

-Bright Minds of Tomorrow-

Why?

Thousands of students across the world are caught in the traditional education system, a system centered only on the academic, theoretical part of a student's education. We aim to shape the bright minds of tomorrow, to ensure a balanced life for the students who might not have had the experience of a different approach in their learning.

We consider ourselves to have been fortunate enough to be part of a community that has helped us develop not only as hard-working students, but as leaders, so we want to pass that on to as many fellow students in Romania as we can.

How?

One of our main concerns was the transportation to Muntele Baisorii, which is a small village in the mountains, 50 km from our city, Cluj-Napoca. Our funding came from fundraising activities. Up until the schools were closed we managed to organise one Mufti Day, a day where the students would pay a fee to come without uniform. This activity was organised together with the other service teams in the school. We paid our transportation with the money raised and also received a donation from the Global Awareness department in our school as a new team.

Everytime we visited the children we would bring them some snacks and also buy supplies for our activities. The money for this was put together by us as it was not such a big amount and we were happy to bring our contributions as well.

Making it possible:

- **Diana Furca** - team coordinator
- **Sonia Romaniuc** - fundraising organiser, co-coordinator
- **George Bolba** - technology and advertising supervisor
- **Octavian Ghisa** - supply manager, research advisor



The first time we visited Muntele Baisorii, respectively, the 5 children, we wanted to focus on the first of the 5 competences, communication. We prepared some activities such as: building a spaghetti bridge, the skittles question game etc... We befriended them quickly and they opened up more and more.



After the first visit was a success, we decided to surprise the kids with some pizza(after learning it was their favorite food), this time focusing on smart planning. We started with an activity explaining how to set SMART goals. We then taught them how to make a WIG planner (Widely Important Goal) and put it in practice by encouraging them to pick a task they have to do more often and set an objective through the means of the WIG planner. We finished up with a fun "Escape the island" activity.



We believe that education is one of the most powerful tools for shaping a bright future. This idea and the goal stand at the base of our project and what we are trying to achieve through it.

We wanted to introduce education from a more practical perspective, presenting some key skills and abilities that could complete the children's educational process, providing them useful strategies for the future. We modeled our activities in such a way that they would understand that academics is not the only face of education, that their personal development is equally important and what a big advantage developing themselves could bring to their learning process.

We approached this goal by targeting students from more rural areas in Romania, making sure they are empowered to pursue their dreams and passions, no matter their background. Our goal is to widen their views to more than they already see and show them that they can create endless possibilities if they wish and work for them.

We assured the good health and wellbeing of the 5 children we worked with by finding their needs and making sure they are met in order for them to be able to focus on developing themselves.



Our learning journey:

As well as the children we visited as a part of our project, we had a lot to learn from this experience as well. From teamwork to thorough planning, we sometimes had to learn how to organize ourselves the hard way. At first we had no idea what was supposed to happen, how to organise ourselves and who to talk to. Fortunately, we had a great support system in our community and we quickly made everything happen. Even before that we had to adapt our plan several times until we reached our current conclusion.

There are many lessons to be learnt on this path leading towards helping as many children as possible discover themselves. We hope that on this journey we will also take another step towards finding ourselves.

Highlights of our experience:

We enjoyed spending time with children. Seeing their joy made us feel very accomplished. They were very involved and attentive every time and we hope they can carry this knowledge with them for as long as possible.

Where are we going next?

Even though it was a short-lived experience with a lot of obstacles - actually starting the project, how many trips we made there and then being stuck because of the current situation, we believe we were very lucky to be able to start such a project. We look forward to inspiring more people to take action and expand our impact area. The children in Muntele Baisorii were very eager to continue our sessions and we are very grateful for that. We regret that we had to interrupt our activities, but we are set on becoming a stronger team and being even better prepared and helping as many children as possible in the future so we can all become great leaders.

