



THE KEY

A TEACHERS FOR TOMORROW NEWSLETTER

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The President's Message

Janet Haines

What goes into developing a summer educational program like the one Teachers for Tomorrow conducts? This is a question I am asked frequently. Teams of teachers and details vary from year to year, but in general the process remains the same. Our past summer's efforts were typical, although they included the development of a new program and the postponement of another.

Late last fall we learned that General School Number 2 in the town of Simeria, Romania, wanted a TFT program for the summer of 1998. After corresponding with the principal of the school, Professor Virgil Bozdog, I traveled to Romania in February to meet with him. Ms. Estera Oprean, an English language teacher, was recruited as program coordinator for the new venture. I also spent time in Hateg, site of an existing program, to make plans with the school principal, Professor Stefan Itul. A new English teacher at that school, Ms. Marilena Bocan, became the coordinator.

After returning home it was time to recruit teachers for Romania. Once the teaching teams were in place, we developed curriculums, collected educational supplies, arranged for living accommodations in Simeria and Hateg, and booked airplane tickets. All members of the teaching teams took an active part in planning the curriculum and finding necessary equipment, a process that required a number of meetings, a lot of cooperation and many hours of time.

At the same time other events were occurring that negatively influenced our summer plans. Political tensions between India and Pakistan accelerated. Although we wanted to be in India to continue the program we began there in 1997, it is not our intention to send volunteers into politically unstable areas. The decision was made to cancel the trip to India until conditions there seemed less volatile. Nevertheless, we continue to have a strong commitment to the Jeevan Jyothi School of Hyderabad, India, and we are helping them with monetary support. We are hopeful that the politics will be resolved so we can return in the future.

This summer, we sent seven teachers and two teaching assistants to Romania. The proximity of Simeria and Hateg permitted us to see one another and allowed me to travel by train between the two towns to coordinate activities. Once again the month-long experience was very meaningful to both

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Our First Teaching Assistants Share Their Experiences

Katie's Message

By Kathleen McAdams

This past summer, my sister Elizabeth and I had the good fortune to accompany Teachers for Tomorrow to Simeria, Romania. Elizabeth is a college senior at the University of Notre Dame majoring in German Studies, and I am a high school senior at Mount St. Joseph Academy who plans to major in Education and Mathematics. As teaching assistants our experience with the Romanian students was most positive in and outside of the classroom. In the classroom, my sister Elizabeth and I helped to team-teach classes in which the curriculum focused on building the English vocabulary of the Romanian students. The curriculum involved the English words for the furniture and rooms in an apartment, the directions involved with map skills, the human anatomy, and the aspects of marketing and advertising a service business. On Fridays, we played the American game of softball. During our last week of school, we made special arrangements with a local bakery and taught the Romanian students how to make one of America's favorite cookies—chocolate chip. We have never seen students so excited to learn.

Although our school day ended at noon, we found ourselves perpetually surrounded by the children after school hours. We were invited to join them for many leisure activities such as to walk four miles to go swimming, to go on a two and a half-hour hike straight up a mountain, and to dine with them and their families at their homes. In fact, we found ourselves teaching English to more than just the school students. Many of the smaller children who lived in our apartment block and their parents began to pick up bits of English. This often happened by playing games with them and teaching them songs.

We are grateful for the life-changing experience this volunteer program afforded us. We will always remember the summer of 1998.



My Second Time Around Our Program in Hateg, Romania

by Thomas Switzer

Visiting another culture for a second time should give the visitor a better insight into what is really going on. Being in the same town, Hateg, Romania, for the second time within a three year period provided just that. The previous teaching trip had three of us Americans living together in a rented apartment. This time the three teachers, Ms. Desiree Campbell, on loan from the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, Ms. Jennifer Granito from the Central Bucks School District in Doylestown, PA, and I were housed with local families.

The three of us lived and participated in the daily lives of our host families. A chief benefit was a lasting group of friendships bound together by customs, diet and an "international code" that can be best summed up as humor, humor and more humor. Although the language barrier was an initial obstacle, it did not take many days to cross it. Romanian was as much fun for us to learn as was English for our hosts.



We taught students ranging in age from six to twenty-six years. American culture and the English language were the medium of exchange. Each day's activities in the classrooms began to sound more and more like an American schoolroom as the students loosened up and took on the sounds of enjoying education, something that is still a little out of place in Romania.

Des and Jen proved to be just the right tonic for the youngsters with whom they worked. There soon formed a tight relationship between the American teachers and their students, made evident by the group ice cream and soda conclusions to each daily session. These gatherings were held in the Hateg town square and drew inquisitive onlookers every day. Saying good-bye to these very bright and loving children proved to be a rather tearful event.

I found time to concentrate on other tangibles, focusing on what I had overlooked on my previous teaching excursion to Hateg. My insights centered on the work ethic of post-revolutionary Romania and I also discovered how intoxicating the nearby mountainous setting could be. Judging by the amount of new construction taking place, generally accom-

plished over a time span of a few years by contributions from everyone in the family, a pride is welling in the Romanian people. As for the mountains, my host family and I went there every weekend. I spent many hours lying on my back by a frigid stream literally staring at the mountain steepness and contemplating the thought provoking shades of green.

Many of my friends here in the United States ask me if the trip was worth the time, effort and expense; my response: Romania is incredible!



Warm Feet .. Warm Smiles

There are many ways to make a difference in the life of a child, inside the classroom and out. Sometimes all it takes is a simple pair of shoes.

This past February, Janet Haines, accompanied by Louise McLeod and Lauren Bird, both neighbors of Janet's in Doylestown, and Janet McFadden, a long time friend and supporter from Newark, Ohio, travelled to Romania. They took with them 200 pairs of shoes that had been donated for the children there.

They delivered the shoes to the Medical Dispensary in the tiny village of Densus. Densus is in the state of Hunedoara, in the region of Transylvania. It's about 10 miles from Hateg where TFT has conducted summer English classes for several years. The shoes were received by Doctor Emil Crisan who would oversee their distribution to any child who needed them at no cost.

By the light and affection in their eyes and the appreciation in their smiles you can see the difference a pair of shoes makes in the faces of the children as they take off worn out, ill-fitting ones and replace them with a warm, good-fitting pair.



Children at Dr. Emil Crisan's medical clinic in Densus received more than medical treatment... a gift of new shoes. TFT volunteers paid their own expenses to take shoes to Romania.



Quotes from Here and There

"Hello, my name is Zamfirescu Luminita. I am not too tall but not too short. I have brown eyes and brown hair. I am not too thin but not too fat. I am kind. I like to learn and I like animals very much. My favorite classes are: English, math and sports.... From the moment when we made our first steps in this school, we learned something. We learned and learned and then we became a new generation who want (sic.) to fly in life..." [from an autobiographical sketch]

Luminita Zamfirescu,
a student Simeria, Romania

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Yes, I would like to help Teachers for Tomorrow. Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of \$_____ (make checks payable to **Teachers for Tomorrow**). Your employer may match your gift to TFT. If so, obtain a matching gift form from your employer, complete it, and mail it with your check.

The official registration and financial information of Teachers for Tomorrow may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

I would like to volunteer my time or services.

I would like more information about Teachers for Tomorrow.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

A New Program and a New Place: Summer in Simeria

A typical midsummer morning in Simeria finds this Romanian town waking to the sounds of vendors in the open air market laughing and shouting as they set up displays of fresh produce, the hissing and groaning of trains at the train station, and the clip-clop of horses' hooves as hay wagons pass along the streets. This summer, however, a new sound was added to the familiar cacophony: the voices of happy children at the local school where youngsters were attending a voluntary summer school program. In addition, these voices were using English, a language that was not taught in Romanian schools until nine years ago.

For four weeks this summer, when most schools were closed for vacation, the doors of General School Number 2 were opened each morning so local children could attend English language classes provided by Teachers for Tomorrow. Attendance was voluntary, and most mornings found more than a hundred eager students crowding into the classrooms. The classes were taught by American teachers, all members of the faculty of William Tennent High School in Warminster, PA: Mr. David Buday, Mrs. Janet Haines, Mrs. Dolores McAdams and Mr. Matthew Sikora. Additionally, for the first time, two teaching assistants were part of the summer English program. Mrs. McAdams' daughters, Elizabeth and Kathleen, participated fully in the planning and instruction of each day's activities.

Lessons were planned to augment, expand and go beyond the textbook learning used in Romanian schools. The children engaged in such activities as making posters, maps, diagrams and dioramas, and writing original compositions. Our classes went outside the classrooms as well. Every Friday was designated as "Sports Day," with organized games and team sports. American softball became an immediate favorite. 'The softballs, bats and gloves we brought with us received good use. One day the children participated in a treasure hunt, following a series of clues that led them to boxes filled with



Mr. David Buday with Romanian student

chocolate candies. Perhaps the most popular activity of all was going to a local bakery to make American chocolate chip cookies, made authentic by bringing chocolate chips and brown sugar with us from the US. By the next morning versions of chocolate chip cookies were being baked in students' homes as attempts were made to modify the American recipe in order to make use of ingredients available in the local markets. The Romanian chocolate chip cookies were quite delicious.

The results of Teachers for Tomorrow's presence in Simeria can be measured in several ways. First of all, the children's participation was high. They did not want to miss a single activity, and they willingly did homework. In addition, after school was over for the day, the young people and their families planned dinners, picnics, and trips to nearby places of interest for the American teachers. As we walked through the town, people called out greetings to us, in English, and often stopped to talk to us. But most importantly, long before we came home, the principal of the school, Professor Virgil Bozdog, and his staff were making plans for next summer's English program, and we were presented with a written invitation which read, "... We wish you to return next year for another program like the one you had this summer. We hope you will have enough money to send us teachers to help our students grow in their English studies and learn more about America. We thank Teachers for Tomorrow for helping our children."

President's Message *cont'd from page 1*

teachers and students. We worked with more than 200 young people. The schools have already asked us to return in 1999.

We truly believe the impact we have on the young people who eagerly attend our classes is beyond measure. The interest, questions, and enthusiasm they bring to us each day, and their eyes brimming with thanks and tears when we leave, give us the drive to continue with our program year after year. ✍

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Keystones

Thanks to the Doylestown Rotary Club for a very generous \$600 donation which enabled TFT to extend a "Hand for Youth" to students in another part of the world.

How did we transport eight teachers plus luggage and supplies to Kennedy airport? Thanks to the Fred Beans Organization we were able to do just that. We thank them for providing a 15-passenger van.

In recognition of the value that a conversational English language instruction provides to young people in underdeveloped countries, the Sovereign Bank Foundation has donated \$1000 to assist TFT in its work.

TFT received a \$500 donation from the Mission Committee of Lanape Valley Presbyterian Church. The church has recognized the importance of our outreach program and the values it teaches to the students that we work with.

One of the region's most philanthropic businesses, Byer's Choice, has continued its support of our mission with a \$500 donation. The donations received from our corporate supporters are extremely helpful to FTF in achieving its goals.

TFT thanks Wojcik & Company, a local CPA firm for donating the time to compile our financial statements. We value their expertise and the advice they give us.

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The TFT website, www.libertynet.org/tft, will open December 1998.

THE KEY Editorial Staff

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Janet Haines
William Haines
Kathleen McAdams
Louise McLeod
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Wheat First Union Sponsors Fund Raiser

Our second annual Cocktail Party fundraiser was held on Sunday, March 15 and hosted, once again, by board members Kenneth and Georgiana Coles, at their home. The reception, sponsored by the investment banking firm of Wheat First Union, was attended by more than 100 people and raised over \$5000 for our programs. The hors d'oeuvres were generously donated and catered by Jack Skudris of Memorable Affairs and Fivi, Maria and Vali Delapeta who are native Romanians



currently residing in Bucks County. As was the case last year, teaching supplies such as crayons, construction paper, and scissors were donated by the guests and collected throughout the evening. The highlight of the party was the raffling off of a hand sheared, woven and dyed wool Romanian blanket. The lucky winners were Rachel and Wistar Silver (see photo).

Plans are underway for our next fundraiser to be held in March of 1999. We look forward to another exciting event.

1998 List of Donors

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