**From Root to Fruit**

Hello everyone, my name is Antonia Pop, a student in year 10 at Transylvania College, and I am part of the Service Learning Project **"From Root to Fruit"** team. This project is the multiplication of the Service Learning project Baisoara from the last school year. Until now, we are very happy to say that we succeed to multiply it in 3 new rural locations in the Cluj County: **Suatu, Marisel, Sannicoara and we also continue the activities in Baisoara.**

The **aim** of this project is **to use our traditional background to grow fruits of knowledge for the future generations**; **also to use the fruits of education to go back to re-discover the values and depth of our heritage. So... we Learn about traditions, we Save the heritage and we Earn the respect of the previous generation.**

The **SDG** that our project addresses: 3.Good health and Wellbeing, 4.Quality education, 10.Reduced inequality, 11.Sustainable cities and communities, 17. Partnership to achieve the goal.

We want to thank all of our colleagues and teachers - it was truly a **whole school effort**, **parents** as well, **partners** form the projects **“Donate a book for a photo”** and **“Your got a message from a story”** for their support, generosity and involvement during the activities and for helping us make a difference in this 4 communities.

We raised **more than 4500 euro** during the campaigns this school year, beside **500+ book donations, book shelves**, **an** **interactive board and a computer**.

The money were used to **help the elderly** from Baisoara at Christmas (Winter Bazaar fundraising); to have **activities with the primary school students in Baisoara, Marisel and Suatu -** reading & writing, health, social-emotional & relationships, financial education; to **start an oral history project in Marisel** and also to **support the village museum in Sannicoara**.

Also, during Global Money Week (a week dedicated to the financial education of the students), with the help of a group of parents, the children from Reception (5 years old) learned about the importance of oral hygiene. Then, they share from their experience with the students from Suatu school in an interactive workshop.

The funds raised during Global Money Week activities were used to **set a library & multifunctional room “From Root to fruit” for the children from kindergarten to grade 8 in Suatu school**. We *collected books, furniture, carpets, a computer, an interactive board, in order to make a difference in their community life and create an inspiring environment that would help them discover their passion for books, for learning, but also encourage wellbeing.* A large number of students had the opportunity to interact directly with the students, teachers and local people from these three locations, so they find out by themselves the reason why they raise the all the money. The winner team of students from Enterprise Day (an extra-curricular activity organized in Transylvania College dedicated to entrepreneurial education) has decided to donate the price - 1000 Euro - for the multifunctional room from Suatu school. It was their decision based on a need identified by them.

By the end of this school year we will **publish the stories written by students** inspired from the oral history part of the project - it is the **product of the Creative Writing Club.** Some of these stories will be **donated to the village museum** we started in Marisel, and to the one we are supporting in Sannicoara - as the stories come from the oral history part: rediscovering our roots  (traditions, rural history) and making them available for the young generations.

We will also **continue the interaction with children in these villages** and **support them build their own projects**.

**Marisel was an extension of our initial plan**, but we are so happy with the outcomes in this village, that we intend to organize **a visit there during The 2nd Service-Learning Week in Central and Eastern Europe, 2-6 July 2019, to share best practices.**

We are extremely happy that an NGO **Learn and Vision (from Cluj Napoca)**, have appreciated our project so much that they **want to extend it next year in the whole county. They proposed a collaboration,** involving the **School Inspectorate as well.** They asked if we would like to **train student teams** and **our mentors to train teachers from the schools in Cluj county** related to **service-learning and financial education projects,** to **become able to conduct sustainable projects in their city or village.**

**We have learned a lot**, we used the know-how shared by the 2 finalist teams of last year’s competition, but we also brainstormed, experienced, faced the challenges and overcame most of them. We adapted the project to the needs of the beneficiaries, from library to multifunctional room, from supporting the museum in Baisoara to helping the elderly and the children, from “Shoe-box” to “Oral History” in Marisel.

We feel like beneficiaries as well. We have learned so much: **academic** learning was fun and we love **project based** **learning**, combining languages, social studies, computer science, art & design. **Skills**: organizing teams and events, communication, systematization of information, planning, technical skills, leadership, resilience. **Human interaction** - with all ages, all social categories, community partners, all involved in this. We had the chance to enhance the positive character strengths that we discovered in us, to build our relationships, to express our emotions and to be empathic, patient, open to collaboration. Our gain was major from this human interactions and we are grateful for this opportunity.

**We were really** **impressed also with the positive reactions of all the parties involved.**  **It’s our biggest reward.**