



*“To the world you may be one person but  
to one person you may be the world.”*

To Our Esteemed Friends and Colleagues:

First, to those of you whose support we continue to rely upon to keep Casa Mea running: thank you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and on behalf of the children who directly benefit from your generosity. Without you we could not continue to do what we’ve been doing, and that fact has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

Casa Mea is a non-profit organization which provides loving group homes to children who have been orphaned or abandoned. We have a location in Romania which houses seven individual, bright, and delightful children. Vlad, 14, likes to practice karate. Ana Maria, 12, is incredibly bright and enjoys learning English and swimming on the weekends. Cristina, 11, and Livia, 9, take art classes and learn painting and ceramics. Stelian, Livia’s twin brother, swims, bikes, and runs each week with a coach from the city. Raul, 10, and Robert, 8, play soccer on the local team, and Raul is so good that he also plays on a team with older boys. Every time we identify our children with their accomplishments and the activities they enjoy most, rather than with their tragic pasts, we know that our work here has been worth everything; all the costs and all of our energy.

In addition to our fully functioning home in Romania, we have a home in Guatemala that is ready to open as soon as CPS performs its final inspection. We intend to open our home to children and infants who have cleft lips and/or palates who currently live in the local hospitals and have nowhere to go and no place to call home.

Casa Mea began because a small group of people saw a problem and believed that they could spend their lives working to improve the situation. The issue of child abandonment still exists, and there are countless children whom we cannot help, but for those that we can, the entire world has changed. The world is a better place because of Casa Mea, and it is important to us that we continue to offer a loving home and support to these children and more. As we expand

into Guatemala, we are delighted to be able to use the expertise and knowledge that we've accumulated over the years to spread our message and to continue to change young lives.

Our greatest need is financial support with Operating Costs. It's not glamorous or exciting, but the need for funds is ever-present. We have to keep the house warm, especially during the bitterly cold Romanian winters. Many children in Romania have grown to know the cold all too well, having lived on the streets or in homes without heat, and we are proud to be able to say that our children will never again know that feeling. We have to keep the electricity on and the water running. Every day, we feed the children three full, nutritious meals and two snacks per day so that they may never again feel hunger.

We have a caring staff of women who rotate shifts, never leaving the children unattended. These women cook meals for the children, keep the house clean, and act as mother figures, showing the children love and kindness throughout the day and evening. We have an educator who works with the children's teachers to ensure that none of our children fall through the cracks and none are forgotten by the school system. She ensures that their homework is done properly and that the kids take responsibility for their education. Many poor children in our village leave school before the ninth grade, making our educator's role all the more important to us in our hopes that our children will not follow suit. We also have a social worker who works with the children on a daily basis. Finally, we have an administrator who ensures the smooth operation of our home in Romania.

We anticipate with your support our homes in Romania and Guatemala will continue to expand and that the need for financial support of our Operating Costs will persist.

As we continue to work to keep our homes running, we hope that you'll take this opportunity to help us make an impact on the global community. For those who have already been supporting Casa Mea, please know that your funds are being used to change the lives of the children we serve, and every day we see evidence of positive change. For those who have not yet joined Casa Mea in our mission, we hope that you'll consider making a financial donation of any size, secure in the knowledge that 100% of our funds go to the care of our children and the keeping of our homes.

Thank you for your support and for the opportunity to impact young lives so positively. We are grateful to be a part of our children's lives every day, and we are grateful to all of you who make that happen.



## MI CASITA

Although there is still no permission from Child Protection to open Mi Casita, there has been much happening at our home. Thanks to donations from several companies, Guatemalans, foreigners in Guatemala, and especially Dutch donors, we were able to furnish the house. And thanks to volunteers, we have lovely murals on the walls. Child Protection required many security requirements added to the home, which now are in place. We are simply waiting for the final inspection from CPS. Thus, we hope that Mi Casita will open soon. Thanks to all of those who have helped us achieve this, volunteers and donors alike. With a special thanks to Cemaco, a Guatemalan company, for their generous donations, Katherine Gonzalez for her help with donations in Guatemala City, and Christien Stevens, a Dutch citizen, for her tireless efforts to collect Dutch donations. At this time, we still need the following items: a desk and filing cabinet, pots and pans, non-breakable plates and utensils, TV, DVD player and DVDs, plastic storage boxes, clothes and shoes for children age 1-3 years, diapers and powdered milk. Hopefully, you can help us with this!

### For Our Dutch Friends:

Alhoewel er nog geen toestemming is om Mi Casita te openen en de toezichtsraad nog steeds erg langzaam te werk gaat, is er hard gewerkt in het tehuis. Dankzij donaties van diverse bedrijven, spullen geschonken door Guatemalteken en buitenlanders in Guatemala en met name Nederlandse donaties hebben we het huis in kunnen richten. En met dank aan vrijwilligers staan er leuke schilderijen op de muur. Ook moet het huis aan allerlei veiligheidseisen voorzien, wat nu in orde is gemaakt. Zodoende hopen we dat binnenkort bij het huisbezoek de toezichtsraad tevreden zal zijn.

Onze dank gaat uit naar alle mensen die mee hebben geholpen om dit voor elkaar te krijgen, vrijwilligers en donateurs, met extra dank aan Cemaco voor hun geweldige donatie, Katherine Gonzalez voor al haar hulp met donaties in de hoofdstad en Christien Stevens voor het helpen met Nederlandse donaties.

Op dit moment hebben we nog dringend de volgende spullen nodig: een bureau en archiefkast, potten en pannen, (plastic)borden en bestek, televisie, dvd-speler en dvd's, opbergboxen, kleding en schoenen voor kinderen van 1-3 jaar, luiers en poedermelk. Hopelijk kunt u ons daar bij helpen!



## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Both children and adults donated their time and energy to create these blankets for the children at Mi Casita and also donated many toys for the babies and toddlers. Thank you!



## CASA MEA ROMANIA

Thanks to the generous donations from our Romanian friend from Bilka, our children were able to spend a week at the Black Sea this summer. Luckily, we had the van which was donated last year by The Mound-Westonka and Bacau Rotary Clubs plus Rotary International to transport all the children to the seaside. One woman from Bilka also donated 45 books to our school to create a library for our English students. Thanks for your generosity and the generosity of those other Romanians who have consistently supported Casa Mea.



To send your financial gift to Casa Mea:

- By check: Payable to Casa Mea at 6705 Shadow Crest DR, Plano, TX 75093
- By Credit Card: Donate online by visiting [www.casamea.org](http://www.casamea.org) and click on "Make a Donation"
- Other donations: Contact Jan at 612-227-3239 or e-mail [jan@casamea.org](mailto:jan@casamea.org) to arrange for a monthly automatic bank withdrawal, donation of appreciated stock, or other type of financial donation.

ALL DONATIONS TO CASA MEA ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE. THANK YOU!