



Pelunca

ON THE FIELD

Edition 39 | March 2025

10 Years Romania

Hello dear friends! Winter is over—hooray! Normally, I truly enjoy winters here. Freezing temperatures, thick layers of snow, a beautiful blue sky with the sun on my face... absolutely wonderful. But this year, it felt like we were just waiting and waiting for winter to arrive. Barely any snow, and even the occasional rain. This February, we also celebrated something special—10 years in Romania. How time flies!



How Are Things at the Center?

On the bright side, it's a good thing the frost didn't last too long—because at the center, we were stuck waiting on the gas installation crew. The kids kept coming every day, but up until mid-January, it was quite cold without heating. Of course, we had electric heaters to take the edge off, but still—it stayed chilly, and the electricity costs kept climbing. The gas could've been connected much sooner, but let's just say: no money changed hands under the table. Thankfully, they eventually gave in, and now we're all the more grateful for the comfort of radiators!

Now that we've been open again for nearly six months, we're already seeing some beautiful changes in the kids. Of course, not with everyone—many of them face a daily struggle just to be here. Most aren't used to going to school at all, following rules is new to them, they have no clear goals, and often, their nights are spent wandering the streets until midnight, just hoping to find something to eat. Some kids were enrolled but, sadly, had to be taken off the list again simply because they stopped coming. Spaces are limited, and there are always others on the waiting list who do want to be here. Those who do show up soak up the love, meals, snacks, learning moments, and cuddles with wide-open hearts.



Support project PeLunca

IBAN: BE58 1030 7716 4679

BIC: NICABEBB

PayPal: www.paypal.me/PeluncaRomania

Support familie Priem

IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638

BIC: NICABEBB

Always mention: "familie Priem"

Tijs, Jessica and Kids

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Some Testimonies About the Kids

I'd love to share just a few of the many beautiful stories we've witnessed:

Thanks to Jessica's perseverance, we were finally able to enroll Raul after months of trying.

His parents didn't care—there was nothing for them to gain, so they just weren't interested. But Jessica didn't give up. Week after week, she visited the family until Raul's dad had had enough and agreed to sign him up. And then the real work began—Raul was quite the handful! But step by step, he started to settle down and follow the rules more and more. Eventually, his dad even called Jessica over when she was in the village visiting families. Very seriously, he asked, "What did you do to my son?" Jessica thought something was wrong. But then the father continued: "My son used to be the biggest troublemaker in the neighborhood. You couldn't do anything with him. But since he started coming to your center, he's like a different child. He behaves, he listens, and he even speaks more politely. How do you do it?!" It was so encouraging to see the amazement on his face. His teachers are now impressed, too—his efforts and results are improving. There's a real chance he'll pass this year, which is crucial, because if he doesn't, he'll be expelled and lose all future opportunities. We're also incredibly grateful that we were able to enroll his younger sister, Violeta. Their mom is on the streets every day, so we hope Violeta can learn and follow a different, better path.



Irina is another strong reminder of why we do what we do.

She remains one of our more difficult cases—wild in temperament and behavior. But despite her challenges, she keeps showing up. She's actually capable of good grades at school, but her attitude is very problematic. Still, because she keeps coming to the center, we can continue working with her. She used to attend school too, but was often absent. Girls like her often end up pregnant at a young age and fall into a vicious cycle that shapes the rest of their lives. So we're holding on tight to this fascinating, strong-willed young girl, and we pray that with or without a diploma, she'll one day discover her worth, come to know the Lord, and walk toward a hopeful future.



Then there's Claudia, she absolutely deserves a mention.

She's one of the older girls, very rough around the edges, with a loud and fiery personality. But lately, her softer side is shining through more and more. She's incredibly committed—both at the center and at school. Her work ethic is becoming an example for the others. We can see her beginning to realize she *can* have a better future. Step by step, it's really starting to click. Unfortunately, due to a learning gap from earlier years, she still struggles to keep up. It's still a challenge for us to help each child individually with their homework—we simply need more hands for that. The older kids like Claudia face a higher academic level and more demanding schoolwork.

But we keep doing all we can to give them that better future—and Claudia is one of those kids who's already starting to see it.



Pe Lunca Salary Support

Which brings me to my next important point: salaries. We still don't have enough consistent monthly sponsorship to fully cover our costs—let alone offer Simona more hours or bring someone new onto the team. And yet, the children desperately need this. The more helping hands we have, the more we can literally invest in these young lives. For them, education means the difference between having a future with an income—or, for the girls, ending up on the streets, and for the boys, wandering around illiterate, hoping to find some odd jobs to scrape together a bite to eat. It's the difference between being stuck in a hopeless cycle of poverty, misery, and discrimination—or stepping into a future full of hope, where they can prove themselves as valuable members of society.

I truly hope this touches your heart and inspires you to help make a difference for these precious gems. Because even if the world sees them as outcasts—God sees them as treasures.



A Week in England Became an Unforgettable Holiday

In February, we were invited to visit England. Over the past years, many fundraisers had been organized there, which helped make the construction of the center largely possible. So naturally, many people were excited to finally meet us in person and hear firsthand how things are going. Our children had a week off from school, so we gladly accepted the invitation. It's always a privilege for us to testify about all the Lord has done and continues to do.

We arrived in England on Friday evening. Right away, we received the sad news that Sharon had been admitted to the hospital. Sharon is the wife of Chris (a member of the charity Amen-Trust). Chris had planned a full week of meetings and presentations for us—but now, it was unclear what would still go ahead.

At 1:30 AM we finally reached Stratford, and by Saturday afternoon, we were already presenting the project at Stratford Upon Avon Baptist Church. We received such a warm welcome and really enjoyed our time there. A lovely tea party had also been organized, giving us the chance to have many one-on-one conversations. So cozy!

Then came the news that everything for the next 7 days was cancelled. That's when Jessica started to worry. England is expensive, the kids would want to do things, and we simply didn't have the money for it. She even looked into an earlier flight home, but that too looked quite costly. I reassured her that God knew all of this, that He deeply loves our (His) children, and that I truly believed He wouldn't leave it at this. He knew the inner struggles, especially Marie's. She was quite upset that her holiday was again turning into sitting, waiting, and listening to adults talk. She understands what we do and why—and she's always been so patient—but she's still a child who was hoping to spend her break enjoying time with her family.

Sunday morning, we arrived at church and immediately someone placed money in my hand, saying it was for the children. I knew at once that God was at work, and it touched me deeply. A second person did and said the same. Then a third. Overwhelmed, I shared my testimony during the service. Afterward, Malcolm told me the church wanted to show their brotherly love and that all kinds of things had already

been arranged for us. Outings, transportation, meals, pocket money—you name it. We couldn't believe it. And on top of it all, a woman came up to me and said that God had spoken to her during my testimony. He told her to book a hotel for us in London. God wanted to show how personally involved He is with our children. I shared everything with Marie-Lou, and we spontaneously began praising, thanking, and worshiping the Lord together. What an amazing week we had as a family—it was simply perfect! It was truly too God for words!! Our batteries are fully recharged for the first time in a long while.

Meanwhile, Sharon is thankfully on the mend, but we continue to pray for a full recovery.



So, to wrap it all up

The center is once again running at full speed, we continue visiting families and offering help wherever we can. A few new projects are lined up under the PFF (Pe Lunca Family Files—see our website), several babies are receiving monthly support with formula, and there have been many medical needs to address...

Meanwhile, Mircea and I are already preparing for the next visiting group in early April. We'll be welcoming the Belgian Mission Team once again for a week full of outreach. It promises to be another overwhelming, blessed week. Please pray along with us that many hearts will be touched. More on that in the next newsletter!

I'll leave it at this for now, though there's so much more I could have shared. God is just so cool, so good, so faithful—and, thankfully for us, so patient. What a Father!! To Him be all the glory!



Do you like our project and would you like to help us, to give others a better life? This can be done by:

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Single donation or monthly amount.

Support project PeLunca:

IBAN: BE58 1030 7716 4679

BIC: NICABEBB

PayPal: www.paypal.me/PeluncaRomania

Support family Priem:

Family Priem

IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638

BIC: SPAABE22

PRAYER

- **Perseverance, love, and wisdom in all we do**
- His guidance in knowing what to do—and what not to.
- The ability to respond to each child in the way that's right for them. Their many needs—on all levels—often make them very challenging to handle. Please pray for wisdom in this.
- And of course, please pray for the children themselves. We're seeing progress in some, but none of it comes easily. Pray that they may continue to experience God's love in tangible ways.
- For finances to complete the upper floor and ensure it's fireproof.
- Financial provision for salaries.
- For Simona, who, despite earning so little with us, continues to give so much of herself. It's certainly not always easy, but her heart and love for the kids is clearly growing. Pray that this may continue.
- That we may connect with a kind-hearted dentist. Most of the children are dealing with serious infections and decaying teeth.
- For our family—protection, health, revelation...
- Pray that He may always receive all honor and glory!!

SPONSORS

COTTIGNIES

PROJECTS

- Create social surveys and help with basic needs
- Pe Lunca Family Files (PFF): build houses, rebuild, purchase stoves.
- Pe Lunca Food Parcels (PFP): Compose - distribute foodpackages
- Pe Lunca Child Program (PCP): Financially adopt a child
- Pe Lunca Build Program (PBP): Building a community centre
- Provide baby's with powdered milk
- Sort clothing and give packages to the families
- Child and youth activities (sports, games, relaxation, bible reading)
- Medical Support (Doctor, Purchase of medicines, ...)
- Social support (helping teenage mothers, provide ID cards and other papers)

THANKS

- The center and all the children who are now able to attend, the visible progress we see in some of them, and the fact that we are also constantly learning through them.
- Simona's positive transformation and perseverance.
- Amen-Trust and their generous hearts toward the project and our family—and of course, for the very special time they gave us in England.
- Our own children—that despite the challenges and struggles they too face, they are drawing closer to Jesus.
- That we're experiencing God's nearness once again. That when we persevere in the battle, He shows us clearly that we are never alone.
- That He blesses our family in so many different ways.
- That He is our Father—and that He revealed His Father heart to our children.

Tuinen
SANDER
Tuinaanleg en onderhoud