

Christmas 2018

Dear friend and supporter of Fundatia,

Another year has gone and it is the time to share with you some of the great things we have achieved over the past year!

It has been a great year for the boys at the house and with your fantastic support we have managed to make some changes to improve the life of the boys and to help the staff to provide better care for them.



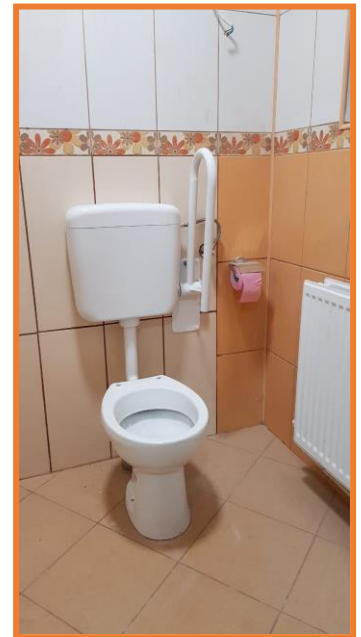
WHY THE NEED...

During my last visit to the UK, I was telling our supporters about the plans we have to make some changes in the house and outside, to make the place more accessible for Emil, who uses a wheelchair.

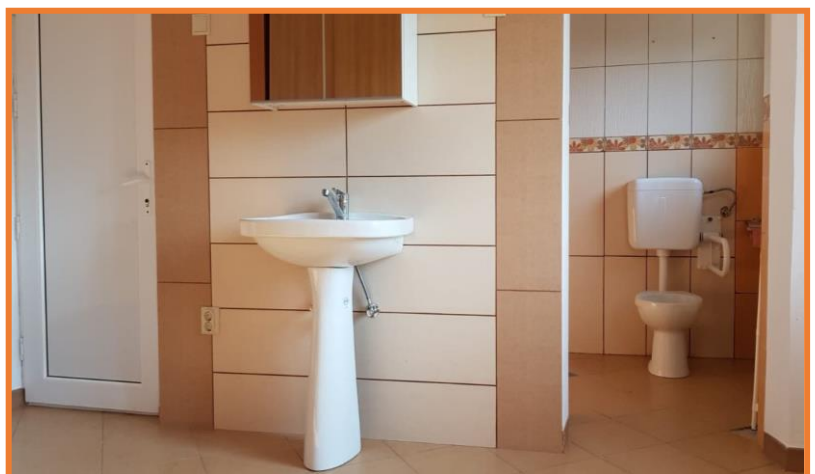


It all came to light about one year ago, in one of our monthly staff meetings when we all get together to discuss what happened in the house in the last month, how are the boys and how are the staff doing. Talking and sharing with each other, we realized how difficult it is for the staff to take Emil to the toilet and that it is even harder to give him a bath, due to his medical condition and the fact that the house doesn't have any facilities for wheelchair use. It was the moment when we decided that something must be done. Part of the solution was to turn the toilet area into a wet room!

That being said, after the necessary funds were raised, we started the work! And... it was a big job, especially as, in order to reduce the costs, I decided to do all the work myself!



A door had to be removed, the old bathtub was replaced with a "walk in" shower and many other changes have been made in order to enable the staff to wheel Emil around the house. Now it all looks great and everyone is happy!



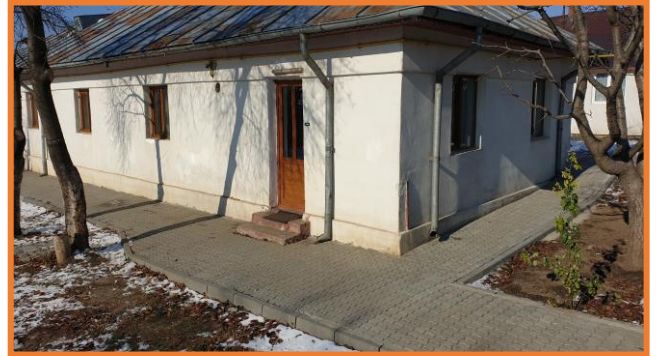


As soon as the inside job was done, we had to pay some attention to the outside of the house. Due to a new law and fire safety regulation which says that every social service activity that is working with people in a wheelchair must have a ramp for easy access, we had to build a ramp at the back door of the house.

Again, in order to save more money, it was all done from scratch by us, putting our own labour into it! Still, more funds are needed to fit some protection bars in order to be able to “legally” use it.

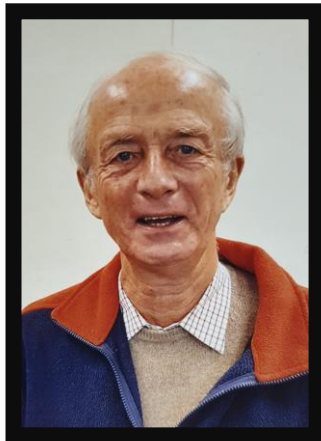
Once the ramp was built and ready to be used, we realised that we can't really go too far with the wheelchair as the path around the house was in a very bad shape. A new path became the next item on our list.

As this was a very big job, we had a team of professionals who did it, for a reasonable price. Since it was done, the outside of the house looks much better! No need to mention that it is a lot easier to wheel Emil around the house!



None of this would have been possible without your fantastic support! In the name of each one of the boys at Amara, I say a big “THANK YOU” for your dedication to our project!

Just as I was about to send this newsletter to be printed, I have received the very sad news that I feel like I must share with you all! John Nicholson, the man who had the idea of the Amara House, back in 2002, has recently passed away!



For all the work he has done in Romania since early '90, for setting up the Amara House, for everything I've learned from him in the last 20 years, for being a close friend, a father-figure, a mentor.... I say “Thank you, John! Rest in peace!”

At the end of my past visit to the U.K., when I saw John for the last time, I have made a promise to him! I promised that I will look after the boys at Amara for as long as possible and that I will do my best to keep the house running!

I can only keep my promise with your support! I know that these days things are difficult in the U.K. just as they are here in Romania and now, more than ever, we need everyone's support!

We had the vision, back in those early days, to create this comfortable home environment for the boys and of course, we had no idea then of the challenges that would arise from doing this. However, I believe we have achieved more than we could have imagined at that time and as we now look forward to another Christmas in the Amara House, probably joined by others from our community, I can assure you that each one of the boys will once again enjoy this festive time and be warm, well fed and well looked after. Please think of them as you enjoy the picture of the big family at Amara, that was sent with this newsletter.

So, it just remains for me, on behalf of the staff and boys at the Amara House, to send you our very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year!

Marius Istrate
Romanian Project Director