

Sending Romanian Students to College

Newsletter of Eleos U.S. - autumn 2014



Ioana

For the past six years, we have had the opportunity to provide support to help send students to college in Romania. Our first student recently graduated with a master's degree; we are very proud of Ioana. She tells her story:

Living My Dream with God by Ioana Székely Podina

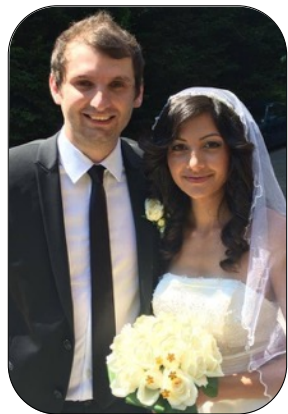
I come from a small town in Romania. I have a great mom, a wonderful church, and I like to read and study. After finishing high school, I desired to go further with my studies, but I had many fears: "What will I do? How will I live and eat? We had food and clothes at home, but living in a new city was a totally different story. One day, as I was praying about my future, Karen Rosella said to me, "We would like to support you so you can go to college." I could not believe it. God listened to my prayers!



helping poor children

I began to study History at a Romanian college, and I attended Bible school at the same time. I studied at college during the day and studied at the Bible school in the evening. I didn't have time to get bored — it was an amazing time! After three years, I received my diploma in History with straight A's!

My master's degree was in "Transatlantic Studies." I studied American culture, history, immigration, politics, and international relationships. I worked as a primary school teacher from 9:00-4:00 and attended evening classes from 5:00-8:00. I again had no time to get bored. During the first semester, I wrote to Ed saying that I felt like dropping out of school each week. However, I just couldn't — too many people believed in me! I had to finish this — I wanted to finish this! God was so good again! He helped me with my exams, gave me favor with the teachers, and helped me with the kids at work and their parents. It was a hard but amazing journey!



Sami & Ioana

I really like what I read in a book by Ben Carson, "School and education, marked by God's guidance, is the way out from poverty, to have a better life, to influence people around you, and to know that you leave something behind."

At school I met an amazing guy who is now my husband. Today, we are both ministering at a church in Arad, Romania. I was from a small town and now I am part of one of the best worship bands in Romania. People sometimes stop me at our concerts or on the streets to ask for my autograph. I think, "You want what???"

I am amazed by the things that God has done in my life, the places where He took me, and the people He has brought into my life. Sometimes words just don't cut it; I don't have enough words to thank all of you who helped me these years. I have had the chance to live my dream — to pursue the destiny God has for me.

A donation to Eleos will help send more students to college



My journey is not over yet! It is just beginning. I want to do something with everything I have studied. I want God to use all for His kingdom — to use me for His kingdom! Thank you so much for all your faithfulness; may God repay everything back to you.

Blessings ☺
Ioana



singer in a worship band