

Grace Notes

February 2024



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.

Winter is a picturesque time of year in Romania. Snow draped over the landscape like a blanket, the crunching sound of footsteps on fresh snow, boots, warm clothes, cosiness and warmth indoors. It's rare to find someone who doesn't appreciate the beauty of a fresh snowy landscape. For many though, any romantic response is short lived as the reality of surviving takes over. Living in a shelter with gaps to the outside air in temperatures that go as low as -20°C is life threatening. Thank you to those who support these families with firewood, warm clothing and food. In December we were able to help a family purchase a pig which the father had the skills to process and preserve, providing them with food over the winter months.

HANNAH Christmas Celebration



Making biscuits together



A time to reflect & celebrate

HANNAH's Vision: For every child to know they are loved, valued, nurtured and have a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

Children and Families - Inspiring Hope and Achievable Goals.

We are continuing to hear wonderful stories of how the training in social work practice, which HANNAH has facilitated, is making a difference in people's lives. In the first instance it brings inspiration, hope and confidence to the people who work with families and children, as they become better equipped to support the families they help. As a result, the families, children, and young people feel they are being heard and given their own voice to express their strengths, needs and hopes. This gives motivation for deeper and long-lasting change.

Over the past 2 years HANNAH has facilitated Partnering For Safety Training, making it available to all those who work with families and children in the region. This includes NGO's as well as State Services. To help embed this training in practice, participants are invited to monthly online mentoring sessions with trainer Catherine Santoro.

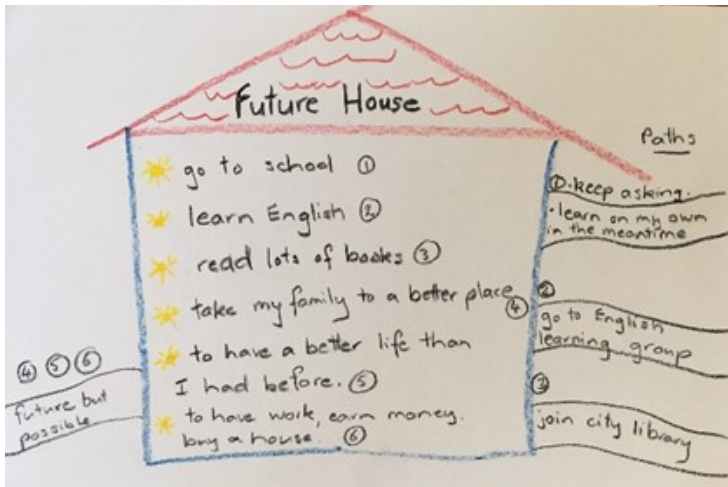
Here are some stories showing the positive impact this training has made to social worker's practice and thereby to families...

HOPE AND NURTURE
HANNAH
NURTURE AND HOPE

Future House

One girl was overjoyed when she realised that she could actually dare to dream for a better future. Using a 'tool' called a Future House, she expressed her hopes:

- to attend school
- to learn English
- to read lots of books
- to take her whole family to a better living place
- to have a better life than she had before
- to have a job.



This girl is from a family of 7 who live in a very small room with 2 beds. We knew her and two of her siblings from when they were in the TB Prevention Institution which closed during covid-19. She is now living in a place that will enable her to attend school, she is one of a group practising English, and has joined the city library. Her other dreams are motivations for the future but for now she can see that they are not impossible.

The other beautiful thing in this story is that the parents had been resistant to letting her go as they felt they needed her to look after the younger children. By asking them the question of "where would they like their daughter to be in five years' time?", they realised they wanted her to have more opportunity than they had and so supported her plan for education. She loves her family and keeps in regular contact with them. Over Christmas she chose to stay with them for 2 weeks, leaving her warm accommodation for an environment of cold and snow to be with them.

Three Houses

Using the 'tool' of Three Houses: House of Worries, House of Good Things and House of Dreams. In this case it was used with children but is useful with parents also.



House of Good Things

Social worker: "It was good to hear from the children's perspective and understand what it is like for them." "I realised that there were good things happening too. In my job we tend to look just at the negative and forget to look for what is going well."

Training

We have scheduled further *Partnering For Safety* Training for May 2024. There will be 2 days of Foundational Training on the 21st and 22nd May, followed by a day of more in-depth training for those in the community who participated in previous years.

Prayer

For the organisation of this event, eg venue, catering, materials etc., and for the funds to run the training programme.

Funding

HANNAH is asking for a fee from participants but as this will be in line with their local income it will not cover the actual expenses. Please consider whether you can help financially so that we can cover the cost from targeted donations.

It is wonderful to see the values and beliefs of the HANNAH Strategic Plan, stated below, coming to life in this training...

We believe in taking the time to develop deep trusting relationships with children, families and communities that inspire hope and motivate change.

We believe in sharing our knowledge and expertise freely with other organisations and welcome opportunities to train and mentor other professionals working in the same field.

Thank you for your support in helping the 'HANNAH dream' come to pass.

Blessings, Kati, Alice and Ken

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