

HandiCapabil

ENGLISH

Magazine about our candle workshop for people with handicaps

Editor: Asociația Ateliere Protejate
www.ateliere-protejate.org

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“The cross is the power of Christ which, received by us, can transform this world into paradise.”

Dumitru Stăniloae

Dear Readers,

first of all: THANK YOU to **Oana Diana Neacsu** and **David Cox** for the english translation!



We rejoice in the opportunity to present all those who are interested, through the this update, our recent activities as well as our plans for the new year.

Even though the year that just ended was a tough one, with the help of our supporters and friends we finished it out well. The New Year is expected to be even more difficult, still we have hope and faith that we'll be able to make it through, not alone, but with the help of those who have supported us up until now.

In this way, we want to send much thanks to those who have supported us in our activities! Enjoy reading!

With good thoughts we greet you in the name of the whole team.

Cristina Ciubotaru



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Christmas Market

(by Ecaterina Perca)

As in past years, the month of December was very busy for us but also very beautiful. Right from the beginning of the month we decorated and dressed up our workshop in preparation for the highly anticipated Christmas Market organized by our team. Of course, right beside us we had the Down's syndrome Association, the Ecleziala Carmelitana Movement, CopiiiRo Association, Martha House, St. Dimitrie Foundation, Emma Foundation, Murialdo Foundation, High school students from Goethe College and the congregation of Don Orione, without which this celebration would not have been so enchanting.



So that all those who crossed the threshold of our workshop wouldn't want to leave too fast we made certain that delicious cabbage rolls waded with love by Mrs. Papiniu, mulled wine and wonderful small pastries made with care each year by Mrs. Adriana were available. In addition, the first day of the market those from St. Elena's Chorale held a beautiful concert of Christmas Carols and our young people provided a manger scene in the entrance of our workshop.

Even though we didn't have many orders at Christmas, we decided to participate in as many Christmas markets as possible. We went to the handcrafts market ASID at the University subway stop, organized by students from the School of History. We also participated in the Charity Market at the Military building organized by St. Dimitrie, the American and British School Markets and finally we received approval to sell our young people's candles in the halls of the Minister of Finance. We were successful at all of these markets as much in sales as in introducing ourselves to many people who were pleasantly surprised to see the skill of our youth. We met many people with big hearts who helped us by buying candles to light at their Christmas meals. This meant a lot to us and we want to thank them.



Christmas Celebration

(by Florentina Könözi)

Just like every year, young people await Christmas with joy and impatience! This year as well, they wrote a letter to Santa Claus early on in which they told him some of their desires and told him that they'd been good all year.

Christmas is a wonderful celebration of joy! We're feeling great satisfaction as we look back on this busy time at the workshop! This was yet another reason to rejoice as we enjoyed the break.



But first let me tell you about the holidays! Carols, prayer, wonderful food, gifts, visitors and last but not least, music and dancing were the ingredients for a special afternoon and evening! Being Christians, we don't forget that at the center of these celebrations is the child Jesus, Who came to live with us! As our guest Father Liviu explained, the lights and gifts of Christmas have a deeper meaning! Jesus is the light of our lives and the most beautiful present we can receive! From Him we learn to shine our lights on the road we travel and have something to offer to those around us!

The youth at our Workshop know how to rejoice and celebrate. We have a lot to learn from them: to rejoice more, to be good, to live clean lives, to love more with no strings attached. To make the celebration better parents, friends and sponsors contributed. We thank all of them!

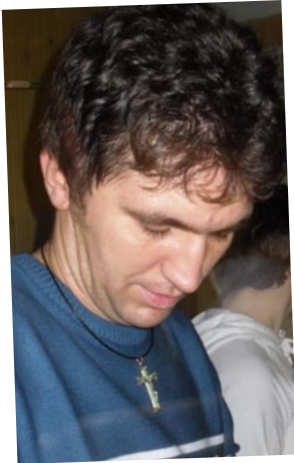


The workhouse and me

(by Cristina Ciubotaru)

When we say “Ateliere protejate” (“Protected workshops”) Association we are saying “a place for the people with disabilities”! Because we can not talk about what we are doing without saying a few words about the people, we decided that starting with this issue, we introduce to you our young people and how they perceive the role of our association.

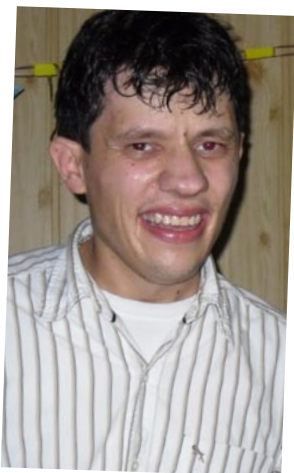
I am Vlad



...a person who likes promenades very much. I am a very curious young man, this is why I like meeting new people and to know everything that happens around me. When I don't understand something, I ask. When I am at the workshop I am working. I make candles, I sometimes cook, wrap or pack different stuff, and what I like most is to laugh with my colleagues. For me, “Ateliere protejate” means a place where I work, I meet people and I do something useful with my time. Before I came here, I have stayed home and I was really bored. Now, since I got here I have been keeping myself busy. I meet people; I have been attending different amusements and parties. I have been coming here since the beginning of 2006. At first, I was at the “Paulico” workshop but since it closed, since 2008, I have been coming to “Boxberg” workshop. I have learnt about the workshop candles from a colleague who

was working at the candles when I once been at the commission (for my classification in the grade of disability). In that period I was thinking about getting a job, about doing some things at home but I found this workshop and since my first day here I have liked it. If this workshop weren't anymore, then I would find another job. I am not staying home!

I am Igor



...a tall, handsome young man who is communicative and friendly. I am obedient, well behaved, smart, joyful and funny. I like music very much. When we have a party I am the DJ. I also like movies, promenades and computers. When my colleagues want to listen to music I burn them CDs that contain the songs they like. I like to meet with my friends, go for a walk, go to the cinema, and go to their house or inviting them at my house. I like spending my holydays with my friends as well, in the mountains or at the seaside. I like very much that during the camp periods I stay with my friends in the room!

When I am on the computer, I like reading the online news or watching movies. “Ateliere protejate” means to me a kind of job. Here, I made a lot of friends. I like the parties, the holydays, and I like going outside. I like to hang out with my friends, to have fun with them, to talk about interesting things or about all kinds of things, to laugh, to listen to music. You can see how much good time we

have. At the workshop, I make candles, I poor wax into casts, I wrap products, I make wicks, I clean the casts and the dining hall. Sometimes, I am in the kitchen and cook, I gill the vegetables, I wash the dishes, and I arrange the cutlery, the tables and the chairs for lunch. I am very observant of what Cristina or Rodica tells me to do. I have been at this workshop since 2008!

2% - More than 300 persons have chosen!

(by Flori Könözi)

That time of the year when we need your help again, has come! We ask you to use the right that you have, that is, to donate 2 % of your income tax to our “Ateliere Protejate” Association.

2009 was a crisis year. The candle selling, which represents a part of our financial source, has decreased a little. Our sponsors had problems, too. They did not abandon us, but the amounts of money they donated to us were also poorer. The sum of money we received from the income tax was bigger and it helped us during the present crisis situation. This represents a very important financial source for our association, besides donations, sponsors and the candle selling. There are people who have been supporting us since the law was given, since 2005. There are also people who are still afraid that this decision might affect them in a way or another. This is the 5th year since this has been possible. There were many people who have filled out this form since the beginning, every year and nothing has happened to them. I myself am among them. I perfectly understand the reserves of some people when they hear about the Financial Administration, but it is simpler than it looks like and it even has results. We, as well, thought that the authorities would not abide this law. We don't have the possibility to control whether we are given all the money. But last year we received more than 5000 euro from this 2%. For us, this sum is very large and very necessary. It covers the expenses the association has for a month and a half.

We are disposed to do whatever we can in order to continue receiving this help.

But we can't do this without many friends. We count very much upon the parents that support us, each of them as much as they can, upon colleagues, upon the friends who know us through our work and determination of offering the disadvantaged people a place which they need very much and which it makes their lives better and nicer. Although they do not know us personally, they trusted the people who talked them about us. The amount of money we received last year represents more than 300 persons who have chosen to transfer 2% from the tax income to our association. Whether we know them or not, we thank all of them and we assure them that their effort had a good result.

We ask them from the bottom of our heart to continue supporting us this year. The deposition of the forms can be made until 15th of May 2010. These forms can be deposited directly to Financial Administration where the person has residence. We can offer to go and deposit the forms for those who do not have enough time for this.



The Past and The Future

(by Jörg Könözi)

At the first of last year (Handicapabil 01/09, pg.6), I wrote about our plans for 2009. That we might look backwards and also anticipate the new year.

Goal in 2009: “We desire to integrate our beneficiaries into a business that employs people with handicaps.”

Reality: Unfortunately, we failed to integrate any of our young people. After several attempts that ended in failure toward the beginning of 2009, the motivation to integrate people with disabilities started to decline. After a more thorough evaluation, we concluded, that this goal cannot be reached and that it is no longer a priority for our association. Integration of people with disabilities into a recognized business is possible only in situation where legislation is well done and functionaries are well prepared to handle this type of situation. Sadly, the incompetence of people in the public sector for social needs does not give us much hope for future efforts.

For 2010 this means: The purpose of our association should be and is in fact, occupational therapy for those who do not have the option of working a typical job.

Goal for 2009: We desire to create a Candle Catalog.

Reality: The catalog was completed in May. At Christmas we also created a special Winter Catalog.

For 2010 this means: The catalog was a great success. Many people had the chance to view the candles, even without coming to our workshop. However, we discovered that people want to see the actual product and it is not a good solution to try selling candles strictly through the catalog. Now we are working on the 2010 Catalog to continue presenting our products.

Goal for 2009: To sell more candles than last year.

Reality: Due to the crisis, we sold fewer candles compared to the previous year. The difference was small; however, so considering the conditions we consider the results satisfying.

For 2010 this means: We have created some new products for 2010. We hope that experience will help us to make more and more models, which will please our customers.

Goal for 2009: To expand our facility.

Reality: We did expand. After some renovations in May and June, we succeeded in increasing the number of beneficiaries from 18 to 25, during the course of last year.

For 2010 this means: We have reached maximum capacity. The space we have cannot permit further expansion of our number of beneficiaries. Nevertheless we are working, together with another foundation, on a new project. I don't want to say more about this since we're only just at the beginning. Still we are hopeful.

Goal for 2009: To organize unforgettable events for our friends of the association as we did the year before.

Reality: I'm sure that all who read the last few issues of this report and those who attended the events of 2009, saw firsthand that this goal was reached.

For 2010 this means: You are invited again!

(See next page)

Candle Night 2010

Together with **YaU concept** and **MioBio**

we are preparing a big surprise on:

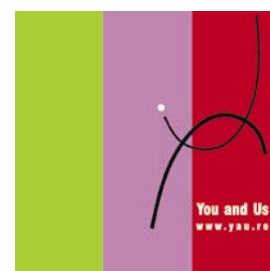
27 martie 2010!

Register your e-mail at our website: **www.ateliere-protejate.org**

And you will receive our most recent information about all the activities
and markets in which we'll be participating.

Thank you very much!

YaU (You and Us) concept is a studio that promotes an unconventional concept of designing events and related objects. Workshop YaU brings a creative approach to the task of organizing events and setting the scene with innovative concepts for special occasions, social and corporate. www.yau.ro



MioBio - cosmetice organice, a place where each product represents a little piece of nature, for pampering. Bio Products for caring for complexion, lotions and oils for your body, crystals and both oils, hydrating gels, soaps, perfumes, specially chosen brands, the majority of which are in Romania for the first time. All these are available also at the online shop www.miobio.ro



Thank you!



Buy our candles online!

www.artopia.ro



Next issue (nr.8) will appear in June 2010