

Grace Notes

November 2023

HANNAH works in Romania to bring Hope and Nurture to children and families who struggle to care for their own.

The work focusses on strengthening families and building links within their communities by providing social work support and training.

Hannah's prayer is also HANNAH's prayer ...

"There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God... He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap"

1 Samuel 2 v 2,8.

HOPE AND NURTURE
HANNAH
NURTURE AND HOPE



Greetings from Romania!

Ken and I arrived over 4 weeks ago in temperatures of 26° C. Very nice! Since then the temperatures have dropped and we certainly need our winter clothes and coats now. We caught the last of the beautiful autumn, now we expect some snow before we leave in early December.

There is nothing like being here for a longer period of time. Even though we arrived with intentions, we needed time to assess what is happening, how that relates to our goals, and how to make plans that address the real issues, not what they look like on the surface. One of the things we have learned is that many organisations have had to reorganise since Covid-19. No one has been untouched. As you know, HANNAH also changed post Covid lock downs, and we have needed time to assess and be responsive to the changed environment here also.

God's reassuring promise has come through strongly that he is always with us and will not forsake us. This has sustained us and we are seeing how God is using us, and the plans He has for us. Deuteronomy 31:7,8.

Training

We have had two days providing training and support for staff of a children's home on the effects of trauma on children's development and how to bring healing through relationship. It was amazing, lots of good questions and discussions as to how it applied to their particular situations and children. It certainly kept us on our toes! This kind of training also brings up things in peoples own personal lives and provides an opportunity for us all to grow.



Training: Team Work

On 24 November Ken and I will be in Rimnicu Valcea at The Family Centre (founded by another NZ'er). Supporting them with training on understanding the effects of trauma in regard to the families they work with. We are looking forward to this and meeting Camelia, their Director again.

Networking

We have met with several amazing individuals and organizations, and discussions are ongoing regarding further collaboration and mutual support.



Above: Pelicans

Below: Owl in a tree with bird flying by



Above: Clay work with Ken

Below: Parents and Children working together



Families

It is a real joy to meet the families Kati has been working with and to see the level of trust they have in her. This is also evidenced in the way the families are relating to each other; more open, less anger and the realisation they can hope for a better future for themselves, and be a part of making this happen.

Family camp

Praise God for the opportunity to spend time with our families, enjoy good food together, have fun and share special moments at the HANNAH 'camp' held at CE House.

For the children and parents, being creative through clay work and painting was like therapy for them and an expression of their individuality as well as their connectedness within family and friendship. Creating a big art work, after a visit to the zoo brought everyone together. This activity was led by an artist. Each person did their own painting and then it was 'pulled' together by moving into each others' spaces until there was no blank paper left.

Isn't this how we work best together also? We do what we are called to do using our skills and talents, but when we work out how to work alongside, and with others, something stronger and even more beautiful emerges, and far more effective.

The other highlight was to witness the love of these parents towards their children. We are certainly seeing the hearts of the fathers (and mothers) turning towards their children.



Training: Completing a rhythm exercise with long sticks

Needs:

One of our families has asked if we could help with purchasing a fattened pig that would provide them with food over the winter. Miklos will process it himself which he did successfully last year. The cost is \$300-500. And yes, we have thought about how we could help in the future, maybe fatten their own piglet but 1)they don't have spare food, 2)feed for a pig is expensive and 3) there is a risk it would get stolen. The money Miklos earned this year has gone towards a covered extension on their dwelling where 7 people live in a single small room sharing 2 beds. He has done a great job.

We need more people to support the work of HANNAH financially. To take on anything more we will need a full time social worker.

Please pray about this and if you can help, donate through the OHFI or HANNAH bank accounts provided below. Within Europe please refer to our website.

Thank you for considering this.

God Bless you, thanks for your prayers and support.

Kati, Alice and Ken

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