



## Casa Mea Welcomes Spring!

The Romanian myth is that a young man frees the Sun from winter which rises again in the sky on March first cheering up the world. Nature is resurrected and people celebrate the brave young man. But the brave young man did not get to see spring. The blood from his battle wounds from freeing the sun leaked into the snow. As he died, white flowers, snowdrops, appeared and heralded the spring.

Since then, young people have been braiding two tassels: one white and one red. Red symbolizes love for all that is beautiful, remembering the color of the blood the brave young man shed to free the sun. White symbolizes the health and purity of the snowdrop, the first flower of spring. Furthermore, the Romanians have faith that this amulet brings good luck and happiness.



Matisor Amulet

The girls wear the amulet for twelve days around their neck. In some areas, the purpose of wearing the Matisor amulet is to bring your sun closer. This is how you make friends with the sun: you make it benevolent to give you what is in its power; beauty, joy, light, health, honor, and love. Giving a Matisor amulet is like giving a piece of the sun. We at Casa Mea wish you all lots of good luck and happiness this year!



## Fasching in Prejmer

Romanians also celebrate what we call Mardi Gras. Each spring, Prejmer celebrates a pancake festival (Fasching) representing splurging before the fasting of Lent. Everyone overindulges during the festival with sweets and food.

Simona in traditional costume for Fasching

## From Our Donors



This spring our friend and sponsor Catherine from Children's Helpers Worldwide visited Casa Mea, We are always glad for her visits and her English charity's sponsorship.

Thank you to Hazel Martin for celebrating Casa Mea on her birthday thereby raising enough funds to provide the annual salary for our psychologist! Yea Hazel!!



Skiers at the top of the mountain

Thanks for our friends in Brasov from the charity Beard Brothers for three spring ski lessons for all of our kids. They furnished the skis for everyone plus the cost of the lift tickets. The kids loved the skiing!



Skiers at the bottom of the mountain

Thanks to the students at St. Francis School in Des Moines, Iowa for their interest in being pen pals with our children and for Chance from Wayzata, Minnesota who is Robert's new pen pal.





“Dear Chance,

“I am Robert and I am 12 years old. I have a big family made up of 8 children. We are 4 boys and 4 girls. We live at Casa Mea, a family for children in need . . .

”Yours Sincerely,

“Robert”

Robert’s Letter to Pen Pal, Chance

## Christmas at Casa Mea

Thanks to the generosity of our friends and donors, Christmas was special for Casa Mea’s kids. Emmanuel Baptist Church of Falmouth, England gave each child a blanket, winter pajamas, and deodorant.

The pjs and blankets kept the kids warm and cozy, plus the kids smelled good during the cold winter months. Each year Emmanuel Baptist Church brings Christmas cheer to our kids. For this we are so grateful.



The Finished Christmas Tree



Ana Maria & Cristina setting the table for Christmas dinner

# Stelian and Livia's Birthday

On December 26, Stelian and Livia celebrated their birthdays. A generous donor took all the kids ice skating and they became expert skaters after one try.



Stelian's & Livia's Birthday dinner  
homemade by a generous woman, Maria



Kids ice skating thanks to other donors



Kids, Mr. & Mrs. Cojocaru, and pizza

Thanks to the Cojocarus, our dear friends from Brasov, for bringing many pizzas for our kids. Kids everywhere love pizza!

## 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](http://www.casamea.org) and click "Make a Donaton"
- Other Donations: Contact Jan at 612-227-3239 or email [jan@casamea.org](mailto:jan@casamea.org) to arrange for a monthly atomatic bank withdrawal, donation of appreciated stock, or other type of financial donation. All contributions to Casa Mea are tax-deductible. Thank you!