

acsis

Association for a United
Community and Social
Intervention

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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WHO WE ARE?



THE ASSOCIATION FOR A UNITED COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL INTERVENTION- ACSIS

is a non-governmental organization, non-profit, without any political or religious character, which develops programs meant to maintain the cohesion of the most vulnerable families, since 2004.

The VISION, we actively strive to since 2004, is of a society that functions as a living organism, a body made up of diverse communities, each with its specific contribution in social life; communities acting jointly, educative and preventive for each of their members.

Our MISSION is sustainable development of family and community through education and specialized intervention for prevention of harmful social phenomena such as maternal abandonment, trafficking in persons or school dropouts. We achieve this through the development of education programs for a healthy life, psycho-social support, social and professional inclusion of vulnerable persons.

Our VALUES

We deeply believe in **Solidarity** that we translate in all our projects, through implementation of pro-awareness activities, proactive prevention and action against situations of vulnerability of community members and by increasing social cohesion, as a consequence of these synergistic activities.

We cherish and manifest **Responsibility** in our projects: ours, as an organization, toward results of our projects and interventions; Responsibility of communities toward vulnerable members, as well as Responsibility of parents toward their children.

We believe in **Continuing Education**; through formal and non-formal education, in childhood or adulthood, a community increases the autonomy of its members, but also their ability to contribute to social development. And last but not least, we believe in **Uniqueness**; we intervene through activities adapted to the communities and individuals, leaving aside preconceptions. Believing in uniqueness of individual and community makes us flexible and easily adaptable as organization.



WHAT DO WE DO?



THE PARENT-CHILD COUNSELING AND SUPPORT CENTER –AC SIS

supports and assists the parents/potential parents in order to face with the psycho-social difficulties affecting the family relationships, in order to develop the parental competences, to prevent the child's separation from his family and supports the children when problems appear in their development.



In 2019, the activities of the center mainly focused on:



Parents' counseling in order to surpass the cases of difficulty endangering the children's development or generating risks of the children's separation from their family environment,



Parents' counseling with respect to the factors endangering child's health, security, moral development, education and social integration,



Parents' information in order to cover the children's needs,



Support and counseling of the children with difficulties of development and/or integration into the family, school, social and community groups,



The consolidation of parents' abilities and knowledge with respect to the child's care and education,



Information and counseling of the vulnerable children and youth concerning the human trafficking, the risks and consequences of this phenomenon, the human rights.



WITHIN THE PARENT- CHILD COUNSELING AND SUPPORT CENTER we held the following projects:



Preventing the separation of children from their families



Preventing trafficking in persons



Access to education for disadvantaged children



Creative workshop project



PREVENTING THE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES

59 beneficiaries, single mothers and children



1 Main activities:

- Assistance and support to obtain the social benefits from the authorities, support and accompaniment in order to access them, according to the laws in force;
- Accompaniment and support in the school and professional (re) integration;
- Social counseling in order to identify solutions for the problems putting the family at risk of child's separation;
- Support in formation and development of the abilities required for children's education and care, in mediation of the couple/family relationships, in the development of social competences;
- The parents' information in order to identify children's needs;
- Activities of information with respect to the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings.



2 Activities of parental support and education:

Individual and group counseling to achieve the following goals:

- Improvement of the dysfunctional interactions parent-child;
- Development of a parent-child positive attachment relationship;
- Improvement of the parent-child communication ways;
- Surpassing the risk situation of the child's separation from his family;
- Avoidance of the definitive alteration of the parent-child relationship;
- Amelioration of the psycho-social difficulties affecting family relationships;
- Surpassing the intra-family and inter-generation conflictive conditions;
- Parents' awareness with respect to the importance of school attendance of their own children and assurance of tools and guidelines in the process of children's education.

3 Support in assuming responsibilities related to work and in the acquisition of skills required to obtain a workplace, acquire manual and professional abilities and skills within the creation workshop of the association.

4 Assurance of the access to health services (inclusion at a family physician);

5 Guidance and collaboration with other institutions/ NGO's that could support the families with additional services in solving the social problems;

6 Monthly material/ financial support (food and hygienic products, clothes, customized support to cover some expenditure like the rent, the nursery/ kindergarten) for a limited period of time, in order to surpass the case of difficulty.



Main results:

- 17 children in difficulty/risk of separation from their family remained with their mothers and they benefit of appropriate care for their age and their needs, following to the support they received
- 10 single/disadvantaged mothers benefited of psycho-social counseling, vocational counseling, activities of support and parental education
- 12 groups of support and parental education were sustained for the mothers included in the project, approaching subjects of interest in the child's care and development, in order to improve the parental knowledge and skills (among the subjects approached, we remind: the parent-child attachment relationship, the children's needs, emotions and behaviour; Resilience. How we can contribute to the increase of children's resilience)
- 10 disadvantaged single mothers received monthly material and/or financial support to surpass the situation of difficulty
- 5 single mothers obtained and maintained a workplace and they live from their own resources, following to the sustained assistance of our team.
- 13 mothers with 19 children were guided to services appropriate to their needs (maternal center, social refectory, counseling centers for the victims of domestic violence)

Testimonials :

"I have suffered a lot in my whole life and one of the suffering sources was, paradoxically, the effort of concealing it. I have often felt myself like an actress playing a part in the exterior, for the people around me; I pretended all was right but only in my soul I knew how hard it was. I have always considered that requesting help is under my human dignity but, when I stayed in front of Mrs. Iulia from ACSIS, when she looked into my eyes and told me it was my right as human being to ask for help in case of need, then a change occurred in myself, like a trigger, and my thought seemed to have reset itself. I'm no longer ashamed to ask for help and to offer help myself when someone else needs it."

S. R., beneficiary mother



PREVENTING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS PROJECT

320 high school students, disadvantaged parents and children

Main activities:

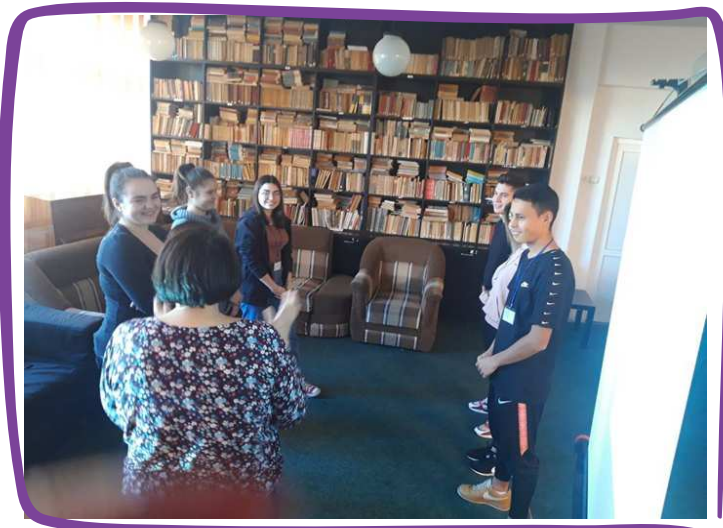
During the school year 2018-2019, **24 students** from the Special Professional School 3 of Bucharest were trained by peer-to-peer education approach to transmit to their mates information related to trafficking in human beings and methods of self-protection against this phenomenon.

The peer-to-peer trainers delivered presentation sessions and moderated discussions about trafficking in human beings in classrooms, involving a number of **250 students**, mates of their school, with the support of the ACSIS representatives and their teachers.



A competition of drawings was also organized in which the pupils were invited to participate with thematic works, illustrating their opinion with respect to the phenomenon of the trafficking in human beings. The most beautiful 5 works were rewarded, and the most inspiring work was turned into a promoting poster of the peer-to-peer trainers activities within the school.

At the end of the presentation sessions, a rewarding ceremony dedicated to peer educators was organized, and their efforts were rewarded with prizes consisting of school materials, books and sweets, together with participation diplomas.



In September 2019, a collaboration protocol with the Technological High-School „Mircea Vulcănescu” was concluded in order to carry out the activities of the project in the school year 2019-2020.

16 students of this high-school were trained by the peer-to-peer education method to transmit to their mates information with respect to trafficking in human beings and methods of self-protection against this phenomenon. 10 training sessions for the peer educators were sustained and, next year, they will send the pieces of information further to their high-school mates.

10 parents and 20 disadvantaged children also participated in informative sessions with respect to the phenomenon of the trafficking in human beings.

This project is developed with financial and methodology support provided by Samilia Foundation – Belgium.

Testimonials:

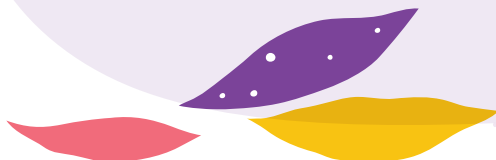
“For me, at the peer educators’ training, it was very important that I had a lot of freedom of expression, every one of us was free to tell his point of view, we exchanged ideas, we debated subjects related to the news about the traffic of persons. I also liked very much the games we played within the sessions, they seemed to me interesting and amusing.”

P.R., pupil, 17 years



“The people who helped to our training were very open with us, they provided us with all the pieces of information we needed. It would be fine that all the high-school pupils should participate in such courses, as you can learn a lot of things about your own country, which are often hidden from the public.”

C.E., pupil, 16 years



CREATIVE WORKSHOP PROJECT



The purpose of this project is to empower disadvantaged single mothers by providing a learning, socializing, training and work frame adapted to their specific needs. We offer disadvantaged mothers an environment in which they gain confidence, feel responsible in a real manner toward what they are doing (because products are sold), and they learn how to do it (specifically textile toys manufacturing). Through this process, mothers gain skills that they can later apply in other posts in the labor market. We aim for financial autonomy and thereby the gain of necessary family resources to prevent child abandonment.

Main activities:

- Within group meetings with the support of a tailoring instructor, mothers learned to tailor, handicraft, and do manual work to create textile toys, small decorative objects, greeting cards, and other products.
- Concepts like punctuality, respect for co-workers, responsibility for the work done, respecting rules at a workplace, the importance and benefits of teamwork/working with others, and other workplace skills were constantly emphasized within group and individual meetings.



- We facilitated communication, connection, cooperation, friendship, experience sharing and mutual support among the mothers. We emphasized their contribution to support other mothers in need.
- We developed actions meant to attract the community support through volunteers who contributed either to the workshop activities or to the products' design, to the promotion materials or being present with the products at fairs, etc.
- We promoted and sold objects created by mothers through social networks, events, and fairs. The funds raised were used to support other disadvantaged single mothers.

Main results:

- 5 single disadvantaged mothers participated in the creative activities,
- 10 organized meetings where mothers and volunteers learned how to create different products (textile toys, greeting cards, trinkets, small decorative objects),
- 4 volunteers were close to us within this project, participating together with the moms in the creation of different products,
- We participated with the products at 5 events in Bucharest: BountyFair - Casa Universitarilor, the Charitable Fair organized by GfK, Charitable fairs organized within BRD Groupe Société Générale, the Fair "Vis de iarna"- Impact Hub Bucharest.

Testimonials :

"It is a great joy for me to take part in the workshop, there are the only moments when I relax myself, I cease thinking about all my difficulties. It is very important for me to know I can do something with my hands and I can help a little bit this way."

S.M.,beneficiary mother



ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN PROJECT



54 beneficiaries, children and parents

Main activities:

- Supporting the children in making their homework and activities of formation and development of the skills of writing, reading, language and arithmetic calculation;
- Entertainment and socializing activities, to enable the interpersonal relationships and the development of communication abilities, personal and social autonomy, formation and increase of the knowledge horizon and self-esteem, as well as informal entertaining activities like: walking in the park, going to the cinema;
- Organization of monthly sessions for parents (parents' school) in order to discuss the aspects of the children's evolution at school, the importance of education, motivation and offering tools and guidance in the process of their own children's education;
- Social counseling in order to solve and to improve the problems putting the family in risk of separation from the child or placing the child at risk of school dropout;
- Vocational counseling and guidance, support for the attendance of qualification courses/school, support in finding a job;
- Financial/material support (school materials, food, games, clothes, shoes, hygienic products) in order to surpass the situation of difficulty;



Results:

- 25 pupils supported to be maintained at school and to have improved school results;
- 25 pupils recorded notable school progresses;
- No pupil abandoned the school;
- No pupil failed his class;
- 9 pre-school children supported in order to maintain them in family;
- All the supported children are attended by a family physician and enjoy of basic healthcare services;
- 20 parents in increased social risk benefited of social and vocational counseling;
- 20 parents participated in the monthly session of parents' school;
- 7 parents kept their workplace and 4 parents obtained a workplace with the support of the project team;
- 3 volunteers supported the project team during the year.



Testimonials:

"Thank you for your noble act of helping me in a very difficult moment of my life and my child's life. I was very impressed of your prompt response to my request of receiving help from the association. The warmth, humanness and professionalism you proved towards me brought me again the hope that I could get make it in a so chaotic and full of appearance world. During the collaboration with the association, you punctually related yourselves to my problems, helping me both morally and financially, for which I am deeply grateful to you. Knowing closely the atmosphere during our meetings, I appreciate your involvement and desire of covering the needs of each member of this wonderful family – ACSIS."

P.C., beneficiary mother.



“DONATE KILOGRAMS FOR A GOOD CAUSE!” CAMPAIGN

This year we have received the support of the Nutrition Clinic KILOSTOP that, by the campaign “Donate kilograms for a good cause!” for each kilogram lost by its patients, offers 2 lei to a humanitarian organization.

ACSIS is one of them and the funds we received were used to grant material aids consisting of: food, school materials, medicines for the poorest families included in our projects.

This year, KiloStop Junior Clinic has joined this campaign, contributing to a change for the better in the lives of vulnerable children integrated in our programs.



THE IMPLANTOLOGY CLINIC LORELEI NASSAR

joined our cause a few years ago and, since then, it has constantly remained close to us, generously supporting our activities. This year, the initiative of the clinic of deploying the Campaign **“Let’s support the disadvantaged children”**, brought a great joy to us and the families we serve.

This way, for each implant made at the clinic Lorelei Nassar, each patient contributes 2, respectively 5 lei to the aid offered to the disadvantaged children from ACSIS programs.

Likewise, we were honored and grateful to have close to us Dr. Lorelei Nassar on the eve of the winter holidays, in a warm environment, with a good mood, carols and generous gifts.



JUNE 1st – CHILDREN'S DAY

We celebrated together, with games, gifts and a lot of joy!



FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Following the campaign **#highest grade mothers (#mamedenota10)** deployed in August, ACSIS together with **BONAMI**, the online shop with furniture and decorations, raised the amount of lei 3425, used to purchase school materials for all the 25 children included in the counseling and support program of the organization.





This way, the Bonami clients could choose to purchase online virtual objects with different values: sharpeners, pencil cases, school bags representing donations. Bonami and ACSIS wished to draw attention on the school abandonment too, in Romania being the third largest one of Europe, according to Eurostat.

The school materials were offered at a meeting organized at the school where most of the children included in ACSIS programs learn. Both the children and the parents appreciated the gifts:

L., a little boy of 12 years, enthusiastically received the geometry case, as he has a passion for math. A mother who raises alone her three children, told us: ***"The children learn very well, especially R., the middle one. He has also received a prize this year. I try to assure all they need, but it is very difficult now, as I have not had a job since two months. Thank you very much for your help"***

Manuela Lică-Ionescu, Marketing Manager Bonami for Romania, declared: ***"We were positively surprised at their openness and enthusiasm; we had orders for all the virtual products offered by the company, which shows that, whichever might be the possibilities, everyone wished to contribute. Taking into account the success of this campaign, we wish to organize similar actions in the future."***

SANTA CLAUS AT ACSIS

We excitedly and hopefully waited for Santa! His arrival was a reason of great joy for the good children and their mothers, for the friends of our association, volunteers, and sponsors. We celebrated with sweets, carols and a lot of joy! Santa Claus had beautiful presents in his magical bag for everyone!





We kindly thank everybody who helped Santa with generosity and joy:

**BRD Groupe Societe Generale, Clinica Implantologie Dr. Lorelei Nassar, AB Dental Romania
și doamna doctor Lorelei Nassar, Atelierul Faptelor Bune, Dutescu & Partners,
Clinica de Nutritie Kilostop, Cătălin Bălan de la Documentar de familie.**

WE THANK EVERYONE



funders, sponsors, individual donors, volunteers, for the extremely valuable contribution of energy, time, abilities and resources which made possible our projects!

FUNDERS AND SPONSORS



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Association for a
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IBAN RON: RO33 RZBR 0000 0600 0471 7200 - Raiffeisen Moșilor

IBAN EUR: RO21 RZBR 0000 0600 0602 8662 – Raiffeisen Moșilor

SWIFT CODE: RZBRROBU

 215 Calea Moșilor, Block 21, Entrance B, Apartment 37,
District 2, Bucharest, Romania, CP 020864

Tax code: 16392636

 +40 021 211 30 94

 acsis@acsis.ro

 www.facebook.com/AsociatiaAcsis

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