

HandiCapabil

Magazine about a workshop for people with handicaps

www.ateliere-protejate.org

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“A single rose can be my garden,
a single friend, my world.”

Leo Buscaglia



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Dear readers,

The quote from this number of the magazine makes me think of “The Little Prince”, the book of Antoine de Saint Exupery, wich I unrealizable re-read in the first years of college! Being a fairytale lover, of course the book sliped in my hands in my childhood, but I must admit I didn't like it at all ... I dind't understand it and I returned it to the library faster than any other book. But the situation is different when you read this book with a more mature mind! I simply falled in love with it after the second reading,and I confess: I give it as a gift to every dear person, because I consider this book a ground for the human relationships!

The Little Prince develops a great truth, that we are constantly searching for friends. We need socializing, no mather of our statute, no mather of ou limits, we are addicted to friends! And our young beneficiaries as well. What I really like on “my young men” is that they become friends very easy. They wish so much the friendships that they have no claim about how are binded. The free giving of love wich closes them it's exemplary. How willing to help the people around are this young men! The kindness and gratitude that they offer to the ones around nurture me and at the same time stops me to sink in the materialism of life. And for this I'm truly grateful!

I invite you,my dear readers, to become friends with them by reading the magazine and by visiting us!

With warm thoughts, greetings from the whole team!

Cristina Ciubotaru

Thanks to Mihaela Tilibasa, Veronica Stan and David Cox for the translation!

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Thank you!

The fact that we can do this project, is thanks to many people. This year we have often had the joy of receiving help and support in our work. We will take this opportunity to send them a small token of our thanks.

Thanks to the students from Goethe Colegiul who organized several activities during Christmas Holidays and with the money raised bought us a hot beverage dispenser and cups. With their help, we easily prepare tea to warm us up during the cold winter months, and during the summer we use it for cold beverages to refresh us!

Thanks to Yau Concept and Mio Bio who hosted our Candle Night event and were involved in our organization this year!

Thanks to Mr. Voicila from the HSB Electrocasnice SRL firm who gave us a vacuum cleaner and a microwave which makes our work easier and is of great use!

Thanks to the Cadbury Company who sweeten our days with chocolate and other delicious treats!

Thanks to the Romanian Commercial Bank who sponsored us with 500 RON, an amount representing double payment for sales we did at their location!

Thanks all this year to the Mayor and Council of Sector 4 who approved an exemption from property taxes for our association, removing a large burden from our budget.

Thanks to the parents, friends, coworkers and even strangers who came alongside us in our recent 2% donation campaign!

Thanks to Mr. Mihai Gucci for making available a house in Agigea (near Eforie Nord) where we stayed during our workshop vacation time, which as always seemed far too short!



Financial Report 2009

In 2009, we were affected by the changes that took place in our country and around the world. Candle sales and donations fell. We still remained optimistic because our Friends continued to support us. For this evidence of their faith, we thank Strassenengel e.V. of Germany, Holland's Paulico, as well as Heberger Firm, Sommering and Petrom, who were with us in 2009. With the help of our friends, supporters and collaborators, we trust that we can move ahead with our project and activities!

Mrs. Busila Elena, accounting expert verified and certified the Economic activities of our Association in 2009, in the quality of auditor confirming our accounting spreadsheets in conformity with the current legal norms and reflecting trustworthiness in all dealing with the assets of our Protected Workshop Association at the closing of financial accounting. We thank her for her support!

Income 2009 RON

Foreign Donations	171.230
Sponsorships (firms)	25.250
Economic Activities (candle sales)	26.254
2% Tax Donation	23.230
Bank interest	5.804
Other income	2.475
Total income 2009	254.243 RON

Expenses 2009 RON

Human resources (salaries si taxes)	73.071
Infrastructura (gas, electricity, water)	12.257
Workshop expenses (materials and investments)	53.257
Beneficiary costs (spending money, free time)	23.821
Daily costs (food, cleaning, ...)	10.955
Administrative costs (telephone, transportation, office)	5.888
Building and property taxes	4.200
Other	3.174
Total expenses 2009	186.623 RON



Working together with Casa Retro

Casa Retro is a company that manufactures and sells products designed to help build an education fair for children. For us, Casa Retro is a trailblazer as the first company that took our project to provide a reliable income generating activity. We created a project together so the beneficiaries of the association are packing company's product. The project that we designed with Casa Retro started in February 2009. When we met Mr Tataranu, the owner of Casa Retro, who came to visit us and brought the idea of working together.

After a long journey of trial and search for optimal solutions, we finally realized a strong collaboration. We tried different methods to see which is the best solution that persons with mental disabilities can develop a packaging activity, and which is the best working environment. Products we have to pack are different, so it's necessary to find the most efficient packing method for each product. Depending on the products they are packaging, young people need to count quantities, to make contrast shapes, sizes or colors, which is not always easy, so they need a supervisor to check each product, to lead, to correct them.

The first four months, Casa Retro products were packaged in association workshop. They worked individually formed teams were seeking to provide a quality service. Because we wanted a professional

integration of our beneficiaries in these three months, we chose a team of users who go to shop Casa Retro to pack the products there, with our employees. The efficiency of our beneficiaries at company's workshop declined, and this means that they really need to work in a protected environment, so we returned to work in our association's packaging studio. Exchange of experience who have undertaken our beneficiaries at Casa Retro has shown us that these young people in everything they do, need support, coordination and guidance, they need time and attention to give quality to their activities. Since October we have created in our center a specially designed space for our packaging products for Casa Retro. With our volunteer Marian, we were able to form teams of four young people who pack daily company's products.

The benefits of such collaborations for our association are many, so we want to point out a few of them: We were able to increase the number of beneficiaries by 30%, we varied the cluster, which brought a creativity and enthusiasm, we confirmed that November already guessed, the fact that disabled people can do different things, they just need careful coordination. What is very important is the fact that the service we offer to Casa Retro we can self-finance part of the project.

Thank you Casa Retro for their support and for the trust they gave us.



I'm Andrea (volunteer) ...

... a sociable and optimistic person who likes to enjoy every moment of life smiling. I also like foreign languages, music, dance, walks ... and especially reminding me that I can help. So, when I heard from Cristina C. about Ateliere Protejate, I wanted to do more and I decided to become a volunteer (said and done!).

At first I thought it would be very difficult for me considering that I have no training in this area. But young people have made my project much easier than I expected. They are very open, eager to learn and to make friends. They are lovely, communicative and it was easy for me to get into their little "group" (if I may say so) and make them understand that I am here to be a friend, to learn from them something, and help them as much as I can.

I've already learned so much from them, because in their souls, love seems endless. That's how you learn to see the life in a different way, you learn to appreciate yourself, with all the things you have. I believe that if we could only see the world through their eyes, just for a moment, we would understand and appreciate them as they deserve. :)

My name is Marian (volunteer) ...

... I'm 40 years old and I am the person with mobility disability since I was 9 years old. It is said that each of us has certain gifts, it's just that you have to uncover them. I consider myself "good man at all", but most of all a good driver. When I was 21 I got my driving license and then I can say that my life has just begun. The car is my mode of travel, I've changed many cars and I've made hundreds of thousands of kilometers, even participating in automobile competitions winning the first places.

I've handled myself financially, just as in life. I have founded a family and now I have a 7 years old girl, named Denisa-Emanuela.

Two years ago, I made a visit to the studio, out of pure curiosity, seeing a television report about young people who manufactured the candles. Returning now 8 months, Cristina proposed me to come to the workshop as a volunteer. I agreed, taking it as a new challenge of my life and I enjoy it. The young people here understand me so well, like we know for a lifetime; the same happens with colleagues. We work and laugh together. As Rodica says, we are family.

„If you want something, anything is possible if you have the courage to try it!“



I am Diana (beneficiary),

I am 24 years old. I have long brown hair, brown eyes, I am kind-hearted, I like to help, I am responsible when I receive tasks, I love to meet new friends and link new friendships, although I find it hard to adapt to the new. I like reading stories, tales and poems, I am passionate about cooking, I enjoy trying new recipes and especially to eat cakes made by others (usually sweets) and I like to dance.

There are four years since working at the studio and I've learned a lot during this time. If it has not been the studio I would not know to do anything, instead now I make scented candles of many colors, with my colleagues who are outstanding (in my opinion); we create everything with joy and pleasure, especially when we have order.

We work as a real „team work” with those responsible for us (Rodica, Cristina and Katy, who help us with sales of candles) to bring a ray of hope and warmth in people's homes.

We are as a family with a big heart and all people from here are important in our lives. If one of us would go, my suffering would be great!



I am Claudiu (beneficiary),

I'm a cheerful young man, I like to joke and laugh, I am a helpful person, I enjoy helping my mother in household chores and I like to build puzzles.

Most free time I spend in the park, I like walking Herastrau long lakeside. On rainy days, the time spent in the house is not in vain; or listen to music or watch my favorite show performed by Radu Moraru, whether I play on the computer.

My work in the workshop begins at 8:00 am, although I leave home an hour earlier. My first operation is to clean molds, I make wicks, I treat them and then pour wax into molds prepared by me before.

I like to help my colleagues at the workshop tasks. Besides manufacturing candles, I still do general cleaning on Friday, I help in the kitchen, cooking when my turn comes, I do shopping, I help preparing tea, wash the dishes and jugs. Thursdays during free activities, I spend my time playing with my colleagues „Brother, no offense!”, „Wheel of Fortune”, learning to sew the fabric or to put buttons on the shirt and play outside „Flower, flower open up” or other games.



Anti-Mosquito Candles

Isn't it true that, during the summer, heat and mosquitoes are a problem for you?

Well, we can help you out! WE CAN'T REMOVE THE HEAT BUT MOSQUITOES.... YES!!!

To help you escape from annoying insects we have a new product called ANTI-MOSQUITO CANDLES! Try our new product and you will not regret it! Also, don't forget that every candle is handmade by our youth with disabilities, starting with the wick on up to the packaging. They put their heart into all they do and wish that these products will arrive in your homes not only due to their quality, but also due to the fact they are made by their hands.

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Next issue (nr.9) will appear in september 2010