



Words of Wisdom from Long Ago

It seems as though everyone is running around searching for “happiness” especially those of us who regularly have our basic needs met on a daily basis. There is a plethora of books on how to achieve happiness. Some books state that to be happier you should meditate, or to think positively, or to do what makes your heart sing. Norman Vincent Peale said:

“The way to happiness is to keep your heart free from hate, your mind free from worry, to live simply, to expect little, and to give much. Scatter sunshine, forget self, and think of others.”

Some say all of these things may in truth make you a happier person. And we know that happier people spread joy and love to all of those around them. However, here is a somewhat different view on happiness from long ago:

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have made a difference that you lived and lived well. ”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ask yourself, “Has my life made a difference?”

Why Donate to Casa Mea?

By Erin Fisher, Casa Mea Volunteer

The question that a lot of people have is why donate? Before parting with their donation, they want to know that Casa Mea is offering these kids something they couldn't have found at the orphanages or small, government run institutions where they would otherwise live.

If there are people out there who aren't sure whether they should donate to Casa Mea, or who would like the assurance that their money is being used to do good in the world, I'd like to offer that.

Your donation doesn't just keep Livia warm at night. It gives her a safe place to practice her dancing, art, karate, and whatever other interests have caught her fancy on any given day.



Your donation doesn't just give Stelian enough food to eat every day. It allows him to play soccer, practice swimming and biking, and focus on leisure activities, because he doesn't have to beg or steal to fill his stomach.

Your donation doesn't just provide Ana Maria with a warm bath when she needs it. It allows her to pursue swimming, her favorite sport. She's so good, her instructor thinks she may be able to swim competitively in her teenage years.



Your donation doesn't just give Cristina a safe home. It gives her a home that is so safe and so secure that she can branch out and express her deep compassion for the animals of Prejmer. Whether its cats, dogs, cows, or chickens, Cristina constantly impresses us with her caring and gentle attitude.

Your donation helps us supply Robert with the loving staff that he needs, of course, but it also allows us to hand pick the women who work with us. They are patient and kind, and they are teaching Robert to read, write, and do math, but they're also showing him how a mother should treat her children, and how he should one day treat his own children. Every time he shows us that he knows how to love and respect others, we are sure that his early life has not had a negative impact on him, and we are so thankful for that.



Your donation doesn't just help us maintain the house, it also provides Vlad with plenty of room and freedom to practice his karate. Since taking classes in Prejmer, he's discovered that it really is his passion, and he enjoys demonstrating everything he learns in class while we play outside.



While your donation is vital to keeping the lights on, it's also providing Raul with a home that he's never experienced before. He is free from the worries of living on the streets, and every morning he wakes up warm and fills his belly. He gets to put on a new jacket, walk to school in clothes that fit him, and spend his time studying and playing and being a child.



Though the orphanages are slowly improving, they are still institutions which provide only the basic needs—the children there lack the loving support and attention that we feel it is important to give our kids. Some of our kids grew up in these homes before coming to Casa Mea, and it is often apparent that their time there was less than nurturing. Every time we have the chance to help one of these kids, and to show them there is more to the world than the life they knew while living in government-run homes or on the streets, we feel as lucky as the kids are.



Facing all of these difficulties, and knowing how much our kids have suffered in the past, is sometimes trying and often painful. The solace comes in watching the children of Casa Mea blossom into wonderful people whose lives are full and who are happy and healthy.



Your donation allows that, and it allows me to see it. And for that, I will always be grateful.

Volunteers



Many people in Brasov have come together and offered us their time and resources. Through their generosity, we've been able to provide the kids with:

Karate lessons for Vlad

Swim lessons for Ana

Art lessons for Cristina and Livia

Swimming & Biking lessons for Stelian

Soccer lessons for Raul and Robert

In addition, many individuals and groups have donated food, school supplies, clothes, and other necessities in the hopes of helping to provide for our kids.

We love the community involvement, and are always thankful!

Mi Casita

For the furnishing of a new children's home for orphaned and abandoned children in San Pedro las Huertas, we need lots of supplies and furnishings.

If you or anyone you know has any of the following items to donate or to purchase at a reduced price, please contact Jan at jan@casamea.org or Jessica at jstevensdb@hotmail.com.

Cribs

Mattresses

Mattress Protectors

Bedclothes

Wardrobe

Pots and Pans

Kitchen Cabinets

Cutlery

Plates

Stair Gates

Fire Extinguishers

Desks

Clothes for Babies

Clothes for Toddlers

Dresser

Changing Mats

Room Decoration

Curtains

Towels

Bottle Sterilizers

High Baby Chairs

Baby Walkers

Toys

Microwave

Everything else babies need would be welcomed and gratefully appreciated!



The Fuego Volcano erupting



Alfombra in the church of San Bartolomé



The procession of Santa Ana

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 clicking [HERE](#) or visit www.casamea.org and click on "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!