

Casa Buna Association

—

Annual Report
2022



Us in 2022

2022 was the year of bold steps. The year that we laid the first bricks in the foundation of the “Gradinita Buna” (Casa Buna’s kindergarten) and Casa Buna’s cabin in Nucșoara.

The year that we could once again spend time with wonderful people and fill Casa Buna with children.

The year that we learned important lessons about trust, teamwork, and courage. Trust and courage to move ahead, with faith that in the end, everything would work out fine.



More than 400 children

received support for education, health, vocation and a decent living standard

3.284

Individual donors

gave us confidence and courage, month after month

194

companies

transformed our plans into happiness

433 volunteers

were part of the children's lives, week to week

14.605 hours of 1:1 education

took place both online and offline in 2022

Where we work

In 2022 we brought smiles to 4 communities:



1. BUCHAREST

Ferentari and Jilava:
70 families, 157 children and
176 volunteers



2. ARGES

Nucşoara:
46 families, 82 children and
88 volunteers



3. ARGES

Lereşti and Campulung:
82 families, 120 children and 96
volunteers



4. BRAŞOV

Sanpetru:
22 families, 39 children and
30 volunteers



Communities

Ferentari and Jilava

We started in Ferentari, more than 13 years ago. We began with sports, which opened the path to educational activities. For most of us, it's hard to imagine the life of a child in the Ferentari ghetto: entire families living in 13 square meter rooms, dark halls full of garbage, discarded syringes and rats. Every child deserves a better life, and every year spent in school brings them closer to this.



Hannah Slavik

Community Coordinator - Ferentari and Jilava



Communities

Nucșoara

Nucșoara is the first rural community we reached. The little sister of Ferentari and Lerești, it's a community of lasting bonds between children and volunteers, where the children play on the meadow near the river, and in summer they read stories on a blanket in the shade. We became friends in 2020. Back then, 20 children responded to our call to do lessons with a volunteer. Now we are working with 82 children and still growing, with the addition of new children and younger siblings.



Anca Teodora Sandu

Community Coordinator - Nucșoara



Communities

Lerești and Campulung

Lerești was not the easiest community for us to enter, at first. It's a community with heart and soul, the place where they shout the loudest but hug the tightest. At the end of 2022 we asked the children what they would most like us to do together. The answer was simple: to come visit them more often. And that's what we plan to do.



Eliza Traistaru

Community Coordinator - Lerești/Campulung



Communities

Sanpetru

In 2022 we saw tremendous improvements, and that led us to dream of more for these children. A child who didn't attend school for two years re-enrolled and is now continuing her education. She still comes to Casa Buna and she started to help out with the primary school children as well. The number of absences from school has dropped; the children are becoming more responsible about attending school.



Angela Moldovan
Community Coordinator - Sanpetru



Communities

Gradinita Buna (the “Good Kindergarten”)

Back in 2018 we first thought about doing something for the smaller children, the younger siblings of the kids we were working with. We didn't know what would happen, how it would take shape, or if we would succeed. 2022 was a year of impressive results. Most importantly, the little ones want to spend more and more time with us, and more and more parents want to enroll their children with us. “We heard great things about your kindergarten!”



Corina Olteanu
Kindergarten Coordinator



Communities

The good donors

The support of our donors lies behind each and every victory that brings a bit more dignity to the lives of Casa Buna's children: each additional portion of food, each medical checkup, each computer installed, and every educational camp. We simply cannot sufficiently thank the more than 3000 caring people and almost 200 companies that were with us in 2022. Thanks to this good tribe of donors, we helped almost 100 more children than in 2021. And with the help of good donors in 2023, we aim to reach even more children who need a bit of hope in their lives.



Anca - Elena Sandu
Fundraising Manager



Communities

Volunteers

Nothing that we do would be possible without them. Without Professor Alin who offers math lessons to half of the village. Without Gabi, who puts her heart and soul into each portion of food prepared for the children. Without Ionut and Mihai, who transport the children safely in our green and orange vans. Without Anca, who lobbies for the integration of each new family.

They are the engine of Casa Buna. And they make us all a bit better every day.



What we built together
in 2022



Education at Casa Buna

The Saturday kindergarten, 1:1 tutoring, Sunday lessons at Casa Buna, evaluations and personalised learning plans, 8th grade tutoring

Saturday kindergarten

2022 was the year of changes for the better. The year when we put our plans on paper and when we started to believe that we could build a real kindergarten.

We wanted to spend even more time with the little ones, so we increased our time with them on Saturdays from 2 to 5 hours. We even managed to squeeze in some shows at the theatre, some reading workshops, and cooling down at the pool. And, last but not least, more children took part in the kindergarten summer camp.



54

Children participated in the Saturday kindergarten in 2022



74

Volunteers learned and played with the children



13

Children graduated from kindergarten and passed with confidence into first grade



1.000

Hours were filled with songs, colours, kinetic sand, scissors, glue and playdough



Kaufland

Casa Bună

Journey

SPORTS

HIGH 5 FIVE

PAȘI ÎN FRONȚA HAI

#păș

#haicun

ALWAYS DREAM

BEAR BEAR BEAR

SAVAGE

SAVAGE

SAVAGE

SAVAGE

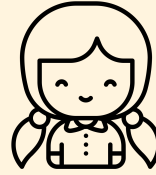
LOONEY TUNES

1:1 online tutoring

2022 was the year when more and more families understood what we do and asked us for more educational support for their children. The year when we received enrollment requests from the relatives and friends of our children. The year when we even had to create a waiting list. Younger brothers and sisters received their long-awaited volunteers. Veteran volunteers and new ones continued to guide the children with kindness and patience.

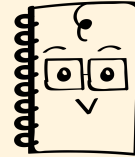


Thank you to our tribe of online volunteers. The biggest and the coolest gang ever!



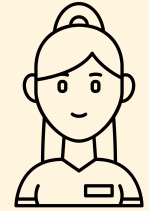
326

Children participated in weekly meetings with their volunteers



12.735

Hours of 1:1 education took place online, via Skype and Zoom



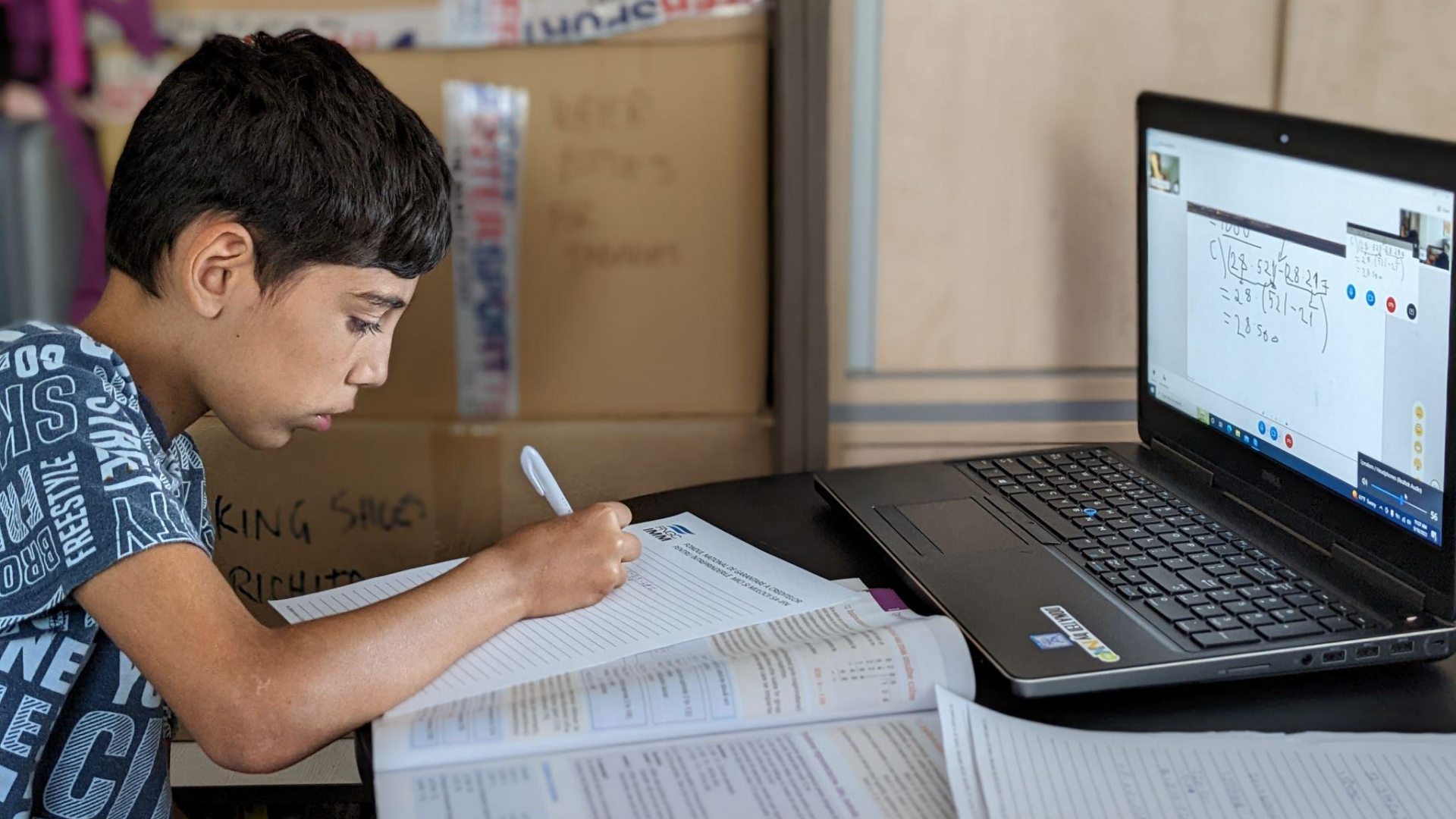
360

Volunteers guided the children with worksheets, but also with patience and understanding



203

Prizes were won by children using points earned through educational activities



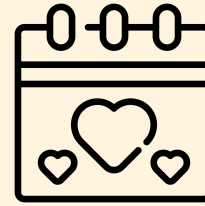
Sunday lessons at Casa Buna

We missed our face-to-face weekly meetings with kids and volunteers at Casa Buna from before the pandemic. In 2022 the “good house” was once again the “full house” each Sunday. What used to be 2 hours at Casa Buna was transformed into 3 hours, and sometimes even 4. New kids joined the lessons, and we started to see more of the children we thought we had lost during the pandemic.

We’ve assembled a fantastic team of volunteers who spend their Sundays with us and the kids.



Thank you to the Sunday tribe and to Unicredit Bank for making this possible!



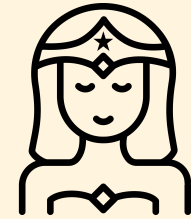
3.150

Hours of 1:1 tutoring took place during the 35 Sundays spent at Casa Buna



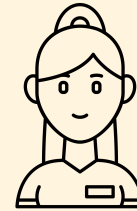
125

Children came to Casa Buna on Sundays for lessons, play and a hot meal



6

Coordinators made every Sunday possible. Thank you, Anca, Monica, Marianna, Smaranda, Hannah and Corina



165

Volunteers were present on one or many Sundays for the activities with the children

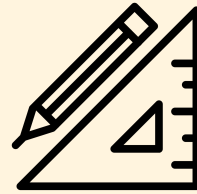


Evaluations and personalised learning plans

Born in an unfavourable environment, with little chance of entering the educational system on time, our children have limited opportunities to reach a better life. Getting them into school and keeping them there is a significant challenge. Most of the children struggle to keep up at school, falling further behind each year. To address this educational gap, we created personalised educational plans based on a basic skills evaluation of each child and a curriculum tailored strictly to their needs.



Thank you, PepsiCo Foundation, for your support in developing this programme!



278

Evaluations [reading, writing, text comprehension and mathematics] were completed



200

Volunteers were trained to work with children facing an educational gap



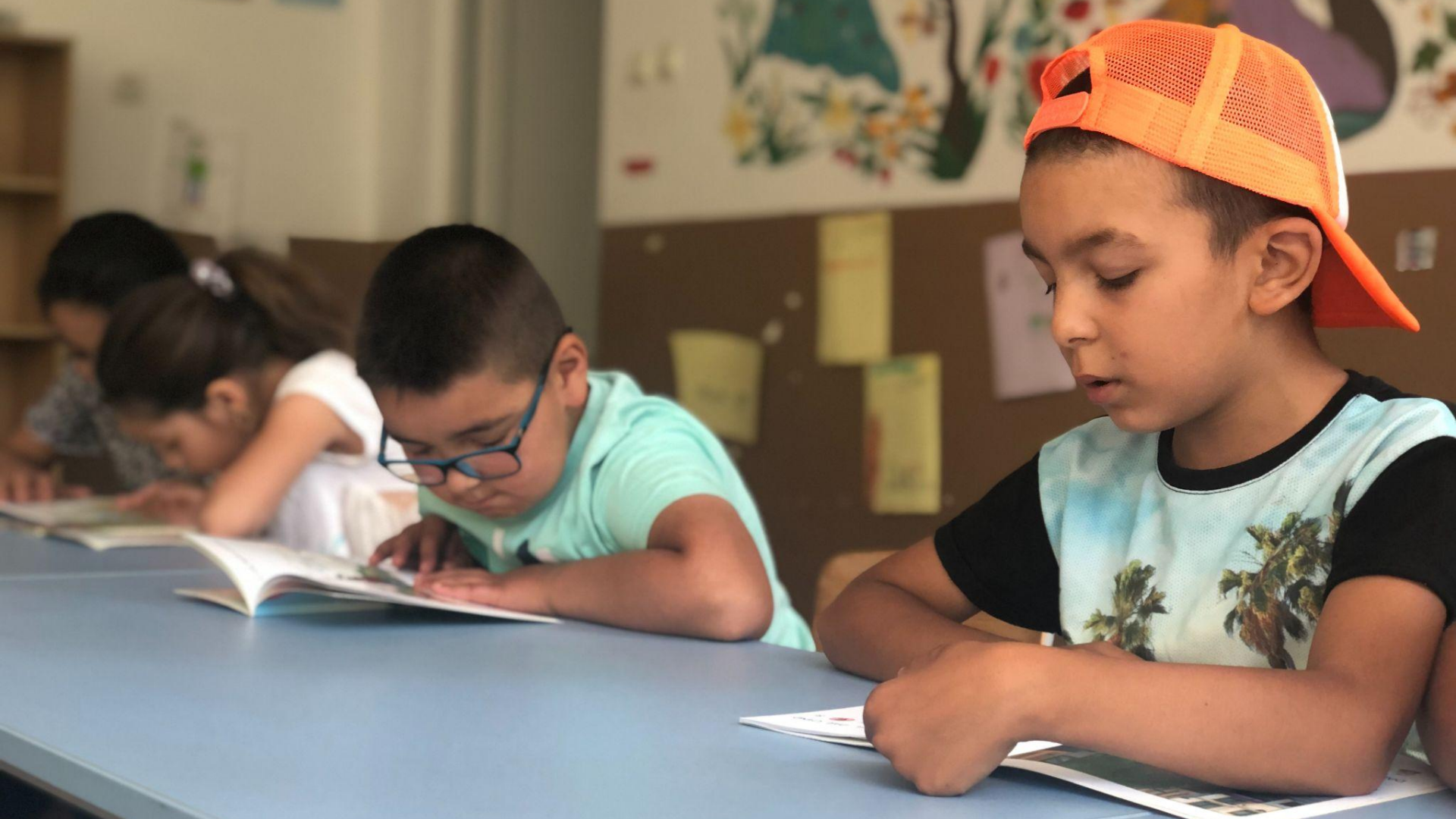
79

Personalised sets of recommendations helped volunteers to work with the children based on their actual needs



more than 1.000

Hours were spent monitoring child-volunteer interactions and providing advice



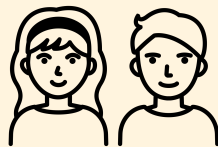
Preparing for the National Evaluation

Moving from one cycle of learning to another is a vulnerable moment for children already predisposed to abandoning school. Our first aim with the tutoring programme for the 8th grade is to encourage and support the children to continue with school after they finish 8th grade.

To enter high school, they need to write the challenging “National Evaluation.” In 2022 we prepared a comprehensive plan for the children, including initial evaluations, a realistic curriculum, and regular tutoring visits to the communities to complement the weekly online tutoring.

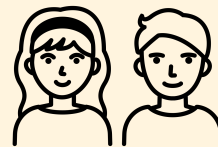


Thank you to the best tutors in the universe: Alin, Alex, Cătălin, Camelia, Laura, Delia, Bogdan, Ionuț, Miha!



19

Children in 8th grade attended Romanian and math tutoring



8

Children in 7th grade attended math tutoring



10

Tutors prepared the children for the National Evaluation



420

Lessons were attended by the children, which makes us very happy



-> Budind Sunetita
Sunetele vokal: @eiou@l(a)
lunetele semivocale i o u
rămân consoanele: b, c, d
! Silabă = o vocală
gh ghī → [G] gh ghī → [K]
cs examni - [escursie]
gz
-es- tei < 7e
ma-
cv

A face bine
e molipsitor!

CASA BUNĂ
CASA BUNĂ

Reebok

Camps

139 children took part in educational camps at Casa Buna in Jilava, at the seaside and in the mountains

Camps at Casa Buna in Jilava

We often hear this:

“One week at Casa Buna isn’t enough to change the future of these children.”

Our friends at JYSK didn’t let us stop after one week. The story of the educational camps continued in 2022. We welcomed returning children, who felt the joy of coming back to a favourite place, and also new children, with their excitement and fears about the first night away from home.

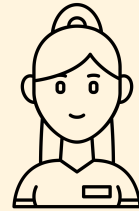


Thank you, JYSK, for the second year of camps!



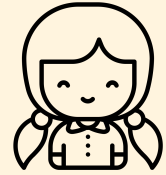
840

Hours were spent in the company of the children who took part in the 6 camps during 2022



71

Volunteers stayed alongside the children from sunrise (or earlier!) until the bedtime story



59

Children were hosted at Casa Buna; 20 of them for the first time



560

Hours of tutoring, reading and creative workshops filled the 35 days of the camps



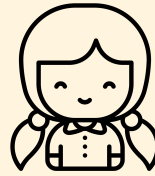
Richita camps

In 2022 we visited Conservation Carpathia's Richita Center for Activities and Nature Exploration three times, with children from Bucharest, Jilava, Lerești, Nucșoara and Sanpetru.

The children enjoyed every minute of their time in nature and responded with enthusiasm to every challenge we proposed, whether it was hiking up the mountain, making new friends from different parts of Romania or learning about the plants and animals around them.



Thank you, Ascendis, Kandia, JYSK and Conservation Carpathia, for making these camps possible!



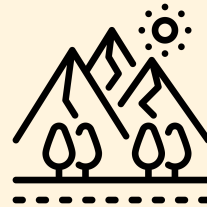
48

Children made friends with nature at Richita



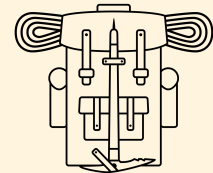
15

Coordinators accompanied the children on their hikes in nature



12

Days were spent outdoors



192

Pairs of hiking boots, backpacks, water bottles and fleece jackets stood up to the test of serious hiking



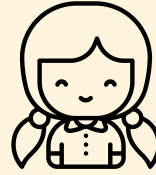
Corbu camps

The most eagerly anticipated camps of 2022 were the three camps at the seaside. For us, it was the first time to offer this kind of camp for children from Ferentari and Argeş county; for the children, it was their first meeting with the sea!

We fit in as many hours as possible of splashing in the sea and playing in the sand on the beach at Corbu. Combined with healthy meals, games and reading, the days were packed full. Each evening the children fell asleep as soon as their heads hit the pillows, and they woke up each morning full of energy and plans for the new day.

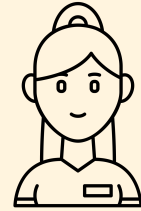


Thank you, Kandia, for making this dream come true!



32

Children touched the sea for the first time



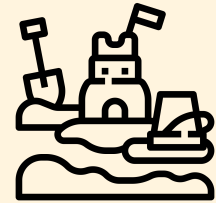
12

Coordinators accompanied the children on the journey



128

Swimming suits, towels, flip flops, and caps travelled with the children to the beach every day



12

Days were spent splashing in the waves and building sand castles



Health at Casa Buna

The ophthalmology caravan,
dental treatment and annual
pediatric check-ups

Ophthalmology caravan

The ophthalmology caravan was in high demand in 2022. We returned to our communities (Nucșoara, Lerești and Ferentari) and in addition, we visited 5 new communities (from Brașov to Teleorman).

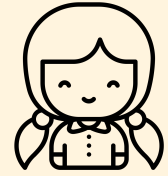
For the majority of the children, this was their first eye check-up. As always, we discovered children with undiagnosed vision problems and we helped them select frames and prepared glasses for them. This year we also obtained some new equipment, including a mobile device for checking the vision of younger children. Catching vision problems early can help ensure proper treatment and prevent complications.

Thank you, Mioara Marinescu, Cristina Nițulescu, Roxana Cozubaș, Florin Mureșan, Alin Răducanu, Lensa, Optica Vedere, RIDA Group, DoTERRA Healing Hands and all the specialists who were part of this effort.



7

Caravans took place in 2022, 5 of them in new communities



417

Children benefited from an ophthalmologic exam



10

Medical specialists accompanied us in the field



117

Pairs of glasses are helping kids to see better at school



5

CHANGOPH
CR 7000

bon
523L


adidas

Fast Bear

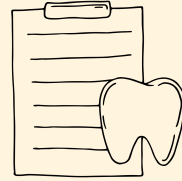
...ne
olipator!
...THIA Casa Bună

Dental treatment

In 2022 we continued to treat urgent dental cases and to work on prevention. New partners joined those who have been supporting us for years, and this allowed us to increase the number of children receiving treatment. The end of the year brought the first signs that we could finally start to extend dental assistance to our rural communities where the need is great and options are very limited and expensive.

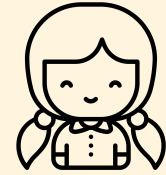


Thank you, Dr. Melnic Clinic, Titu Maiorescu Dental Faculty, Dentaline, Cristina Nița, Smile Spot, Mariuca Ioan, Dana Dascalescu, Victoria Dental Clinic Pitești, Dr. Leahu Clinic Pitești and Dentalik Image!



190

Visits to the dentist and the orthodontist were made in 2022



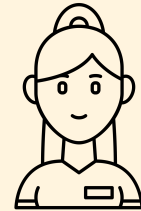
52

Children benefited from dental and orthodontic treatment



19

Dentists received children in their clinics and relieved their unbearable pains



10

Volunteers accompanied the children and held their hands during difficult moments. Thank you!



Yearly medical check-ups

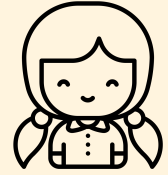
In 2022 we increased our health-care support thanks to a new partnership with one of the best-known private medical networks in Romania, Regina Maria. With their support, we offered a complete set of blood tests and a pediatric check-up for each child, and where needed, additional investigations and surgeries.

For most of our children, this was their first time to have blood collected for analysis, and we started the process with some apprehension. The children surpassed our expectations – and those of the experienced nurses – with their courage and patience.



2

Communities benefited from the help offered by Regina Maria (Ferentari and Nucșoara)



171

Children (0 - 16 years) took part in the blood tests and pediatric check-ups



76

Additional medical investigations took place - all of them free of charge



More than 24

Doctors and nurses from Regina Maria helped in the process



Vocation at Casa Buna

Sewing workshops, personal care workshops, and IT workshops

“Sewn at Casa Buna”

This was the first year that we tried to make clothing items, as well as simple projects. And the best part is that it worked! More or less perfect, the girls made skirts and blouses from scratch, took them home, and wore them with pride.

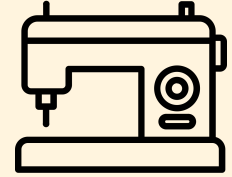
It was also the first year that we dared to believe that the girls in the sewing course could make a final product which could be put up for sale.

And that’s how the blouse with the “sewn at Casa Buna” label was created.



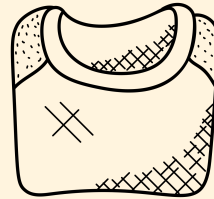
9

Teenagers participated in the sewing workshops offered by Cristina Zlota



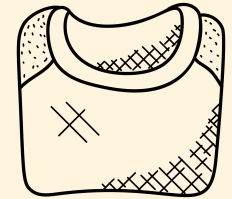
60

Hour were spent cutting fabric and stitching with the sewing machine



6

Final products found their way from the girls’ hands to the first clients



27

Skirts, pillows, and pencil cases were made by the girls, following their own preferences



Personal care workshops

One of our great joys in 2022 was our partnership with Emy Cojocar, which brought to Casa Buna something we had been looking for but did not know where to find.

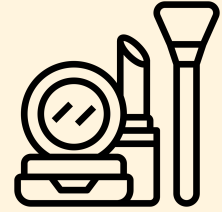
Emy is a professional in her field, with a personality which our teenagers are drawn to, and a career which make our girls pay attention to every single word.

The teenage years are particularly difficult for kids in vulnerable situations, and time with Emy helps keep them close to us. She offers a healthy role model, and why not, maybe the dream of a career.



22

Teenagers took part in the personal care workshops with Emy Cojocar



40

Hours were spent with Emy learning about self care, cosmetics, and building their confidence



4

Teenagers graduated from the personal care workshops after attending 100% of the classes and successfully completing a final challenge



Digital workshops

When online school started and we hit the streets of the Argeş villages, bringing computers, screens and keyboards to each house, during all this rush and panic, an idea was born.

How would it be, one day, if we had the time to stay with the kids and explain what it all means: gigabytes, RAM, and all the rest? Now we are with the children every month to unravel the mysteries of their computers.



Thank you, PepsiCo Foundation, for your support in developing this programme!



10

Digital workshops took place in 2022 in the villages in Argeş



100

Children participated in the digital workshops



20

Hours were spent by the children in the company of the trainers



30

New abilities were imparted to the children through the workshops



Decent living standard at Casa Buna

Hot meals, groceries, hygiene products, clothing and footwear, school supplies, furniture and home appliances

Hot meals

With the help of PepsiCo Foundation we ensured regular meals for all of our children from Ferentari and Nucșoara during the most difficult period of the year, the winter months.

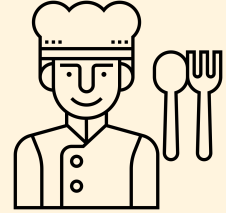
The meals were prepared with attention and care by the kind people from several restaurants. They made sure that the food was both healthy and attractive for children.

We were happy knowing that all their little stomachs were full during the colder months, and that those who tasted lasagna for the first time declared themselves fans for life!



270

Children from Ferentari and Nucșoara benefitted from regular hot meals



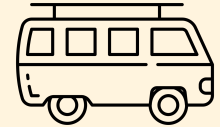
8

Restaurants prepared delicious and filling meals for the children



11.664

Portions of food were distributed



during 15

Weeks of winter we delivered food three times per week



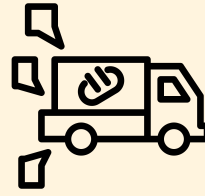
Groceries distribution

Each month, all of the families included in our programme received a package which consisted, each time, of basic groceries such as oil, sugar, flour, rice, pasta, dairy products and fruit.

In addition, the packages included personal hygiene products such as laundry detergent, shower gel, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

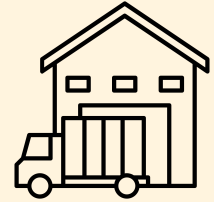


Thank you to Banca pentru Alimente, Lăptăria cu Caimac and Ouă de Țară, for your support!



16

Groceries distributions took place in Ferentari and in the villages of Argeş county



18

Pallets of food and hygiene products were sorted in preparation for distribution



Over 24.000

Kilograms of basic groceries and hygiene products were distributed to the families



Over 15.000

Eggs and dairy products contributed to a more healthy diet for the children



Waktu makan, pilihlah
makanan yang bergizi
dan mengandung banyak
protein serta lemak.

Siapa yang mau
menjadi orang sukses?

Siapa yang mau
menjadi orang kaya?

Siapa yang mau
menjadi orang yang
dipercayai?

Siapa yang mau
menjadi orang yang
dihormati?

Siapa yang mau
menjadi orang yang
dipercayai?

Siapa yang mau
menjadi orang yang
dihormati?

Siapa yang mau
menjadi orang yang
dipercayai?

Siapa yang mau
menjadi orang yang
dihormati?



Unggah dan
gunakan
untuk
mendapatkan
diskon
di
Kaufland

New clothing and footwear

In 2022 we provided clothing and footwear for 50% more children, compared to 2021. We prepared them for the cold winter months and for the spring, and for the first time, we also offered school clothes in September.

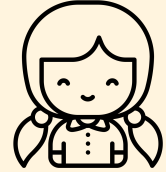
As always, we bought new clothing and shoes, because we know how happy and proud any child feels when they go to school with brand new clothing.

But we didn't think it was enough for the clothing to be new: we also made sure it was colourful, warm, stylish and durable. When it came time to try on the clothing, each child choose their favourite colour and the best-fitting size. None of our clients left Casa Buna's boutique unsatisfied!



More than 100

Donors helped us to prepare the children for the cold and warm seasons



350

Children (3-16 years old) received new clothing this year



More than 3.000

Articles of new clothing were distributed



570

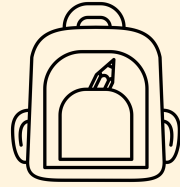
Pairs of footwear - new or in very good condition - were distributed



School supplies

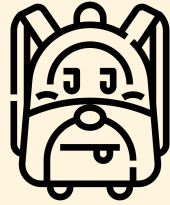
At the start of September our volunteers gathered at Casa Buna for our annual Swedish buffet of school supplies. Only this year it was not really Swedish, but rather Austrian: a large part of the backpacks and school supplies came from Vienna, through the support of the good people at Stepic CEE Charity and Raiffeisen Bank.

Within minutes of the delivery truck stopping at Casa Buna's gate, our gang of volunteers started shuttling the supplies into the house, sorting them, and carefully preparing and packing each backpack for its final destination: the arms of the children. And like every year, our biggest joy was seeing the pride of the smallest children when they received their first school backpack.



350

Fully equipped backpacks were prepared for children in Ferentari, Jilava, Lerești, Campulung, Nucșoara and Sanpetru



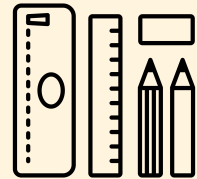
39

Children in kindergarten and the early grades of school received their first school backpack



30

Volunteers helped to distribute the backpacks to the children



12.815

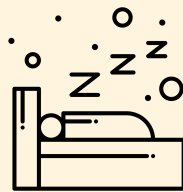
School supplies reached the children in their new backpacks



Furniture and home appliances

Thanks to the kindness of dozens of anonymous donors, we helped many families to significantly improve their standard of living.

Stoves, refrigerators, washing machines, heaters, sofa beds, wardrobes, beds, and other types of furniture were collected from all corners of Bucharest - from Pantelimon or Pipera, from Militari or even from the French Quarter - and transported to their new owners.



93

Families benefited in 2022 from donations of second-hand appliances and furniture



28

Strong volunteers responded to our call to collect and distribute the donations



274

Pieces of furniture and household appliances were distributed during the past year



4.100

Kilometers were travelled by the orange van to take the donations from one place to another



A good home

We have a plan: to help families move out of the ghetto. To help them move to safer neighborhoods, to bigger apartments with better living conditions. It's a long-term plan and it's not easy. The period of adaptation is long, and it's possible that for some, the change may be too big or too abrupt.

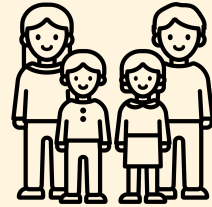
But we have to start somewhere. We have the use of two apartments at the moment, purchased by Valeriu and renovated by Marian. One of them is already in use by a family in need.

It's not just about a good home, but also a better community, better schools, and a better future for the children.



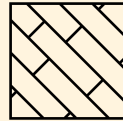
2

Apartments were completely renovated and furnished



1

Family with 4 children is already living in one of the apartments, after it hosted a Ukrainian family for several months



125

Square meters of parquet and tiles were used in the renovation of the apartments



504


Hours were invested in renovating the apartments

Close to the heart

The projects which put coal
in the stoves of our souls,
and give us the power to
keep going

The Nucșoara cabin and astronomical observatory

We dared to dream of a place in the middle of nature where we could bring children to camps, where we could teach them about the stars, about animals and plants, and about all the beauties of nature around us. Nucșoara, a place which enchanted all of us, is one of the best astronomical observation points in Romania and the perfect place to learn about biodiversity and nature. Our dream took shape very quickly thanks to a lucky encounter with the fabulous Bikers for Humanity community and the skilled people from Rubrick architecture company.



Rubrick designed it and the bikers built it with their own hands and with the help of Blu Art: the beautiful cabin where the first children from Casa Buna will come this summer.



287

Volunteers from the Bikers for Humanity participated in the construction of the cabin



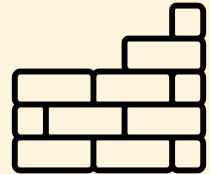
205

Square meters for the children to caper and cavort and 1 telescope



160

Hours of work were contributed by the specialists from Rubrick architecture firm



85

Cubic meters of BCA brick were used in the construction

Bikers for Humanity



The Casa Buna Cup

In 2022 we organized the first two editions of the "Casa Buna Cup" charity mini-football tournament.

The event was about much more than football. 23 companies were happy to contribute to our dream: to build a kindergarten for 100 children in Ferentari and a sports center for children in the ghetto.



The entire event was possible thanks to the support offered by the Romanian Football Federation.



2

"Casa Buna Cup" events took place in 2022



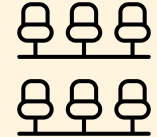
230

Amateur and professional footballers competed on the football pitches



23

Companies answered our call to football and good deeds and registered their teams in the tournament



450


Spectators supported their favorite teams, including the Casa Buna volunteer team: "Come on Gi-gel! Come on Gi-gel!"

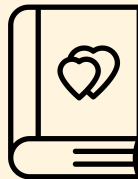


Casa Buna at Bookfest

We tried to make our stand at Bookfest as warm and welcoming as possible so that visitors would linger there; otherwise we wouldn't have had enough time to tell them about everything we do at Casa Buna.

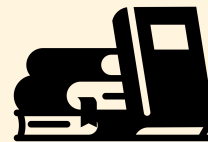
We offered objects handcrafted by us and the children and our book. Yes, that's right: last year we also published a book: "Țigan Țăndări", written by Valeriu Nicolae, founder of Casa Buna, who donated all of the funds raised through book sales towards the construction of our kindergarten.

 Thank you, Thomas, Maria, Diana, Anca, Mădă, Ionuț, Cătălina, Mihai, Adina, Octav!



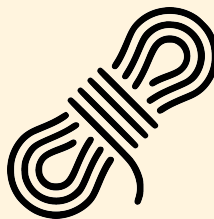
1

Book was published



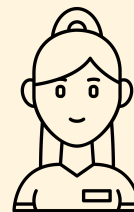
283

Copies of the book were offered to generous donors who laid a brick in the foundation of the kindergarten



60

Meters of string and lights decorated the stand



17

Volunteers made Casa Buna's stand a welcoming place for 4 days

ASOCIAȚIA CASA BUNĂ



Casa Bună



Table with brochures, water bottle, and promotional materials.



Little swimmers

Thanks to the kindness of the Aqua Swim club, we started a weekly swimming programme at the Otopeni Swimming Sports Complex.

Every Saturday this autumn, several of our children benefited from the guidance of passionate and empathic instructors who took them through the first steps in the secrets of "walking on water". The swimming lessons will continue throughout 2023, as part of our collaboration with Aqua Swim, extending over an indefinite period of time.



Thank you, Aqua Swim and Eurolines, for your support!



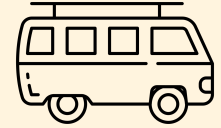
13

Children made friends with the water under the close supervision of the instructors



9

Hours were spent in the pool with swim caps on their heads, paddling their little arms and legs



9

Cheerful rides in Casa Buna's vans brought the children to the pool and back home



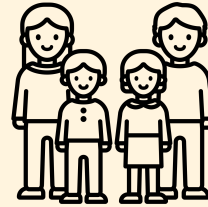
Help for our Ukrainian friends

At the beginning of the war, it was enough know that families fleeing Ukraine found a safe refuge. As their stay in Romania grew longer, we wanted these families, forced to leave their homes, to live in decent conditions, rather than squeezed into old beds and improvised spaces: they needed a minimum of comfort and the bare necessities.

So we tried, with the help of friendly companies, to make their lives a little better: new beds and mattresses, sheets, pillows and blankets, towels, dishes, bathroom furniture, food, hygiene and cleaning products, household appliances, clothing, shoes and even jobs were just some of the things we were able to offer, in addition to encouragement and good thoughts.



Thank you, IKEA, JYSK, eMag, Auchan, Autonom, Beast Philanthropy and Conservation Carpathia, for your support!



152

Refugees in two cities (Bucharest and Constanta) and many more in Ukrainian communities received help



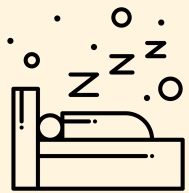
3

Refugee centers in Romania and 1 refugee camp in Ukraine received assistance



16

Appliances equipped a kitchen and a washing space



121

New beds furnished the centers and ensured better sleep

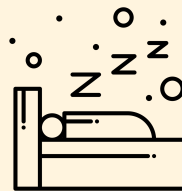


We like to share

Gift by gift, heaven is made. We love it when we can offer assistance to other organisations, especially when we know it is much needed. So we are glad that the assistance we could offer this year was useful to other NGOs which are also trying to change the world, each in its own field. In 2022, we redirected computers, food, hygiene and cleaning products, clothing, shoes, toys, school supplies and children's books to Pirita Children, Open Door Foundation, "Eu, tu si ei" Association, Secondary School no. 5 Săcele and several other organizations and communities.



In turn, we received resources shared by friends from Magic Association, Tășuleasa Social and ETI PC Association, and we are grateful for that.



78

Pieces of furniture helped other education or housing projects for disadvantaged people



36

Pieces of electronic equipment for online education reached other children in vulnerable communities



Over 600

Items of clothing and pairs of shoes reached children and adults in need



362

Books and backpacks with school supplies were given to children from other organizations



A face bine
e molipsitor!
Căminul

A face bine
e molipsitor!
Căminul Căminul

MEHRWECK

Volunteer and donor meetings

After 2 years when we could not meet face-to-face, we really missed seeing each other, talking about our activities, and relaxing together.

Our volunteer community feels like a family, so in 2022 we set out to have as many "family reunions" as possible.

Casa Buna's garden hosted 14 basketball matches, 5 small parties, and 1 big party on the occasion of the 3-year anniversary since the house was invaded by children and volunteers for the first time.



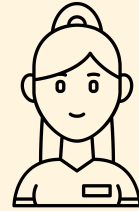
6

Volunteer and donor meetings took place at Casa Buna



14

Basketball games were hosted in the welcoming garden and basketball court at Casa Buna



170

Volunteers and donors participated



Many many

Cakes, crepes, appetizers, steaks, lemonades and other refreshments were consumed during the meetings



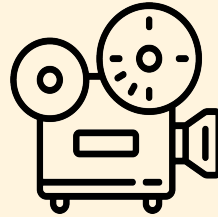
Casa Bună

Movie night in the villages

The movie night project started during the pandemic. Every Saturday evening we would gather the kids online, on Skype, and play a movie for them.

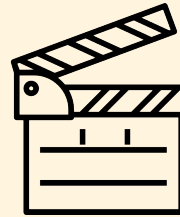
This year we dreamt bigger: “What if we bring movie night to the villages?”

Armed with carefully selected movies, blankets and pillows, and popcorn machines we kicked off the project in the villages. We played the films at the local schools or in open air. Parents, children and volunteers joined our movie nights, making these moments special.



5

Movie nights took place in the villages, in improvised cinemas or open air



2

Animated movies were projected and brought the communities together



200

Long minutes was the waiting time for the sun to set and the movie to start



4

Popcorn machines made sure that no movie played without popcorn!



Klaus? Nemaipomenit?

Santa Claus is coming to town

Every year we set ourselves a mission: to make sure Santa Claus reaches each child with a carefully chosen present. We want Christmas to be a time of joy and happiness.

This year was special. We had a Christmas tree in each location, decorated by the children with ornaments they made together with us. We had a Christmas movie night and a Christmas feast. And most important of all, our community of good people gathered: volunteers, children and parents celebrated Christmas together. Of course the much-anticipated presents were important, but this year, it was more about community and belonging.



10

Companies helped us reach the impressive number of 400 gifts



16

Volunteers re-created Santa Claus' workshop together with the children



400

Presents prepared with love and care reached the children



Over 2.000

Toys, coloring books, and hygiene products were used to create each present



Casa Buna's team

Our “tribe”: staff members,
old and new, working
together with our dedicated
volunteers

Meet the Casa Buna team



Anca Elena
Sandu



Anca Teodora
Sandu



Corina
Olteanu



Eliza
Traistaru



Hannah
Slavik



Lia
Copariu



Marian
Grigore



Mihaela
Aptis



Mihaela
Griga



Thomas
Marinescu



Vincentiu
Mihaiu



Valeriu
Nicolae

The IT crowd

Our IT program matured in 2022. We performed a thorough inventory of all of our IT equipment in order to keep better track of it. We built our own installation script which reduced the time needed to prepare a computer for a child. And we created an IT support app to better address the IT issues children were facing.

We are proud of all these achievements and super proud of our IT “geeks” who made everything possible. Building this team is our highest achievement.



Thank you Pavlo, Claudiu, Alex, Lulu, Iulia, Aurel



20

IT guys and gals jumped in to help whenever an IT problem arose



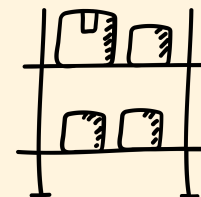
732

IT tasks were solved, remotely or on site in children’s homes



17

IT visits in Ferentari and the rural villages took place in 2022



637

Items of equipment were inventoried and are now being used by children or waiting to be used



“Porters” at Casa Buna

Whatever the need, from safely transporting children or patiently sorting donated clothing, to strong muscles for carrying furniture or strong nerves for tidying up the warehouse, without exception we could count on our little gang of porters.

Few, but hearty and completely dedicated to the cause, juggling their jobs, families and other daily obligations, they found time to help us accomplish all our missions, whenever we called for help.

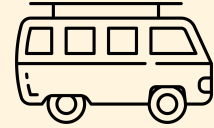


Thank you, Cătălina, Ileana, Daniela, Gabi, Victor, Anca, Gigi, Madi, Vali, Mihnea, Cristi and the whole gang!



30

Volunteers responded positively to furniture collection, sorting and distributing donations



120

Actions were carried out by the agile team



16

Hours, over two days, was the longest continuous activity finalised in 2022 by our porters



+∞

Thanks for the unconditional help received throughout the year



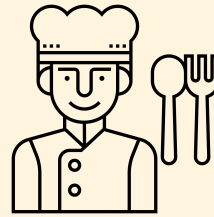
Cooks at Casa Buna

Among a multitude of wonderful volunteers, one group stands out for their readiness to respond to our cooking challenges. Simple, healthy and delicious meals for the kindergarten kids? A Christmas feast for 130 children plus 30 volunteers? What to do with an enormous donated turkey?

Throughout the year, our cooks put on their aprons, sharpened their knives, and got straight to work. The result: delicious and unforgettable meals!



Thank you, Gabi, Lulu, Diana, Cristina, Vladimir, Octavian and all of the cooks, big and small, who lent a helping hand.



17

Cooks put their hearts and souls into preparing delicious meals for the children



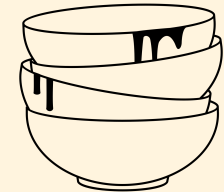
88

Meals were prepared for the children during camps



130

Children from Ferentari and Jilava took part in our Christmas feast



an enormous mountain

Of dishes were washed after every meal!

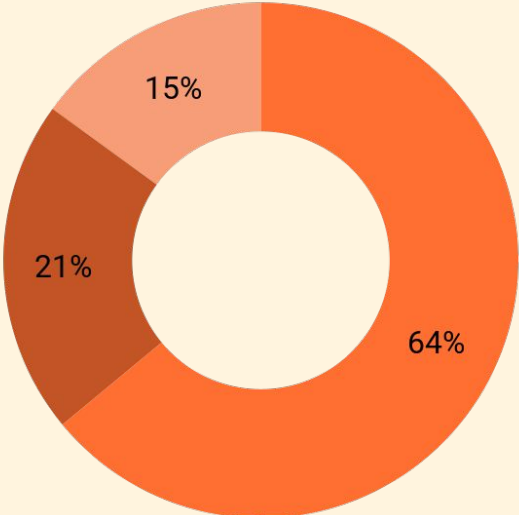


2022 in numbers

The support we received,
and how we used it

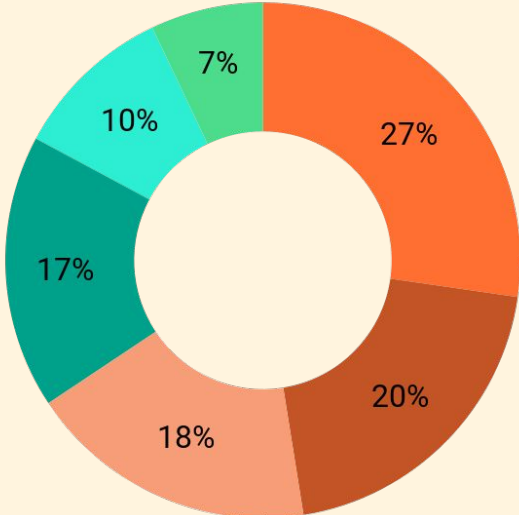
Where our support comes from

- Companies
- Individual donors
- Redirected individual income taxes

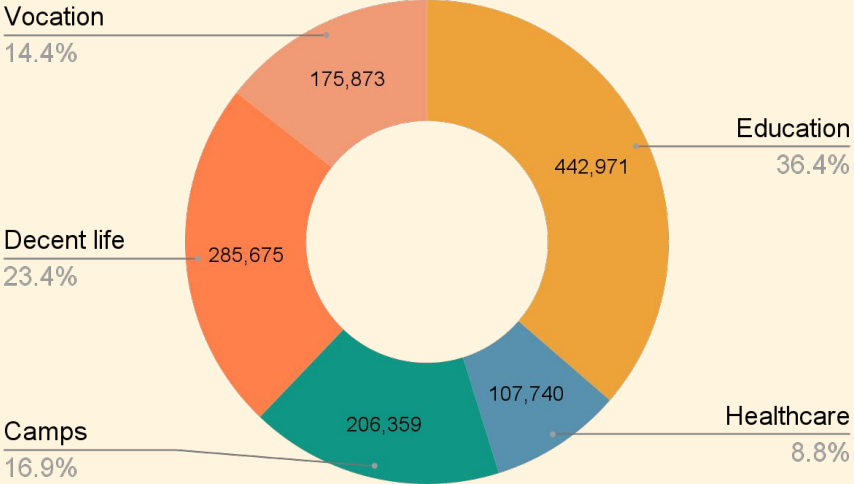


In kind support received in 2022

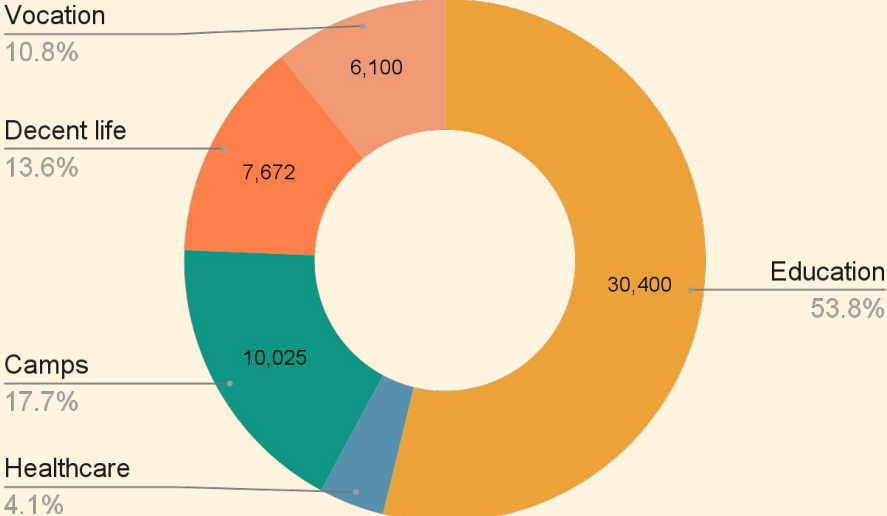
- Food supplies
- Decent life
- Transportation
- Education
- Health
- IT



Financial resources invested (RON)



Human resources invested (hours)





Casa Bu



Bonus - Where we screwed up in 2022

Apprenticeship program

In 2022 we paused our apprenticeship program due to the lack of a clear strategy to attract and retain the teenagers from vulnerable communities.

Teen moms and teens at risk

We didn't find a way to help vulnerable teenage girls build a better future. We didn't manage to build a sex ed or family planning program to guide them.

Casa Buna branches

Although our mission is to reach more communities in need, we didn't yet finalize a framework to help other volunteer groups create their own local Casa Buna to support local vulnerable communities.

Building the Nucsoara cabin

We were too optimistic about the time needed to obtain all of the required authorisations to start building the cabin.

Teamwork

We are brilliant at working independently but we still have a way to go when it comes to teamwork, strengthening the team and motivating each other.

Effort - impact

We are perfectionists. That's a fact. And we often let our perfectionism rule, which sometimes meant a lot of time and energy spent with little impact.

Overload

On many occasions we took on more activities than we could handle, which led to long working hours and fatigue.

Back injuries

From carrying washing machines to hours hunched over the computer, most of the team had back pains this year. We need to learn to take better care of ourselves.

Heeeeeelp!

We are still bad at delegating tasks, at calling for help, and at involving other people into the work that we do.

Where we screwed up in 2022

Those were not the only mistakes we made.

This is how we learn. This is how we grow.

And when we get stuck, we go to Chira for a session of cat-therapy. She purrs and shows us how to enjoy each moment of complete relaxation (in exchange for some of that delicious cat food, of course).

