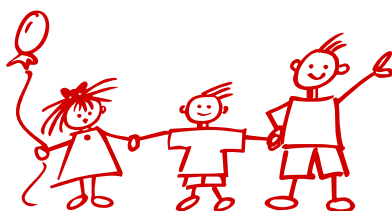


CASA MEA NEWS

Fall 2011



Summer fun is over! Prejmer has gorgeous, long summers. The children love being outside!



we need to plan for next year!



Now that it is fall, it is time for **Casa Mea's Annual CARING & SHARING Fund Drive** to cover our expenses for 2012. We know there are many worthy causes that compete for your attention, but orphaned and abandoned children are our mission. They would have no chance to grow up healthy and happy without us.

We must raise \$8,000 a month to keep Casa Mea going. That's a lot, but we strongly believe we are doing the right and necessary thing for these precious children, no matter how difficult it may be. We hope it is your mission too!

Where the money goes

the children, of course!

Vlad, at 10, is the eldest of Casa Mea's children. This fall he is in the 4th grade and is already very good in English. He translates Jan's English so the other less fluent children can understand her! Vlad has a congenital heart defect and may be facing surgery in his teen years. However, this does not stop him from being a typical active boy who loves to play outside, riding his bike, climbing on the monkey bars, and jumping on the trampoline.



Ana Maria is 8 years old and in the second grade. Already she is our little mother. She helps with the smaller children and is always eager to cook, clean, and help with the laundry. Would you believe such a pretty, feminine “lady” is extremely good at karate?



Cristina is the next eldest at 7. She is in first grade and looking forward to going to school with the “big” kids this year. She is turning into a real charmer and captures your heart with her big smile! Unfortunately, due to her early deprivations, she is developmentally delayed and will need help in the first grade.



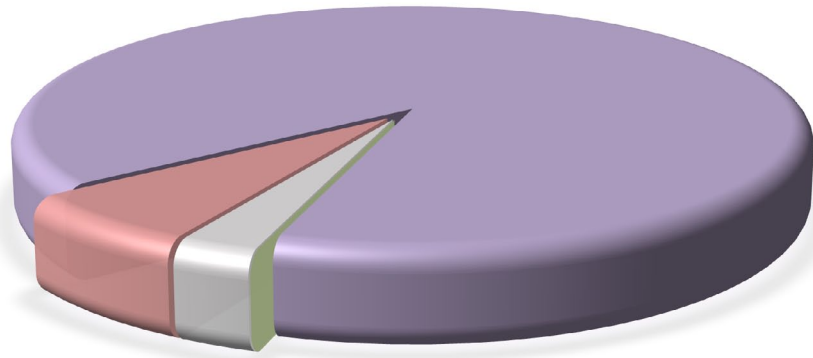
Mihaela just turned 6 and is in her last year of kindergarten, or the preparatory class before first grade. She is a little spit fire and doesn’t take any nonsense off of anyone. Although Mihaela lived her first years on the streets, she is extremely bright and has a very hopeful future!

Livia (or **Bibi** for short) and her twin brother Stelian (or **Steli**) are just as precious as can be. They are 5 and will start kindergarten this year. These two children came to us from the orphanage where they have lived since their mother abandoned them at birth. Both of them are physically, emotionally, and socially delayed due to this past experience. In addition, Bibi has a lazy eye which has yet to be corrected. Regardless, they try to keep up with the older children and do all that the older ones do. At each meal, Steli makes the announcement “boy, this sure is good!” and eats as much as all the others!

Robert, the youngest, is 4 and is in his second year of kindergarten. He is one “hunk” of a boy and like his big sister, Ana Maria, is eager to help with chores around the house! When he is asked to do something, he runs so fast that you are sure he will topple over any minute.



everything
else is less
than 10% of
our budget



	Operating Expenses	90.1%
	Fund Raising	2.9%
	Administration	7.0%
	(licenses & permits; accounting, legal & banking fees; Romanian public relations fees)	
	Capital Expense	0.0%
	All workers in the States	0.0%

We are asking you to dig deep within your abundance and give to our abandoned Casa Mea children. **For the sake of these children and more to come, please CARE enough to SHARE from your abundance!**

“ [E]ven if you think there is nothing you can contribute, then think again. It doesn't matter how small the contribution, it will be gratefully accepted and you can be a part of a big drive to help [these children] in Romania. ”

Excerpt from *My Story* by Daniel O'Donnell
who supports a charity for orphaned and abandoned children in Romania



We are counting on you to make our Caring-Sharing Drive a huge success!

Vlad's birthday
was August 21.
We celebrated
with a traditional
Romanian picnic.
Fun!!



**Andra, our house
parent at Casa Mea,
with the children.
What a beautiful
group of kids!!**




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: You may donate on-line by clicking on this PayPal button  or visit our website at www.casamea.org and click on "Make a Donation"



Other financial donations: Contact Melanie Clark at melanie@casamea.org or at 972.306.6705 to arrange for a monthly automatic bank withdrawal, donation of appreciated stock, or other type of financial donation

If you have specific questions regarding how you can help, please call us at 972.306.6705 or email us at jan@casamea.org.

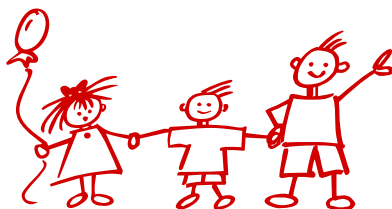
All contributions to Casa Mea are tax-deductible.

Thank You!

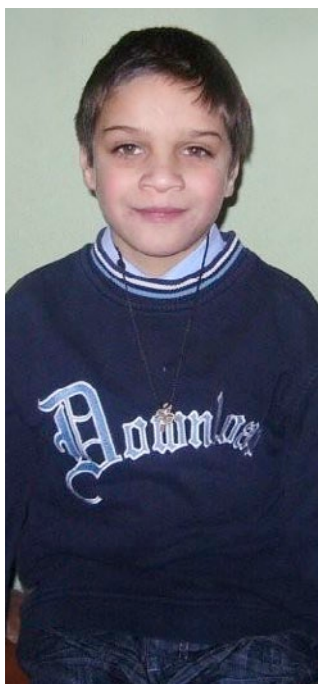


CASA MEA NEWS

Spring 2011



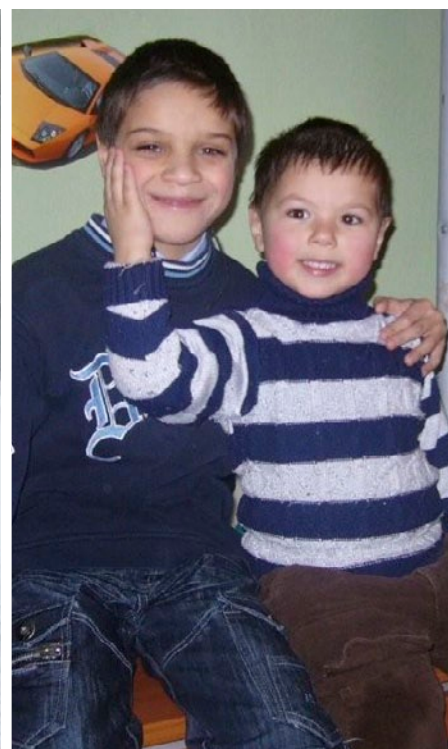
we are family



Hi, my name is Vlad. I am nine years old and the eldest of the children here at Casa Mea. Then there is Ana Maria who will soon be 8, Cristina is 6, Mihaela 5, and Robert who is 3.

Stefan and Maia left us at the beginning of the year. They went to live with extended family members. We were sad to see them go because Stefan was my friend and the girls really loved little Maia. But we know more children will come and we will accept them into our family.

We all love living here! We want to stay and never have to leave. We have lots of fun together and all the women here love us and take good care of us. If you come and visit us, you will see we are family!



**Don't we all
want to make
a difference?**

Do you believe that you can make a difference? Do you want to make a difference? Do you believe that you have been giving many blessings? Do you believe that you have a responsibility to share your many blessings?

I believe that we all want and can make a difference and that we all have many blessings to share with others.

Beth is making a difference



We all have unique gifts and talents to contribute. Beth is an accomplished artist who resides in the Dallas metroplex. Beth created the painting "Child's Play" and is offering this original painting for sale with all proceeds of the sale going to Casa Mea.

Beth says "[t]his contemporary painting reflects the joy and hope of the children of Casa Mea. This painting was inspired by the children's love of life, joy at having a loving home, and hope that Casa Mea will always be there for them."



"Child's Play" is acrylic on canvas and is 24" x 48". You may also check out Beth's other works which are featured on her website at www.bethbordenoriginals.com.

**Participate
in a silent
auction to own
"Child's Play"!**

You may own this joyful painting by Beth Borden. Please send your bid to Melanie at mel@casamea.org or call her at 972 306 6705 before May 15 and hope your bid is the highest! Let the bidding begin!



Caty is making a difference



Caty is a single, 27 year old Romanian woman, who is now managing Casa Mea's home in Prejmer, Romania. I first met Caty in 2003 when I arrived in Romania and we have been friends ever since. She has a degree in psychology and sociology and is currently in law school at the University of Transylvania in Brasov. For the last 10 years she has worked at a home for abandoned children where 20 children reside.

In 2002, Caty found two brothers begging on the streets. These little boys touched her heart, and with their alcoholic parent's permission, she obtained custody of these boys. At 20, Caty now had full responsibility for these two boys. The boys attended school for the first time and were excited to have their very own "real" mom with a "real" place to sleep every night.

While volunteering in the orphanage in Brasov in 2003, Caty met Theresa, a little one year old girl. Theresa also touched her heart and in 2004, Caty obtained custody of Theresa too. Theresa is now Caty's adopted daughter. Caty rears these children single-handedly while working full-time and attending the University.

In addition to all of these activities, Caty now works at Casa Mea. She has persuaded several businesses and individuals in the Brasov area to donate essential items to Casa Mea—and takes no pay for all her hard work.

**Caty is making
a difference
in the lives of
her children
and the lives of
the children at
Casa Mea.
YOU CAN TOO!**



**Thank you
for caring
and sharing!**




**Save
a tree,
spread
the word!**

Please **Reduce** (let us know if we should change you to email distribution or remove you from our mailing list), **Recommend** (let us know about someone new to put on the list), **Reuse** (pass Casa Mea News along to someone you know who might find it of interest) or **Recycle**. Thank you!

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To send your financial gift to Casa Mea:

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- ♥ By Credit Card: You may donate on-line by clicking on this PayPal button  or visit our website at www.casamea.org and click on "Make a Donation"
- ♥ Other financial donations: Contact Melanie Clark at mel@casamea.org or at 972.306.6705 to arrange for a monthly automatic bank withdrawal, donation of appreciated stock, or other type of financial donation

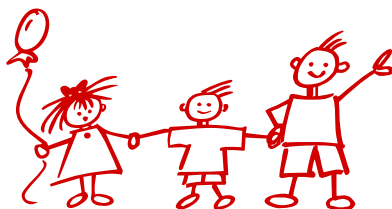
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CASA MEA NEWS

Summer 2011



Casa Mea is growing!

Livia and Stelian are the newest little additions to our Casa Mea family

Growing
Growing
Growing

Livia and Stelian, five year old twins, arrived this spring at Casa Mea. They were born on December 26, 2005. They were immediately abandoned by their mother in the maternity hospital. As a result, they have lived their entire lives in the orphanage.

Despite their dire start in life, they are beautiful and loving children. Everyone at Casa Mea is thrilled to have them join our family. Please help us welcome them by PARTNERING with us to support them and all the children at Casa Mea. HERE IS HOW!

PARTNER with Casa Mea to make a better world

Casa Mea
needs
PARTNERS
to help us
care for the
children

PARTNERS are those individuals or groups who contribute financially each month. Currently, Casa Mea has six PARTNERS. We appreciate them deeply, but we need to do so much more!

PARTNERS enable Casa Mea to have a steady stream of income so that each month Casa Mea can meet its financial obligations. PARTNERS enable Casa Mea to provide unwanted children an opportunity to grow up in a loving home thereby making the world a better place. Caring for children is our investment in the future. "What's done to children, they will do to society." Karl Menninger.



In April 2011, The Honorable David J. Hickton stated, "Countless commentators have said that the most important thing we can do to improve the world is to save the children....The welfare of our children is one of society's most important concerns. Children are our future. The proper raising and rearing of our youngest members determines the course of tomorrow. Ensuring the physical, emotional and social welfare of the youngest among us is essential. Frederick Douglass said, 'It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.' Our investment in our children is not only morally required, it is the product of good judgment and common sense."



Cristina's birthday party celebrated her life with us. We treasure our children and are grateful for every day we have with them.



If you are unable to PARTNER with Casa Mea, there are many other ways you can invest in Casa Mea's children. Our friends in Minnesota donated a year's supply of soaps and shampoo for the children and send cards at every holiday and birthday. Our friends in Illinois send holiday and birthday cards with the gift of \$2.00 for each child. At the end of last year, the children combined their money to treat themselves to dinner at a restaurant. A rare treat indeed!





The children treated themselves to dinner at a restaurant with the money sent from our friends in Illinois. Of course they ordered french fries! :)

lazy days of summer

Remember those lazy, hazy days of summer?

School will soon be out and those endless days of summer will soon be upon the children. Already they are having fun in the new mown hay. (Remember how good it smelled and how itchy it was?) The garden, as well as Casa Mea, is growing and soon will provide fresh garden produce for the children. Please continue to help us provide a wonderful, loving childhood for these children.



**Thank you
for caring
and sharing!**




**Save
a tree,
spread
the word!**

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CASA MEA NEWS

Winter 2011



the citadel in Prejmer Romania

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Visions of sugar-plums dance in our heads



The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

Casa Mea's children, like children everywhere, eagerly await the arrival of St. Nicholas. Each child has his own sugar-plums dancing in his head. The dreams of the gifts St. Nicholas will leave for the children are: Vlad would like a wrist watch, Ana Maria a toy computer to practice on, Cristina a baby doll, Mihaela wants a toy mobile phone, Bibi her very own doll with hair to comb, Steli, his first ever toy dump truck, and Robert, a toy motorcycle. Casa Mea hopes that St. Nicholas will be able to make each child's vision of sugar-plums come true!

Casa Mea also has its own sugar-plums dancing in its head! We hope our children will grow into happy, well-adjusted, and productive members of society. Although Casa Mea can give the children love and life's other necessities, they need so much more! They come to Casa Mea with very real physical, emo-



Robert & Ana Maria

tional, and educational needs.

Unfortunately, in Romania there are few professionals who can address the children's real needs, such as special education teachers, child psychologists, and health care providers. As a result, Casa Mea wants to renovate its attic and open a school for its children and others in the community who need these special services. We will also include English classes for children in nearby communities. The children in English classes will pay tuition, thereby defraying Casa Mea's operating costs.

We ask your help in making these dreams come true. Will you be Casa Mea's St. Nicholas this year?



**A special
Thank You to
all our angels!**

This holiday season all of us at Casa Mea are so grateful to all of our ANGELS!

Thank you to all of our volunteer ANGELS who donate their time. Your efforts help keep our home open.

Thank you to all of our ANGELS who donate money. Your generosity enables us to continue to provide a loving home for our children! Thanks especially to all those who donated to our Caring & Sharing fund drive this year and who answered our summer's call for emergency help.

A special thank you to our child ANGELS from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Cornwall, England who are busy raising money for Casa Mea. These children had a camp out

to raise funds for Casa Mea's children. On the same night, Casa Mea's children had a slumber party in the bunk house to show their solidarity with the English children. WAY TO GO KIDS!

**Thank You
to our staff
who are
there every
day creating
a loving
environment**



**Thank you to
all who help
us give our
Casa Mea
children a
loving home!**

A very special thank you to our ANGEL volunteers, Colin and Dwight. Casa Mea has its own professional photographers in both Colin and Dwight. They provide Casa Mea with wonderful pictures of the kids and their activities. They even create photo albums for each of the children so the children have their own history recorded in pictures! In addition, Dwight has been the long time artistic director of the Casa Mea News, arranging the CMN in an artistic format! But most importantly, these men are there for the children on a fairly regular basis providing excellent male role models for the children. Our hats off to the men in Casa Mea's life!



Steli



Ana Maria & Cristina



Vlad

**looking for
a perfect
gift for that
someone
special?**

What better way to express your love than to give to Casa Mea in your friend or relative's name? You will be honoring that someone special by helping those less fortunate. Please send your check payable to "Casa Mea" to:

Casa Mea
6705 Shadow Crest Drive
Plano, TX 75093

You may also donate on-line by clicking on the PayPal button.



Thank you for all you have done!

Wishing you and yours
a healthy and happy New Year!!



looking down on Brasov from Mount Timpa

July 2011

One step forward, two steps back!

Casa Mea is a lot like your home. Just when you think you have covered all your expenses and get a little bit ahead, swoosh, something comes up and takes your savings. It's usually something that isn't at all fun or exciting but has to be done.

In our case, it was the swoosh of a spring wind that knocked out sections of our fence. This summer it was the swoosh of water that meant we had to do underground repairs. Neither of these were exciting or fun, and worse yet: they weren't in the budget either! **That is why we need your help: when there isn't enough to cover the planned expenses, the unplanned ones put us in a crisis.**

We hope that you and your family have not had any swooshes this year and are able to help us with ours because truly: we have no money to pay for these. We need your help!

Thank you for helping us to continue to provide a loving, nurturing home environment for



these precious abandoned children.

The children are helpless without us. Please send your check payable to "Casa Mea" to:

Casa Mea
6705 Shadow Crest Drive
Plano, TX 75093

You may also donate on-line by clicking on the PayPal button.

PayPal

Thank you for all you have done!

