Agenția pentru Educație Timpurie

Asociația OVIDIU RO



© Oana Tomozei

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

Building Infrastructure for Literacy in Poor Rural Communities

Fiecare copil în grădiniță

Letter from the Cofounders


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Dear fellow believers in the power of education to transform lives,

We are proud that OvidiuRo's pilot program Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță led to the passage of Law 248/2015. Now, households with a monthly income of less than €63 per family member receive €11 per month in food coupons if their preschool age children regularly attend grădiniță.

Since the Fiecare Copil în Grădiniță law went into effect, România has experienced an increase in both registration and attendance of disadvantaged children in grădiniță. Over 70,000 children are registered and 40,000 are benefiting from daily attendance and food coupons each month. This legislation was a major step forward for Romanian education and social equity at the grassroots level. But it was just the first step.

As we helped communities translate law into practice, we were struck by 2 common hurdles:

1. Many kindergartens are not getting 'fiecare copil în grădiniță' because they don't have enough classrooms or teachers to accommodate all their children. This is not an insurmountable problem, but it requires extra effort & creativity from the school director. Thus, we are now offering one-time start-up grants to help form new classes.

2. Activities designed to develop children's readiness for school are often missing from the daily routine, due to many teachers' lack of training and material resources. For example, only 15% of the kindergartens we visited this past year had a library corner or even a bookshelf, and none contained attractive picture books designed to challenge and engage young children's minds.

As the Agency for Early Education, OvidiuRo is committed to working closely with public sector officials and kindergarten staff to provide teacher training and educational resources of the highest quality, and to help poor villages spawn additional kindergarten groups so no child is turned away from grădiniță because of "lack of space".

Maria Gheorghiu & Leslie Hawke

2016-2017 RESULTS

- **355** **RURAL VILLAGES** in 38 counties were visited.
- **600** **TEACHERS** volunteered to organize summer programs.
- **700** **TEACHERS** gained new child centered teaching methods in OvR training sessions.
- **3800** **EDUCATIONAL & HYGIENE KITS** were distributed for children's learning activities.
- **4200** **BIG BOOKS** were given to teachers for class use.
- **4500** **PARENTS** learned about the importance of early education and making healthy food choices.
- **10,000** **POOR CHILDREN** participated in read aloud activities.
- **11,000 kg** **HEALTHY SNACKS** (fresh fruits and vegetables) were eaten by kids.
- **18,000** **PICTURE BOOKS** were taken home by children.

A Fortnight in the Life of OvidiuRo

from the journal of Betsy Grob

To paint a picture of what our team actually does day in and day out, we share with you excerpts from a guest trainer's journal. Between June 19-29, our team trained 634 teachers in nine counties and left them with books, educational games, science experiments & hygiene posters.

Day 1 Focşani, Vrancea: 97 teachers. Tough first day. Our presentations didn't really flow and the room's skylight made my slides almost indecipherable. Brandi spoke on the importance of reading aloud to young children and Andreia presented some simple cheap science experiments, but we hadn't synchronized our messages and they came off a little disjointed. So we were up late revising.

Day 2 Iaşi: 93 teachers in a palace turned City Hall. (We even had a surprise visit by Prince Radu!) Ten journalists interviewed us – resulting in 10 stories. Our presentations were much better, with my last point flowing seamlessly into Brandi's first point about the benefits of reading to children as early and often as possible.

Day 3 Bălan, Harghita: 38 teachers. Spent the night in a high school dorm from Ceausescu days. Nailed our presentations and lots of teachers hung around afterward – always a good sign.

Day 4 Bistriţa: 115 teachers. Maria divided the group in 2, with ½ doing science experiments and the other ½ discussing the use of picture books in class. Everyone came together for Maria's 'Summer School Pep Talk' encouraging them to run a 2-week program in their village (for which OvidiuRo provides teaching materials, books, hygiene kits, and funds for healthy snacks).

Day 5 Sibiu: 66 teachers. School Inspector Mioara Turean praised OvidiuRo's contribution to raising attendance and improving educational quality in Sibiu's poorest communities.

*Day 6 & 7 – **TGIS!** Hiked to an old monastery. Good to rest the voice and get the legs moving.*

Day 9 Vulcan, Hunedoara: 60 teachers. Despite the heat and lack of air-conditioning the teachers were amazingly attentive.

Day 10 Craiova, Dolj: 68 teachers in the Law School auditorium.

Day 11 Potlogi, Dâmboviţa: 100 teachers. Presented in the cool catacombs of 300-year old Brâncoveanu Palace. We were dog-tired but I don't think the teachers could tell.

Day 12 Gălbinaşi, Călăraşi: 31 teachers. This brand new kindergarten built & equipped by the World Bank stood empty of children for a whole year because the town could not work out the electrical issues with the supplier. Maria first interceded with Enel on the school's behalf last summer; after months of back and forth, the electricity was turned on just two days before our training. Maria and the school director were ecstatic!

It's impressive that Romania, unlike most states in the US, *does actually offer* free kindergarten. But it struck me, on this my 10th training gig with OvidiuRo, how much better it would be if the pedagogical high schools & colleges offered a more enlightened curriculum. Teachers still graduate with little grasp of early childhood development and appropriate learning strategies. How do you get their initial education to promote a more child-centered, developmentally nuanced & language-rich curriculum?





Building Infrastructure for Literacy in Poor Rural Communities

Increasing children's exposure to new vocabulary & the world of books – through preschool learning activities

Creating Hubs for Literacy & Quality Early Education in disadvantaged areas is fast becoming OvidiuRo's primary focus. In 2017 OvidiuRo trained 700 preschool teachers in child-centered and literacy development methods. Unfortunately, the kindergarten facilities they returned to in September are sorely lacking in the resources needed for developing a love of reading among children without books in their homes.

OvidiuRo's goals for 2018 are to:

1. Train 1000 kindergarten teachers in child-centered teaching methods, early literacy and ways of involving parents in their children's education.

2. Provide to kindergarten teachers who have participated in OvidiuRo's early literacy training, and applied to organize a Book-of-the-Month Club in their kindergarten:

- **Ready-made Reading Corner** consisting of a low bookcase (so the children can reach the books) and a comfortable rug for them to gather around the teacher at reading time;
- **New picture books** every month over the course of one school year so:
  - The Reading Corner gradually fills up with age-appropriate picture books.
  - Each child gets a new book monthly to take home to share with siblings.
  - Mothers are invited to attend the monthly Read Aloud session so they can observe good read-aloud techniques (and how to "read" a book with your child even if you can't read).
- **Membership in the Early Literacy Network** of teachers: communicating online, posting photos and sharing experiences and tips, and meeting as a group once a year.

3. Educate poor, frequently illiterate parents on the importance of reading with their young children and model good techniques for enjoying books at home.

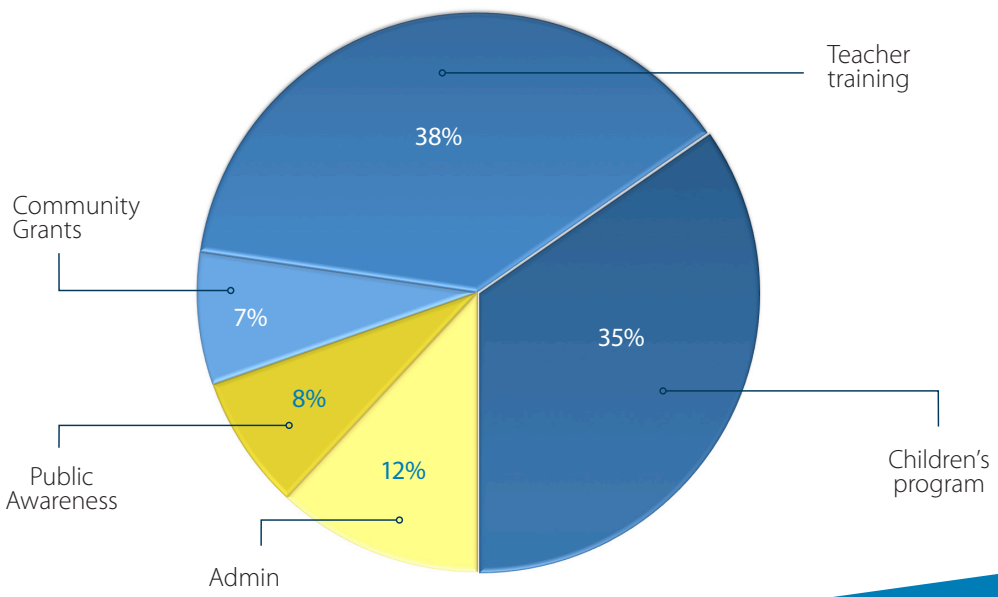
4. Invite journalists, VIPs and bloggers to be Guest Readers to expose them to conditions in these out-of-the-way communities; obtain press coverage complementing OvidiuRo's national Read-Aloud public awareness campaign on TV, radio, posters, and Facebook.



Financial Summary

EXPENDITURES			Actual	Estimated	Projected
Year			2016	2017	2018
Program expenses	Children's programs	Educational material for children	7,420	65,000	75,000
		Read-Aloud Caravans and summer programs	51,151	110,000	75,000
		Food coupons	45,410	12,000	0
		Health Education Program	50,917	50,000	0
		Buhusi Programs	34,150	0	0
	Teacher training	Field: demonstrating, training, monitoring	113,876	200,000	150,000
		Attendee transport & meeting expenses	0	20,000	50,000
		Staff transport, accomodation, meals	41,707	20,000	15,000
		Transportation (insurance, repairs, rental)	22,231	20,000	20,000
	Grants	Extenuating circumstance grants	5,334	25,000	10,000
		Start-up grants	22,943	27,500	25,000
Support services	Public Awareness	Materials, production & distribution	0	3,000	3,000
		PR & fundraising salaries	85,000	50,000	45,000
	General admin	Consumables, utilities, telecomunications	28,937	22,000	20,000
		Office space rental	0	14,400	14,400
		Equipment	9,053	0	9,600
		Administration salaries	46,400	45,000	40,000
TOTAL			€ 564,529	€ 683,900	€ 552,000

2017 Expenditures



Financial Summary

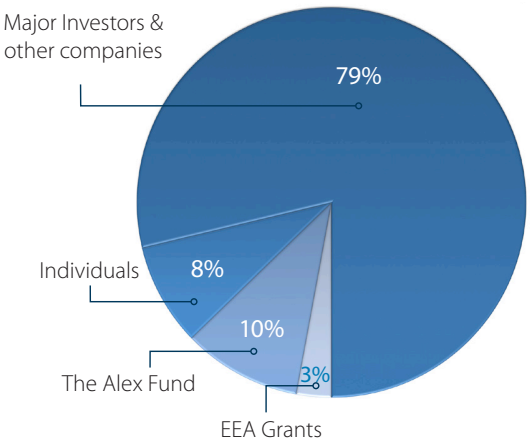
2016 INCOME	€ 837.421

Major Investors	Amount	In kind
BBraun	20.101	
Carrefour România	8.030	✓✓✓
Dedeman	92.752	
Fildas / Catena	132.796	
Fundația Carrefour	180.352	
GlaxoSmithKline	51.711	✓
NN Insurance	29.688	
Raiffeisen Bank	60.011	
TOTAL	**€575.441**	

Companies	Amount	In kind
B&B Collection	11.069	
Blue Neon	552	
Dan Internațional	2.359	
Deutek SA	9.962	
Estep B2B	6.641	
Fundația KPMG	1.208	✓✓
Fundația Unicredit	1.528	
Help Net Farma	10.005	
Henkel România	2.214	
KM Trust Partners	700	
Module Works	2.656	
Net Conection	1.803	
Romstal Imex	15.742	✓✓✓
Telekom	4.991	
TMF Accounting & Payroll	1.107	
Transiris IT Consulting	3.431	
Trident Pharma	4.870	
Contributions under 500 €	3.062	
TOTAL	**€83.899**	

Individuals	Amount	In kind
Mihai Constantin Bârsan	897	
George Virgil Gavrilă	621	
Roxana Morea	534	
Adrian Bogdan Moruț	1.225	
K Niemann & H Spiendler	1.203	
Kristina Maria Simonfi	1.202	
Cristiana & Valeriu Stoica	800	✓
2% Campaign	7.903	
SMS	40.187	
Contributions under €500	16.501	
TOTAL	**€71.073**	

Other	Amount	In kind
Alex Fund	82.724	
EEA Grants 2009-2014	24.284	
TOTAL	**€107.008**	



2016-2017 Major Investors

How you can help

Bank transfer:

Asociația OvidiuRo
Raiffeisen Bank Romania
swift: RZBRROBU

LEI:	RO54 RZBR 0000 0600 0714 0076
USD:	RO64 RZBR 0000 0600 0714 0090
EURO:	RO86 RZBR 0000 0600 0714 0082

Monthly recurrent donation:
Contact: oana.tomozei@ovid.ro
0787 309 914

Online donations:
www.ovid.ro/direct-pentru-copii-2/

Direct 2% of income tax or
20% of profit tax to:
Asociația OvidiuRo
Fiscal code: 16 40 50 35
Account: RO54 RZBR 0000 0600 0714 0076

Donate 2 euro/month for a child's first book!
Send *CARTE* by SMS to 8844

Contact

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Asociația OVIDIU RO



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U.S. tax deductible contributions by check or online can be made to:

The Alex fund

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