



Pelunca

ON THE FIELD

Edition 35 | March 2024

Hello everyone!

Impatient children

Everyone knows the saying 'the last mile weighs the hardest'. Well, here it certainly is like that. Technically, the center can finally reopen because the provisional license is in place. But we are still facing a final push on the renovation work. The electricity needs to be renewed, heating system plus circuitry needs to be installed, walls repaired after the electrical work, ceiling, floors in almost all rooms and exterior insulation and plaster. The cost for all this is a whopping 25000€. Pennies that we do not have (yet). Once these works are done, we can finally start again with the impatient but exited children of Geoagiu. How great this will be for them!



Pe lunca Salary Support - PSS

And not only to accommodate the little kids' impatience and enthusiasm should this be finished as soon as possible, but the provisional license is only for a year. During this time we really have to start proving ourselves. Is the center on point, are we succeeding in achieving the predetermined goals, did the children make significant growth, are the necessary people employed???? Because this is another point where a lot still needs to be done. Three people need to be employed, a social worker and two teachers/educators. About 3000€/month will be needed for salaries. For now the counter stands at 100€ monthly fixed income for the Pe lunca Salary Support. Simona has been working with us as a volunteer for years and we hope to soon receive a salary for her, so that we can employ her as an educator.

So very important that we can start ASAP! But first pray, pray, pray that all finances may arrive and we can really start working in the center.

Youth and children's work

The youth of Romos and Vaidei are not forgotten either. The work with them had to be paused for a while past two months. For lack of heating we had no other option. But from March they are already on the agenda again and so we continue with the youth work upstairs in the barn. This remains a reasonable challenge for us because neither Jessica nor I have much experience in youth work. What is nice is that the youth of our church here are very enthusiastic to also often do things together. Also the program with the little ones in Romos is going on. Happy little faces.



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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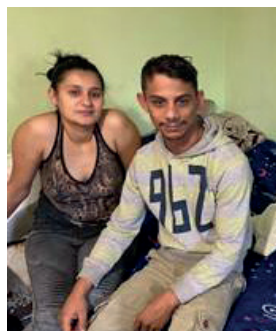
Support familie Osaer

IBAN: BE78 9796 5942 3886

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We keep on helping where we can

Apart from the mountains of paperwork we had to process in the last few months to obtain the provisional license, the people in need were certainly not ignored. Visits continued to be made left and right. A family got a new stove, we helped people get to and from the hospital, medication was purchased, baby visits were made to a very poor family,... Unfortunately, the needs here are and remain very great.



The family of Alin, our dear Roma friend from Orăștie

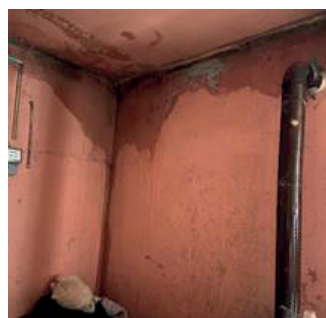
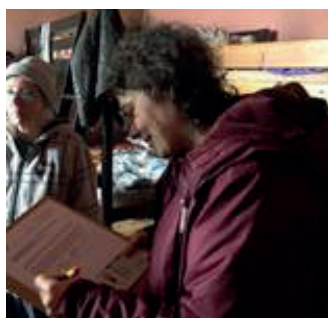
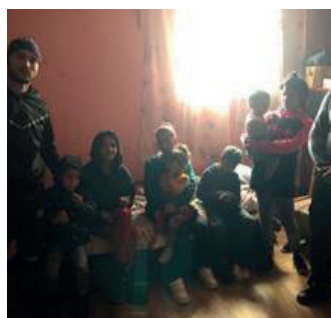
Fire

Samuel and I visited two places in Orăștie where Roma live that we never visited before. One of those places I know because Alin, a "Roma" friend, lives there. Three years ago he also went to live there. Before that, he lived in Orăștie on the waterfront, in a much too small, self-built 'house'. His little house, of which he was oh so proud, was made of boards, carpet, and whatever else could be found. He lived there with his wife and six children, all crammed together in a very small, musty, dark house. But Alin was extremely proud of what he had managed all by himself. But it was only for a moment, because moments later the small house burned down completely, nothing remained but ash and black soil. Fortunately, Alin had

work at that time and was allowed by his boss to move into an old, distant house. From time to time we visit Alin and his family to see how they are doing and if we can help them with anything.

Helping hands

In the area where he lives there are some more houses where Roma live, but until now we had no idea how many families these were, and what their situations are. We also visited them this time and introduced ourselves. These people are also on illegal land. They too are having a hard time. We hope to be meaningful to them in the future as well.



Even more people who could use some help

The second place we visited was at the top of the hill, near the barracks. The barracks is a place we have visited many times before. There we heard several times about the people living on the hill. But we also never went there before until now. So we drove the 4x4 up the

manner, he asked who we were and what we were doing there. Respectfully I answered and explained everything. He gave us permission to return yet, but on the condition that we leave our car at his house, and do not go anywhere or do anything outside his knowledge and without his approval. In the middle of the small houses at the top of the hill is one large and decent house. So this is his and we are no longer

“ In a rather authoritarian manner, he asked who we were and what we were doing there. ” “

hill, exploring. There, too, we found about 12 families. Roma in original costumes, with their own Roma language and culture. Very interesting! We got talking to some women. They were friendly and seemed grateful that there might be some help for them in the future. Just as we finished talking and praying, an older man approached us. In a rather authoritarian

“ So we will do our best and win his respect, ”

allowed to pass it by car. We better take this seriously, because their culture is still deeply rooted. Usually in most Roma villages there was always an overseer. He determines what can and cannot happen in the village. This is



no longer the case in most of the villages we visit, but it is still the case here. So we will do our best and win his respect, but that will be all right. Because apart from mr. boss man, the rest who live there really do need help.

Preparing for the next group to come

At the beginning of April we will have BMT (Belgian Mission Team) over again. A week full of evangelization in various ways, study, children's programs, fellowship,... So it would be great to be able to be meaningful together with BMT for the people of those two places.

To get a clear view of who they are, with how many families and how many children, it is important to visit at least a few more times in the coming weeks to have a social survey of each family individually. That way we will be able to do something very targeted for them.

So we already visited a second time with this goal. This time I went with Jessica, Dinah and Annelies. But very much could not be done. When we arrived at the first place, all the houses were under water up to belly height. It had rained incessantly for two days here and the river had burst its banks. What a disaster! The little they had by then, all broken. What misery! Making the social lists couldn't be done, all we could do was sympathize with them and give them heart.

At the top of the hill, I parked my car at the man's house and introduced Jessica, Dinah and Annelies to him. I explained what we had come to do, but could barely map out one family. There was no point in us staying longer the man said, because everyone was still asleep. No idea if this was true, it was already almost noon. Just as well he just wanted to show that indeed it must all go according to his will there. But we don't give up, next time we will just go in the afternoon.



Bad news..

One last thing before I close the newsletter. After two years of walking in pain, I made an appointment with the doctor in Belgium to have surgery on May 6. So it will most likely be two artificial hips.

What I find even more difficult than the surgery itself is that I will have to stay in Belgium for at least five weeks without Jessica and the children. Please keep my family in prayer, these will certainly be difficult weeks for the children. Five weeks without their daddy, it seems unthinkable for them.

A beautiful, positive and very thankful ending

This last something has a bit of a negative taste lol. So I'm going to throw in one very last point. But a very nice one. Jessica and I have been together for about 22 years and for as long as I remember she dreamed of having a beautiful country kitchen someday. After we sold our house in Belgium, the dream only seemed further off than ever before. BUT, thanks to the generous hearts of four churches, she was finally able to have her dream kitchen made by someone we got to know. Finally done with the kitchen that was almost falling apart, where she could barely get the drawers open. Especially when we had groups it was also uncomfortable cooking, because our gas stove had also seen its best years. But not anymore, my wife beams when she is cooking now. And I am happy to get food in my plate. What a blessing, what a joy, what a testimony of His love. So, so, thankful!!!

Now, we look forward to how everything else will evolve, the center, the ministry, my hips, ..., whatever else God has in store. One thing is certain: God makes all things work for good to those who love Him!



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/PeluncaRomania

Support family Priem:

Family Priem

IBAN: BE24 8601 1087 6638

BIC: SPAABE22

Support family Osaer:

IBAN: BE78 9796 5942 3886

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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 (BPB): 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)

PRAYER

- final renovation works center and finances for this
- Finances for salaries
- Last round of paperwork to be in order
- Youth Romos/ Vaidei
- New Roma we met
- Belgian Mission Team
- Hips Tijs
- Priem and Osaer families
- That we never fall short of faith
- That in all we do He always receives all honor and glory

THANKS

- For all that could have already been done to the center, it is miraculous
- That all the paperwork is finished
- The new Roma we got to know
- How we can still assist people in need
- How the Lord continues to provide for us
- Jessica's new kitchen
- Who we are in Him
- So grateful for His care, love and protection. For His Father's heart.

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PELUNCA SALARY SUPPORT

Wil je meer info over ons nieuwe project?
PELUNCA.BE/PSS

