Ajungem Mari

ACTIVITY REPORT 2025



Changing the world,
one small step
at a time

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Message from the President of Ajungem MARI

A YEAR FULL OF MEANING



IARINA TABAN
President and Founder, Ajungem MARI

Dear partners and supporters,

2025 was a year that showed us, once again, how much a community can do when it chooses to remain close to vulnerable children. In a world where time and attention are increasingly difficult to give, thousands of people chose to be present.

We are grateful to the more than 4,000 individual donors and more than 150 companies who supported us this year. Thanks to them, a community of over 1,500 volunteers has formed around the 3,500 children and young people we support — people who chose to become mentors, role models, and sources of emotional stability.

For children who grow up without stable family support and who have experienced abandonment or family separation, the greatest need is not material but relational: an adult who stays close and believes in them. Our volunteers are exactly that — present every week through school support, educational and recreational activities, outings, trips, and vocational guidance.

The relationships they build, with patience and consistency, are what truly change lives. Volunteers are central to everything we do: they enroll the children, motivate them, and accompany them to psychotherapy, speech therapy, and vocational and qualification courses — tools that help them discover their abilities and carve out a path of their own.

Because the needs of these children are complex and ongoing, in 2025 we set out to expand our circle of supporters and bring society closer to the reality of vulnerable children through the “Living Museum of Empathy”, a project that tells stories about empathy and engagement.

The impact of Ajungem MARI goes beyond direct beneficiaries: through collaboration with specialists and the training of social services staff, we contribute to a deeper change in the way institutionalized children are understood and supported.

We look ahead with the same dedication and invite you to stay by our side and offer every child a real chance at an independent, dignified life.

With gratitude,
Iarina Taban
President and Founder, Ajungem MARI

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About Ajungem MARI

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES





VISION

We aspire to a country where no child is condemned to loneliness, emotional abandonment, or a future limited by the system in which they live.
We work toward a society where every child in the child welfare system has access to stable relationships with trusted adults, quality emotional and educational support, and real opportunities to become an independent adult engaged in the community.

MISSION

We support children and young people in the child welfare system to discover their potential and build an independent life.
We do this through consistent volunteering and long-term supportive relationships that provide children with stability and trust; personal development programs and vocational guidance; psychological and emotional support; life experiences and social integration, preparing them for life outside the system.

VALUES

Long-term relationships

For a child who has experienced abandonment, the greatest fear is that people will disappear again. We offer consistency as a form of healing. We are not short-term rescuers, but friends who show up week after week, becoming anchors of normalcy and trusted figures for the long term.

Education

Every “invisible” child has enormous potential, often overshadowed by trauma. Through education, encouragement, and new experiences, we help them move from “I can’t, there’s no point” to “I want to succeed in life.” We believe in them until they begin to believe in themselves too, giving them the courage to dream again.

Responsibility

We work with fragile hearts, which is why we act with the utmost responsibility. We commit to a rigorous volunteer selection process and ongoing training in the psychology of trauma and attachment. Interventions are structured and adapted to real needs, ensuring that the support provided is safe and sustainable.

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About Ajungem MARI

AJUNGEM MARI - THE TEAM



IARINA TABAN
PRESIDENT



ANA CRISTACHE
GENERAL DIRECTOR



VIVIANDA NICOLAE
VICE PRESIDENT



CLAUDIU COVRIG
FINANCIAL MANAGER



ELENA CHIRU
NAȚIONAL COORDINATOR



FLORIN OLTEAN
BUCHAREST COORDINATOR



MIRUNA NANU
PSYCHOLOGIST & ASSISTANT COORDINATOR



ANDREEA BANIȚĂ
ASSISTANT COORDINATOR



RUXANDRA RUGINĂ
OUTINGS PROJECT COORDINATOR



EMILIA MOCAN
PROJECT MANAGER



ADINA PASCAL
PROJECT MANAGER



ANA-MARIA DOBRANICI
PROJECT MANAGER



BOGDAN NEDELESCU
PSYCHOLOGIST & COUNSELOR FOR VOLUNTEERS



ALEXANDRA ALBIN
PROJECT WRITING MANAGER



DANA ROTĂRUȘ
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT



ALEX DUMITRESCU
EVENTS ORGANIZER



ALINA ȘANDOR
COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT



IONELA MODREANU
ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

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About Institutionalized Children

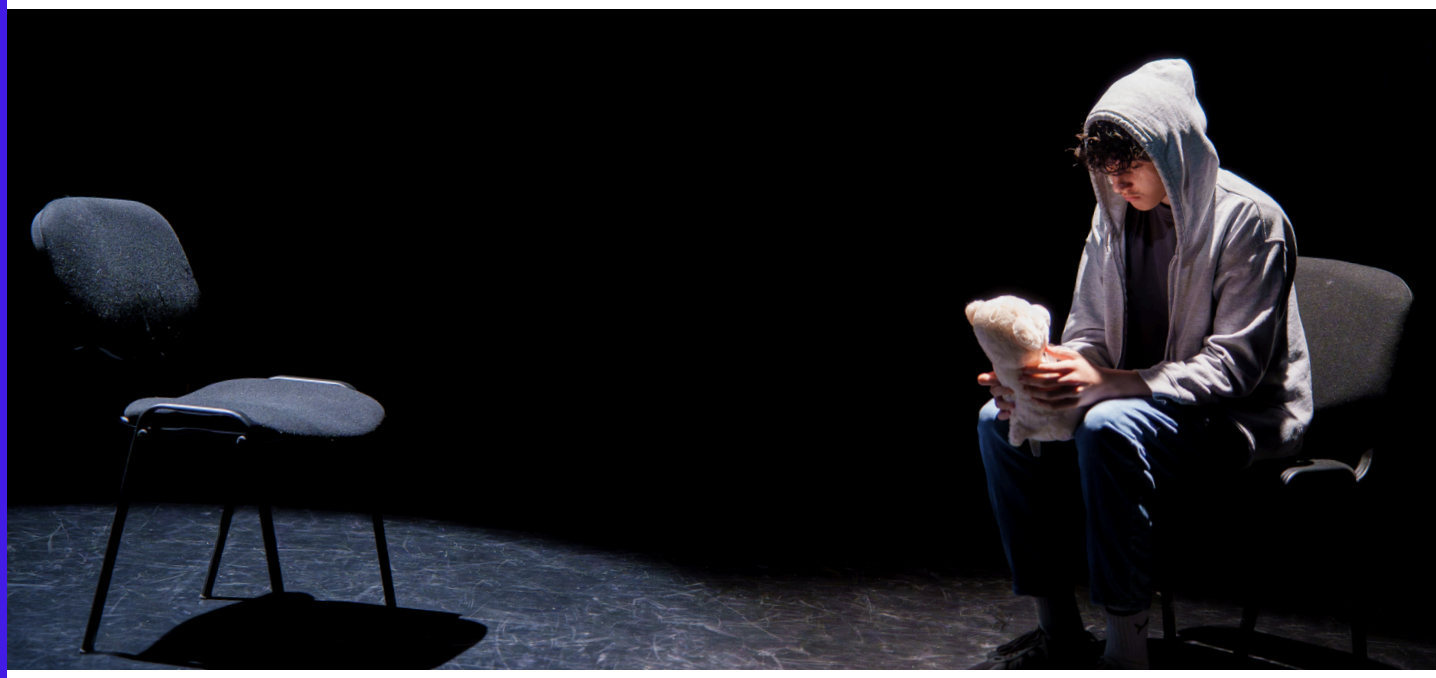
HISTORY AND CONTEXT OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN

In Romania, over 35,000 children live in the child welfare system. Behind this vast number are just as many faces and stories marked by a profound need for affection and safety.

Most of these children are not orphans — they come from families that were unable to provide adequate care. Harsh experiences of abandonment, family separation, and repeated moves between centers keep them on constant alert. This "migration" has a complex traumatic impact, affecting the child's psychological, emotional, and even neurological development.

Although conditions in centers have improved, the specialists and emotional resources needed to help heal their emotional wounds are often lacking. An institutionalized child frequently feels "invisible" and tends to believe they "can't" or that there is "no point" in dreaming. Educational gaps and low self-esteem become major obstacles to independence.

For a young heart that has known rejection, consistency is a form of healing. Long-term interventions — psychotherapy, academic support, and mentoring for independent living — are all essential for transforming trauma into confidence.
Our goal is for these young people to no longer be defined by their past as "children in state care," but to become autonomous adults.



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About Institutionalized Children

THE NEEDS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN

The deepest need of children in the child welfare system is emotional safety. A child who has experienced abandonment or repeated separations lives with a constant fear that keeps them on permanent alert, always expecting another negative change to destabilize their world.

Accumulated traumas (neglect, abuse, institutionalization) leave deep marks on psychological and emotional development, causing behavioral disorders, social maladjustment, and even changes in brain development. Many children come to believe that they "can't" or that there is "no point" in trying.

Our research and experience show that the most effective recovery takes place in a stable family environment, through adoption or long-term foster care. And for those for whom this is not possible, consistency becomes a form of healing.

We work with these children through a flexible and adaptable structure:
•Volunteer teams — We work with smaller or larger groups of children through teams of two volunteers, offering them positive models of collaboration and connection.
•Individual support — When a child's specific needs or the center's requirements call for it, we provide individual mentoring and tutoring.

In this way, we are able to offer personalized support that gradually transforms resignation into confidence.

3,200
children enter the child welfare system annually

25%
of children end up in centers as a result of abuse or neglect

32%
of children end up in centers due to poverty

1 in 10
children are born to a mother under 18

1 in 3
children has spent 90% of their life in the child welfare system

The Impact of Ajungem MARI on Institutionalized Children

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

Ajungem MARI brings about a profound change in the lives of vulnerable children, transforming them from young people who felt invisible and lacking confidence into responsible, life-ready adults. This transformation is supported through concrete tools that help them overcome the traumas of abandonment and family separation.



Changes observed in children include:

- **Emotional development and self-confidence** – Children learn to express their needs, manage their emotions, and let go of the belief that no one will help them.
- **Motivation and better academic results** – Participation in tutoring sessions and interactive workshops reduces the fear of failure and transforms school subjects into clear concepts.
- **Independence and responsibility** – Through practical experiences and encouragement, children learn to make decisions, manage their time, and take on responsibilities.
- **Future prospects** – Children develop clear goals and confidence that they can build an autonomous life, reducing the risk of social exclusion after leaving the child welfare system.

In concrete terms, Ajungem MARI gives children the tools they need to discover their potential and to see themselves as valuable people, capable of contributing to their community in turn.

The Impact of Ajungem MARI on Institutionalized Children

GEORGIANA'S STORY

Georgiana's story is a testament to how the presence of a trusted adult can rewrite a child's future. Georgiana entered the system when she was just 5 years old, spending the first 2 years in a residential care center. It was a period so painful that her mind chose to erase those memories. Her only support was her twin sister, with whom she was later moved to a family-type home.

Although they found care in their new home, their trauma led them to choose isolation as a survival strategy. At school, after their teacher introduced them as children in need of help, years of torment and marginalization from classmates followed.



"We are human beings too. It doesn't matter where we come from, but how we behave. Accept us like any other child. We don't ask for pity, but for respect."

"Volunteers come with open hearts. If you give them a chance, your life can change radically."

Georgiana, a young person raised in the child welfare system

The radical change came through Ajungem MARI volunteers, who, Georgiana says, changed their lives. They involved the sisters in activities that helped them grow, and the turning point was the founding of a theater group. Theater became a mirror in which Georgiana saw a different version of herself, discovering her sensitivity and learning to accept herself as she is.

The impact of this consistent support is visible and tangible today:

- Georgiana passed her Baccalaureate exam and was admitted to the Faculty of Theater in Iași, specializing in puppetry and marionette theater.
- She went from wanting to avoid school to dreaming of an artistic career and of continuing to do good.
- Today, she encourages children in the system to be brave: "Try to become the best version of yourselves. If we can, you can too."

Real impact comes from authentic relationships and emotional stability. Volunteers who stay by children's side transform suffering into hope and talent into a future.

Listen to Georgiana's story HERE

The Impact of Ajungem MARI on Institutionalized Children

VICTOR'S STORY

Victor is a quiet 17-year-old who learned too early that life can hurt. Following the loss of his father and his mother's abandonment, Victor was forced, at a young age, to become a parent and protector for his younger brother. At the same time, he carried the silent pain of losing a sister who had been given up for adoption. Entering the system at 15, overwhelmed by grief and depression, Victor withdrew into himself, repeated a school year, and resigned himself to a severe visual impairment he was born with.

The transformation did not begin with grand promises, but with "small things" and the warm presence of a volunteer. The first step was gaining independence in the city. Although the metro and the unknown caused him paralyzing anxiety, Victor - accompanied by his volunteer - learned to navigate Bucharest in order to take his brother to classes. The waiting hours became a safe space in which Victor began to talk about his fears, anger, and the burden of being "the older one" without being ready for it.



> When it came to the future, he always said the same thing: "*I can't wait to turn 18, finish 10th grade and leave the system.*" Where? "*Home.*" A "home" that, in fact, no longer exists.
>
> Victor, a young person raised in the child welfare system

A defining moment was the decision to have eye surgery. The volunteer's patience helped him overcome his fear and mistrust — Victor accepted the procedure, which was a success. This triggered an inner change: Victor began running, achieving better grades, and asking for help when he felt lost.

He accepted psychotherapy, his outbursts became less frequent, and his plans grew ambitious: he wants to take the Baccalaureate exam and attend driving school. He trains for football 5 times a week and is looking for a part-time job that will allow him to stay in school.

Victor is not a miracle — he is a teenager with a solid foundation who needed someone to tell him, again and again: "You can."

2025 RESULTS

- 1,400 volunteers involved
- 54 volunteer training sessions
- 3,500 children and young people supported
- 323 centers and group homes
- 61,852 volunteer hours
- 1,104 outings and trips
- 223 children in vocational courses
- 128 children in therapy and speech therapy
- 116 children and young people in camps
- 216 children in exam tutoring
- 20 young people in qualification courses
- 600 young people in career guidance workshops
- 50 young people in career counseling
- 37 charitable events
- 18 career guidance visits

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Events and Campaigns

THE LIVING MUSEUM OF EMPATHY

The Living Museum of Empathy aims to reveal the invisible faces of abandonment: loneliness, fear, anger, sadness, but also the strength to move forward, the need to be loved, and the extraordinary capacity to be reborn with the help of the community.

In Romania, the history of child abandonment and institutionalization is a collective wound that is still open. Tens of thousands of children have passed through orphanages, growing up without family, without love, without protection and without emotional support. This past is not merely a painful memory, but a reality that continues to shape the present.

Ajungem MARI, the largest socio-educational program for institutionalized children in Romania, has launched the “Living Museum of Empathy”, a long-term project that aims to create an interactive, emotional space connecting the general public with the reality of children in the child welfare system and inspiring involvement and concrete action.



You cannot help but be struck when you hear what a child can go through. It is inhumane. When I read the letter I felt a great deal of pain, but also a kind of hope, because there are still people like the ones here. And these people, who create projects like this, I would run them through a human photocopier so there would be more of them among us, and maybe then we’d stand a chance.

Alex Bogdan,
one of the actors who gave voice to children’s stories

This year, as part of the volunteer recruitment campaign, we announced the first initiative of the “Living Museum of Empathy” project — a series of stories of children in the child welfare system, told by actors. Victoria Răileanu, Ofelia Popii, Vlad Logigan, Florentina Țilea, Alex Bogdan, Cătălina Mihai, Cosmin Dominte, Florin Aioane, Valentina Moghină, Beatrice Rubică, and Ana Turoș are some of the actors who agreed to put themselves in the children’s shoes and convey the messages that these children do not always dare to speak aloud themselves.

Children’s stories performed by actors — HERE

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Events and Campaigns

RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

"The world is waiting for a hero; children are waiting for a friend"

In 2025, we ran an extensive recruitment campaign aimed at people willing to regularly give some of their time to children and young people in the child welfare system. The message was simple: three hours a week, a smile, and a little encouragement can make a difference in a child's life. Children don't need heroes; they need people who are there for them, with patience and consistency — to listen, to spend time together, and to build relationships based on trust and support, step by step.

We received 2,399 applications, 1,568 from across the country and 831 from Bucharest. At the end of the recruitment process, we said "Welcome!" to 1,032 new volunteers who completed all the selection stages and signed their volunteering contracts.

The recruitment process included a comprehensive induction program which included 42 training sessions (in-person and online) delivered by the Ajungem MARI team and local coordinators. These sessions combined theoretical information (about the organization's mission, children's needs, concepts of trauma and the code of conduct) with practical exercises and psychological assessment, all needed to prepare volunteers to work directly with beneficiaries.



"Ajungem MARI is the place where I met a different kind of people — wonderful people who give without asking 'what's in it for me?' because the reward is obvious: the deep satisfaction of doing good. It is the place where I grew as a person through the experiences I had. It is the place where I learned a great many new things. And not least, it is the place where I saw a world different from the ivory tower of our homes and workplaces — a world that makes you feel lucky and grateful for what you have and what you can give. The children and volunteers I met here have changed my life." – Claudia Maftei, Ajungem MARI Volunteer

This year, Ajungem MARI Sibiu volunteers joined the 2025 recruitment campaign by organizing local events (yoga, football, and stretching), bringing together, in a space of calm, energy, and gratitude, people eager to get to know us and find out how they too can get involved.

Every smile, every breath, and every kind thought showed us how fortunate we are, how many good-hearted people there are, and demonstrated once again how important the mission of Ajungem MARI is.

Events and Campaigns

DGASPC STAFF

Over 2,000 DGASPC staff members attended the training sessions organized by Ajungem MARI specialists

In 2025, we continued to travel across the country to meet our partners from the DGASPCs (General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection) in the counties of Hunedoara, Călărași, and Timiș.
In 2025, the DGASPCs of Olt and Călărași joined the 27 counties already in the program. Through our meetings, we focused on building direct communication, presenting the results of our program, and establishing a joint support strategy for institutionalized children and young people.

Training sessions

- Trauma: a bio-psycho-social approach
- Attachment styles
- About needs
- Gender identity and sexual orientation





In-person meetings with DGASPC

The Ajungem MARI team traveled to several counties to organize working meetings with DGASPC representatives, with the aim of strengthening institutional relationships and ensuring effective collaboration. During these meetings, program directions were presented, collaboration methodology was established, the needs of children and young people were analyzed, and training opportunities for staff were identified.

The project was supported primarily through sponsorship from Istyle Retail, Pirios, Mapei Romania, Conectys Serv Telecom, and through funds collected via the 3.5% and 20% tax redirection mechanisms.

Events and Campaigns

AJUNGEM MARI TIMIȘ HEADQUARTERS

A beautiful dream took shape thanks to the people who believe in change. Ajungem MARI Timiș volunteers transformed, step by step, a simple space into a place full of life, color, and hope. With energy, enthusiasm and great dedication, each person contributed in the way they knew best. It was more than work: it was heartfelt commitment, collaboration, and the joy of building something together.

Today, the dream of a welcoming space, tailored to the team's needs, has become a reality. And its story is only just beginning.

AN EMPTY SPACE BECAME A HOME FOR AJUNGEM MARI TIMIȘ!





"Once again, a simple but powerful truth was confirmed for me: when you team up with volunteers, nothing is impossible! Even though some of the activities were completely new to us, we threw ourselves into the work with enthusiasm. We quickly divided up the responsibilities and got to work, as if we had been doing this all our lives."

Erika Nistor, Local Coordinator, Timiș





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PERMANENT PROJECTS

Every experience, every outing with volunteers, every workshop in a center, every session with a therapist, every vocational course, every career orientation visit, and every conversation with volunteers plants in a child's heart the hope of a better future, different from the environment they come from.



Ajungem Mari

Permanent Projects for Beneficiaries

HOW DO WE SUPPORT OUR BENEFICIARIES?



Every volunteer creates a future

- Educational support: helps with homework, organizes workshops and vocational courses
- Personal development: workshops, dance, music, camps, outings, and trips
- Emotional support and mentoring: counseling, role models and friends for children
- Real impact: building confidence, hope, and skills for a better future

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Permanent Projects for Beneficiaries

VOCATIONAL COURSES

The "Vocational Courses" project creates concrete opportunities for institutionalized children and young people to discover their passions and build confidence in their own abilities. Through participation in diverse activities, they develop essential practical and social skills, learn to surpass their own limits, and gain a clearer sense of their future directions. The experiences within the project contribute to greater autonomy and better integration into independent living.

Results:

223 children from Bucharest and across the country benefited from the project, participating in vocational activities adapted to their interests and needs.





Activities are chosen according to each child's interests, with volunteers playing an active role in identifying these interests and facilitating access to courses led by professionals from various fields:

- Courses outside centers for talented children — robotics, drawing and painting, rhythmic gymnastics, football, swimming, basketball, boxing, karate and other martial arts, chess, kickboxing, singing, photography, theater, etc.
- Personal development, communication and public speaking workshops.

Funding for the courses was made possible with the support of our partners Istyle Retail, Pirios, LSEG, sponsors who directed 20% of their profit tax, individual donors, and fundraisers on the Galantom platform.

Permanent Projects for Beneficiaries

OUTINGS AND TRIPS

"Explorer for a Day" is a permanent project through which we give children and young people the chance to explore the city, to visit and discover new places, to meet and interact with new people. Every outing from the center is a new experience, and the time volunteers spend with them is valued far more than the toys and clothes they receive as donations.

Volunteers organize outings with children to the cinema, theater, museums, various play areas, parks, climbing walls, laser tag venues, various festivals and events. They accompany the children and participate in activities alongside them, encourage them throughout, explain what they have to do, and discuss various topics with them such as family, friendship, moral values, careers, passions and emotions. Volunteers also explain how to behave in different situations.

Results:

1,104 trips and educational outings were organized for children and young people, mainly outdoors, at places such as adventure parks and shows.



Benefits for children and young people:

- develop closer relationships with volunteers, who become friends and role models
- gain self-confidence and become more open to new experiences
- strengthen their social, communication, and teamwork skills
- learn how to behave in society and respond to different situations
- learn to find their way around the city and use public transportation
- grow and relax outside the centers
- discover the world around them and become more aware of it.

The outings and trips were made possible with the support of our partners Conectys Serv Telecom, Mapei România, Pirios, Bearing Point, United Way, Raiffeisen, LSEG, and Fundaţia Dacia, through company sponsorships, funds raised on the Galantom platform and online on our website, as well as through the 3.5% mechanism.

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Permanent Projects for Beneficiaries

PSYCHOTHERAPY AND SPEECH THERAPY

Children and young people in residential care centers carry heavy stories with them — neglect, abuse, abandonment, broken relationships, years spent in institutions. These experiences do not stay in the past. They are visible in the present: in the way they relate to others, in the behaviors they use to cope with a world that has disappointed them, in the difficulty of imagining a better future. This is why psychotherapy is a genuine necessity. A medium- to long-term therapeutic process gives children and young people the tools they need to understand what
has happened to them and to build, step by step, a healthier relationship with themselves and the world around them.

Results:

- **102 children from Bucharest and across the country took part in individual psychotherapy sessions**
- **26 children took part in speech therapy**



The real needs of children in the system are, at their core, emotional and relational. They need to know that there is a consistent, predictable adult who will not disappear after a week. This emotional stability is for them a kind of "solid ground," in a life otherwise marked by changes, separations, and losses. Safety does not come from a gift but from presence, continuity, and calm responses, even when they test the limits.

Corina Şerban, psychotherapist

Since the project was launched in 2020, approximately 333 children have received therapy, and some are still attending sessions. The children and young people come from Bucharest, Arad, Argeș, Botoșani, Brașov, Buzău, Cluj, Constanța, Dâmbovița, Dolj, Galați, Gorj, Iași, Mureș, Neamț, Prahova, Sibiu, and Timiș.

Funding for the courses, psychotherapy, and speech therapy was made possible with the support of strategic partners OLX Group, Industrial Electrical Solutions, Roechling Automotive Pitești, charitable events, and the online and SMS donation campaigns.

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Permanent Projects for Beneficiaries

SUPPORT FOR YOUTH

Alongside our counselors, young people undergo a guidance process that helps them discover their abilities, interests, and values, in order to make informed decisions about their career and educational path. Together they identify development needs and explore vocational training options, in line with their profile and the requirements of the labor market.

Access to practical experiences supports them in clarifying their direction and gaining confidence in their own choices. The workshops offer teenagers concrete information about different professions and the working environment, from training requirements to the necessary skills, such as teamwork and workplace behavior. Through direct interaction with professionals from various fields, young people can clarify their options and better understand what suits them. At the same time, we aim to motivate them to continue their studies and not drop out of school.

Results:

- **50 young people** were supported through 105 individual vocational counseling sessions
- **20 young people** completed a qualification course in the fields of beauty (barbering, hairstyling, manicure, cosmetology), bartending, and cooking.
- **600 teenagers** participated in online workshops introducing various professions and 18 career orientation visits
- **300 teenagers** participated in online workshops on school and career guidance
- **22 young people** received scholarships





Scholarships for students, vocational counseling, and qualification courses were made possible with funds raised through the Swimathon Bucharest project and with the support of our partners OLX Group, LSEG, Istyle Retail, Pirios, Mapei Romania, Vitol, and through company support via the 20% mechanism.

Permanent Projects for Beneficiaries

INDEPENDENT LIVING CAMPS

Independent living camps are practical programs for young people ages 15 and up, in which they learn essential skills for everyday life — from budgeting and cooking to teamwork and taking responsibility.

These camps are needed because many young people in residential care centers have no access to such experiences in daily life and struggle to adjust when they leave the system. Through practical exercises and career orientation activities — such as CV writing, mock interviews, and job readiness — young people develop the confidence and competencies needed for independent life.

Results:

In 2025, we organized six independent living camps for 116 children and young people

- **48 teenagers** — Iași, Botoșani, Vrancea
- **48 children and young people** — Bucharest
- **20 young people, pupils and students** — Arad, Botoșani, Brașov, Bucharest, Dolj, Galați, Iași, Vrancea



"It was a unique and truly fun experience. What impressed me most was the volunteer team, their involvement, the fact that they understood us no matter what "whim" we had.
They somehow adapted to who we are, and in the end it turned out to be a fantastic camp that I never expected!"

Andreea, 17

The organization of independent living camps was made possible with the support of partners: Nhood, the Bucharest Community Foundation through the Swimathon event, Henkel, and sponsorships from the 20% profit tax redirection mechanism.

AJUNGEM MARI VOLUNTEERS

Every experience, every outing with volunteers, every workshop in a center, every session with a therapist, every vocational course, every career orientation visit, and every conversation with volunteers plants in a child's heart the hope of a better future, different from the environment they come from.



Ajungem MARI Volunteers

THE HEART OF AJUNGEM MARI



Every volunteer creates a future

- **Educational support:** helps with homework, organizes workshops and vocational courses
- **Personal development:** workshops, dance, music, camps, outings, and trips
- **Emotional support and mentoring:** counseling, role models and friends for children
- **Real Impact:** building confidence, hope, and skills for a better future

Ajungem MARI Volunteers

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

The volunteer's goal is to be a mentor and a role model, and to help children discover the world, build confidence in their own abilities, and become INDEPENDENT and RESPONSIBLE!

61,852 VOLUNTEER HOURS

per year, given weekly across a range of activities — homework help, workshops, outings, trips, accompanying children to courses, therapy, training sessions, camps, counseling, and mentoring



Volunteers are people of all ages and backgrounds who commit to at least eight months of weekly involvement in children's education and give them constant encouragement.
Currently, more than 1,500 volunteers regularly take part in these activities through interactive sessions in centers and activities outside them.
Ajungem MARI provides long-term support to all children enrolled in the program and periodically recruits new volunteers to support them. Volunteers are selected in four stages, attend both mandatory and optional training sessions, and receive counseling and guidance.

2,300 VOLUNTEERS

took part in the 2025 volunteering program. These wonderful people became teachers, friends, and role models for institutionalized children and young people.

Ajungem MARI Volunteers

DEDICATED PEOPLE, ROLE MODELS AND FRIENDS FOR CHILDREN



- **1,500 active volunteers weekly** — delivering interactive sessions in centers and educational and recreational activities outside of centers
- **61,852 volunteer hours in 2025** — homework help, workshops, outings, mentoring
- **over 56% volunteer retention rate year over year — 794 volunteers** stayed on with children in the following school year
- over 2,000 new applications during the September 2025 recruitment drive, of which 1,400 volunteers attended training sessions and 1,000 signed their volunteering contract for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 2,300 volunteers involved annually in the educational and emotional development of children

What are Ajungem MARI volunteers like?

Ajungem MARI volunteers are empathetic, dedicated, patient, and creative people who are consistently present in children's lives. They inspire, support, and guide the children, becoming trusted friends and role models and offering encouragement, emotional support, and opportunities for growth, so that every child can grow up confident and believe in a better future.

Ajungem MARI

Ajungem MARI Volunteers

HOW DO WE SUPPORT OUR VOLUNTEERS?

In 2025, we trained 2,272 volunteers in 54 training sessions.

Ajungem MARI volunteers have ongoing access to resources, training, and psychological counseling, so they are as prepared and informed as possible to help the children they work with. Being an Ajungem MARI volunteer means entering a child's life and staying. Volunteers work with little people who have been through big things, and that is not always easy. That is why volunteers are not alone. They are there for the children, and we are here for them.

Training sessions

- Introduction to volunteering
- Motivating children
- Trauma: a bio-psycho-social approach
- Attachment styles
- Working with children with special educational needs
- About needs — what lies behind our behaviors
- Sex education
- About adolescence
- About sleep
- Gender identity and sexual orientation
- Play — the natural language of the child





On-demand support:

Ajungem MARI volunteers also had access to on-demand support whenever they needed it. They could request individual counseling sessions or join the support and counseling group, which met twice a month from January to May 2025.

The project was supported primarily through sponsorship from Istyle Retail, Pirios, Mapei Romania, and Conectys Serv Telecom.

Ajungem MARI Volunteers

AJUNGEM MARI CAMP

Together, we wrote another memorable chapter in the Ajungem MARI story by organizing a new Camp for the people who give meaning to every volunteer hour.
We gathered volunteers and coordinators from across the country in a space where time had a different rhythm: warmer, more present, closer to what truly matters. We reconnected with one another and with our shared mission — to be real support for the children and young people who need trust, guidance, and a touch of stability.

We built experiences together that blended play and learning: team activities that took us out of our routine, challenges that tested our creativity, and workshops that gave us useful tools for working with children.

The 2025 Camp was about authentic connection, about meaning, and about that quiet but powerful energy that emerges when people are in the right place, for the right reasons. We returned home more grounded, more inspired, and with a clear feeling: that what we do together matters.











The 2025 Camp was made possible with the support of partners Istyle Retail, Pirios, Mapei Romania, and Conectys Serv Telecom.

Ajungem MARI Volunteers

TEAM BUILDING - TIMIȘ

In September 2025, Ajungem MARI Timiș volunteers opened their hearts at a two-day team building event in Maramureș, with the goal of forming a strong team united by the desire to do good.

The activities gave them energy and inspiration: a mailbox for positive messages, a group picture made of individual little houses, a pottery demonstration and workshop, cards with funny or philosophical challenges, many shared stories, walks, and a trust circle.











“Our first team building after a year of volunteering started, somehow, at full speed. Then we discovered a wonderful place: the stillness, the positive energy of those around us. We breathed, we shaped unique forms from clay, and we found ourselves again beyond the busyness of everyday life.
I am grateful to have spent these days with so many wonderful people.
And last but not least, thank you, Erika, for the way you inspire us, make us better and stronger, and bring us together.”

Irina, Ajungem MARI Timiș volunteer

Ajungem MARI

Ajungem MARI Volunteers

TEAM BUILDING - IAȘI

In 2025, Ajungem MARI Iași volunteers carried out a series of activities aimed at:

- Team cohesion among veteran volunteers, new volunteers, local coordinators, center coordinators, and the local finance officer.
- Improving communication for better relationships with fellow volunteers, educators, and children.
- Identifying solutions to difficulties encountered during the volunteering program.
- Developing a set of skills useful in interacting with children of various ages.
- Improving volunteer retention over the medium and long term.

The most recent activity was a two-day outing in nature that deepened the bonds between some volunteers and allowed others to form new ones — it was a weekend full of connection.











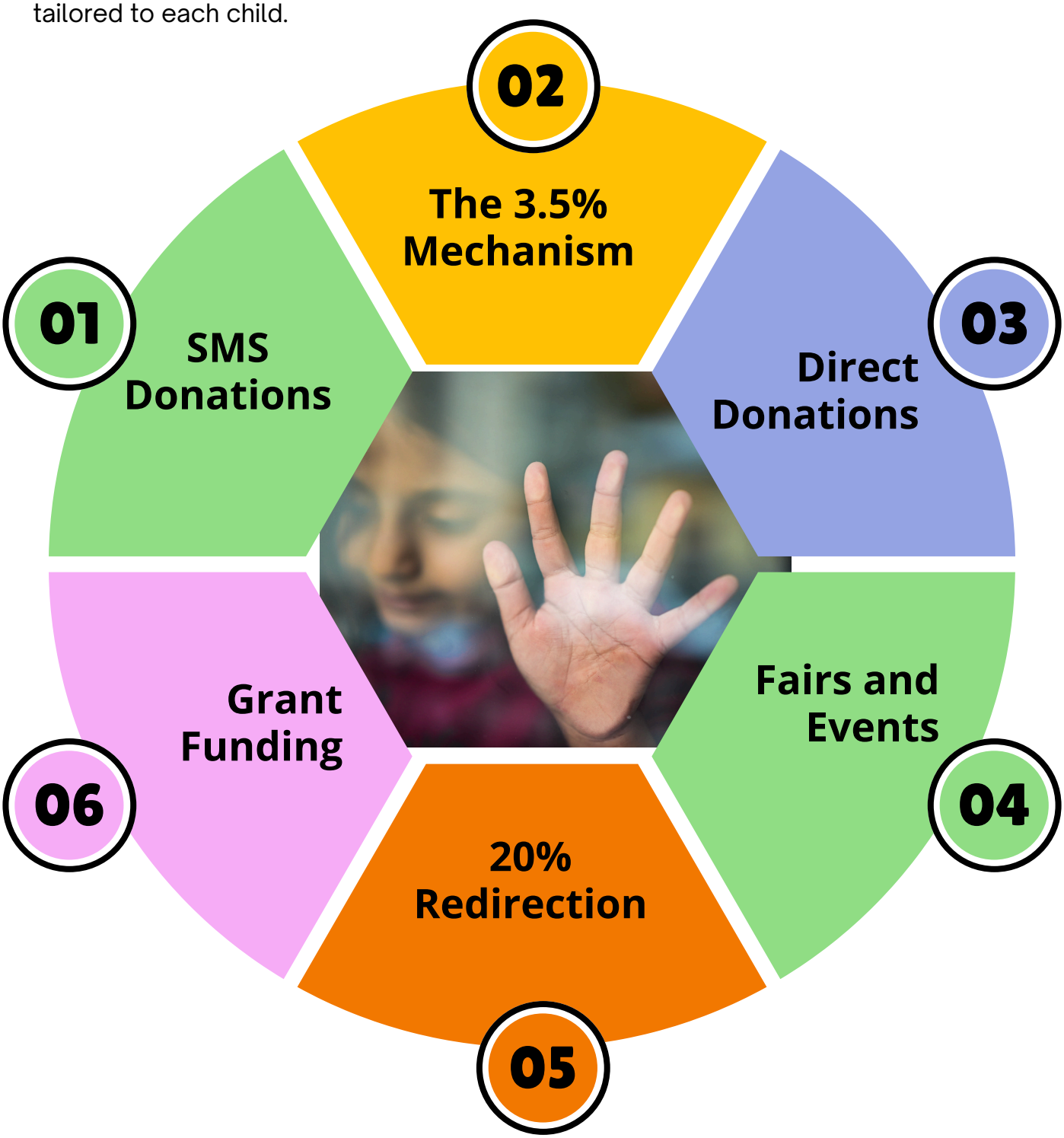
“Two days in Cheile Bicăjelului, two rain-free hikes, a river crossing, a few challenges, and many lovely memories, plus one workshop on young people’s journey after leaving the system — that’s how our weekend can be summed up for the 19 of us.”

Adriana and Ștefana, local coordinators, Iași

Ajungem Mari

PROJECTS & FUNDING SOURCES

The diversity of our funding sources allows us to respond as fully as possible to the varied needs of the children in our programs. From individual donations and fundraising campaigns to partnerships and sponsorships, each contribution is part of this ecosystem of support. Together, they give us the flexibility to build solutions tailored to each child.



Projects and Funding Sources

20% REDIRECTION

Funds received from companies through the 20% profit tax redirection mechanism form the foundation of Ajungem MARI's work: building and maintaining a solid network of engaged volunteers.

We invest in effective coordination, in recruiting and onboarding volunteers, and in motivating and retaining them through consistent support. We provide counseling and organize training sessions and team building to develop skills and cohesion among volunteer teams at the county or center level.

At the same time, these resources make it possible to organize all educational and recreational activities dedicated to children, ensuring continuity and quality in our interventions. The funds received are transformed, directly or indirectly, into experiences that shape lives.



Ajungem Mari

Projects and Funding Sources

THE 3.5% MECHANISM

In 2025, we processed 1,100 Form 230 submissions redirecting personal income tax. These funds directly support concrete development experiences for children in the program. Through these resources, approximately 1,200 children took part in educational and recreational outings, discovering new places, learning through experience, and developing their social skills. Volunteers could use the funds for children in their own county.

In addition, the funds supported 38 children in vocational courses held over six months, giving them consistent access to practical activities and guidance in discovering their own interests. In this way, individual redirections become real opportunities for exploration and growth for children.



Ajungem Mari

Projects and Funding Sources

DIRECT DONATIONS

550 people made one-time or recurring donations through the website, helping support 20 children in psychotherapy for a year. At the same time, 170 people donated directly by bank transfer, making it possible to invest in volunteer recruitment and retention — from promotional materials and training sessions to local meetings and team-building activities.

These resources are essential for finding and supporting people who can become stable reference points in the lives of institutionalized children. Volunteers offer consistency and presence, building relationships that help children stay engaged in the program over the long term and feel that they belong to a community.

It is a mission that requires patience, energy, and emotional balance. The more prepared, supported, and part of a team volunteers feel, the longer they can stay by children's side. And this continuity makes the difference — turning their presence into real and lasting support.



Ajungem Mari

Projects and Funding Sources

SMS DONATIONS 8864

Nearly 400 people chose to make one-time or recurring donations by SMS to 8864 to support psychotherapy for institutionalized children and young people. Together, these contributions covered a year of therapy for 10 children — a year in which they had a safe space to be heard and understood.

Every donation, however small, becomes a real investment in a child's future. This is because, beyond financial support, what matters most is connecting with the right therapist — an adult in whose presence the child can trust, open up, and begin to heal deep wounds. This process takes time, patience, and continuity. But change does happen. A volunteer once told us how, after months of therapy, they heard for the first time the laughter of a child who had always been sad and quiet — "the most beautiful sound they had ever heard".

We are deeply grateful to all those who made this possible and gave children the chance to rediscover their voice and joy.



Projects and Funding Sources

CHARITABLE FAIRS

In 2025, Ajungem MARI fairs came alive once again as small spaces of kindness, where the creativity of volunteers and children turned into concrete gestures of support. With patience and dedication, handmade products took shape, telling stories of courage, learning, and care.
Every contribution meant more than an object — it was a form of real support. The funds raised made it possible to offer outings, new experiences, and moments that bring children joy and confidence beyond their daily routine.

"Taking part in the Ajungem MARI fair was more than getting involved — it was a chance to turn passion into something meaningful. It made me happy to know that every item I donated contributes, even a little, to beautiful experiences for children. It's the kind of involvement that stays with you and makes you want to come back."

Maria — exhibitor at the Ajungem MARI fair



2025 brought the most extensive edition of Ajungem MARI's charitable fairs, with 55 exhibitors in Bucharest and active participation in the counties of Mureș, Constanța, Prahova, Arad, Timiș, and Iași.

Every participant's contribution turned into outings and trips for the children and young people we support — experiences that are essential for their development and that many of them could not otherwise have.

Being present in so many counties shows that the Ajungem MARI mission resonates nationwide, as volunteers, artisans, and supporters from across the country mobilized alongside us. Across all charitable events, with the help of Ajungem MARI supporters, we raised RON 209,096.

Projects and Funding Sources

ONLINE FUNDRAISING

Through the Galantom online platform, supporters transformed their personal initiatives into concrete support — from “Give Your Birthday” to participation in the Bucharest Marathon and Bucharest Half Marathon, the Charitable Chess Competition, Santa Claus, and Galantom Mărțișor — bringing the community closer to children.

These efforts made concrete results possible: six children attended vocational courses for six months, 185 children went on outings and trips, and 105 creative workshops were supported through educational materials. Five children received psychotherapy for a year, seven young people received scholarships for three months, and support for institutionalized children covered part of the volunteer recruitment process as well as essential needs such as equipment, clothing, laptops, and medical expenses. In addition, the emergency fund enabled a rapid response for an institutionalized young person whose home was affected by a fire. A total of 82 fundraisers chose to support the cause on Galantom, carrying the message further to their own communities. Through their involvement, personal recommendation becomes a powerful driver of mobilization: people choose to join because someone close to them believes in this mission. Thus, the circle of supporters grows naturally, and more and more people become part of the children’s support network.

Together, these contributions meant more than targeted support — they built stability, continuity, and real opportunities for children and young people.

“Do you still remember what it was like when we played outside without a care? Football, hopscotch, an ice cream on the curb, and that was it — we had a perfect day! Now I try to give other children such memories too — children who live in residential care centers, who fully deserve to laugh, explore, and enjoy their childhood.”

Alexandru Gatej — fundraiser at the Ajungem MARI charitable chess competition



Projects and Funding Sources

UNITED WAY PROJECT

In 2025, 880 volunteers took part in the education of children and young people in social centers in Bucharest, Ilfov, Cluj, and Timiș, working weekly with 878 children and young people. They offered help with homework, creative workshops, and personal development activities in small groups of two to five children, providing individualized and consistent support.

- **215 children and adolescents took part in educational outings and trips**
- **580 children and adolescents received weekly homework help**
- **531 children and adolescents from Bucharest, Cluj, and Timiș took part in creative workshops in the centers**
- **25 children and young people took part in health education and environmental protection activities**





For the 10th consecutive year, United Way Romania sponsored the Ajungem MARI volunteering project in support of children and young people in Bucharest and Ilfov. For the past three years, with its help, we have also been supporting children in the counties of Cluj and Timiș. The project ran throughout 2025.

During the time spent as volunteers at the Emergency Reception Center, we found that "craft" activities, as I call them — DIY or painting — are the ones that attract them the most. These capture their attention, at least for a short time, showcase the extraordinary intelligence they all possess, and sometimes bring to light unsuspected talents. We always tried to come up with something new and interesting, to do our "homework", to prepare our materials and working methods in advance. This is how the enthusiastic greeting came about: "Miss, what are we doing today? What have you prepared for us?". For us, this raised the bar and required us to always show up with quality activities.

Mioara, volunteer and volunteer coordinator, Bucharest

PROJECT FUNDED BY United Way United Way Romania

Ajungem Mari

Projects and Funding Sources

LSEG PROJECT

As part of the Small Steps for a Great Future project, funded by the LSEG Foundation, more than 200 children and young people from Bucharest and 15 counties received support in their transition to independent life through scholarships, vocational courses, themed outings, mentoring, school guidance workshops, and introductory workshops on professions in the medical, HoReCa, beauty, sales, and commercial fields. The workshops gave teenagers a clearer understanding of their professional and educational options. We supported 12 young people through scholarships to prevent school dropout and encourage their educational and vocational journey.

Results:

- **6 young women received scholarships to continue their high school or university studies;**
- **6 students received academic scholarships;**
- **4 young people received mentoring and scholarships to support their transition out of the child welfare system;**
- **Over 200 young people took part in four introductory workshops on various professions;**
- **13 children took part in vocational and recreational courses (boxing, English, dance, photography, and basketball);**
- **76 young people took part in outings and workshops focused on sustainability and environmental protection;**
- **95 final-year students (8th and 12th grades) took part in school and career guidance workshops;**
- **23 volunteers took part in a training session on health and sex education**





The activities I took part in motivated me, boosted my confidence and, above all, helped me meet many interesting people who inspired me. Thank you so much for everything! I am truly grateful!

Virgil, 20

PROJECT FUNDED BY LSEG FOUNDATION

Projects and Funding Sources

PEPCO PROJECT

The **Discover Your Wings!** project took place in Gorj county, at the Barza Aerodrome, where five educational workshops were organized for institutionalized young people, especially those with special needs. The activities included an introductory workshop on the principles of flight, two workshops on building aircraft models, and two personal development workshops, followed by a final meeting to present the results. In total, 38 children took an active part in all the activities, with the support of more than 15 volunteers.

Through these workshops, young people had the opportunity to learn through experience, develop practical and social skills, and stimulate their creativity. The activities had a positive impact on self-confidence, motivation for learning, and relating to others, contributing to personal development and the discovery of individual potential.

Results:

- 5 educational workshops, implemented with the support of more than 15 volunteers;
- 38 children who took an active part in and completed all activities;
- 1 introductory workshop on the principles of flight;
- 2 model-building workshops, during which models were created, stories were written, kites were flown, and barriers were overcome;
- 2 personal development workshops;
- An exhibition featuring the works produced throughout the project.





"I really loved this project. We were delighted, impressed, and enjoyed it very much. We'll be back next year!" – participating child

"This is the first time I feel like I'm part of something important." – volunteer

PROJECT FUNDED BY pepco

Projects and Funding Sources

PEPCO PROJECT

The **Painting for the Future** project took place in one of Bucharest's residential care centers, where five therapeutic painting workshops were organized for institutionalized children and young people. The first workshop was used to plan the activities and choose the themes for the mural, and four more outdoor workshops took place in August. Each workshop had 15 participants, with a total of 75 attendances.

Through these workshops, children expressed their imagination and emotions, and the wall of the center became a collective work of art, completed with positive messages chosen by the participants. The activity had a beneficial impact on the emotional well-being of beneficiaries, contributing to the development of creativity, stronger social relationships, and greater self-esteem.

Results:

- 5 therapeutic painting workshops
- 15 beneficiaries (75 attendances in total)
- 8 volunteers consistently involved
- stimulation of creativity, collaboration, and emotional expression
- The revitalization of the exterior wall of a center in Sector 1, Bucharest





"A superb project... the children are so involved and participate with such enthusiasm and dedication... they always discover/experiment with something new, with inspiration, imagination and effort, and we always discover new and wonderful things about them."

"Patience, dedication, imagination, and work, so that all the children from the Little House can enjoy it, through active participation but also in the long term, with the wall of their house now having a different charm."

Ajungem MARI volunteers

PROJECT FUNDED BY pepco

Projects and Funding Sources

S.T.E.P.S. TOWARDS MOBILITY

As part of the S.T.E.P.S. Towards Mobility project — funded by Fundația Dacia for Romania — 200 children and young people from three counties took part in outings that played an essential role in supporting their educational, emotional, and social development, giving them the chance to explore the world beyond the centers and engage with diverse cultural and community settings. The project also included career guidance workshops and visits that offered concrete examples of professions and real workplaces, as well as reading workshops aimed at improving functional literacy and self-confidence among institutionalized children and young people with learning difficulties.

Results:

- **19 young people** took part in career guidance visits and workshops on various professions;
- **146 young people** took part in 14 educational outings;
- **35 children** took part in reading workshops.



"The children were very excited by the visit to Eturia — they were particularly attracted by the way passion for travel blends with professionalism. They enjoyed discovering how tourist experiences are built and were impressed by the open and creative atmosphere in the team. For some of them, it was an experience that sparked their curiosity and desire to explore a career in tourism."

Alina, Ajungem MARI volunteer

PROJECT FUNDED BY FUNDAȚIA DACIA PENTRU ROMÂNIA

Ajungem Mari

Projects and Funding Sources

SWIMATHON BUCHAREST

63 young people ages 15 to 24, from Bucharest, Iași, Botoșani, and Vrancea, took part in four independent living camps, where workshops designed specially for them helped them develop the skills needed for life after leaving the child welfare system.

The young people had opportunities for personal development and practical learning in a safe and stimulating environment, through activities tailored to their needs — independent living workshops, money management exercises, job simulations, and social skills sessions.









"It was a unique and truly fun experience. What impressed me most was the volunteer team, their involvement, the fact that they understood us no matter what "whim" we had. They somehow adapted to who we are, and in the end it turned out to be a fantastic camp that I never expected!"

A., a young person in the Ajungem MARI program

PROJECT FUNDED BY

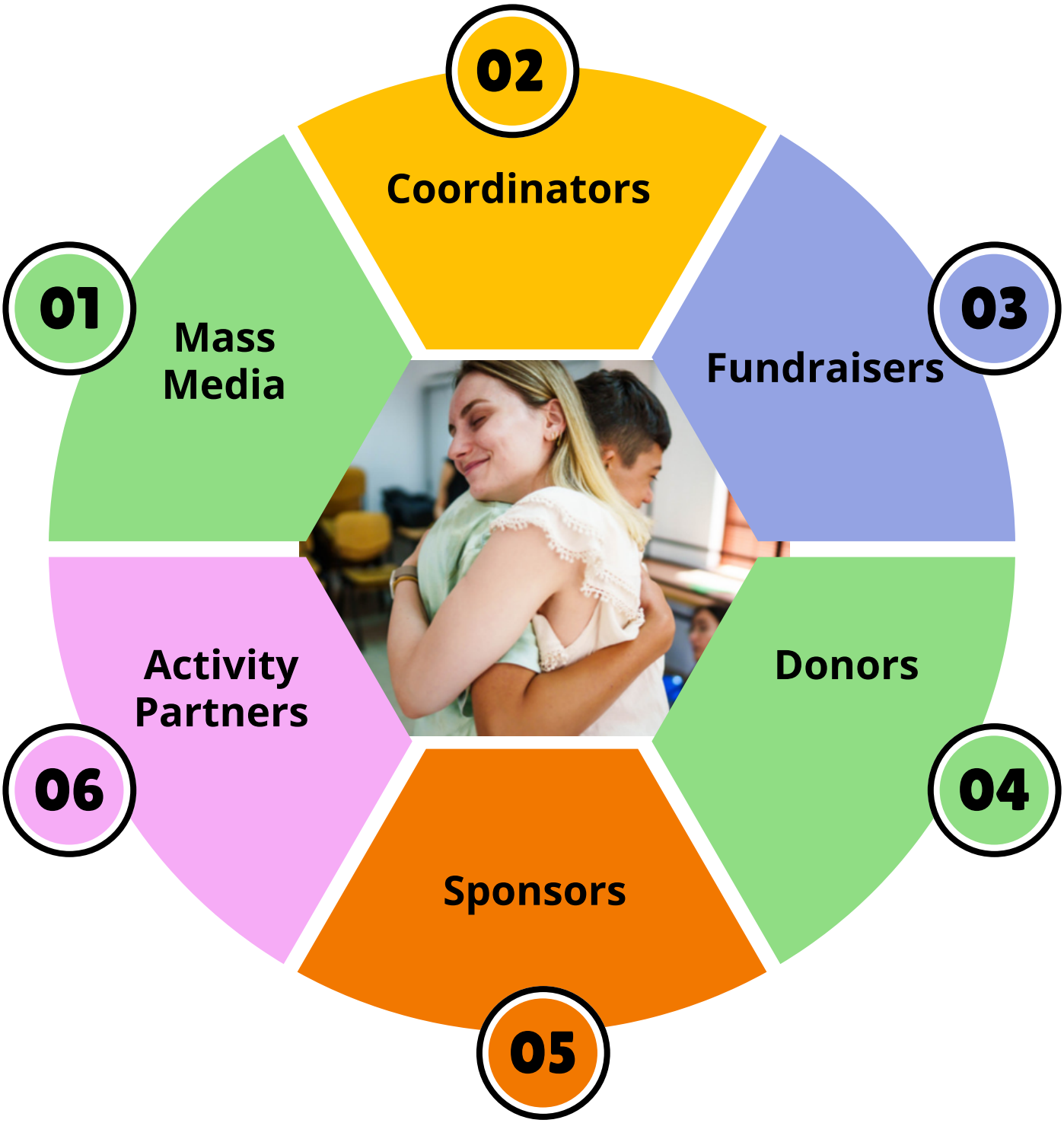
Swimathon București

antrenat de FUNDAȚIA COMUNITARĂ BUCUREȘTI

AJUNGEM MARI SUPPORTERS

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. For the 3,500 institutionalized children in our program, this “village” is made up of volunteers, donors, fundraisers, and partners who choose to get involved every day.

They are the people who turn care into action, build trust where it was lacking, and provide continuity where there was fragility. Whether visibly or through less visible but essential contributions, every gesture becomes a bridge to the future.



Ajungem MARI

Ajungem MARI Supporters

COORDINATORS

Whatever obstacles she encounters in her mission, Erika Nistor is happy to make a difference in the lives of children who would otherwise not have the chance to experience things that are absolutely essential for their development.

Ajungem MARI is the family I was given as a gift and that I always choose.

"Without us, the children would be different — less confident — and without volunteering, we would not have learned how much a smile means, whether given or received, a hug, a word of appreciation or encouragement."

Erika Nistor - Volunteer and Local Coordinator, Timiș



When you say Alina Șandor, you say "the magic elf." She is the person who says yes before hearing all the details, if she knows it's about being helpful.
She loves life and she loves people, and this shows in everything she does and in the passion with which she does it.

"I believe every meeting with the children tells a new, beautiful story. They are moments that, in turn, leave a mark on our own lives."

Alina Șandor — Volunteer and Volunteer Coordinator, Mureș



"Volunteering taught me to be more present, more patient, much more empathetic.

Almost 10 years ago, when I signed up as a volunteer at Ajungem MARI, I thought I would be the one doing the helping.

The truth? I was the one who received: a warm hug, a drawing with little hearts, an unexpectedly sincere question."

Adriana Costin - Volunteer and Volunteer Coordinator, Iași



Ajungem MARI

Ajungem MARI Supporters

COORDINATORS

Gabriela Donose is a mountain of energy and generosity.
She has also taken on the role of volunteer coordinator in Sibiu and is actively involved in fundraising, proving that the desire for something better can change lives.
"I learned from the children that a hug and a smile are sure remedies for a great many problems. From the Ajungem MARI team I learned that the power of a community can make seemingly impossible things achievable."

Gabi Donose - Volunteer and Local Coordinator, Sibiu



"I chose to become an Ajungem MARI volunteer four years ago because I felt I could do more than just listen to stories about children in the child welfare system.
When you sign up for volunteering, you are optimistic; you think you'll go and wipe their sadness away, but then you realize that they need someone who is present, who stays close to them, encourages them, and appreciates them.

In fact, I draw strength from all my volunteering activity because I am deeply attached to these children..."

Gabriela Anghel, Volunteer and Volunteer Coordinator, Dolj



"You feel an extraordinary sense of fulfillment because volunteering is not only about giving, but is, above all, about what you receive.

I am extremely moved every time I think about the achievements of those I helped prepare for their Biology Baccalaureate exam. Among them all, I cannot help but mention a boy from Botoșani, whom I tutored online during the pandemic. He scored 9.30 out of 10 in Biology on the Baccalaureate exam, and I encouraged him to apply to university too. He is now a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Iași."

Oana Ristea - Volunteer and Volunteer Coordinator, Buzău



Ajungem MARI Supporters

COORDINATORS

“Ajungem MARI means, for me, for the children, and for our volunteer team, both a team and a smaller family of friends. It is the family you retreat to when things get harder, those friends who love you even when you make mistakes, who stand by you in the good times but especially in the hard ones, who always have a kind word for the children and a hug when needed, friends who go home and keep thinking about what more they could do, how they could help more, where they could ask for help.”

Simona Ștefănescu
Volunteer and Volunteer Coordinator, Bucharest



“Staying in volunteering means continuing to be myself. That is the lifeline of my existence.
Our time on earth should not be measured in hours and years, but in good deeds and the people who remain by our side.

Looking back at all my volunteering and taking stock of myself as a person, I believe I have grown a great deal and reached a high level of understanding of human nature, empathy, and involvement, out of a desire to make a change.”

Mihaela Vulpe
Volunteer and Volunteer Coordinator, Bucharest



“For me, success is being able to interact with a child, to make them stay close to me and learn something. When a child says ‘Aha, got it!’ I know the seed has taken hold. The rest will develop in time.

A child is a person — only age makes them a child. And then you have to treat them with respect. If you come here only for yourself, you will give up quickly. If you come to give, you will stay.”

Cristian Teniță
Volunteer and Volunteer Coordinator, Bucharest



Ajungem MARI Supporters

THE FUNDRAISERS

In 2025, 114 fundraising pages were created on the Galantom platform, generating 1,081 donations for Ajungem MARI projects. Fundraisers either gave up their birthday gifts, asking friends to donate instead, or took part in running events, or played Santa Claus for children in the child welfare system.

With the support of fundraisers and donors, therapy sessions, vocational courses, educational materials, outings, and trips were made possible — https://ajungemmari.galantom.ro/.

"As every year, for my birthday I do NOT want gifts for myself, but I wish, with your help, to support the young people and children in residential care centers. This year I want to raise money to help the young people leaving the child welfare system to become 'grown-ups'.
It is the most beautiful gift: the joy of knowing you have contributed to a better future for someone who needs you."

Ilinca Sibișteanu, Ajungem MARI Fundraiser





For Ion Badea, fundraising came naturally, out of the desire to do more. It started with a birthday turned into a campaign, and he ended up sending children to camps and supporting therapy and vocational counseling sessions for those who needed them.
Through the generosity of friends, I even sent four children to camp. In another year, I got a graphics tablet for a young person who drew phenomenally and dreamed of such a device.

Ion Badea, Ajungem MARI fundraiser

The main projects supported were psychotherapy for vulnerable children and young people, vocational courses, and vocational counseling for young people about to leave the child welfare system.

Ajungem MARI Supporters

THE DONORS

In 2025, the Ajungem MARI donor community continued to support the children and young people in the program through hundreds of gestures of solidarity and involvement, for which we are extremely grateful.

We recorded 1,081 donations through the Galantom platform for psychotherapy, vocational courses, support for young people, and educational activities. During the Swimathon campaign, donors made it possible for 36 institutionalized young people to attend independent living camps.

Also in 2025, 400 people chose to donate via SMS, 550 through the organization's website, and a further 170 supporters contributed by bank transfer.

Every donation represented real opportunities for children and adolescents: educational support, psychotherapy, development activities, and experiences that give them more confidence in the future.

"I started as a volunteer at Ajungem MARI and I saw first-hand how much every activity, every outing and every hour spent with the children matters. After I finished volunteering, I chose to stay close as a donor, because I know the real impact these programs can have on their lives."

— Constantin, donor at the Christmas fair

"When I found out what some of the children in the program go through, I understood that it is not enough just to offer them school supplies or nice activities. Many need to be helped to heal their fears, traumas, and the feeling that they are alone. That is why I choose to support monthly psychotherapy sessions — because every child deserves the chance to feel safe and to believe in themselves again."

- Daniela, recurring website donor

"I chose to support Ajungem MARI because I saw how much consistency matters for children in centers. The fact that they have volunteers who encourage them and believe in them can completely change the course of a child's life."

- Adina, recurring SMS donor

"Childhood should be full of laughter, discoveries, and beautiful memories. Through this donation, I wish to give these children an unforgettable day — a story lived on the big screen and a warm meal to bring them joy. I believe in the power of experiences that inspire, that bring smiles and give little ones the confidence that the world can be a beautiful place. Thank you to Asociația Ajungem MARI for being by their side and for making this magic possible."

- Timea, donor on the Galantom platform

Ajungem MARI

Ajungem MARI Supporters

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

We are grateful for the support of more than 150 companies that believed in the future of our children, and for the partners who have consistently stood by our side. At the same time, we know that 2025 was a difficult year for many who would have wished to contribute. We thank them for staying close and hope that next year will allow us to continue this essential support together.

For more than 10 years, United Way Romania has been part of the Ajungem MARI story.

"Empathy is not just about feeling what another person feels, but about doing something concrete as a result of that feeling.

The collaboration with Ajungem MARI is a good one precisely because of the shared values and genuine dedication to the cause of vulnerable children and young people.
The team has vision, professionalism, and an authentic concern for the well-being of children in the child welfare system. It is a collaboration that for more than 10 years has been building real opportunities for children who, without these interventions, would have had limited chances."

Corina Dobă,
Community Engagement
Coordinator at United Way Romania



For over six years, LSEG Foundation has been part of the Ajungem MARI story.

"Education is one of the main pillars of the LSEG Foundation's mission. Institutionalized children face significant challenges and we want to be by their side to help them discover their potential and develop into independent adults. It is our duty to contribute to the creation of a fairer and more compassionate world.
We are proud to be partners of Ajungem MARI and will continue to support these efforts with dedication, confident that every action in favor of education can change lives and bring a better future for all."

Larisa Basica, Project Manager LSEG



Ajungem MARI

Ajungem MARI Supporters

THOSE WHO SPREAD THE WORD

We thank everyone who contributed to spreading our call for volunteers and helped us attract 1,000 new Ajungem MARI volunteers and promote our projects. Whether they amplified the message through TV, radio, print media, and interviews, passed it on to colleagues, employees, or friends, or got directly involved — distributing flyers at events or speaking in the media — every gesture counted.









Ajungem MARI Supporters

THOSE WHO SPREAD THE WORD











Ajungem MARI Supporters

ACTORS WHO GAVE VOICE TO CHILDREN'S STORIES

More than 30 actors responded to the invitation to give voice to the stories of young people in the child welfare system, as part of the Living Museum of Empathy project. These are stories that continue to change through the involvement of volunteers and of the people who open up new opportunities for them.

Some of the actors also took part in the two Empathy Talks events, where they were impressed by the ambition and perseverance of the young people who had the courage to tell their own stories in a small setting full of empathy and respect. We thank them for lending their voice so that more people can understand the impact they can have and choose to get involved.



Ajungem MARI Supporters

ACTORS WHO GAVE VOICE TO CHILDREN'S STORIES





FINANCIAL RESULTS



Financial Results

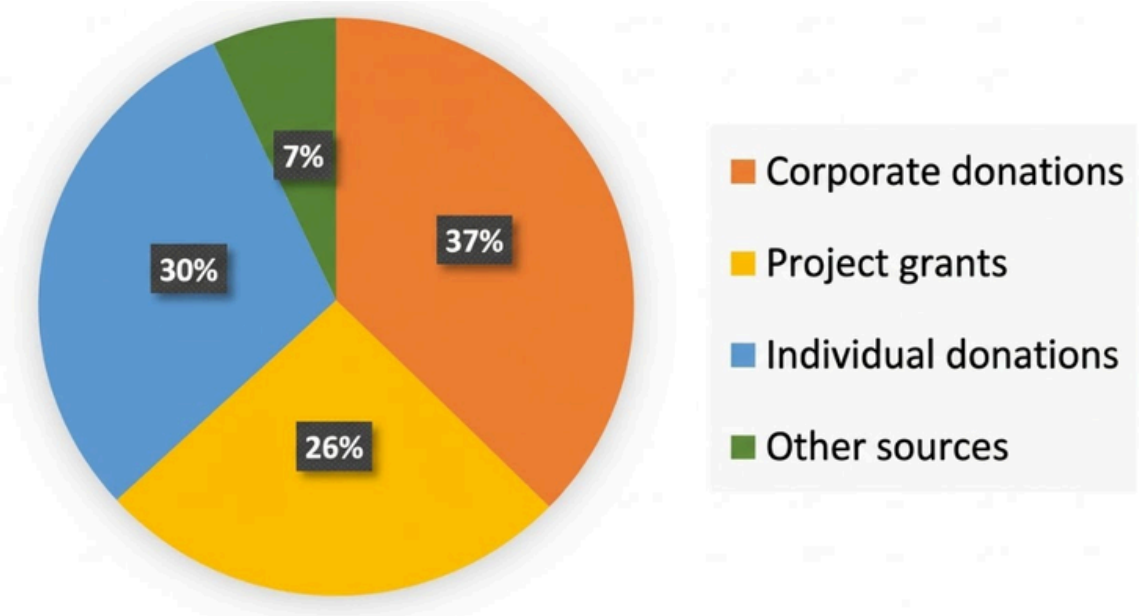
2025 REVENUE: RON 4,410,817

The main sources of funding in 2025 were company sponsorships through the 20% mechanism (profit tax redirection), grants from companies and large NGOs for specific projects, donations via online platforms, funds raised at charitable events, and contributions from individuals through the 3.5% mechanism (personal income tax redirection).

During 2025, through the 20% mechanism, we raised funds that will secure our activities nationwide in 2026 and allow us to expand them and meet the needs of institutionalized children and young people with projects and solutions created specially for them.

We thank the volunteers who took part in local events and in the Form 230 campaign, through which they mobilized the community! Funds raised in each county stay in that county.

We are extremely grateful to all those who believed in our cause and helped, through sponsorships, donations, and participation in our events!

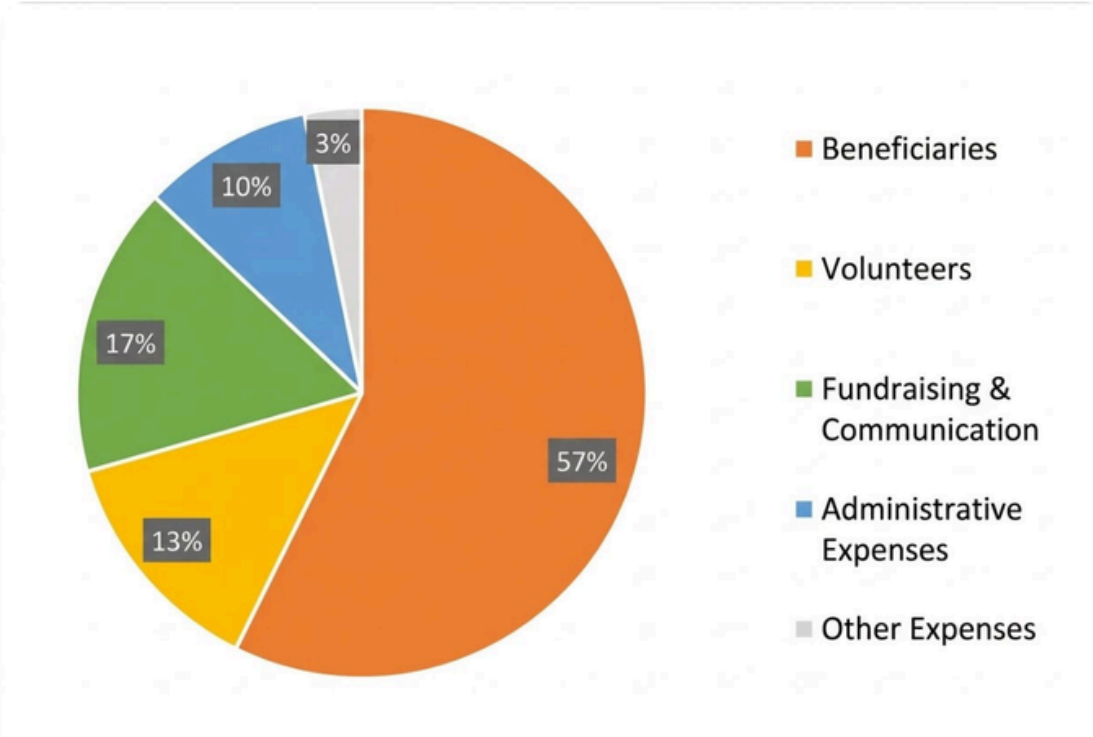


Financial Results

2025 EXPENSES: RON 3,984,027

The largest share of expenditure in 2025 went toward supporting as many beneficiaries as possible through as many activities as possible: homework help, workshops, educational materials, psychotherapy, outings, trips, camps, vocational courses, scholarships for young people, qualification courses, vocational counseling, and independent living support upon leaving the child welfare system.

Likewise, the volunteering project, with everything it entails — campaign promotion, recruitment, selection, training sessions, document signing and assignment to children, intermediate training and support, volunteer materials, operational expense reimbursement — constitutes a significant share of the funds used, as we want every volunteer in the program to be well prepared and motivated to consistently help children each year.



How can you get involved?

DONATE — ONLINE

Visit the website and donate using your bank card

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Every child in the child welfare system needs someone who believes in them!



THANK YOU!

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