

# NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2010

## FFR Shares the News in Germany

In August the leadership team of FFR spent two weeks traveling through Germany to share about our work in Romania. We met many new people interested in volunteering with FFR, recruited a new long term male volunteer, and were able to share about the children and families that we are working with. It was an honor for us to be able to do a presentation with the German Christian singer Sarah Brendel, who hosted an evening with singing and presenting FFR's work with her local community. Many were touched by the stories we shared about our lives, our work, and Romania; we are praying that God will continue to soften hearts and that our fruits will continue to grow.



Above: Article in German newspaper about the presentation in Steffi's hometown.

Left: Sarah Brendel with Sarah Berchtold singing together. To hear a sample of the music they shared please visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZGwLMulims>

## FFR on German TV

While we were in Germany, Sarah Brendel helped us to get in touch with the biggest Christian television station in Germany. They interviewed Steffi along with her family about her work in Romania. We are excited to see the outcome of the video

which will include the interview and "unwanted" that Sarah sang during each presentation.

For more information and the airing date, which will be sometime in September, please go to: [www.erf.de](http://www.erf.de).



### Want to learn some Romanian?

Buna	Hello
Multumesc	Thank you
Te rog	Please
Copii	Children
Tara	Country
Mancare	Food
La revedere	Goodbye

### Some Romanian phrases:

- **Ce faci?** How are you?
- **Cat costa?** How much does it cost?
- **De unde sunteti?** Where are you from? (formal)
- **Sunt voluntara la spital the copii.** I am volunteering in the Children's hospital.

## Teenage Girls



In August 13 out of 14 girls from our teenage groups were able to attend a Christian camp two hours away from Brasov. They had a great time and learned more about God, His love for them and His grace. School will start again in September and the girls are already looking forward to our monthly meeting. During the previous outing we all went on a double decker tourist bus in Brasov so the girls could learn more

about their city. It was a great time for all of us and lots of fun.

Afterwards Alisha shared with them about God's love and how He is always there, even when it feels as though everyone else is gone.

Please join us in prayer for these girls so they can step out of this vicious circle of life they are living in and accept Jesus into their lives.



A Roma teenage girl stepping out ...

## Andreea

Andreea (14 years old) has been in our hearts for many years. It was her that initially made us begin think about starting a group with Roma teenage girls in the village. While she finished her schooling in the village which goes until eighth grade, her parents were going through a separation and her brother was in and out of the hospital due to cancer. She now has the

opportunity to move forward in her life and go to a high school in Brasov. This is a big step for a Roma girl who has many friends who are already having babies and getting married. We are very thankful for the chance for her and pray that she will prosper in Brasov.

We would love to see her finish school and have an education so she is able

to take care of herself and live a 'normal' life, outside of the poverty that she grew up in.



## An Answer to Prayer



Since we became Firm Foundations Romania, one of our biggest needs was a 4x4 vehicle. With the snowy winters, the hills and cobblestone, and the rough terrain in the village, it is a necessity to have a safe and sturdy vehicle. With the ice and snow approaching, we finally got all the finances to purchase a car!!

Thanks to all the people who donated we are now able to drive into areas that are hard to get to with a normal car.

We feel much more confident driving through Budila with a 4x4 vehicle.

Please pray for protection for us as we drive and the people and children we are transporting. Drivers

in Romania are very fast and aggressive and it is a difficult and dangerous place to drive. Through God's grace and protection, we have been fortunate not to have any serious accidents. We always pray before we drive that it will stay this way!

## Testimony from David Waldner

I had thought every once in a while about volunteering abroad, but it wasn't until my sister and brother-in-law told me about their short yet memorable time spent volunteering with Firm Foundations Romania that I knew it was something I had to do. Thanks to the dedicated and caring people behind FFR a mere 10 days after talking to my sister and brother-in-law about their time in Brasov I was on my way to Romania. Having heard from both my sister and Sarah that FFR mainly received female volunteers I was a little apprehensive that I would be of any use having never before done something as simple as changing a diaper. However, as soon as I met Sarah, Steffi, Alisha and the rest of the FFR team these doubts quickly faded and it soon became very clear that all you need to work with FFR is a big

heart and the willingness to help. I have volunteered with many organizations in Canada but it wasn't until volunteering with FFR that I experienced the feeling of making a difference. I can still remember my first day in the hospital when I walked into one of the rooms and met a little girl named Monica. As soon as she noticed me, her expression immediately changed to one that can only be described as astonished and as I went over to pick her up, she immediately began to cry.

Being one of two male volunteers at the time, Monica like many of the children in the hospital have been exposed to little male affection which is essential for their development and to build trust that may have been tarnished by other men in the past. After continuing to visit Monica every day I

spent in the hospital she began to recognize me. By the fourth visit as I walked over to pick Monica up she was sitting in her crib waiting for me with her arms open and a massive grin on her face. It's moments like this that really define your trip in Brasov as nothing short of inexpressible. No one could ever have prepared me for what I experienced during my stay in Brasov, not the feeling of holding a sick child, my friendships I made or finding a new love for the German soccer team. I intend to live up to my promise and return to Brasov for a longer period of time and I hope if you are reading this you take my word for it and pack your bags and go to Romania with FFR. Just do Sarah and Steffi a favor and give them more than 10 days notice.



## A little hand washing goes a long way / Shower Project

We would like to introduce an idea that has been on our hearts for quite a while now. Over the years we have seen so many children filthy and covered in dirt, sores and bugs. Most families do not even have a toilet or working sink but instead get their water from a nearby well. We would like to start a shower project where children from families we know come weekly to get showers, de-liced, and

medically examined. We want to teach, especially the new generation, about hygiene and the feeling of being clean. Being clean versus dirty is a huge problem in the gypsy community and the Romanian society. If the children learn now how to keep themselves clean and the importance of good hygiene, their futures will be brighter. At this time we are pricing a shower container that we

can put in the village and starting to fundraise for this project. It will be a large, but worthwhile, investment. If you are interested in helping, please let us know!



**Our  
future  
project**

## Prayer Requests

Thank you to everyone who have been with us and supported us in various ways. We believe that prayer is the most important part of anything we do; it can change circumstances, help in difficult situations, and also uplifts and strengthens the spirit.

Some prayer requests and praises we have our:

### Praises:

- For our new 4x4 car
- A great time in Germany meeting new people and reconnecting with ones we know
- Health and protection for us as a team and the people working with us
- The teenage girls camp
- Andreea's schooling opportunity

### Prayer needed for:

- Future projects such as the Shower Project and Mother's Program
- Volunteers during the winter months
- Continued financial support for our projects and personal support
- Continued protection and safety
- Strength and wisdom for our leadership team



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*'I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'*  
Isaiah 41:10