

# HandiCapabil

Magazine about a workshop for people with handicaps

[www.ateliere-protejate.org](http://www.ateliere-protejate.org)

Nr. 9, October 2010

“We ourselves feel that what we  
are doing is just a drop in the  
ocean. But the ocean would be less  
because of that missing drop.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta



facebook

[www.facebook.com/AteliereProtejate](http://www.facebook.com/AteliereProtejate)



## Dear Readers,

I often look at my young people (I like to call our workers that) and I'm amazed at how many good and beautiful things they accomplish together. When they work alone things go slowly and not so well, but when they work as a team, everything's different. They're like the fingers of a hand!

Even though summer was extremely hot, activities at the workshop went ahead without interruption. On the hottest days we didn't make candles, but started a new activity for a company which, along with Retro House, had courage to offer contract work with pay. What we did you will discover on the following pages.

Paula and Bogdan love to meet new people. They are two of our youth who are full of life and help maintain a cheerful atmosphere in the workshop, especially when we have visitors.

To Ionut, we have to say, "Goodbye," and we rejoice in his success at his new job.

Our project would never succeed without our volunteers, so in this edition we introduce a special volunteer at our Association, Dave.

Even though you can't see it yet, winter holiday season is approaching, and we are preparing with a new catalogue of candles for the Christmas 2010 Edition. And, when we speak of Christmas, it is inevitable that we also talk about the Christmas Market which we will be organizing. You'll find details in this edition. So, we warmly invite you to thumb through the pages of our magazine!

With kind regards, I greet you in the name of the whole team!

*Cristina Ciubotaru*

**Thanks to Veronica Stan, Oana Diana Neacsu  
and David Cox for the translation!**

**Asociatia Ateliere Protejate**

**Str. Secerisului nr. 15**

**041272 Bucuresti, sect. 4**

**Tel: 0040 21 3323330**

**Fax: 0040 21 3323330**

**Mobil: 0040 726 933753**

**Email: [info@ateliere-protejate.org](mailto:info@ateliere-protejate.org)**

**Web: [www.ateliere-protejate.org](http://www.ateliere-protejate.org)**



## Summer 2010 (We care!)

This year we took a vacation week much earlier than usual, the beginning of summer. Because of that, most of us spent the hottest days of the summer here in Bucharest. We tried to work in such a way as to protect our young people as much as possible from the suffocating heat! In addition to the normal activities at the workshop we also participated in some special events.

First, we were aware of the plight of those who had been affected by flooding and we wanted to help them out! Our youth were receptive to this idea, went to work and raised 400 Lei. We sent these funds to Sister Carmen, who has worked for many years at Schineni in Bacau County, to provide windows and doors for a home.

Also, during the summer, we noticed in the newspaper, Ring, that a clean up day was being organized along the Dambovitza River. We wanted to join this project which was a call of alarm in the face of the trash problem in our city. We were able to show that we desire to have a clean city contributing to this effort according to our abilities. Our youth showed once again that they can be a real help!

Finally, in order to have some fun, we headed out with the young people to the park, the pool and in August we celebrated a wedding at the workshop. May Kati and Cristi have a House of Stone!



## Christmas Catalog

Christmas is quickly approaching this year too, and we expect it every time with much more specific candles. It's the time of the year we like the most not just because Christmas comes, but for the joy that we feel when our candles come in the homes of hundreds of people. To be well prepared, our young people have already made the Christmas trees in the spring, fir and many other specific models of candles for the winter holiday that you will see in our new Christmas Catalogue.

It's a simple catalog, in which at first sight you only see some candles, but behind this catalog are 23 young, full of hope that one day they will recover and the world will see them as normal people too.

Even if we know that is a year of crisis, we want this Christmas Catalogue to attract more looks, and, why not, more orders than in the previous years. Even if the orders do not come, we will however be present in all the fairs at which we can participate.

May the Christmas light shine in your souls!



## Working with Kern-Liebers

Kern-Liebers is a company which develops the industry of consumer goods and produces textile and auto system products. This German company is an international manufacturer and has enterprises in several countries, in Romania also.

One of the Romanians factories is in Popești-Leordeni where needles and accessories for weaving machines are produced. Our connection with this factory is a contract that we signed with them. We put the weaving needles on a bolster and they pay us for this. Because it is a good thing for them to know the origin of our activities and for us to better understand the production process, we visited the factory in Popești-Leordeni. The managers explained us every step of the needle production. The workers welcomed us with open heart and answered all the questions (and they weren't few) those who know the young people from 'Ateliere Protejate' know what I am talking about.

The noise, the smell of oil, the machines that were producing the needles and the working environment fascinated our youngsters. It was the first time they had contact with a factory. Although a lot of time has passed since our visit, our youngsters are still impressed by what they saw.

The activity that we started proves one more time our belief that people with disabilities are able to do activities in the work field but, of course, in their own rhythm. The money that we receive for our work does not cover all the expenses but it is something and the most important thing is that our young people are the ones that make this money. The advantages of this type of contract are remarkable: the young people have a constant activity, we receive money for our work, we don't need raw material and it isn't necessary to look for clients.

Our young people are very serious and responsible when they work for Kern-Lieber and this is another proof, as I said before, that people with disabilities can have a place in society, can aspire to independence but only when the society offers them this chance.

In the end I would like to thank one more time the CEO of the company, Mr. Späth for his trust in "Ateliere Protejate" Association.



## I'm Dave (Voluntar) ...

One year ago, a friend of mine, Radu Simion invited me to come and visit him at work. What I discovered there, at 'Ateliere Protejate' impressed me very much. The young people that work there are very hardworking and the place is always filled with joy, friendship and lots of smiles. I can hardly wait to visit 'Ateliere' again.

I have found a way to help around by teaching English and from time to time by helping in the kitchen. I sometimes come to 'Ateliere' upset because of my day to day life but I always leave this place with a joyful heart and a smile on my lips.

I encourage everyone who wants to do some voluntary work to come to 'Ateliere'. The supervisors there will welcome you with open arms and there is a big chance of making some extraordinary friends.

## About Ionut

I've known Ionut for almost 6 years, when he started coming to the workshop. He was like an emblem of our project, working for the longest time with the most consistency. Maybe in our subconscious we believed that he'd always be with us. But it didn't happen that way, and that's for the best!

Last spring, Ionut's mother, who is an untiring laborer, found him a job at a Hypermarket where he would wrap bakery products. After 3 months, in which his supervisors were convinced of his excellent work ethic, Ionut signed an open-ended work contract. Now we miss Ionut and we believe that he misses us too, but we rejoice at this opportunity! We still see Ionut at parties and at other special activities. His family has worked and fought for him! And we have also tried to help Ionut during the period of time he spent with us to prepare and develop as much as possible!

Ionut is a success story for us! Helped by those around him, especially his mother, he has overcome various obstacles and walls of indifference and doubt! These barriers were put in his path even by people and institutions that should have helped him! Ionut is a ground-breaker for the other youth at our workshop and other associations. Now, we know that even though the road is very hard, it can be done! The other young people from our project now have a great hope to find a job and a model in their co-worker, Ionut!

We thank Ionut for the time that he spent beside us and we wish him continued success!



### I'm Paula (Beneficiar),

I'm 21 years old, I'm a good, beautiful, wise and hardworking girl (sometimes I'm bad, but I calm down quickly); I like to arrange myself, to makeup and attract the people eyes. My mother brought me to the workshop to see how it works and learn to work for myself. At the beginning I didn't liked it but then I get used to.

Now I love to work at Retro House with Marian, my colleague, I like to do needles, to sweep, to talk with my colleagues, to make candles, especially those scented with lilac. Since I came to the workshop I learned how to work disciplined, I learned to read the clock, to count, to listen to my teachers and I always forgive Rodica when she puts me points. I love everything at the workshop, but most of all I like speech lessons with Cristina and I love dancing at parties. I get along well with all my colleagues at the workshop but most of all with Radu and Igor.

Before coming at the workshop I went to school where I had good teachers, but I didn't liked Romanian, math and sports.

In my spare time I play with my neighbors, hang out with my mother, play on my computer, listen to music, paint, watch television, go to my grandparents on the country side and play with the chickens and with Victor the donkey.



### I'm Bogdan (Beneficiar),

I'm 23 and a half years old and I'm always a happy boy; I'm very curious and I like to communicate with all the people around me. I love my country, Romania, because it's in the EU but I also like Russia because it's never getting in the EU.

My brother Denis brought me to the Protected Workshops because I'm a brave guy. At first I was at the other center, Paulico, where I worked for 2 years and at Boxberg I've been for 3 and a half years. I'm an old member.

When I came to the studio I didn't liked to work on the boiler, but eventually I got accustomed and now I can do everything: cooking, dish washing, general cleaning, putting needles on the rail, making candles, and most of all I love to do the the advent kit, becuse is the symbol of love. At the workshop I learned to make candles, the alphabet, to calculate, to strictly respect the program, I learned that it is not allowed to talk bad and to fight with your colleagues. Most of all, I like the huge candles that we make every year at Candles Night and I like Christmas Market which is organized every year at our workshop.

I get along very well with the young people from the workshop, excepting Paul who wakes up late in the morning so we are always late to the workshop. I live at the Missionaries of Charity in Chitila and in my spare time I like to help the sisters with the cleaning, shopping, attending Church and watching Discovery Channel on TV, because there I see things that interest me-buildings, factories.



## Christmas Market!

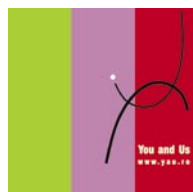
We're glad to announce you that this year too in our workshop we will have the traditional Christmas Market in the

**3.-5. of December.**

We'll be waiting for you like always, with cabbages, cookies, cinnamon scent and lots of other surprises.

**Thanks**

our sponsors an partners:



Next edition Nr. 10 will appear in february 2011