues to be cruel; it ruins the beautiful dream and the struggle starts once again...



The two parents, much too younger and without any experience, have their moments of renunciation, of surrender, and only the little girl's innocent eyes give them the strength to go on...

The fact that they cannot offer their little girl a happy childhood, pretty clothes, healthy food and what a child should never miss: toys, hurts the two parents more than anything.

It may seem unbelievable, but little Sinen's fingers never caressed a toy...Her senses never enjoyed this beautiful gift of childhood...



This little girl with the face of doll never had a doll... Why?!

Without any support and overwhelmed with burdens, Sinen's parents requested Holt Romania Foundation's support. Since then, there have been some positive changes in their life; they became more optimistic and more motivated in their efforts to have a better future. The social worker offered the young family moral and financial support (food supplies, clothes and diapers) in order to help them surpass at least part of the difficulties. Moreover, Sinen received her first doll...



Loredana Turiceanu Holt Romania - FCSSCF social worker