



Pelunca

ON THE FIELD



Dear loved ones!

With half frozen fingers I made some time to write the latest newsletter. Like every morning the day starts with feeding and caring for the animals, but since a few weeks it's starting to freeze harder and harder. So the first sentences of this letter are with red stiff fingers. But like so many, this has to be done too.

First of all a nice family announcement. No, not a new baby, but a big boy of six years since the 25th of November. We are very proud and very grateful with our dear son.



Food Parcels
pelunca.be/pfp



Family Files
pelunca.be/pff



Child Program
pelunca.be/pcp

Support project PeLunca

IBAN: BE29 1030 4919 8064

BIC: NICABEBB

PayPal: www.paypal.me/pelunca

Support familie Priem

IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638

BIC: SPAABE22

Always mention: "familie Priem"

Tijs, Jessica and Kids

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Edition 23 | December 2020

Our small farm

The animals are doing very well, we expect our first baby rabbits very soon. So very curious. It is really nice to be busy with the animals, our own supply. But soon we also will start to explain the Roma step by step how to breed and how valuable it is. So they won't eat everything right away, but rather exercise patience, wait for a nest being born and so on.

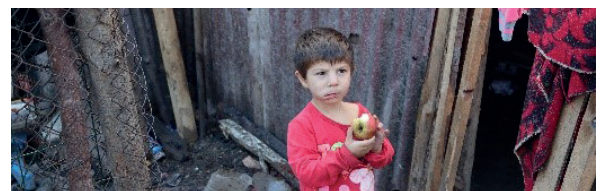
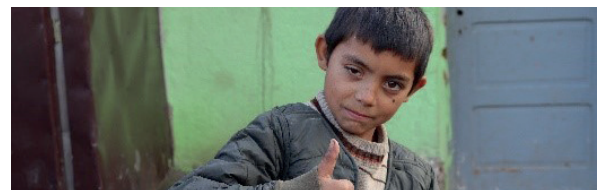


Corona or not, we're not sitting still

Of course it is still a pity that, because of this corona period, we are still very limited in what we can or cannot do with the children/people. But sitting around and waiting is certainly not an option, also not even a hair on our heads (or in my case 'chin') that thinks about allowing the slightest bit of anxiety.

Although we keep to the rules as much as possible. We continue to respect the laws. Although there are absolutely no rules in the Roma villages. The children still fly into our arms when we enter the village and even adults think the distance rules are pure nonsense. We are gypsies' they says there 'even corona is fleeing from us'. So no dirt in the air there.

Of course this is very figurative, because unfortunately it is absolutely very dirty. We're still doing all we can to improve the situations there. Especially when it comes to hygiene. We continue visiting them to know how the people are doing, what needs they have, to pray together.



Housing improvement

Also, thanks to many personal regular sponsors and one-time donations, we were able to help many families take a few steps forward. We delivered about 15 stoves, about 15 pallets of bricks, many bags of cement, transports of sand and stones, a couple of washing machines to pour by hand, one family even received a refrigerator with freezer compartment, doors were placed, Besides that, many families were given new clothes and for some of them even some food every now and then. So no time at all for just sitting still.

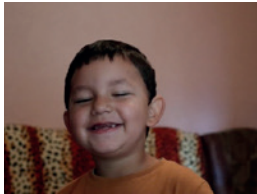


The financial child adoption project (PCP)



In the last period a lot of children were selected again through the financial child adoption project (Pe lunca Child Program). This brings us to 34 sponsored kids. This is of course great news if you read above what a difference this can make and not only for the child, but for the whole family. Because not only the child benefits from this. Once the sponsored child is provided with all the necessary school materials, we save up their donations further and then we'll see what we can do for the whole family.

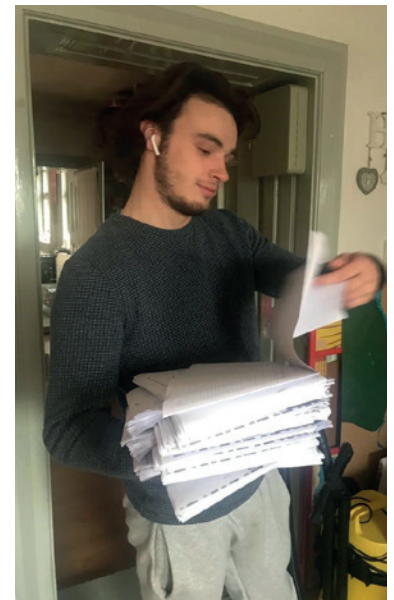
Feel free to take a look at our website to see for yourself how many children have already been sponsored. Or maybe even to take a look at the children who are still looking for a sponsor.



Online classes and home schooling

Throughout this period there has unfortunately been no school for a while now. So kids can take lessons online and learn at home by themselves. But this is also an absolute disaster! The internet here is very weak, so while the children are online it's hard for us to do computerwork. And of course with the children constantly at home it is always looking how, who, when we can get everything done. So it is quite hard for us and our children.

But we certainly can't complain if we compare that with the Roma. We tried so hard to get the Roma into school and to help them after school during the homework program. Even during the vacations we gave extra lessons to help them catch up as much as possible. But now everything is online and we are not allowed to receive them in the center anymore. They don't have tablets or computers and when the children don't come online they are noted as absent. So unfair! Luckily we have Ovidiu who is committed to bring the relevant lesson packages to the children and return them filled out to the teachers. Also Jessica, together with teacher/volunteer Anca, put together task packages to help the children further. Many thanks to our Bavo for putting these neatly together. Packages for no less than 70 kids! Why, would you think, these extra teaching materials? Well, because they're still behind and now no one besides them to give explanations, the lessons of the school are far too difficult. That's why our additional packages serve more as a bridge to what they have to do/know for school. Keep on stimulating, encouraging and patting them on the back are very important to them! Repeating and keeping up with the basics.



The first shoe boxes have arrived

Now that the Christmas cards have been sent, it's time again for all the shoeboxes. Thanks to the great efforts of different people, we can receive no less than between three and four hundred shoeboxes. Around 100, thanks to Geert and Krista, from Belgium, about 175, thanks to Amen Trust, from England and the rest, thanks to Alex, here from Romania. This will again be quite a caraway, but definitely worth it. So many children will be made happy again with a nicely filled shoebox. In the next newsletter you will be able to see the happy faces.

Also thanks to a few generous donations, and in cooperation with our church here, we are looking at what more can be done to still give the Roma a warm Christmas. We may not be able to have a Christmas party in the center, but we still want to give them a nice reminder of Christmas in 2020. In our next newsletter, or Facebook page, you will undoubtedly read more about this.

So, here I'm going to stop writing. In the meantime, my fingers are nice and warm again from all the typing and they're ready to go out again for some wood chopping.

We pray God's blessing for everyone, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's not lose courage, but instead look forward to a hopeful future. Let's now focus on what Christmas is all about. Knowing that when Jesus came into the world, He came as a servant, to announce His coming as King!



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: BE29 1030 4919 8064

BIC: NICABEBB

PayPal: www.paypal.me/pelunca

Support family Priem:

Family Priem

IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638

BIC: SPAABE22

PRAYER

- The renovations in Geoagiu will cost us a lot, especially if we want to comply with all the rules for a day center. So that when inspection comes everything will be approved immediately. Please pray with us for finances.
- Pray for the children who have had no programs for so long, and have not been allowed to come to the classes in the center for a while now.
- For our diligent Bavo, a year abroad sounds fun, but certainly has its difficult moments.
- Bavo would like to be in Belgium with the holidays, pray that this will be possible for him and that he will get back here afterwards.
- That we will be able to give the Roma a warm Christmas despite all the restrictions.
- That we will be able to get back to work in the center soon.
- Please also pray for us personally, especially the children find it difficult to cope with the missing of family and friends.
- For protection, wisdom, peace, love, ...
- Pray that we always have sufficient faith in everything, and continue to look up to Him and Him alone.

PROJECTS

- Create social surveys and help with basic needs
- Pelunca Family Files (PFF): build houses, rebuild, purchase stoves.
- Pelunca Food Parcels (PFP): Compose and distribute food packages
- Pelunca Child Program: Financially adopt a child
- 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)

CONTACT

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THANKS

- Grateful for the past period, for everything that could be done for the people.
- Grateful for Bavo and the great help he is. But certainly also that it clicks with us because that too is not self-evident.
- Enormously grateful for the generous donations for Christmas.
- For all the shoeboxes!
- Grateful that we could already pay half of all the paperwork for Geoagiu. And the rest that we will receive soon. Praise the Lord!
- Grateful for all the support we get.
- Grateful for our beautiful family, my lovely misses and our three fantastic children. What a blessing!
- Thank you very much for your prayers.
- So thankful that we can be called children of God.
- So thankful for His faithfulness, love, comfort, encouragement, reality, miracles, reprimands, ..., His Father's heart.



Extra hands

A few weeks ago we started making all the Christmas cards for all our much appreciated sponsors, because that is the least we can do. But there are a lot of them, so also a very big job. We are talking about no less than 150 cards that were written and made. First we had the sponsored children make a drawing and let the parents write down a word. This word of thanks was then translated into the language of the sponsor. After having written a word of thanks ourselves, the cards were made, with a picture of the family. Fortunately, this year we did not have to do this alone, but we have our very diligent Bavo Daniël Jan Hostens with us. Bavo is our new ESC volunteer. ESC stands for European Solidarity Corps, this is what was previously called EVS. We are very happy and thankful with this young force, it is a boy with not only a heart of gold, but he also has golden hands. We are going to enjoy his help for a full year.