Area covered: 10 counties and Bucharest

 Adopta.ro (ChildNet activities)

 Bethany Romania offices

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Bethany
Romania

2005

Mission Statement

**To improve the life of disadvantaged people,
especially children and their families,
by offering quality social services and by
promoting professional social work practice in Romania**

Historical Highlights

1991 * Bethany starts its activity in Romania: the Social Work Course, the Prevention of Abandonment Program and the "Kind Heart" Fund Raising Program begin.

1992 * Bethany helps found the School of Social Work at the West University of Timisoara

1993
1995 * Social services are developed in the Timis County and social worlers are hired for child social welfare and medical institutions.

1996 * Social work courses offered for social workers in rural areas.
* Offices are opened in Bucharest, Cluj, and Iasi.

1997 * The project "Child Welfare and Protection" (4 years), funded by USAID
* Programs for National Adoptions and Foster Families begin

1999 * The "Healing Hands" program for children with special needs begins in Timis

2001 * The Sponsorship program, in cooperation with Bethany Christian Services USA starts

2002 * The projects "Independent Life Skills" and "Volunteer Centre" in Iasi county,
* "Support for Single Mothers," "Volunteers for Children," and "Volunteers with Kind Heart" in Timis county begin.

2003 * The program for abandon prevention and children from institutions in Iasi county
* The projects "Nourishment for Children's Souls" and the Resource Centre for NGOs in Iasi
* Awards for Best practices are given to the National Adoptions Service and the "Healing Hands" Project.

2004 * "Social and Professional Integration of Youth from Placement Centres" Projects (Projects of National Interest) begin in Arad, bacau, and Cluj counties.
* The "adopta.ro" Project, funded by World Learning begins
* The projects "Foster Care for Children with Special Needs," "Building Productive Futures for Youth," and "Raducaneni Centre for Families in Difficult Situations" begin in Iasi county
* "Lizuca" - rehabilitation centre for children with special needs begins in Timisoara

2005 * Three more one-year projects submitted to the European Union -- Phare Program were funded (The Resource Center for NGOs and the "Community Center for Social Integration of Disadvantaged Children in Iasi and the Counseling and Support Services for Pregnant Women and Families at risk for Child Abandonment in Timisoara)
* The prevention of abandonment project in Timisoara and Iasi will continue thanks to the funding received from Vodafone (an English phone company).

Results in 2005

* Prevention of abandonment
550 children and **537** received prevention services. **332** children were kept in their families. **24** support groups were organized.

* The adopta.ro Project:
182 community social workers and **112** adoptions professionals trained. **579** potential adoptive families recruited. **521** families attended training programs, **595** adoptive families attended support groups (post-adoption services.)

* Foster care for children with special needs:
53 children with special needs and **82** professional foster parents monitored. **25** children received material aid. **18** support groups and **1** training session for foster parents.

* Life skills programs:
60 youth have received life skills training, **26** have received support in finding a job. **23** educators from placement centers received training on how to continue to provide this service for youth.

* Volunteer program:
540 volunteers have given **9969** hours of volunteer activity.

* Sponsorship program:
87 children have been sponsored.

* Social Worker Course:
27 people signed up for the course. They will graduate in May.