

ELEOS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Life-Changing Trips to McDonalds and a Zoo

Newsletter of Eleos U.S. - autumn 2015

By Caprice Gatea (Director, Children's Program at The Good Samaritan Church in Transylvania, Romania)

Thank you so much for sponsoring the trip (Eleos provided the funds) to the zoo for the Gypsy children that attend our feeding program in the destitute village of Silivas. Most of our children have never been farther than the next town, where they are usually sent by their families to beg or hunt through the town people's garbage. They know far too little of the beauty of the world and God's creation.

For our children, this was an unforgettable day. Not one of them had ever been to a zoo or to McDonald's. Several days of preparations went into the trip including showering, haircuts, selection of clean used clothes, and lice treatments. When at last the teachers from our feeding program and I saw the children enjoying their picnic at the zoo park, they looked so beautiful and elated at the sight of everything around them, we couldn't help from getting choked up. We never thought we would see them in this setting. We appreciate you making it possible.



After the zoo, we went to McDonald's, and each child was treated to a happy meal. The kids were almost speechless, but enjoyed every second! Both the toy inside the happy meal box and the modern restrooms were big surprises and huge hits!

For the younger group, who aren't really ready for a field trip, we celebrated their progress in a different way. We brought them all by bus to my house, where we enjoyed a fun filled day of water games in my backyard. The big surprise of that day was also covered by your gift. We bought a fresh, hot pizza for each child! They had never had a pizza so they were tremendously enthusiastic. They talked about it for days, and even about the napkins they received on which to eat the pizza. (Napkins for them would be a luxury.)

With the remaining money from your charity's gift, we will be able to partially fund a picnic in the mountains for another group of children from another destitute village. Thank you for bringing so much joy to so many children. We truly appreciate the generosity that you extended to our children.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11



Village of Silivas, Romania

