

Together To Help

NEWSLETTER # 7

DECEMBER 2023

WWW.TOGETHERTOHELP.ORG

**P.O. BOX 12671
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NEVADA
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together to help





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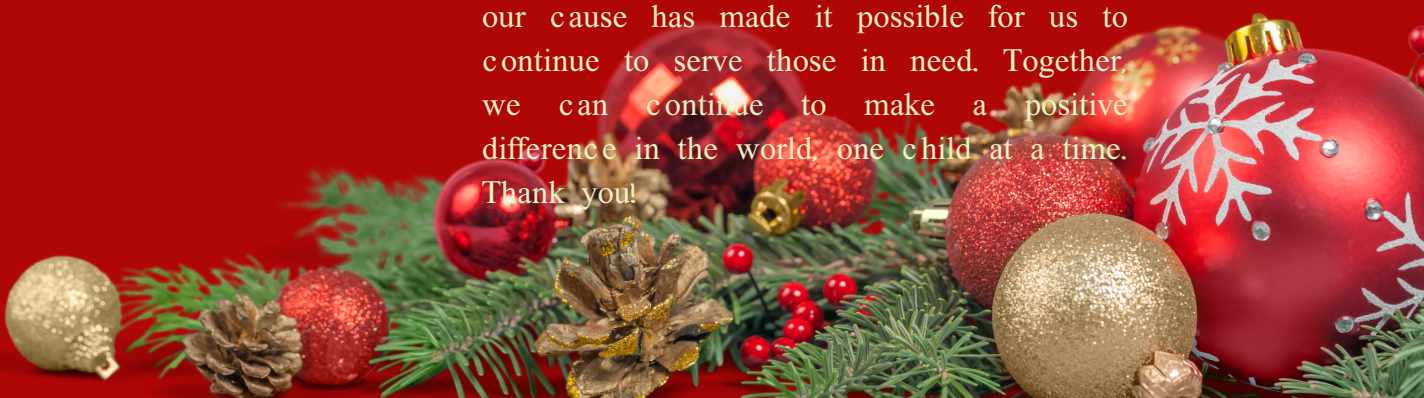


LETTER
FROM THE
PRESIDENT



Almsgiving above all else requires money, but even this shines with a brighter luster when the alms are given from our poverty. The widow who paid in the two mites was poorer than any human, but she outdid them all.
Saint John
Chrysostom

As we celebrate our third anniversary, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have served and supported our mission. These past three years have been a challenging time for all of us, from pandemics to wars and disasters, economic insecurity has become a daily reality. Yet, we have discovered that even in the toughest of times, there are great hearts who know that giving is not determined by personal abundance, but by the depth of one's compassion. This is what has brought us together as a family, united by the greatest virtue in the world. To all the donors, board members, and volunteers who have selflessly sacrificed their time, money, and effort to make a difference in the lives of underprivileged children, we bow down in gratitude. Your unwavering commitment to our cause has made it possible for us to continue to serve those in need. Together, we can continue to make a positive difference in the world, one child at a time.
Thank you!





FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Dear Reader!

I hope you are warm, safe, and sound as we get ready to enter the new year.

Contained in this newsletter you will find a recap of current projects which are made possible because of your generous donations, as well as future plans.

Your donations are making an impact locally in Las Vegas, across the country, and across the world! It is my hope that we showcase this impact in every newsletter.

You can also read how Together To Help was represented twice in Washington D.C. this year.

It was the Honor of the Board Members in attendance to represent the donors, and the organization whose efforts began small, but are having a big impact. Big enough to receive national recognition.

Just a note on these events: Board Members self fund their attendance. All donations received by TTH go directly to help the Mission, and Vision.

I am excited to showcase all the good things made possible by your prayers, time, and donations.

Wishing you all a Beautiful, Healthy, and Peaceful New Year.

- Brenda Najarro





In the eyes of children....

It's wonderful to see people helping others, especially when it has a positive impact on their well-being, both physically and mentally. People who are naturally kind-hearted know this feeling very well. Helping someone in need can be a healing experience for both the giver and the receiver. Together To Help Organization strongly believes in building a close relationship between donors and beneficiary, based on care and love. In line with this belief, the president of TTH visited underprivileged children in Romania on July 6th and 7th, 2023. Along with our partner, Father Dan Damaschin from "Glasul Vietii" (The Voice of Life) Association, we visited Popesti Village near Iasi city, where we met with 35 children and their families. We offered them pizza, juice, and ice cream. The happiness on their faces was priceless. The poor living conditions were evident in the background of the picture, as well as the clothes and shoes they were wearing. It was a moment that cannot be described in words. You could see the emotions in their eyes and feel the gratitude in their hearts. This picture is a testament to the impact of the donations of Together To Help donors. Even though they are miles away from these children, their contributions have helped alleviate poverty and bring joy and hope for a better future.

Together to Help goes to Washington DC



A few of our Board Members travelled to Washington DC to attend the Advancing Bridges Gala which showcased the American-Romanian community and it's achievements .

The gala was preceded by a concert at the Kennedy Center, but there was some time for sight seeing at the Capital State building, Arlington National Cemetary, and the White House.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier had a special ceremony which was attended by Veterans of all ages. A sobering reminder of the sacrifice of many.



AMAZING GRACE CONCERT

The On Sunday, September 10th, 2023, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts hosted the event "Amazing Grace".

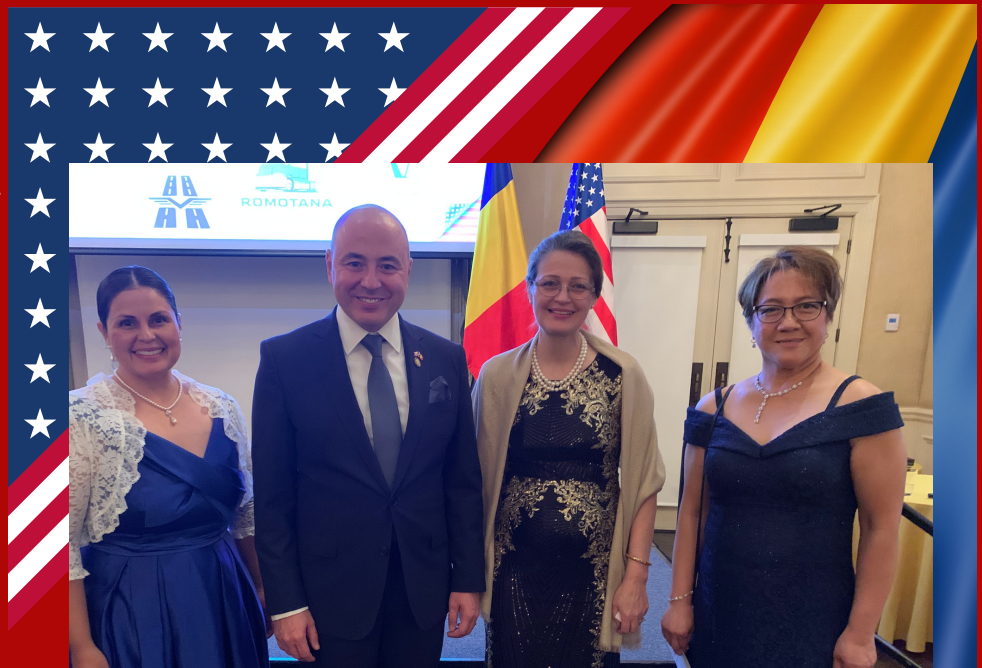
The event was organized under the auspices of the Embassy of Romania to the U.S., the Bucharest National Opera Orchestra, and Procred Music. The orchestra delivered a stunning performance.

The concert displayed a cultural exchange, with performers and attendees from diverse backgrounds coming together to celebrate the beauty of music and the arts. It was a testament to the power of music and how it brings people together by creating a sense of unity and harmony.

Overall, "Amazing Grace" was an unforgettable experience that left a lasting impression on all who attended.

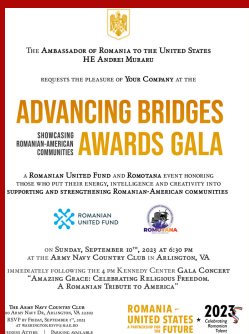


Advancing Bridges Gala



Pictured with our Board Members is His Excellency Romanian Ambassador Muraru.

Photo Credit to John Chitu Photography



The Advanced Bridges Awards Gala followed the concert, and was organized by the Embassy of Romania in the United States. The event recognized and celebrated the achievements of exceptional individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities. The Gala showcased the rich Romanian heritage, and diverse talents of its people in various fields such as business, science, sports, and the arts. It was an unforgettable experience, featuring a range of activities, and performances that showcase the best of Romanian culture and talent.

Together To Help believes that many Romanians in Las Vegas could be recognized in the future for their accomplishments in the community. Supporting and promoting local talents is crucial for their growth, and development.

It is wonderful to know organizations committed to helping people reach their full potential. By working together, we can empower our community and create a brighter future for everyone.

FALL FESTIVAL SEASON



September and October were marked by Fundraising at local Festivals. Pictured above are Mihaela Spiridon, our Development Director, her Daughter Sarah, and Vismin Titus our Events Director at the Las Vegas High School Fall Festival.



Throughout the year, Together To Help receives items from Individuals, and Business. Many of these items are unique hand made arts, and crafts.

Community Festivals offer a perfect venue to showcase these items, and raise funds for upcoming projects.

We also meet donors, share our Mission, and Vision with visitors, and best of all, we make new friends.



Romanian Festival 2023



<- TTH volunteer Vicky Sangriu, board member Vismin, and TTH President Iuliana, were greeted by Honorary Consul General Mrs. Aurelia Arnold Roberts at the Las Vegas Romanian Food and Music Festival.



Annual FORA Meeting

November 28th, 2023

Together to Help attended the 2023 Annual FORA, Federation of Romanian-American Organization meeting, which was hosted in Washington D.C. Here we are pictured with His Excellency Ambassador Muraru (center)



Political Officer Cristina Kassai (center)



Honorary General Consul Mrs. Aurelia Roberts (Center)

ALIANȚA

2023 Gala & Summit

"The Alianta Gala is the yearly event celebrating the Romanian-American Partnership and honoring the achievements of those who further it." -<https://www.alianta.org/gala-2023/>



The Alianta Gala is an esteemed yearly event that acknowledges, and celebrates the enduring partnership between Romania and the United States. It recognizes the accomplishments of those who have contributed to further strengthening this bond. The event took place on November 29th-30th, 2023, at the Willard Hotel in Washington D.C.

Alianta is an esteemed group of distinguished leaders, and advisors, who work towards promoting Romania in the US.

Together To Help was graciously extended an invitation to attend.

Our time in the Nations Capital would not have been complete without visiting at least one Historical Site. We chose the Washington Monument which provided a Beautiful view of all of Washington D.C.



JOURNEY TO NATIVITY



Life on earth is a journey of climbing mountains and descending to valleys. The path we travel can be smooth or rough, but nothing can stop us from reaching our destination if we know where we're going and the importance of arriving. The journey to Bethlehem can certainly be seen as a metaphor for the journey of Christians who want to live a life in Christ.

The journey to the Nativity of Jesus Christ represents the life of everyone who believes in Him. Imagine Mary and Joseph walking 90 miles or 145 km from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Mary was familiar with long days of hard work, as were other Jewish women of her place and time whose daily lives entailed various challenges. Mary and Joseph were familiar with hardship, which means the journey, as difficult and grueling as it was, would not have greatly intimidated the Holy Family. Given Mary's late stage of pregnancy, that number would have been much less, perhaps around ten miles a day. This means their journey likely took place over ten days. The hazards were many. Wild animals, bandits, desert robbers—all these and more factored into the nature of the trip. The valley of the Jordan River was a forested refuge for lions, bears, and wild boar. Winter temperatures were about 25 degrees. For provisions, Mary and Joseph would have relied on bread, herbs, and oil, with perhaps some dried fish as an extra protein-boosting treat. Water would need to be carried, perhaps in wineskins. After such a long, dangerous, and grueling trip, Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, a name which means "house of bread." Due to the census, Bethlehem is overcrowded. There is no room in the inn. There is no room for Mary and Joseph anywhere, except in a cave used as a stable to house animals, probably the very animal travelers had relied upon to get to Bethlehem, travelers who perhaps had arrived earlier and had booked a room at the inn.

Jesus chose to be born in a cave and poverty, so we love the poor. Jesus humbled Himself so we live a life in humility. Mary and Joseph's journey is a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit, and their sacrifices serve as an inspiration to us all. Ultimately, it is a journey that we can all learn from and aspire to emulate in our own lives.

The Creator of the universe assumes human flesh and is born of a poor, young Jewish virgin named Mary, birthed in a stable and laid in a manger of poverty. The light of humanity enters the world through the womb of Mary, the Mother of God, where men shun and reject him.

Extrapolating this journey in our modern days, we find many who are tired, exhausted, overwhelmed, hungry, lacking warm clothing, living in cold, homeless, rejected by others, wounded, or dying in war.

Our life's journey has a meaning when we persevere to our destination: Jesus. No matter what obstacles are in front of us, we continue the journey of love.

This is what Christmas is about!

For all of you who are suffering, depressed, sick, in need, or homeless, the journey of Nativity is the comfort that you are not alone, but with Jesus who heals all sufferings.

For all of you opening gifts this Christmas, don't forget the rejected ones, the ones who are alone, suffering, depressed, homeless, and open your heart. Real gifts alleviate the challenges of those who suffer. Spread love by giving to those in need. A small act of kindness can open the doors of paradise.



Shoes to Mexico



Together To Help recognizes that there are opportunities everyday to have a positive impact on at least one person. It is our pleasure to have participated in a shoe drive hosted by Fit2Serve gym in Henderson, NV. Fit2serve was collecting shoes for children in Mexico. The owners of the gym are actively involved in serving the community wherever they see a need, locally, and in Mexico. They will be delivering the shoes we bought directly to the children that asked for them. Elias age 9, Juan Jose age 13, and Wendy age 16 were the children we shopped for. As you can see, we were able to pack a few fun extras into their shoe boxes. We are always on the lookout for ways to participate in helping bring joy to kids, and the community!



Steven The Great Special Vocational School

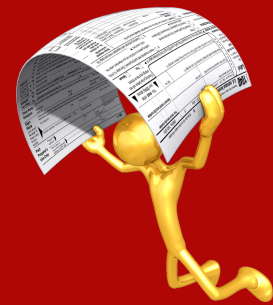
Neamt Romania

It's heartwarming to know that the fashion class at Steven the Great Special Vocational School is eager to learn and create new designs. However, it's disheartening to hear that they are in need of new fabric. But, with the help of a generous donation, we were able to send two boxes of fabric to the abandoned children at this school. Our hope is that this gift will not only provide them with a chance to practice and hone their skills, but also give them a sense of purpose, and belonging. We believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to express themselves, and create something beautiful! We're glad to have played a small part in making that happen.



CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

JASON KUPFERSMID CPA



A

As year-end approaches you may have considered contributing to your favorite charity to make a difference this Holiday season. Factors to consider to make your charitable giving tax advantageous:

Do you conduct business as a C-Corporation?

Are you at or near the Standard Deduction limit for your tax status?

Do you have documentation to substantiate your Charitable Contributions?

Do you have appreciated property subject to long-term capital gains tax treatment?

If your business is organized and conducted a C-corporation, consider donating cash or property directly from the Corporation to charitable causes as contributions to qualified charities are deductible by the Corporation up to 10% of taxable income. Directly from the Corporation to charitable causes as contributions to qualified charities are deductible by the Corporation up to 10% of taxable income.

Contributions by a C-Corporation are not subject to the Standard Deduction limitations imposed on Individuals. As always, for cash contributions (cash, check, or other monetary gifts) the corporation must maintain a bank record or receipt from the Donee organization indicating the name of the organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution. For contributions of \$250 or more, written acknowledgment from the Donee organization that shows the amount of cash contributed, a description of property contributed, and either a description and a good faith estimate of the value of any goods or services provided in return for the contribution, or states that no goods or services were provided in return for the contribution.

For contributions of property other than cash, if a taxpayer claims over a \$500 deduction for the property, the taxpayer must attach a statement to the tax return describing the kind of property contributed and the method used to determine its Fair Market Value. Additional reporting forms and requirements may apply.

Are you at or near the Standard Deduction limit for this tax year? Consider Charitable contributions to increase your deduction. Cash and or property can be deductible if contributed to a qualified charity. The deduction limitations for individuals are much more generous than for C-Corporations as a deduction for cash contributions may be available up to 60% of your adjusted gross income.

For property contributions, as discussed above, additional reporting and forms are required for deductions greater than \$500 in aggregate. If your total deduction is greater than \$5,000 you may also have to obtain appraisal of the property contributed to substantiate the value of your charitable contribution and deduction for tax purposes. Retaining records in the event of a Notice from the IRS to substantiate your deduction and the amount/value of property contributed is a must. Include description(s) of the property contributed, a method used to determine Fair Market Value, and documentation that the products were in good, useable condition.

To maximize tax savings opportunity, consider contributing appreciated capital gain property (property which you would recognize as a long-term capital gain had you sold it at Fair Market Value on the date of the contribution). Capital gain property includes capital assets held for more than 1 year including stocks, bonds, jewelry, coin or stamp collections, cars, furniture, and real estate. For example, if you had stock purchased for \$100 over 1 year ago which is now worth \$1,000, if you donated the stock to the qualified charity you would receive a tax deduction for the full \$1,000 value of the stock contributed and would NOT recognize any capital gain on the contribution of the stock to the charity. In this example, the individual's \$100 investment would result in a \$1,000 deduction from income, for which a taxpayer in the 24% bracket would realize a tax savings of \$240 ($\$1,000 \times 24\%$) on their \$100 investment all while providing their chosen charity with \$1,000!

If you have questions regarding Charitable giving and tax planning, please reach out anytime at (702) 812-2190 or Jason.Kupfersmid.CPA@gmail.com





Special Thanks To Our Donors

- Adelina Bianca Crintea
- Adelina Strasney
- Adriana Ilies
- Adriana Thompson
- Alina Dillman
- Alina Ioana Berbecaru
- Alina Kolman
- Anca Marina
- Andrew Valde
- Anonymous Major donor
- Aurelia Ciulei
- Biljana Sofronijoska Rece
- Caitlin Dajalos
- Carmen Anita
- Chet J. Cox
- Christine Sylvester
- Ciprian Chitescu
- Claudia Vaida
- Corina Isac
- Cosette Maresh
- Cristian Jurau
- Cristian Margineanu
- Cristina Reding
- Cristina Rotaru
- Daniel Marin
- Daniela Belu
- David Orfin
- David Sylvester
- Edy Nelson
- Effie Eliades
- Elena Dajalos
- Elena Neculae
- Elisabeta Comanescu
- Eric Woodman
- Eugene Nelson
- Fabiola Ladouceur
- Felicia Pellegalle
- Floriana Anderson
- Gary Dajalos
- George Jerinic
- Howard Powell
- Ina Ignatovici
- Ioana Caione

- Ioana Prunes
- Ioana Weathers
- Ion Lupusor
- Ionel Nanu
- Ionut Pop
- Iuliana Popescu-Hatch
- Jon Failla
- Joseph Levitt
- Laura Vesa
- Leonard Stein
- Lissa McCain
- Luboslava Georgieva
- Lucia Mendly
- Maria Jerinic Pravica
- Mark Townsend
- Mary Rose Lawson
- Michael Hayden
- Mira Ene
- Miriam Najarro
- Nicholas Nelson
- Nicoleta Purcell
- Oana Butunoi
- Olesia Stoian
- Pamela Campbell
- Paul Gundrum
- Paul Hatch
- Rae Pattison
- Raluca Comaneala
- Rebecca Pop
- Sarah Durov
- Sarah Thompson
- Scott Shirley
- Sean O'connor
- Shawn Lampman
- Simona Bodnar
- Simona Ott
- Steven Chitescu
- Sue Warnke
- Teodora Buda-Gordon
- Terry Trimble
- Vasile Florica
- Violeta Preda
- Vismin Sue Titus
- Yelleana Protopopova



In Loving Memory



Eric Oliver Woodman

September 22, 1974 to August 7, 2023

Eric was a Together To Help monthly donor in 2022. It was a blessing to have met him, pray with him, and share stories. To know him was to smile. Eric was a gentle soul who knew what he wanted in life and pursued his passions with great fervor.

He had a diverse range of interests and was deeply committed to his love for animals, philanthropy, technology, games, cooking, and Christianity. His faith journey was a powerful force in his life, which culminated in his baptism at St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church in Las Vegas, NV. Eric's unwavering dedication and commitment to his passions and faith are an inspiration to all of us, and it's clear that he lived life with purpose, intention, and conviction. Together To Help is honored to remember Eric who has left a lasting impact on our mission. We are grateful for his contributions and his unwavering commitment to making a difference. Eric's legacy will continue to inspire us to push forward with our work and make a positive impact on the world. May God bless and reward our donor Eric Oliver for his love and generosity towards the less fortunate.
Memory Eternal!

“Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord, who will pay back the sum in full” (Prov. 19:17).



TOGETHER TO HELP 2023

Board of Directors



Iuliana Popescu-Hatch
President/CEO



JASON KUPFERSMID
TREASURER



Paul Hatch
Secretary



Brenda Najarro
Public Relations
Director



Jon Failla
Program Associate
Director



Vismin Sue Titus
Events Director



MIHAELA SPIRIDON
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR



CATALIN SPIRIDON
MARKETING
DIRECTOR

Thank you for your hard work and care!



Upcoming Activities for Next Year 2024

January and February 2024

Dental Care Fundraiser- We will be Collecting toothpaste and toothbrushes for the orphans in Romania. We will send the care kits to the Gura Humorului orphanage.

Clothing and Shoe Initiative 2024- we occasionally receive clothing, and accessories donations, and partner with local charities like Project 150, Dress for Success, and Safe Nest so these items have an impact on our community here in Las Vegas. If you would like to donate NEW, or Almost New clothing or items, please contact us. These are tax deductible as well.

March- April 2024

Grain of Light Project -Fundraising for underprivileged children in Romania.

July 1st-11th 2024

Discover Romania trip

Bucharest- Sinaia- Brashov- Durau- Neamt- Gura Humorului- Putna- Iasi
A cultural enrichment experience which is open for any Donor to join!

Register for the meeting

<https://forms.gle/kP5PLdYx7epReT8n6>

or scan the QR code:



Trip to Romania Itinerary

July 1 - 11 July 2024 Duration: 11 days/ 9 nights

Day 1-2 - approx. 25 km:

Transfer Las Vegas - Bucharest

Accommodation and dinner at the hotel in Bucharest.

Day 3 - approx. 25 km:

- Breakfast

Visiting the

- Stavropoleos Monastery
- Patriarcal Cathedral
- Radu Vodă Monastery
- Lunch
- Antim Monastery
- Cathedral of the Salvation of the Nation
- Center Tour Bucharest

Accommodation and dinner at the hotel in Bucharest.

Day 4 - approx. 165 km:

- Breakfast
- Visiting the The People's House.

- Departure to the Sinaia resort - lunch
- visiting Peleş Castle -
- Sinaia Monastery.

Accommodation and dinner at the hotel in Sinaia.

Day 5 - approx. 355 km:

- Breakfast
- Visiting Bran Castle
- Braşov
- -lunch
- travel to Durău.

Accommodation and dinner at the hotel in Durau.

Day 6 - approx. 230 km:

- Breakfast
- Visiting the Durău Monastery
- Petru Vodă Monastery
- Neamt Monastery
- Sihăstria Monastery
- Târgu Neamţ
- lunch
- Văratec Monastery
- Agapia Monastery
- Gura Humorului.

Accommodation and dinner at the hotel in Gura Humorului.

Day 7 - approx. 140 km:

- Breakfast

Visit to the:

- Humor Monastery
- Voronet Monastery
- Gura Humorului -orphanage
- lunch
- Moldovița Monastery
- Sucevița Monastery
- Măginea - Black pottery workshop

Accommodation and dinner at the hotel in Putna/Rădăuți.

Day 8 - approx. 260 km:

- Breakfast

Visiting

- Putna Monastery -
- Suceava - St. John the New Monastery
- The Trone Castle of Suceava -
- Lunch
- Dragomirna Monastery -
- Iasi.

Accommodation and dinner at the hotel in Iasi.

Day 9 - approx. 80 km:

- Breakfast

Visiting

- Metropolitan Cathedral and Museum of Saint Paraskeva
- Monastery of the Three Hierarchs
- Palace of Culture
- lunch
- Galata Monastery
- wine tasting at Bucium Monastery wineries.

Accommodation and dinner at the hotel in Iasi.

Day 10 - approx. 480 km:

- Breakfast

- Visiting Father Dan Damaschin and a social center for underprivileged children
- Alexandru Ioan Cuza " University
- Copou Park and Eminescu's Tree
- lunch
- Bucharest- by airplane

Accommodation and dinner at the hotel in Bucharest.

Day 11 - approx. 25 km:

Breakfast

Transfer to Bucharest airport. Flight Bucharest - Las Vegas.





Volunteer Positions

- Program volunteer
- Cybersecurity volunteer
- Video Production volunteer
- Podcast volunteers
- Grant Writer
- Social worker
- Translator (Romanian - English)



Did you know?



FREE NOTARY AVAILABLE FOR OUR
TTH DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS.

M E R C H A L E R T ! ! ! !

Romanian Products can be found at:

<https://givebutter.com/c/FU3LvN/auction>



**Call us (phone: 1-844-884-0204 ext 300)
if you would like to advertise your
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MEET YOUR AGENT

Meet Catalin Emil Spiridon: The Luxury Real Estate Expert

Catalin Emil Spiridon is a dedicated luxury real estate agent in Las Vegas, renowned for his unwavering commitment to clients. With experienced real estate proven in multiple successful transactions, Catalin's passion lies in helping clients find their dream properties, whether it's a chic high-rise condo or a sprawling desert estate.

As a devoted family man, Catalin understands the significance of home beyond just its physical attributes. His commitment to his family aligns with his approach to real estate, ensuring clients feel valued and prioritized.

Outside of work, Catalin is an avid traveler, gaining a global perspective that enriches his real estate career. With Catalin, you're not just getting a real estate agent; you're gaining a dedicated professional who blends personal commitment, family values, and a passion for exploration to make your real estate dreams come true.



Let's Connect



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