

Our Beloved Children



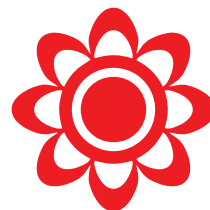
(Clockwise from the bottom)
Cristina, Raul, Vlad, Ana Maria, Livia,
Stelian, & Robert



Romania Celebrates Martisor

Martisor is a traditional Romanian holiday. The word Mărțișor is the diminutive of Marție, the modern Romania word for March which literally means "little March." Customarily, on the 1st day of March, a talisman with red and white string & hanging tassels is given to others as a symbol of their friendship, love, appreciation, and respect. It is believed that the wearer will be strong and healthy during the coming year. It is also a symbol of the coming spring. Usually, both

women and men wear the talisman pinned to their clothes, close to the heart, until the last day of March, when it is tied to a fruit-tree twig. Related to Martisor, and also a symbol of spring in Romania, is the snowdrop flower which is seen throughout Romania bursting through the snow. A truly hopeful sign that spring will come again!



Snowdrops (Photographer Unknown)





Children making Martisor gifts



Martisor gifts made by the children

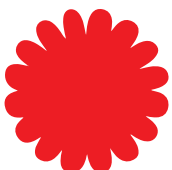
In addition to making Martisor gifts for their friends and teachers, on Martisor the children visited The Home for the Elderly in Brasov. They brought fresh flowers and their homemade Martisor gifts for the residents. The children wanted to show that these people should not be forgotten and needed hope of the coming spring too!



Children at the Home for the Elderly



Both the children and elderly enjoying the Martisor tradition



Casa Mea Celebrates Valentine's Day



Thanks to Grandma Esther, the children in Romania celebrate Valentine's day on February 14, an American right of spring. Grandma Esther never fails to miss a US holiday by sending the children a special gift. And this year was no exception. Each child received a card which included US dollars and traditional Valentine chocolates.



Children with Grandma Esther's Valentines



A Sad Farewell

Our dedicated volunteers Hazel and David, British citizens, are leaving this spring to return to their lovely island home of Minorca. Due to potential changes resulting from Brexit, they are not able to stay throughout the school year as is their usual practice. While

volunteering, they live with us at Casa Mea and are the children's surrogate, loving grandparents. They help the children with their homework, plan fun activities for them, and treat them to those little extras that grandparents so often do! As evidenced by the fact that Hazel & David brought pizza, trifle, and apple crumble to their own going away party! Who wouldn't love them for their time and attention? We will all miss them and hope they will be able to return in the fall.



Hazel, David and Felicia with the children at going away party

Planning for Summer



With summer fast approaching, Casa Mea is calling for volunteers to work with the children and/or to help our staff in the garden, with the housework and cooking, or small fix it up projects. If you are interested, please contact Jan at 612 227 3239 or jan@casamea.org.



Children with Turkish Volunteers

Fresh New Websites

Casa Mea has two new websites! Thanks to volunteers from the Romanian company Intersoft C.E.E. SRL, Fundatia Casa Mea (the Romanian name for Casa Mea) has a new logo, and a new Romanian website which is in both English and Romanian. Thanks to Lea, currently of California, Casa Mea USA also has a new logo and a refreshed website. Please take a minute to check both of them. We welcome your feedback!

THANK YOU

We are so fortunate for all of our friends and donors. You enrich all of our lives and we couldn't do it without you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! WE AT CASA MEA HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT!



To send your financial gift to Casa Mea...

- By Check: Payable to **Casa Mea** at 6705 Shadow Crest Drive, Plano, TX 75093
- By Credit Card: Donate online by visiting www.casamea.org and click "Make a Donation"
- Other Donations: Contact Jan at 612-227-3239 or email jan@casamea.org to arrange for a monthly automatic bank withdrawal, donation of appreciated stock, or other type of financial donation.

All contributions to Casa Mea are tax-deductible. Thank you!