Asociația
OVIDIU ROM



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu

Fiecare copil în școală



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu

Mission

To promote self-sufficiency among the poorest members of Romanian society

Annual Report 2006-2007

Ovidiu Rom offers integrated services to severely impoverished children and their families. Our activities overcome barriers to school readiness and academic success (e.g., summer "school preparation" programs, homework assistance, counseling for both children and families, and "Second Chance" classes for children who have "aged out" of the mainstream system). OvR currently provides direct services to over 500 children and 300 families and provides professional training to 100 teachers, social workers and psychologists each year.



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu

- May 29th marked the 5th anniversary of the ***Gata, Dispus si Capabil*** programs. 62 working mothers, 39 "Second Chance" students (children who are making up for years of missed school), and 26 first graders were recognized for their achievements.



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu



Photo by Daniela Stoicescu

- 120 children and adults obtained official identity documents with the help of Ovidiu Rom staff.
- 26 people found jobs through Ovidiu Rom's Job Support program.
- 10 workshops were organized for teachers and social workers, including: *Case Management*: Theodora Ene, Social Work School, University of Bucharest; *Nonviolent Communication in School*: Mona Reu – Psychologist; *Intercultural competence – a step toward qualitative education*: Calin Rus – Director, Intercultural Institute of Timisoara.
- 9 TV appearances were made by Ovidiu Rom staff.
- 20 articles were published about Ovidiu Rom's mission and programs.

Highlights of 2006

Ovidiu Rom operates its programs in public school classrooms provided by the local authorities in association with the school principal. OvR manages a staff of teachers, social workers, psychologists and school mediators (local resident trained to work as interface between families and school). Each child and family has a personal relationship (and a contract) with Ovidiu Rom and the OvR Center serves as a liaison to other social service providers.

- Partnership agreements were signed with the Ministry of Education and the National Agency for Roma.

- 60 children in the Rosia Montana Comuna in Judet Alba attended a Summer School program based on the Ovidiu Rom model.



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu

- Acuarela ("Watercolours") opened as a partnership between Ovidiu Rom and Dr. Hociota Center. Two full-time Ovidiu Rom psychologists were assisted by over 50 volunteers from the Ogilvy advertising agency to help children at risk for school failure get the needed skills to enter first grade.



- 30 volunteers signed 6-month contracts to work on weekly and monthly basis.



Photo by Daniela Stoicescu

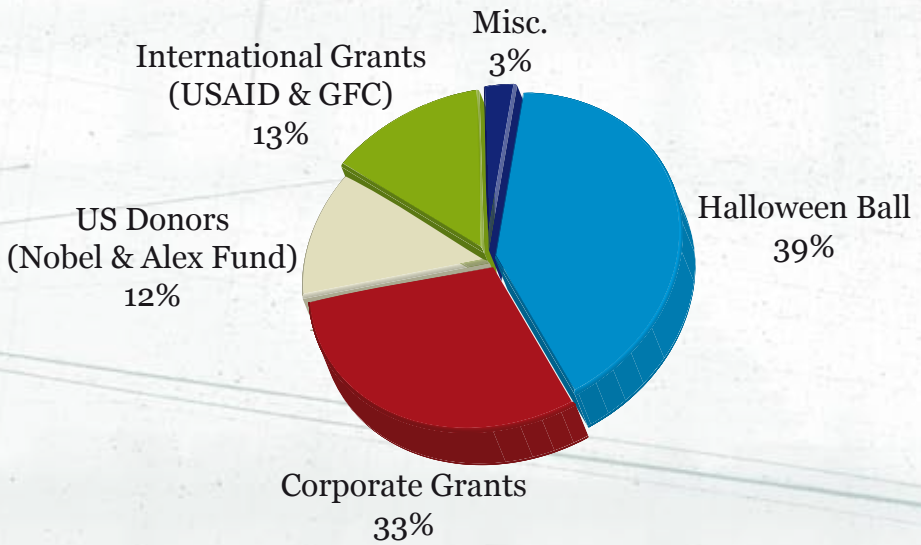
- The first schools to replicate *Fiecare Copil in Scoala*, Vizuresti and Potlogi Schools (Judet Dambovita) began teacher training.



Photo by Daniela Stoicescu

2006 Income

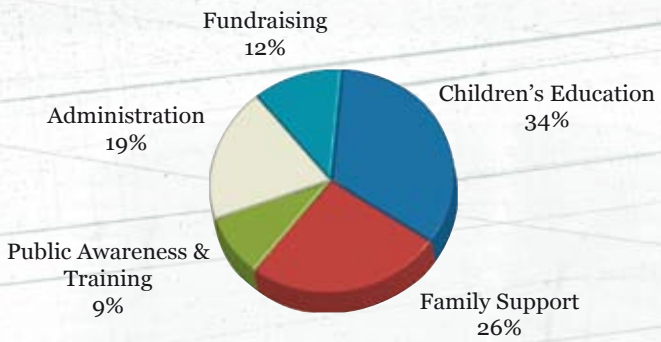
Halloween Charity Ball *less sponsors listed below** *& payments received in 2007*	172,000	
USAID	42,800	
Vodafone*	35,000	*+ in kind*
Unilever*	30,000	*+ in kind*
Nobel*	28,800	
Pro TV*	28,000	*+ media*
The Alex Fund	23,200	
Rompetrol*	21,000	
Global Fund for Children	14,000	
Colgate*	11,700	*+ in kind*
Pepsi*	10,000	*+ in kind*
Other	7,000	
Citigroup*	6,500	
Local Council Bacau	4,000	
2% campaign	1,000	
TOTAL	€ 435,000	



Financial Summary 2006

2006 Expenses

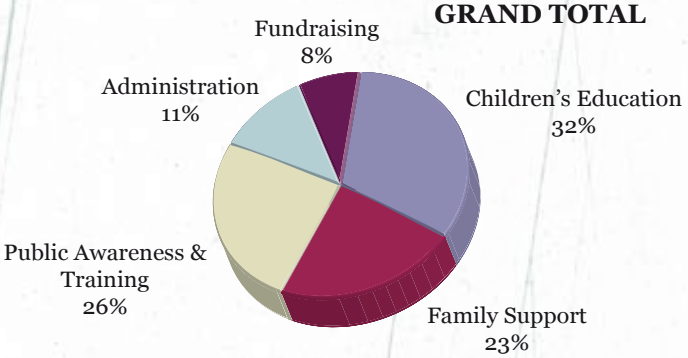
	Bacau	Bucharest	Total
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	**51,000**	**54,500**	**105,500**
Salaries	13,000	23,000	36,000
School lunches	23,000	13,000	36,000
Educational materials	2,500	2,000	4,500
Scholarships	3,000	3,000	6,000
Transportation	2,500	2,500	5,000
Summer school & camps	7,000	11,000	18,000
FAMILY SUPPORT	**28,500**	**53,000**	**81,500**
Salaries	10,000	26,000	36,000
Job application assistance (transportation to work, help with IDs, medical tests, etc.)	12,500	23,000	35,500
Housing improvements	3,000	1,000	4,000
Transportation	2,500	2,500	5,000
Other	500	500	1,000
PUBLIC AWARENESS & TRAINING	**4,700**	**24,700**	**29,400**
Salaries	0	17,000	17,000
Public awareness	700	3,200	3,900
Training: teachers, social workers, etc.	3,000	3,500	6,500
Other	1,000	1,000	2,000
ADMINISTRATION	**17,000**	**44,000**	**61,000**
Salaries	7,000	12,000	19,000
Utilities, consumables, equipment	10,000	29,000	39,000
Other	0	3,000	3,000
FUNDRAISING	**0**	**37,500**	**37,500**
Halloween Charity Ball	0	30,500	30,500
Other	0	7,000	7,000
GRAND TOTAL	**€101,200**	**€ 213,700**	**€ 314,900**



Financial Plan 2007

2007 Budget

	Bacau	Bucharest & other	Total
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	**65,500**	**72,500**	**138,000**
Salary & taxes	20,000	27,000	47,000
School lunches	30,000	30,000	60,000
Educational materials	5,000	5,000	10,000
Scholarships	2,000	2,000	4,000
Transportation	2,500	2,500	5,000
Summer school & camps	6,000	6,000	12,000
FAMILY SUPPORT	**39,500**	**57,500**	**97,000**
Salary & taxes	20,000	25,000	45,000
Job application assistance (transportation to work, help with IDs, medical tests, etc.)	15,000	28,000	43,000
Housing improvements	1,000	1,000	2,000
Transportation	2,500	2,500	5,000
Other	1,000	1,000	2,000
PUBLIC AWARENESS & TRAINING	**5,000**	**104,000**	**109,000**
Salary & taxes	0	54,000	54,000
Public awareness	2,000	2,000	4,000
Training for teachers, social workers, etc.	2,000	2,000	4,000
Replication workshops	0	40,000	40,000
Other	1,000	6,000	7,000
ADMINISTRATION	**14,000**	**34,000**	**48,000**
Salary & taxes	9,000	16,000	25,000
Utilities, consumables, equipment	5,000	12,000	17,000
FUND RAISING	**0**	**33,000**	**33,000**
Halloween Charity Ball 2007	0	30,000	30,000
Other	0	3,000	3,000
GRAND TOTAL	**€ 124,000**	**€ 301,000**	**€ 425,000**



Objectives 2007

1. **Increase enrolment, attendance and performance of 150 *additional* children** by replicating the *Fiecare Copil in Scoala* methodology in three new communities.

2. **Influence the Ministry of Education and other government agencies** to modify policies so that the law requiring all children to complete ten grades of school begins to be enforced.

3. **Stimulate public dialogue about the widening gap** between education levels achieved by the mainstream population and disadvantaged groups (primarily Roma and the rural poor) and its long-range burden on Romania.

4. **Continue to build current programs** as Best Practice models.



"Visiting a rural school is like going back in time and yet the openness of many teachers to learn new methods is amazing. I am inspired by their dedication."

Maria Gheorghiu, co-founder and executive director, Ovidiu Rom

Fiecare Copil in Scoala: Ovidiu Rom's national initiative to get every child in Romania in school. In 2006, Ovidiu Rom embarked on a new initiative that grew out of five years' experience in getting children in school at an early age and helping them to thrive there.

How *Fiecare Copil in Scoala* programs work:

SPRING:

- Team conducts census to obtain age, education level, and document status of families, and recruits children five and up for kindergarten and school
- Social workers develop a personalized action plan with families
- School Mediators enroll children in kindergarten and school



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu

SUMMER:

- Five day teachers/social worker training
- Four week "school preparation program" for children entering kindergarten and 1st grade
- Activities to welcome, familiarize and involve parents



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu

In three target zones, Ovidiu Rom helped register 154 children (age 5 or older) who were not registered for kindergarten or school.

Bucharest – 81 children.
Bacau – 43 children.
Buhusi – 30 children.

Over 150 children participated in OvR Summer School classes. Teachers and volunteers helped kids catch up and integrate with children who'd had kindergarten and were already accustomed to school. Goals: develop vocabulary, interest in learning, participation in the class activities, socializing.

Fiecare Copil in Scoala Methodology

We have now begun training municipal teams (comprised of members from the local administration and school inspectorate) to adapt our methodology to their own communities in order to get every child in school beginning with kindergarten at age five.

YEAR-ROUND:

- Attendance incentives: school kits, hot lunches, shoes & coats
- Education modules
- Monitoring children's attendance
- After-school program for children



Photo by Johannes Kruse

- Monthly PTA* meetings
- Family counseling & job search assistance
- Workshops for teachers, social workers, volunteers
- Advocacy and lobbying for education reform
- Public awareness – supporting equal access to quality education through mass media channels

Activities run by qualified teachers assisted by volunteers offer children the chance to learn English, use a computer, get help with homework, play sports, attend theatre and other cultural events.



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu

** Monthly PTA (parent-teacher team) meetings provide parent education and informal communication with teachers and social workers.*

A Snapshot

Day or night, the way to the six square meter storage room in this Ferentari basement always requires a candle. Five people, Mr. & Mrs. Georgescu and their three children (age 1, 4 and 6) live between rusty pipes, stale air and peeling walls. They live there due to the kindness of the father's employer who owns an apartment in the building. They don't have electricity, heating or a toilet, but they consider themselves lucky to have a roof over their heads. They know how it is to live on the street and to be chased by the "masked men" out from an abandoned building in the middle of the night.

But soon they will have to leave. The apartment will be sold and with it the storage room – and it is unlikely the new owner will allow them to live there. "We should have left long ago. When I lie down at night I can't sleep. I keep asking myself, 'how can we get out of here?' " says the heavy-hearted 25 year old father.

The Georgescus have wound up in this situation because neither of them ever went to school, not even for a day. (Mr. Georgescu had a minor physical disability which his parents thought would prevent him from being accepted at school.) Consequently, getting a decent job was never a possibility for this well-spoken, hard-working young man. The money Mr. Georgescu makes as a night watchman is not nearly enough to support a family of five.



Photo by Cristian Stefanescu

This young couple is aware that their children's only chance for a better life is to go to school. But their oldest daughter, Ancuta, missed out on kindergarten because they feared they didn't have the money for the clothes and school supplies she would have needed.

In 2006 her father heard from a work colleague about ***Fiecare Copil in Scoala***. With help from Ovidiu Rom's social worker and school mediator Anca registered in the summer program and entered the first grade in September – with school supplies provided by Ovidiu Rom.

She is now in Ovidiu Rom's after-school program where she gets help with her homework and a nutritious snack – and for the first time in her life, she has a computer to use. At first Anca was very shy, but over time she blossomed into an active and inquisitive youngster who loves to work at the computer and is diligent about finishing her homework before she leaves each day. At "home" in the cramped room it would be far harder to do her homework by candle light.

"Our goal now is to train other communities in our methodology so thousands of children like Anca will have a chance for a decently-paid job in 15 years – and their children won't have to live in somebody's celler." Leslie Hawke, Ovidiu Rom president and co-founder

The Big Picture

One of the most fundamental human rights is the right to a decent education.

- No child should be turned away from kindergarten because the class is "full".
- No child should be prevented from attending school because they don't have pencils or boots or identity papers.
- No child should be neglected because their parents are poor, or illiterate, or of Roma descent.

The education gap between children in rural areas and those in urban areas is GROWING.
The education gap between the majority population and the Roma minority is GROWING.

Romanian law decrees that every child must attend 10 grades in school, but that doesn't happen in impoverished areas. This is a problem of enormous proportion that has far-reaching economic and social consequences for Romania. In the words of George Soros, "Democracy cannot develop within an environment in which many citizens are refused the opportunity to build a better life." Unquestionably, in 21st century Romania, no one can build a better life without at least a high school education.

Ovidiu Rom is committed to getting every child in school and on a successful track to high school graduation. We are grateful to the following organizations for their efforts to bring equal access to quality education for all:

Ministry of Education and Research
National Agency for Roma
Roma Education Fund
Save the Children
UNICEF

hundreds of local NGO's and thousands of teachers throughout Romania.

For more information on how you can help close the education divide, contact office@ovid.ro

Organized under the patronage of Palatul Parlamentului, the second "Halloween Charity Ball @ the People's Palace" had a dual purpose: raising funds for *Fiecare Copil in Scoala* and raising public awareness on the importance of education for Romania's future.

Seven corporations – ProTV, Vodafone, Nobel, Rompetrol, Unilever, Hilton and Citigroup – participated as Major Investors. Another 35 Romanian and multi-national companies and 150 volunteers joined them in supporting Ovidiu Rom's *Fiecare Copil in Scoala* initiative. All together, 1000 festively costumed men and women made possible a grand result: € 347,000.

UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador, Vanessa Redgrave, visited Ovidiu Rom's Center at Ion I.C. Bratianu School and was the keynote speaker at the Ball.

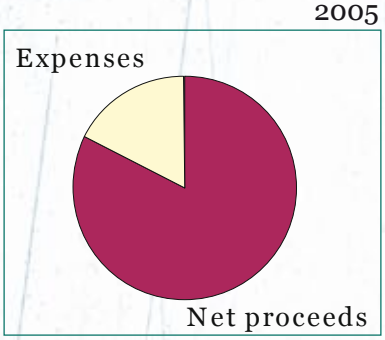


Foto: Amarjit Sidhu

"We can all exert our influence on our governments, on our friends, on our colleagues... this is the partnership that's going to save the world – because saving the world means saving our children... and I'm absolutely confident you're going to show the way."

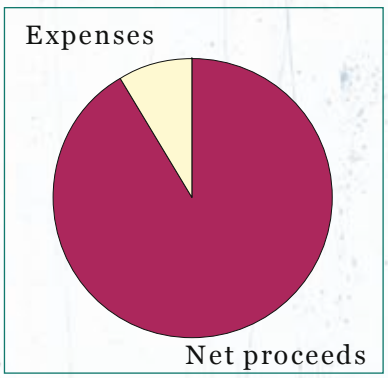
Vanessa Redgrave

2005



2005
Total revenue €137,000
Net proceeds €113,000
82.4% to programs

2006



2006
Total revenue € 347,100
Net proceeds € 317,100
91% to programs

Halloween Charity Ball

Special thanks to *Palatul Parlamentului*.



Photo by Robert Gamble



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu



Photo by Amarjit Sidhu

Major Investors € 20,000 +

Pro TV	Funds, Media
Vodafone	Funds, In-kind
Nobel	Funds
Rompetrol	Funds, In-kind
Unilever	Funds, In-kind, Volunteers
Athenee Palace Hilton	In-kind
Citigroup	Funds
The Alex Fund	Funds, In-kind

€10,000 - €15,000

Colgate	Funds, In-kind
Gabriel Resources	Funds
European Property Investment Services SRL	Funds
Prigat/Pepsi	Funds, In-kind

€5,000 – €8,000

Astra Bettings	Funds, In-kind
BAC Investment Bank	Funds
Baneasa Investment	Funds
Bayer	Funds, In-kind
Brau Union	Funds, In-kind
Canadian Business Association	Funds
Carrefour	Funds, In-kind
Edipresse	Funds
Emagic	Funds
GLP Projects	Funds
Hein	Funds
Matei Paun	Funds
Razvan Stoica	Funds
Saatchi & Saatchi	Funds
Sister & Co.	In-kind, Volunteers
Tomini Trading	Funds
UPC	Funds, In-kind
Wolf Theiss	Funds

Funds · Volunteers · In-kind · Media

Investors & Contributors

€2,500 - €4,000

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Biris Goran
Cagead
Silvian Centiu
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Jupiter
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Matrix
Mivan
Ogilvy
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Salans

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In kind donations:

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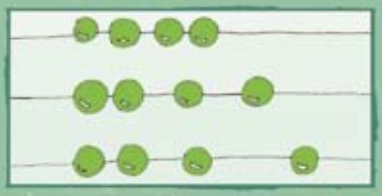
Contributions may be made by:

· electronic transfer to "Asociatia Ovidiu Rom" account at ING Bank, Romania, swift: INGBROBU

Lei: RO33 INGB 0008 0081 5133 8917 USD: RO79 INGB 0008 0081 5133 0717
Euro: RO25 INGB 0008 0081 5133 4017 GBP: RO29 INGB 0008 0081 5133 1617

· check payable to The Alex Fund, a 501(c)(3) US charity, and sent to:
The Alex Fund
924 West End Ave. #25, New York, NY 10025
212-865-7611 alex@alexfund.org

· credit card www.alexfund.org "how to help" link



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Photo by Oana Parvu

Designed pro bono by sister Special thanks to Ioachim Ciobanu & Radu Oreian