



**HHC
România**

O casă și o familie
pentru fiecare copil

Hope & Homes for Children România

adresă: Bd. București nr. 2A

Baia Mare, Maramureș, România

telefon: +40 262 227419 fax: +40 362 805544

email: office@hhc.ro site: www.hhc.ro

ANNUAL REPORT

1. Special Olympics at Hope and Homes for Children Romania - Winter Edition 2015

Even if it was the 13th edition, it was by no means unlucky. We had a great event, beautiful weather and a lot of happy kids and youngsters!



For most of us a day on a ski slope is quite a common thing, but for children with special needs it is very unusual and challenging. While we, in the city, were hardly waiting for the snow to melt, the children and youngsters from the child protection services were anxious to participate in the sports competition dedicated to them. Organizing the Winter Special Olympics became a tradition for Hope and Homes for

Children Romania, we launched again the invitation to partake in winter sports.

We are already at the 13th edition of the Olympiad, a sports event dedicated to the people with special needs in our county. When we started this project with you, we had around 80 participants, this time we



had 166. We are proud to

say that we are growing with the event from year to year. We expected to have 178, but one bus had to turn back because some kids got car sick. The road through the mountains is challenging. But we sent them the presents, T-shirts, diplomas and the medals.

We had children and adults from 21 services, 16 small family homes from Baia Mare, Sighetu Marmatiei and

Viseu, 1 Day Centre for Children with special needs from Baia Mare, the Adults' Home from



Sighetu Marmatiei and 3 other NGO's from our county (ASSOC, Esperando and AXA). Around 30 staff members were looking after the children. They were from the small family homes, our own staff, and some volunteers from BRD Societe Generale Bank. As I told you before, this is the bank we have a long term contract with. They are the main donor for our operations in Romania. For the next two years they will give us money for prevention and educational programs. Part of their money is coming from their

employees, so we are trying to involve them in our activities with the children, especially the children with special needs. I believe it was important for bank employees to see children with special needs in a nice environment, happy and proud about their performance.



We met the children and youngsters on March 6th 2013, at Icoana skiing track in Cavnic at 11 o'clock, the same ski slope as usual. The owner is very kind and he let us use his facilities for free. The weather was excellent, sunny, no wind at all, and it was not too cold, around 3-5 grades Celsius. So everybody enjoyed a nice day in nature.

As always, the children and the youngsters were divided into 12 teams: *lady-birds, butterflies, hearts, snow drops, cats, bees, tulips, stars, ponies, poppies, snow-men and daisies*. We chose the division with the kids for an easier way to coordinate them and the events. Each team had their sign on their clothes. And each team had two team leaders from the staff, to engage them in all the activities. We chose a series of sports activities, various types of sledge races, race among the poles, snow football,



relay race, throwing the circle, building snowmen. Because we had such an impressive number of participants, we started with two new games, tic-tac-toe on snow, and snow hopscotch. To keep spirits high and children attentive, parallel to carrying on the sports events we had entertaining



activities (songs, snow angels, balloons). We also allocated time for a lunch break in order to restore our energy, the children and the staff received sandwiches, sweets and sodas. We bought the sandwiches from ASSOC NGO, who are running a catering service employing people with special needs. Some of the participants were involved in making the sandwiches.

For their valiant efforts, the children were rewarded with diplomas and t-shirts to remind them about this edition of the Olympics, all of them were declared big winners and returned home with medals. The t-shirt's model may be seen in the document *olimpiada.doc*. We try every year to have new models of t-shirts because they are very important for the children. The diplomas also are different from an edition to the other, many of the participants keep the diplomas in the place of honor in their rooms.



All these would not have been possible without your contribution: Bridges for New Beginnings, from the United States of America. We thank you for not forgetting the Romanian children and youngsters. This is a great joy for them. It is a nice memory which they cherish and recall often and fondly. For a while after the event, if you visit the small family homes or the services they come from, you are bound to hear only about the adventures from the Winter Olympics

It was an unforgettable day for the children involved in this event, being a good occasion to see their friends from other places and also to make new friends.

The event was promoted in several ways, on HHC's website, on Facebook, on Stefan's blog, there were posters in the key points in the city but also in the written and online media, TV interviews a.s.o. As you will see in the photos the children were TV stars for a day, they were so happy to speak with the microphone. These links are a few of the appeared articles:

<http://www.ziareaz.ro/ziaare/articole/ziaar-online-maramures/concurs--peste-150-de-tineri-si-copii-institutionalizati-au-participat-la-olimpiada-speciala-de-iarna--organizata-de-hhc-romania-video.html>

<http://www.emaramures.ro/stiri/111573/CONCURS-Peste-150-de-tineri-si-copii-institutionalizati-au-participat-la-Olimpiada-speciala->

<http://www.emaramures.ro/Video-Maramures/21505/VIDEO-CONCURS-Peste-150-de-tineri-si-copii-institutionalizati-au-participat-la-Olimpiada-speciala-de-iarna-organizata-de-HHC-Romania>

<http://www.hhc.ro/comunicare/noutati/o-zi-de-neuitat>

<http://ziarimm.ro/cum-fost-la-olimpiada-de-iarna-pentru-copii-si-tineri-cu-nevoi-speciale-video/>

<http://www.actualmm.ro/olimpiada-speciala-tineri-de-la-esperando-s-au-intrecut-pe-partiile-de-la-cavnic/>

<http://jurnalmm.ro/9-tineri-de-la-esperando-la-olimpiada-speciala-de-iarna-de-la-cavnic/>

<http://www.esperando.ro/evenimente/tinerii-de-la-esperando-la-olimpiada-speciala-de-iarna-de-la-cavnic-207>

Special Olympics budget

items	item	Cost (LEI) /item	Total COST(LEI)	Total Cost (USD)	observations
Sport equipment					
balls	5	15 lei	75 lei	\$20,0	
gymnastic hoops	5	20 lei	100 lei	25,6	
snow tubing					
Logistik					
Posters	15	12	180	\$46,2	A3
Diplomas for children and young adults	170	5	850	\$218,0	A4
Diplomas for staff and volunteers	35	5	175	\$45,0	A4
Tshirts	205	40	8200	\$2.102,0	
medals	170	5	850	\$218,0	
Clothing and shoes					
winter trousers	36	40	1520	\$389,7	medium price
hats	40	20	800	\$205,0	medium price
gloves	70	20	1400	\$359,0	medium price
boots	36	50	1800	\$462,0	medium price
Food and Drinks					
sandwich	205	8	1640	\$420,5	
hot tea	205	3	615	\$158,0	
presents	170	10	1700	\$435,0	candies, chocolates, wafers, fruit juices
napkins, wet wipes and cups, plastic bags		200	150	\$39,0	
Transport					
bus rental	1	1500	1500	\$390,0	From Sighet to Cavnic and back
fuel for a minibus for 8 children and 1 staff	1	350	350	\$90,0	From Viseu to Cavnic and back
fuel for a minibus for the young adults	1	200	200	\$51,2	From the adults home from Sighet to Cavnic and back
fuel for the day centre minibus	1	200	200	\$51,2	From Baia Mare to Cavnic and back
bus rental	1	1200	1200	\$307,0	From Baia Mare to Cavnic and back
Entertainment					
balloons, face painting	8	65	520	\$133,0	
TOTAL			24.025 lei	\$6.139,8	

Thank you very much for your support again. For the kids, this event means so much.

REKA FILIP
External Relations & PR
Hope and Homes for Children Romania

2. Training on IMPACT

This year we successfully launched our e-learning programme and we recently included among the courses it delivers the training on our IMPACT programme. We completed the training for **50 professionals working directly with children in** 3 counties of our direct intervention.

Following an unfortunate incident that took place at the end of the summer in a small family home for children with special needs in Bucharest Sector 6 – a youngster from the home was filmed by a neighbour as he was tied with a cloth to a garage door and left there by a staff member – we offered our partner Child Protection Departments the possibility for their staff to enrol in the specialised courses (Impact and Management of Challenging Behaviour) from our e-learning platform.

As a result, we received several requests from county child protection authorities (from Bucharest Sector 6, Sibiu and Suceava) to deliver this specialised training to their direct care staff.

Therefore, this year we managed to complete the training of 11 staff members from Bucharest Sector 6 Child Protection Department (CPD) on the Management of Challenging Behaviour. During these training sessions, we discussed topics such as the development of independent living skills, the use of Specialised Intervention Plans and case studies on how to put into practice the information acquired about the management of challenging behaviour.

The trainees learnt how independent skills are formed based on the child's age group and level of development, as well as how to approach and intervene in situations when challenging behaviour occurs and to apply behaviour intervention methods to reduce or eliminate challenging behaviour.

All the topics were thoroughly discussed with the trainees and special attention was paid to the practical part of the course. Case studies were developed to encompass themes such as specific intervention programmes and challenging behaviour.

The activities were interactive and the participants were encouraged to participate actively. The training material was delivered through methods such as: brainstorming, problem-solving, group discussions, work sheets. There was high interest especially related to the use of certain work charts and methods for activity planning (such as the monthly calendar for monitoring behaviour).

We also began the training process on Impact for 39 staff members from Bucharest Sector 6 CPD and Suceava CPD. The trainees have covered the first 3 lessons of the course and they will continue with the rest of it during the following weeks.

We estimate to train on the abovementioned topics a further 50 direct care staff and specialists from partner authorities during the following year.