



**Casa Buna  
Association**  
—  
Activity  
Report 2021

# Us in 2021

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In 2021 we were courageous. We took off like a rocket into the unknown, we embraced the challenges and we grew fast.

We left our comfort zone, and it wasn't easy. But as we all know, we grow the most outside of our comfort zone.

We were surrounded by love, trust and support, which gave us the confidence to do more than we ever imagined.

The kids were amazing. Always cheerful, engaged and waiting for us with open arms.

We didn't know when to stop, when to look back, and when to celebrate our successes. So this is the purpose of this report.



Growth

—

2021 in numbers



Education

## Education at Casa Buna

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In 2021 the children's educational needs were our top priority. We improved existing programs, launched new projects and continued good practices.

We increased the number of children taking part in one-to-one online tutoring and we improved the quality of the tutoring.

We helped the children to learn through play. They were rewarded for their efforts with points, which they traded for prizes.

We praised them, they felt proud, and they told everyone about it.

From day to day, their confidence increased.

Online  
tutoring

Camps  
at  
Casa  
Buna

8th grade  
exam  
preparation

Saturday  
Kindergarten



# Online tutoring

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Since the start of the pandemic, week to week, our kids and their volunteers have met online for lessons on “Scaip” (Skype).

They practice reading, writing, math and sometimes even English. For each lesson, they receive points which they save up to trade for prizes.

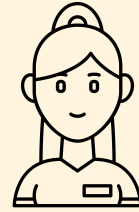
The volunteers are no longer strangers on the computer screen. They have become part of the kids’ families. Along with lessons, they are always ready to help out with a bit of advice or a kind word to help the kids build self-confidence.

Officially, we are running a remedial education program tailored to the needs and the level of each child. Unofficially, we are trying to raise good people.



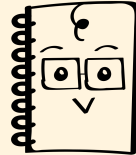
**275**  
**children**

worked online with  
their volunteers in  
2021



**302**  
**volunteers**

helped the kids with  
math, Romanian and  
more



**12,410**  
**hours**

of online tutoring  
took place in 2021



**126**  
**prizes**

were earned by the  
most diligent kids







# Camps at Casa Buna

What would it be like if children lived at Casa Buna?

If they each had their own cozy bed, peace and quiet during the night, plenty of time for play and sports, healthy meals, and support for learning every day?

And in the evening, at bedtime, if they could fall asleep listening to stories?

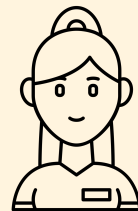
With these thoughts, we set out together with our friends from JYSK Romania. Along the way, we received further support from Ascendis and Conservation Carpathia.

We started in April 2021. After 6 months of camps, 83 children had stayed at Casa Buna or at Richita cabin, Arges county. Half a year later, our kids still ask “When can I come to another camp?”



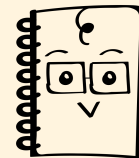
**83**  
**children**

turned Casa Buna  
into a home during  
the camps



**112**  
**volunteers**

played with the kids,  
read with them and  
listened to their  
stories



**1,332**  
**hours of**  
**tutoring**

[Romanian, math]  
took place during the  
camps



**89**  
**hours of sport**

[yoga, fitness, rugby,  
basketball, hiking]  
took place during the  
camps



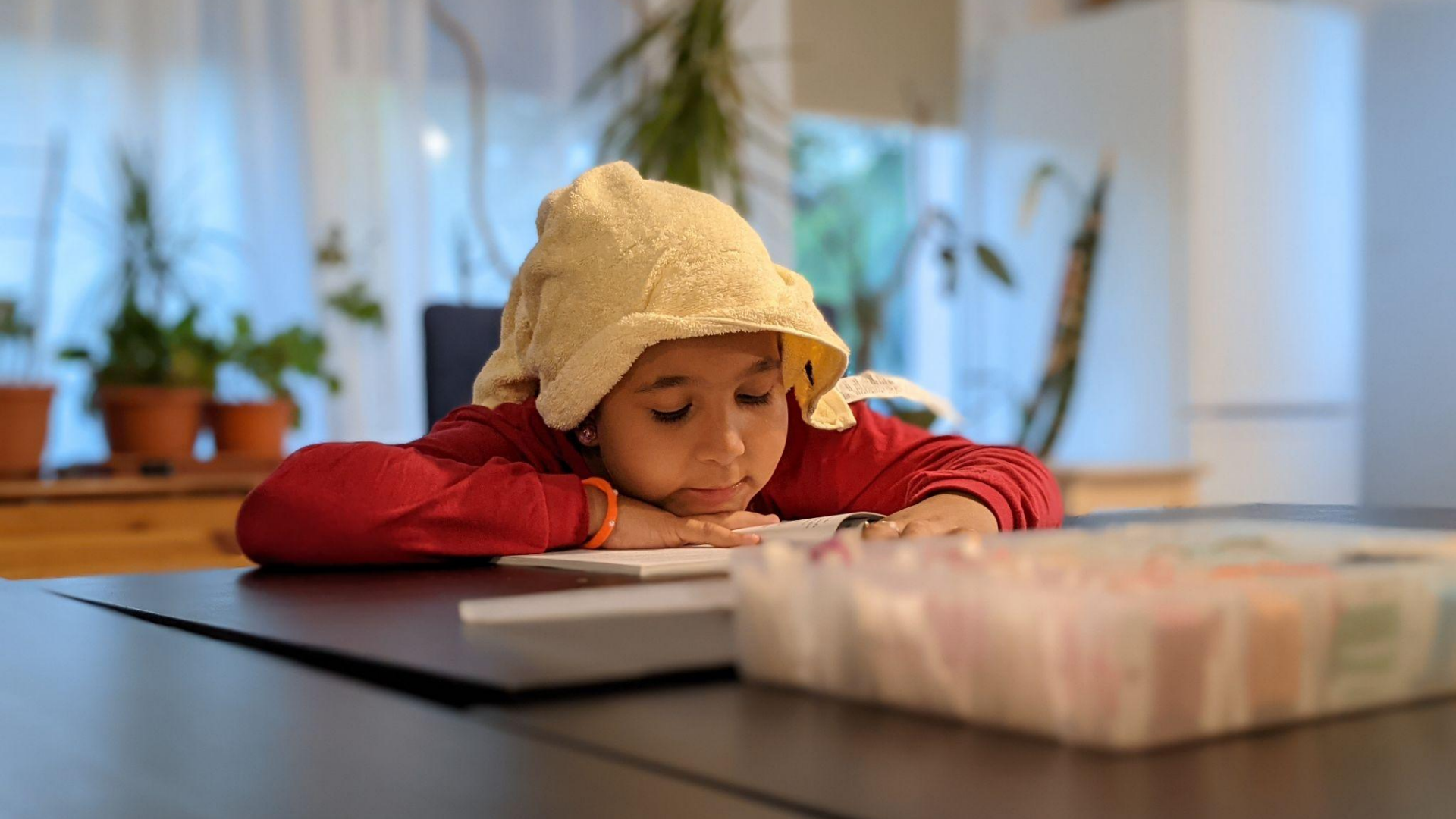
**4,949**  
**portions of**  
**food**

were prepared with  
loving care by our  
volunteer cooks



**259**  
**pieces of**  
**clothing**

[t-shirts, pants,  
underwear, socks]  
dressed the kids  
during the camps



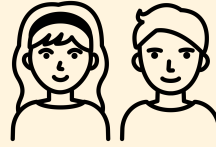
# 8th grade exam preparation

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This year when we prepared the backpacks for the upcoming school year, we realised we had a record number of 8th graders among our kids: 24 of them!

In Romania, the 8th grade is a critical year for determining if a child will go on to high school, and if so, which school (academic or vocational). Their year ends with the challenging National Evaluation exam.

So we rallied support from all of our volunteer tutors with experience preparing children for the National Evaluation. We assembled a tutoring team and preparatory materials for Romanian and math. And we launched a new program with weekly tutoring to help these 24 teenagers approach the exam with better skills and more confidence.



**24**

**8th graders**

signed up for the tutoring program



**12**

**tutors**

for Romanian and math work with the teenagers weekly to help them prepare for the exam



**423**

**hours**

of Romanian and math tutoring were held over Skype in 2021 - with many more to come in 2022

# Saturday Kindergarten

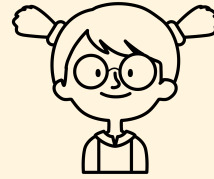
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Over the last 3 years, more than 50 kids from 2 to 6 years old have crossed the threshold of our Saturday Kindergarten. For many of them, this will be the only kindergarten they ever attend.

We know that starting learning early in life increases their chances for a brighter future.

In 2021 we continued our activities in small groups. We were happy when the parents got involved, and when new mothers called us to sign up their children after hearing from the neighbors about Casa Buna.

The Saturday Kindergarten is not (yet) a project with big numbers. But for us, each small child is a universe in him or herself, needing attention and protection to develop well.



**30  
kids**

took part in Casa Buna's Saturday Kindergarten in 2021



**143  
hours**

were spent by our smallest kids in the company of Corina and her volunteers



**14  
kids**

confidently started grade 0 in September 2021 after "graduating" from kindergarten



**9  
new kids**

joined our kindergarten program in 2021





Health

## Health at Casa Buna

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In 2020 our medical activities slowed due to the pandemic, but in 2021 we found ways to safely continue and expand these activities in Bucharest and in our rural communities.

We continued taking our kids to eye check-ups and dental appointments. We realised the extent to which these services are also needed in the villages: this was the origin of the ophthalmology caravan.

In Bucuresti we developed partnerships with several medical clinics to continue helping our families in Ferentari and Jilava.

We strengthened our team of volunteer doctors and with their help, we advised and guided our families to find the best solutions for their medical problems. And we managed to treat several neglected medical cases.

Dental  
check  
-ups

Survivor  
at Casa  
Buna

Ophthalmology  
Caravan

# Ophthalmology Caravan

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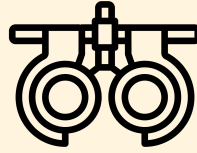
In spring, we launched the ophthalmology caravan to bring eye-care to our rural children.

With the help of generous donors, we acquired ophthalmology equipment, and stylish frames.

Volunteer doctors travelled with us to remote locations; for most of the kids, it was their first eye check-up. Those who needed glasses selected frames and our volunteer optician made their glasses.

By the end of the summer, most of our children had received an eye check-up.

Then we started to receive invitations from partner organisations. We made our first eye-care visit to a partner organisation in the autumn, with many more on the list for 2022!



**1**

**mobile clinic**

fitted with all the necessary equipment



**10**

**sponsors**

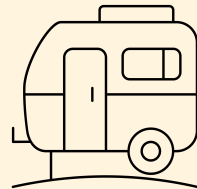
supported us with equipment, lenses and frames



**8**

**medical professionals**

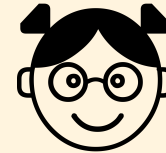
received us in their clinics or accompanied us in the field



**6**

**caravans**

took place in 11 communities



**224**

**children**

and adults received ophthalmologic check-ups and treatment



**77**

**pairs of glasses**

are helping the kids and their parents to see better







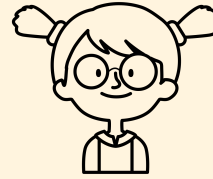
# Dental health at Casa Buna

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Dental problems are a painful daily reality for our children, making it hard to eat or sleep, let alone focus on school work.

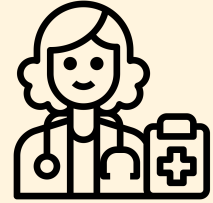
In 2021 we continued to treat urgent dental problems. But even better, with help from friends at the Titu Maiorescu Faculty of Dentistry, Dentaline clinic, and other private clinics, we introduced prevention, taking kids for check-ups and treatment before the pain started. Several children began orthodontic treatment. We were also fortunate to have support with necessary dental x-rays for the children from Dentalik Image.

“When can we come again?” This is a question that you don’t expect to hear after a visit to the dentist. We heard it often this year, because both our dentists and the volunteers who accompany the kids make sure the experience is positive through games, stories, and plenty of patience and caring attention.



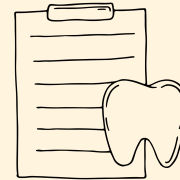
**38**  
**children**

benefitted from  
check-ups and  
treatment



**12**  
**dentists**

made the visits a  
pleasure with their  
patience and kindness



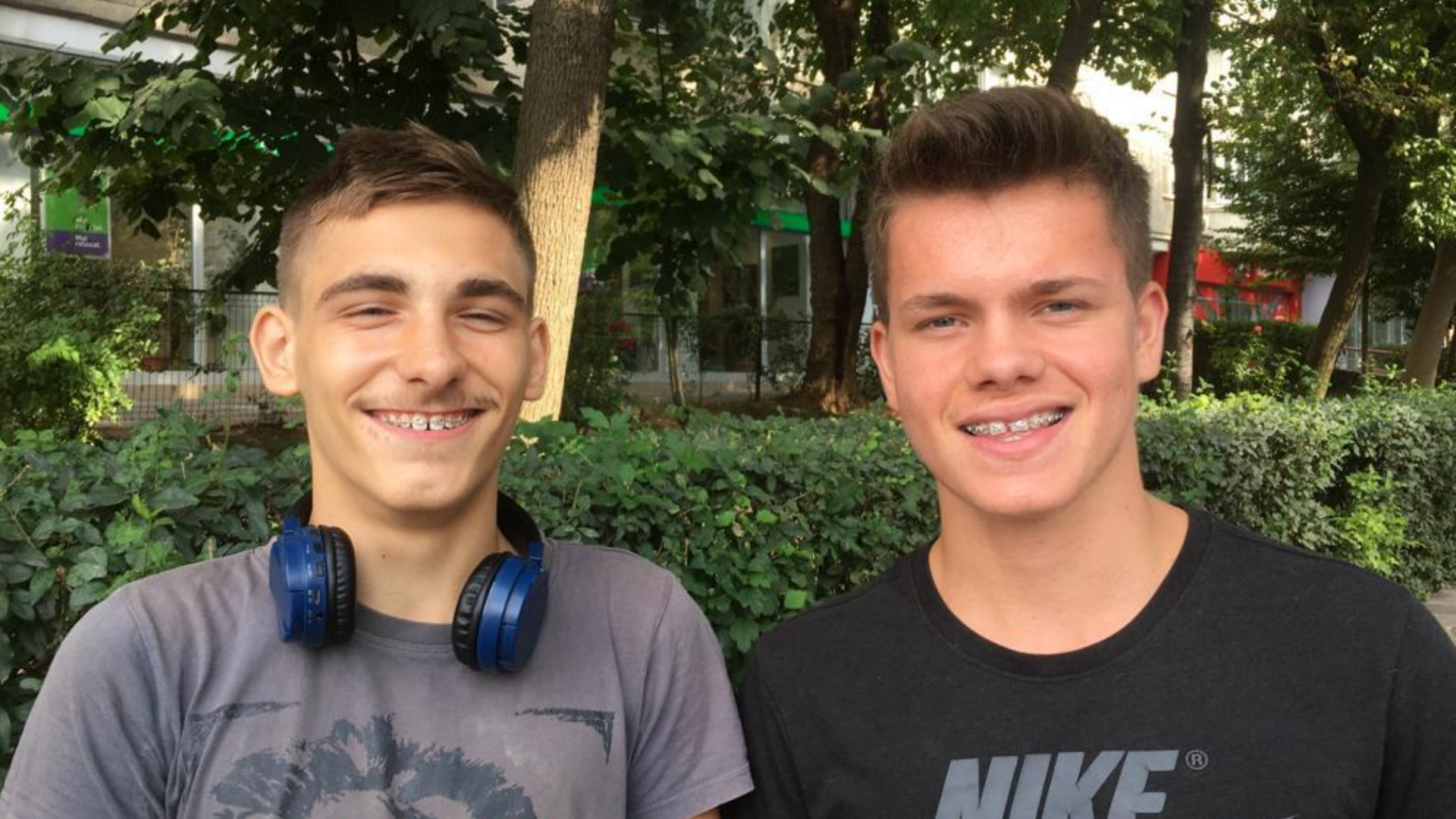
**215**  
**visits**

to friendly dental  
clinics took place in  
2021



**11**  
**volunteers**

accompanied the  
children and took  
care of them during  
the check-ups



# Survivor at Casa Buna

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Many of our kids are overweight or obese due to an unhealthy diet and lack of exercise; this can lead to serious health problems. In 2021 we launched our Survivor programme in response to this situation.

It started as a game: every morning the children received challenges related to exercise, diet, and lifestyle. They received points for successfully completed challenges which they could eventually exchange for prizes.

Over time, more children and also volunteers joined. They enjoy doing the daily challenges together and this has become part of their daily routine. In fact, Survivor has evolved into a group where each member supports and encourages the others.

Survivor has been called “the coolest group in the world” by the participating kids!



**4**

**Survivor**

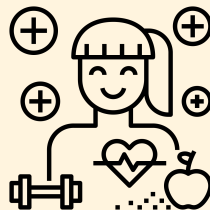
sessions took place in 2021, involving 32 weeks of daily challenges



**1,792**

**challenges**

were accepted and executed by the kids over these weeks



**96**

**children**

responded to the challenges and built them into their daily routines



**64**

**prizes**

were won by the most consistent and sporty kids



☀️ Good morning! Is everyone ready for some new challenges? ✓

🪄 Let's brush our teeth. Once in the morning, once in the evening. We want to see the toothpaste on your teeth! 1 + 1 point

💧 We're going to drink 4 glasses of water. The glasses should be full and transparent. Don't forget that you cannot drink more than 2 glasses one after the other. 1 point

🤖 Let's do 5 exercises with the arms. Have a look at the film to see how to do them. Take care to do them correctly, with the elbows at the same level as the shoulders, don't rush it. 1 point for this.

🥚 Let's eat 1 boiled egg. With a picture before and after. 1 more point.

Good luck, team!



Vocation

## Vocation at Casa Buna

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In 2021 we reflected on the future of the kids we're guiding; their future as responsible adults.

We thought about their passions and talents, and about the jobs they might realistically pursue after they finish school.

We continued with sewing classes and discovered a few girls with talent and interest in this craft.

Our first apprentice tried his hand at renovation work.

And we launched a series of creative workshops to expand our kids' horizons towards professional fields they hadn't considered before.

Creative  
workshops

Sewing

Apprenticeships



# Creative workshops

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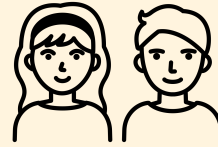
What do you want to be when you grow up?

It's a difficult question for most kids, but especially for those who haven't been exposed to a variety of options.

We developed the creative workshops project in partnership with our friends from Seven Film with the idea to introduce a group of kids to new activities and professions through practical workshops. The project came to life in 2021 from our wish to help the kids discover their talents and to support them early on in their journey towards a future profession.

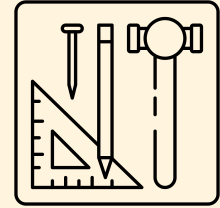
Over the year, the kids participated in workshops covering such diverse areas as cooking, architectural design, carpentry, pottery, theatre makeup, and digital art.

That's how we found out that M. wants to work in IT and loves graphic design, while F. dreams to become a hairstylist.



**8**  
**teenagers**

took part in the  
workshops in 2021



**10**  
**workshops**

introducing creative and  
practical skills took place  
in 2021 aimed at  
opening up the kids'  
horizons



**10**  
**trainers**

spent their weekends  
patiently teaching the kids  
different skills



Vocation

# Sewing

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The pandemic slowed down our plans to further develop our sewing workshops, but we continued this activity in very small groups respecting safety precautions.

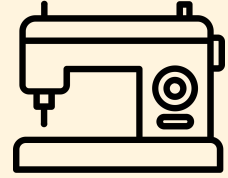
We moved from sewing small accessories to full clothing items with our girls. The blouses the girls made by hand were so nice that the girls said they looked like they came from a store!

We plan to continue with sewing classes in 2022 and to look for ways to transform this hobby into a source of employment for the girls in the long term.



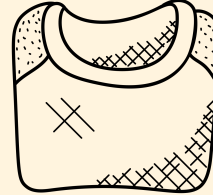
**10**  
**girls**

participated in  
sewing classes in  
2021



**5**  
**workshops**

took place at Cristina  
Zlota's studio in 2021



**28**  
**handcrafted items**

[masks, blouses, pencil  
cases] emerged from the  
girls' sewing machines

crisrina  
crisrina



# Apprenticeships

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We started 2021 with the difficult mission of taking the teenagers from Casa Buna into apprenticeships. Most of these teenagers face an uncertain future, with little prospect for steady employment.

M. was the first apprentice to join this program. Under Marian's patient and watchful guidance, M. learned how to renovate an apartment and to insulate a house.

This project has proved difficult as young people are often more attracted to immediate gains than long term skills development. We are still looking for ways to motivate them and steer them towards jobs with longer term security and steady earnings.

The apprenticeship program did not work nearly as well as we expected. We made many mistakes, but we are trying to learn from them so that eventually we see some positive results from the time and effort invested.



Decent standard of living

## Decent standard of living at Casa Buna

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In 2021 we continued to assist with the necessities for a decent living standard for our children and their families in Ferentari and Jilava, and we extended this support to our rural communities.

We focused our efforts on the children's basic needs: healthy meals, hygiene supplies, a decent home, adequate and clean clothing and footwear, and school supplies.

We organised ourselves better in order to match the offers from donors with the needs of each family. With the help of an extraordinary volunteer group, we made sure that each donation arrived where it was most needed.

Food and  
hygiene

Clothing  
and  
footwear

School  
supplies

Furniture  
and  
appliances

Decent standard of living

## Food and hygiene

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Children need healthy food to grow up well. And they need it every day.

In 2021, we focussed our efforts on providing healthy and nutritious food: fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, cooked meals, and more. With the help of the wonderful people from J'ai Bistro, Lăptăria cu Caimac, Ouă de țară, Miezi and many others, we delivered food packages weekly to each Ferentari and Jilava family.

In December, we increased the number of cooked meals delivered to our families thanks to support from HORA, PepsiCo and other partners. Thanks to them, we currently provide 3 meals per week to families in Ferentari, Jilava and Nucsoara.



**over 3,500  
cooked meals**

brought our families together at the end of a long day at school or work



**780  
packages**

with fresh produce [eggs, milk, fruits, vegetables] helped our kids to focus better on their schoolwork



**500  
boxes**

with basic staples [oil, flour, sugar, rice, pasta] helped our families get through the winter months



**8,550  
hygiene products**

[detergent, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, masks, toothpaste] helped ensure a decent living standard



A woman with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a blue sleeveless dress with a white lace collar, is sitting on the left side of the blanket. She is smiling and looking towards the boy in the cyan shirt. She is holding a small object in her hands.

A young boy in a white t-shirt and blue shorts is sitting in the center of the blanket. He is waving his right hand towards the camera. He has a neutral expression.

A young boy in a cyan t-shirt and grey shorts is sitting on the right side of the blanket. He is looking towards the woman in the blue dress. He is holding a white napkin or paper.

Two aluminum trays containing brown food, possibly fried chicken or meat, are placed on the blanket. There are also several small black bowls with orange sauce.

A large blue plastic water bottle is on the ground to the left of the blanket. A white slipper is also visible nearby.

A white notebook or folder is lying flat on the blanket in the center.



Decent standard of living

# Clothing and footwear

---

Every year we prepare our kids with clothing and footwear for the cold and warm seasons.

In the spring, we distribute sneakers, t-shirts and shorts. In the autumn, we equip them with warm boots and jackets, thermal underwear, hats, scarves, gloves and socks.

In 2021 the number of children on our lists grew significantly. Thanks to hundreds of donations, we could offer each of them new or high quality second hand clothing they could wear with comfort and pride.

This year, we added two important items to our winter list: pillows and warm blankets.



**over 100  
donors**

helped to equip our children for the winter and the summer seasons



**230  
children**

received clothing and footwear



**2,300  
warm items**

helped the children get through the cold season



**170  
pairs of  
sneakers**

took the children to school and to play, all summer long



**230  
pairs of  
boots**

kept 2300 little toes warm throughout the winter



**88  
warm  
blankets**

reached the houses of rural and Ferentari children



Decent standard of living

# School supplies

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September means school supplies! Casa Buna fills up with boxes of notebooks, pens and pencils, pencil cases and more. We call on volunteers for help, and we gather in Casa Buna's garden to assemble the backpacks for the new school year.

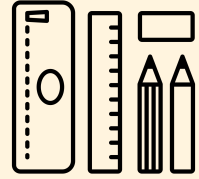
In 2021 we prepared more backpacks than ever before, from tiny ones for our kindergarten kids, to fully equipped backpacks for the teenagers. The volunteer team worked three evenings in a row to get everything ready.

It's a special pleasure to see more and more tiny backpacks for kindergarten kids each year, as younger siblings are finally old enough to get their own volunteer tutors.



**over 50  
donors**

supported our 2021  
campaign to equip the kids  
for school



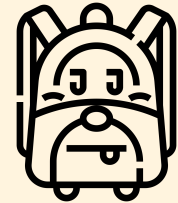
**10,064  
school supplies**

carefully selected for each  
class filled the brand new  
backpacks



**278  
backpacks**

fully equipped, accompanied  
the children (grades 1 to 12)  
on the first day of the new  
school year



**33  
little backpacks**

accompanied the  
kindergarten and grade 0  
children on their new  
adventure



Decent standard of living

## Furniture and appliances

---

Only 18 square meters. That's the space most of our Ferentari families call home. Usually they can't fit more than a bed, a cupboard, and a small kitchen into this tiny space.

The kids often do their homework sitting on the edge of the bed; with this limited space, a place dedicated just to studying is unrealistic.

In 2021, thanks to generous donors, we continued to provide beds, mattresses, washing machines, fridges and other items needed to maintain a decent standard of living.

This year we organised ourselves better in order to quickly and efficiently match offers of donations with needs.



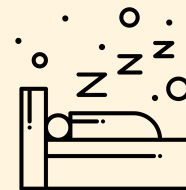
**over 100  
home appliances**

[fridges, stoves, washing machines] were delivered to apartments in Ferentari



**20  
volunteers**

responded to our calls daily, to lift, carry, transport and deliver all the donations



**over 100  
pieces of  
furniture**

[beds, cupboards, sofas] replaced the improvised sleeping arrangements previously found in the apartments



AEA  
LIVE

Maria

KEVIN



Casa Bună

se mișcă cu ajutorul



A face bine  
e molipsitor

[www.asociatiacasabuna.ro](http://www.asociatiacasabuna.ro)



Close to the heart

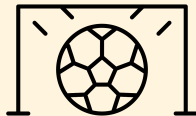
# EURO 2020

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With much joy and anticipation, we received the news from the Romanian Soccer Federation: 88 of the children supported by Casa Buna were invited to open 4 matches in the EURO 2020 series.

For many of the kids from Leresti and Nucsoara, this was the first visit to Bucharest, the city of legends like the underground, the zoo, and more!

We watched them from the stands and felt their excitement as they marched out onto the soccer field amidst the applause and songs of the spectators. We followed each of their steps, big and small, and we were proud of each and every one of them.



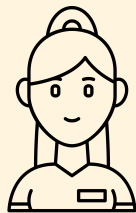
**4**  
**soccer**  
**matches**

hosted our ecstatic children on the field and in the stands



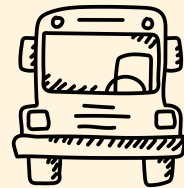
**88**  
**children**

marched with confidence onto the soccer field to open the matches



**88**  
**volunteer**  
**chaperones**

and parents cheered the kids on from the stands



**1,649**  
**kilometers**

were travelled to make this dream come true





Close to the heart

# Movie night

---

For us, Saturday night is movie night.

The kids come in from their games outside, from the neighbors, from work in the garden. They start up their computers, open Skype, and ask “Miss Raluca, what are we watching tonight?”

Wall-E, Cars, Bambi, The Grinch, and Inside Out are just a few of the movies the kids watched together over the year.

Through the webcam, we see them cuddled up in bed, wrapped up in their blankets and pillows, ready for action. Miss Raluca presses the button and the film starts. At the end, we stay on to debate which characters were the best, what we liked and didn't like, what made us happy or sad. And we wait impatiently for next Saturday evening!



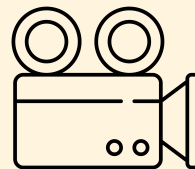
**90**  
**children**

joined the movie night  
Skype group



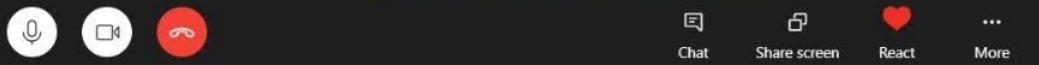
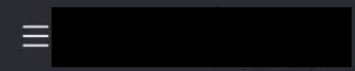
**~15**  
**children**

took part in each movie  
night



**44**  
**movies**

played on the kids' computer  
screens in 2021



Close to the heart

# Our kids and Madrigal choir

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“I want to bring the kids from Casa Buna on stage with Madrigal choir.”

That’s what music professor Ana-Maria Rusu told us last summer, when she conducted music workshops with our kids during the camps.

We didn’t really expect this to happen, but a group of volunteers got to work and made this dream come true. 15 kids from Casa Buna were part of the children’s choir that sang together with Madrigal choir - the Romanian National Chamber Choir - during its 2021 Christmas concert at the Romanian Opera House.

On the evenings of 16 and 17 December our kids experienced an avalanche of emotions, from stagefright to pride in their accomplishment.



**30**  
**hours**

of practice took place at  
Casa Buna and the  
Romanian Opera



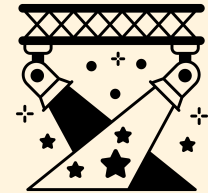
**15**  
**children**

climbed on stage at the  
Romanian Opera alongside  
Madrigal choir



**5**  
**volunteers**

supported the kids, from the  
practice sessions to the  
concert hall



**2**  
**magical evenings**

will remain imprinted in our  
kids hearts for years to  
come



Close to the heart

# Santa Claus

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For the kids, it's the most eagerly awaited day of the year. For us, it's the perfect ending to a year of good work.

For most of December, Casa Buna was transformed into Santa's workshop. Each day, dear friends dropped by bringing gifts. We made the lists, checked them at least twice, and our team of volunteers packed each gift with toys, clothing, a story book and more!

Finally, we called all of our Bucharest children to a big Christmas party in Casa Buna's garden. We ate a delicious meal prepared by our cooks, decorated the Christmas tree and took rides in Santa's sleigh.

The very next day, Santa's sleigh arrived in Nucsoara and Leresti with much anticipated gifts for our rural kids.



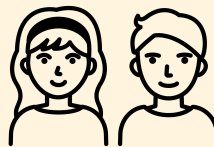
**262**  
**presents**

prepared individually with each child in mind were given to the children in 2021



**16**  
**industrious elves**

prepared the gifts that brought Christmas joy to each child



**50**  
**devoted volunteers**

transformed their cars into sleighs and delivered gifts to our rural children



**10**  
**kind-hearted chefs**

prepared a Christmas feast for 100 children from Ferentari and Jilava







Our people

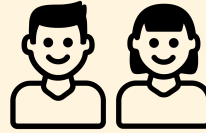
# The IT crowd

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The pandemic forced us to move many of our activities online and since then, the need for IT support has constantly grown.

In 2021 we laid the groundwork for Casa Buna's awesome IT team.

This team provides essential support for all of our educational activities: they receive donated computers, laptops and more, enter them in our inventory, and prepare them for the kids. They solve the many IT problems our kids confront so they can keep working online with their volunteers. In fact, they are so cool that they've inspired more than one kid to dream about entering the IT field.



**17**  
**IT team members**

set up and repaired equipment and responded to every challenge the kids faced



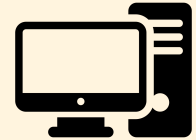
**192**  
**IT problems**

faced by the children were resolved by the IT team remotely



**11**  
**IT visits**

took place in the rural communities in 2021 to install and repair equipment



**~240**  
**IT problems**

faced by the children were resolved by the IT team during visits



Our people

# 🧡 Casa Buna's tribe

It's true what they say: it takes a whole tribe to raise a child.

Fortunately, we are lucky enough to have a whole tribe of amazing people gathered around these kids.

The kids are doing fine. They are fine because they have you by their side, guiding them every step of the way.



**~400  
volunteers**

dedicated their time  
to the children week  
to week



**209  
companies**

gave us confidence  
day to day that we  
were doing the right  
things, and that we  
could do even more



**more than  
3,000  
donors**

came to our aid  
whenever we needed  
them



**more than  
9,000  
friends**

read our stories on  
social media and help  
spread our news





Casa Bună



Our people

# Meet Casa Buna's coordinating forces

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**Alexandra**  
Popa



**Anca**  
Graiter



**Anca Elena**  
Sandu



**Anca Teodora**  
Sandu



**Corina**  
Olteanu



**Elena**  
Tănase



**Eliza**  
Trăistaru



**Hannah**  
Slavik



**Ioana**  
Georgescu



**Lucian**  
Cojocar



**Marian**  
Grigore



**Raluca**  
Toma



**Thomas**  
Marinescu



**Victor**  
Pavloschi



**Valeriu**  
Nicolae

# Thank you!

# Let's keep working together in 2022!

Tablă JYSK la  
trine tablă a ca  
urii a avut loc în  
au legat prieten  
ntre copii din  
Nuzena și co  
în Ferentari. Au  
contact. Se surse,  
managere și ab  
ă se revadă.



Copiii deschi

La sfârșitul meci a fost  
rândul micilor muzicieri să  
vire pe teren însoțita  
jucaților.



Rechizitele

Cea mai mare magie este însă  
când voluntarii care  
pregătesc ghazdările se  
transformă ei înșiși în copilași  
care au grijă cu pur în  
ghazdă și să învețe să  
aleagă pensă sau cretă.



Bursa micilor creatori

Proiectul a pornit ca un concurs  
între 8 linii școlare.  
Până acum ne-am testat  
abilitățile prin stilurile de  
fotografie, design digital, gătit,  
măști, proiecte, cântec.



Comunitate

E nevoie de un sat să crești un  
copil, iar voluntarii au  
transformat vorbele în practică.  
Comunitatea noastră este  
formată din aproximativ 300 de  
voluntari înmăști care  
ajută în mod direct sute de  
copii și ajută copiii la teme.



Bursa micilor creatori

Am găsit Bursa la îndemnul unor  
prieten care au venit către noi cu  
gândul de a ajunge un copil să-și  
descopere pasiunea.  
Mesajul lui H. cu „doamna, eu în  
doresc o carieră în IT” a fost  
începutul pasiunii ei pentru  
designul digital.



Bursa micilor creatori

Pentru F. a fost simplu  
asteptarea preferat a fost cel de  
gătit. Am rugat-o să  
demonstreze. Rezultatul a  
fost delicios!  
F. a gătit pentru gașca de  
grădiniță sub îndrumarea  
celui a lui Gabi.



Bonus - 2021 Blunders

# Where we screwed up in 2021

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We're not perfect.

We're in the middle of a continuous process of experimenting, testing, and learning.

Through these experiments we are growing and getting better at what we do.

So we can't finish our activity report for 2021 without talking about what didn't work so well in 2021.





## **8th grade exam preparation.**

- We learned that tutoring for the National Evaluation needs to start from 7th grade, as the children are far behind with the materials and 9 months is not sufficient time to catch up;
- Coordinating this project involved a much bigger investment of time and energy that we expected;
- We realised that we need a group of dedicated tutors for this project, both to adapt the curriculum and to deliver the tutoring.

## **Teenagers at Casa Buna.**

- We are still looking for effective ways to attract and retain teenagers for our apprenticeship programme;
- We failed to develop a full vocational programme for the teenagers (we only managed to run occasional workshops);
- We don't yet have a plan for vocational counselling for the children.

## **EURO 2020.**

- At the very last minute, we realised that we had not informed the children's schools about this event, and they would need permission to miss the day of school.

## **Echipa IT.**

- We lacked a dedicated coordinator to set priorities for the team;
- We learned that we need to listen to each other more attentively in order to find the best solutions for the children and the community.

## **Communication with Casa Buna volunteers.**

- We didn't yet find the best ways to call for help when we need it;
- We haven't always managed to communicate clearly and fully with volunteers about Casa Buna's activities;
- Sometimes we failed to thank volunteers properly for everything they do for the children.

Those were not the only mistakes we made.

There were others, but we fixed them, or we are in the process of fixing them.

Or we didn't even spot them yet.

But we are keeping notes.

