



# Together To Help

6628 Sky Pointe Dr Suite 116, Las Vegas, NV 89131

1.844.TTH.0204 or 1.844..884.0204

[www.TogetherToHelp.org](http://www.TogetherToHelp.org)

[contact@togethertohelp.org](mailto:contact@togethertohelp.org)

## In this issue ...

1. What holds a community together?
2. Why "Us" and why "Now"?
3. Our Donors' stories
4. My journey into the Eastern Orthodox Church
5. TTH Board members spotlight
6. TTH staff training
7. TTH Volunteers spotlight
8. Beneficiary story - Steven The Great Special Vocational School Neamt Romania
9. Happy International Day of Children
10. Prayer for the Children of the World
11. Our Leadership
12. Special Thanks
13. Miscellaneous
14. Benefits of Getting Involved
15. Contact us





## WHAT HOLDS A COMMUNITY TOGETHER?

For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other" - Millard Fuller

Communities are defined as groups of people who repeatedly come together for what they care about; thus setting up the initial culture. Some communities are focused on bridging (typically an outward view) while other communities focus on bonding (typically an inward view). Ideally, a community is whole and healthy when both bridging and bonding are in balance. Unfortunately, when a community spends more time and energy focused inward opposed to outward the result may be the creation of a polarized community with anti-outsider sentiments.

**Together To Help is an organization that advocates togetherness for both people within and outside our community.**

What are your thoughts on a community? Please consider participating in a short survey by scanning the QR code or by visiting <https://togethertohelp.org/survey> We want to hear what you think holds a community together.





# Why “us” and why “now?”

by Michelle Waldenmaier

First, let us congratulate you for caring enough to explore who we are and what our work is about. We know that you and those you care about have been through a lot since the start of the 2020 pandemic. We also know that the resulting impacts, tragedies, and losses have been felt disproportionately across all people from every place on Earth. That is why our mission is not to just help people around us at home in the United States but also those across the globe starting with Romania.



Perhaps, you have seen the stock photos of six or more babies and toddlers squeezed together in a crib made for one? Or maybe you have seen the photos of visibly impoverished children staring blankly into the void of their despair? While I know those images are difficult and visceral in getting your attention, they are also passé and overused to elicit compassion and support from you. Instead, the fact is that 30 years ago the children of Romania were collectively neglected and eventually abandoned to a life of deprivation and poverty that most of us cannot fathom. An entire generation grew up lacking the security and comfort that most of us take for granted. They grew up in an environment so inhospitable to human development that science recently<sup>1</sup> has been able to measure the damage decades afterward in adults that were deprived of human contact and nurturing as children.

Today, according to many current EU indicators<sup>2</sup>, Romania has sunk below its peers in caring for its people and once again its children. Romanian parents and average aged working adults<sup>3</sup> are the very children that 30 years ago suffered harm that will forever negatively impact their life trajectory. Therefore, as members of a global community, we need to support not only today’s Romanian children but the working-age adults that are trying to provide for them amidst a world turned upside down by pandemic. We cannot change the past but we can influence the future by helping each child and supporting families.



Please, join us in helping others now, not in response to the horrors experienced by Romania's children in decades past or because the damage persists in today's adult Romanian population. Romania is a second world nation that recently according to a World Bank chief economist "has the largest poor population in the European Union, over a quarter of its inhabitants living with less than EUR 5 per day".<sup>4</sup> Do it because you and I are global citizens that know how hard post-pandemic recovery is within the borders of our first world nation "The United States of America".

Romania needs our help now and we at "Together to Help" need your help to make that possible. Please, join us because today is the first chapter in the rest of not only their story but ours as well.



**References:**

- (1) "Early childhood deprivation is associated with alterations in adult brain structure despite subsequent environmental enrichment" Nuria K. Mackes, Dennis Golm, Sagari Sarkar, et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Jan 2020, 117 (1) 641-649; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1911264116
- (2) Eurostat Retrieved from <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/home>
- (3) "Distribution of the working population in Romania as of 2nd quarter 2019, by age group" Statista Retrieved from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1182365/romania-share-of-working-population-by-age-group/>
- (4) "World Bank: Romania has the largest poor population in the EU; poor education and state-owned companies affect the development" Business Review June 2018, Retrieved from <https://business-review.eu/news/world-bank-romania-has-the-largest-poor-population-in-the-eu-poor-education-and-state-owned-companies-limit-the-development-172346>

Romanian Heart source: [https://openclipart.org/download/327466\\_1611324043patriotic-symbol-romania-flag.svg](https://openclipart.org/download/327466_1611324043patriotic-symbol-romania-flag.svg)

# Our Donors' Stories

## FROM ONE HEART TO MANY HEARTS

by Adelina Bianca Crintea

I chose to donate to the "Together To Help" Organization because I liked the message it conveys. Together we can have many beautiful achievements. That is because I believe that one of the greatest commandments from God is to love your neighbor as yourself. We fulfill this great commandment by donating to help those in need and shortages. Through my contribution, I hope to bring joy to the hearts of those who suffer. Their joy will also be my joy. I hope that together we can make a better world.



# Our Donors' Stories



## PHILANTHROPY IS THE LOVE OF GOD



by Elisabeta Comanescu

I chose to donate to the "Together To Help" Organization because I Praise the Lord. I give thanks to the Lord, for HE is good; for HIS mercy endures forever.

Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare HIS praise? (Psalm 106,1-2)

My donation means that God is "Blessing those "who act justly, who always do what is right."

(Psalm 106,3)

With my philanthropy "Remember me, O Lord, with the favor You have towards your people". Oh, visit me with Your salvation, that I may see the benefit of Your Chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, and that I may glory with Your inheritance. (Psalm 106, 1-5)

# My Journey into the Eastern Orthodox Church

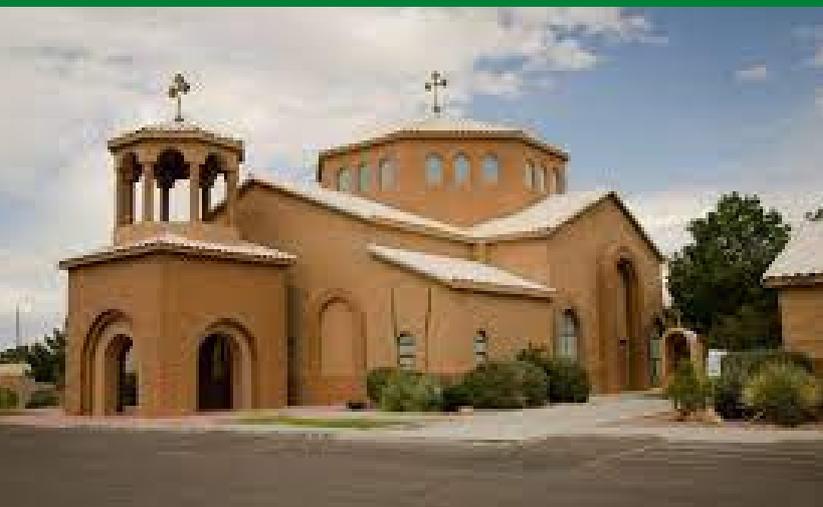
by Michael Hayden

I have difficulty pinpointing where it all began. Perhaps, it was the stunning icon displayed in an art store window that I felt compelled to stare at every time I passed. Or maybe, the ball started rolling with my first visit to an Orthodox Church. Of course, it might've been all the history and writings of the Church Fathers that I began to read shortly thereafter. Personally, I believe it was a combination of all of those things and the nudging of the Holy Spirit.

It took about ten years for me to come into the Church; but it did finally happen on the feast of the Nativity, December 25th, 2016. A number of my friends and family made it a point to support me by showing up for my Chrismation. Not long after that, I met the woman who would eventually become my wife. She was accepted into the Church within a year of our meeting one another.

My background is evangelical Protestantism. The basic perspective in that particular tradition goes something like, "it's not about religion, it's about a relationship with Jesus Christ". Well, I still have a relationship with Jesus Christ. I relate to Him in the Mysteries (sacraments) of the Church. There are no other means, that I'm aware of, on this plane to draw closer to Jesus Christ than by receiving His body and blood in the Eucharist.





The Saints have a special place in my life as well. Those holy ones who lived selfless lives are great examples of what it means to be a real Christian. Saint Paraskeva (Petka) is one of those for whom I have a particular affinity. My association with her began on a Saturday evening before Vespers. I was standing at the back of the church staring at the floor when I felt that I was being watched. I sensed that It had to be coming from one of the icons nearby. Reluctantly, I lifted my eyes to see that It was Petka's icon (with one of her relics) before me. I am no one special so I don't know why she chose to reach out to me, but I want to work to keep that door open now that she's presented the opportunity. This experience also solidified my belief that we truly are one Church, and even though she died centuries ago it's not enough to separate us, as His kingdom transcends time and space.

It's been a fruitful journey and I love the Church. My wife and I ring bells and that has been an adventurous pursuit as well. You see, the bells aren't merely pretty sounding musical accouterments. Rather, the Church teaches that the bells are "singing icons" and the "voices of angels". Truly, "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31). Then again, there is no other place I would rather be.



# *Together To Help Board Members Spotlight*

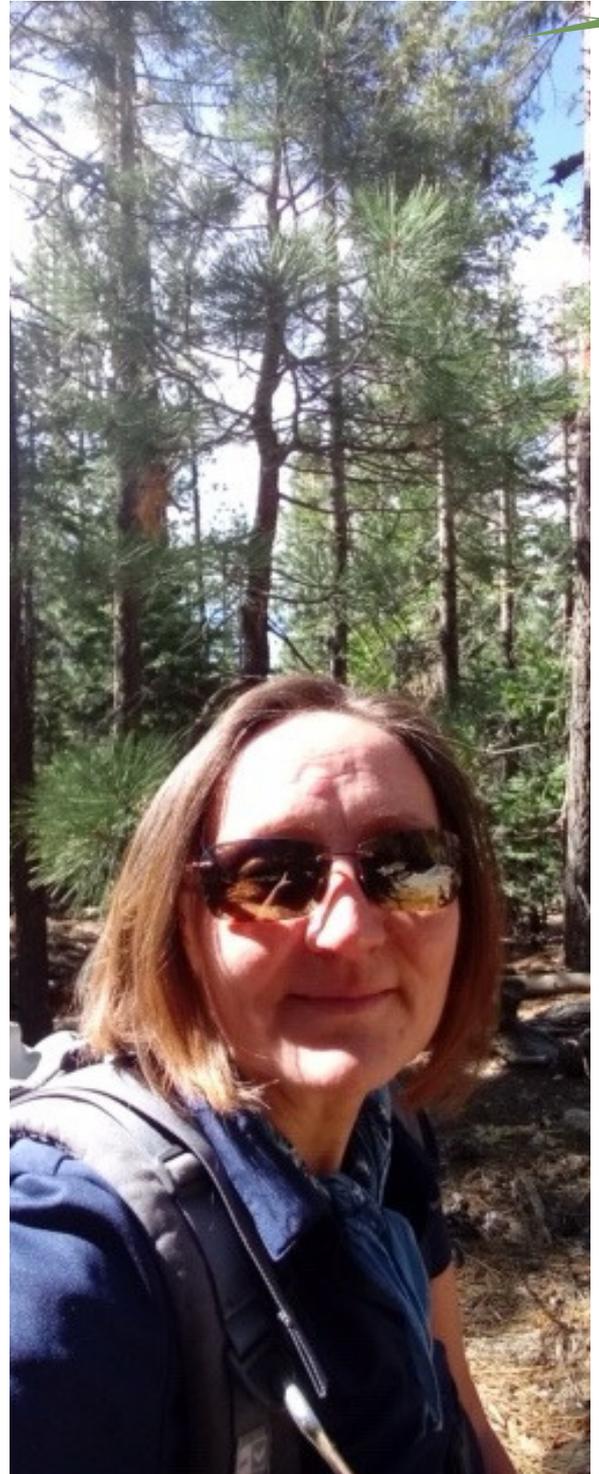
## *A Rewarding Endeavor*

by **Claudia Vaida**

I started volunteering for "Together To Help" soon after its inception, in the Summer of 2020. My friend, Iuliana, advised that she started the new non-profit in December 2019, in an effort to help needy children from Romania. I was born and raised in Romania during the communist times, and I saw the struggles of the Romanian people.

Initially, I helped with the new website development. After learning about the needs of Romanian children from "Steven the Great" vocational school and the struggles of the school staff to provide for their needs, I helped by promoting the organization on social media and raising funds for their causes. In the Fall of 2020, I was named the Chief Operating Officer of the organization and I currently coordinate the website and the online marketing program.

Volunteering for "Together To Help" gives me the opportunity to help those in need. A little effort from each of many dedicated volunteers and donors can make a huge impact in people's lives. Trying to do it alone can be overwhelming at times. Volunteering time or donating money for good causes is always rewarding.



# *Together To Help Board Members Spotlight*

*We are here Together to Help* by Jon Failla



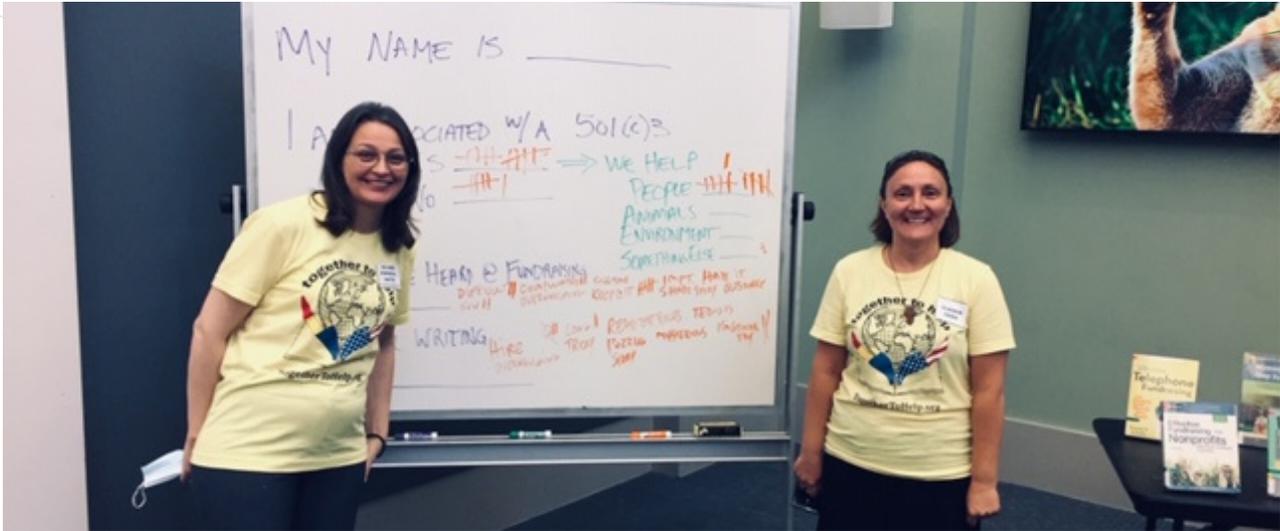
I have been a member of TTH since October of 2020. I joined TTH after being invited by the president of the organization. However, it was not simply that I was invited, it was something I had been wanting to do for a long time but had no idea how to do it. Being a member of a non-profit board would allow me, I hoped, to exercise a fundamental role without the constraints which are usually consigned to for-profit groups such as keeping stockholders happy or the ever-present undertone of needing to make money and be profitable. It is as if the worth of the organization is determined by money; by profitability instead of recognizing value, worth, and profit in actualizing the established goals and mission of the organization. I wanted to do something altruistic, something that could give back to God by extension of His creation, for all He had given to me, an unworthy sinner.

I serve at the pleasure of the Board in the role of Associate Program Director.

The message I hope to deliver as a small part of this blessed and divinely inspired organization is that living a Godly life is one that does not simply involve giving with ones wallet, although this is most helpful,, but by living the life of the Holy Spirit; giving that involves action; pnumevnoti in Greek. It is this action that effects change, a metanoia (Greek) and it is a change of heart that leads to transformation and in transformation a little piece of heaven is established here on earth.

As the Blessed Augustine wrote, let us build "The City of God". We are here, together, to help.

# *Together To Help Staff Training*



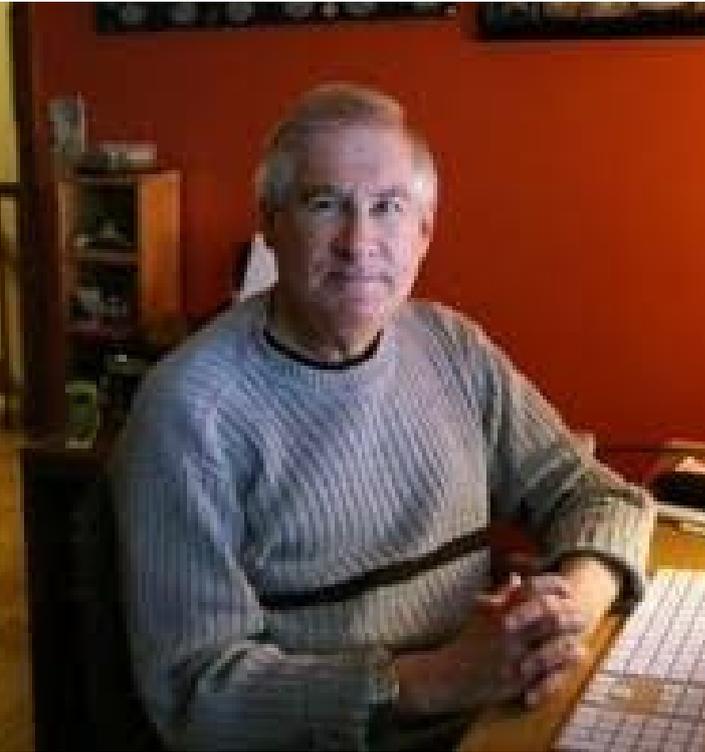
## *Introduction to Nonprofit Fundraising and Proposal Writing Workshop*

**June 13th 2021**

The "Together to Help" organization is growing by educating its staff to become nonprofit professionals. We invest in staff development opportunities for our members and provide the resources necessary to improve their skills and become more capable team members. Staff development is an ongoing process of our staff development plan.

On June 13th, 2021, two of our staff members, Claudia Vaida and Iuliana Popescu-Hatch participated in the nonprofit workshop titled "Introduction to Nonprofit Fundraising and Proposal Writing". We thank Ms. Shelly Weiner, our expert from the Southern Nevada Nonprofit Information Center, who presented the best practices in fundraising and how to write a proposal for a grant. We learned about accessing free resources for nonprofit organizations, locations, and new information about fundraising networks.

# Together To Help Volunteers Spotlight



## Being a Volunteer

by Bruce Glazer

*I am a volunteer for Together To Help. I help maintain their website. I am happy to volunteer for such a worthwhile cause. It develops a sense of pride in me to be able to use my knowledge and experience to help someone else succeed. If you have some spare time, please consider volunteering for Together To Help.*



## Benefits of Volunteering

by Kierra Clanagan

*Volunteering for Together to Help has been really great, they have given me the chance to take my talents for web designing with their organization and I'm am grateful. I started to learn web design last year after I graduated from college. I have been looking for internships to build my portfolio and I have given a lot of calls around to companies in different states about interning and learning web design. So it's great that I get the chance to actually work for someone on their website. I learn about Together to Help organizations and the importance of navigating and designing websites.*

# Beneficiary story Steven the Great special vocational school Neamt, Romania



*Thank you Together To Help  
for your love and care for our students!*



# Beneficiary story - Hearts for Hearts

## Steven the Great special vocational school Neamt, Romania



*Liliana Apachitei  
Principal  
Stefan Cel Mare  
special vocational  
school  
Neamt, Romania*

*The organization "Together To Help" in Las Vegas, United States, has been supporting students with special needs at the Special Vocational School in Ștefan Cel Mare commune, Neamț county, for over a year. Together we try to fulfill the dream of children with special needs to set up a four-season greenhouse and an orchard with fruit trees. Achieving this goal is of great necessity and urgency and will contribute to the social-professional integration of our school graduates by developing their practical skills. We will also try to cultivate the idea and beauty in the hearts of these young people, to see what comes out of the seed, how the plant grows, and how it grows. The children will learn to feel the joy of their work when we capitalize on the products from the greenhouse and the orchard using them in the canteen of the unit for the preparation of the daily food. This is an ongoing project and we are grateful to all the Together To Help donors who donated for this cause. However, we have not reached the amount needed to achieve this goal and we hope that other donors, sponsors, and big-hearted foundations will come to our aid.*

Any donation counts!  
Thank you from  
the bottom of my heart!

~





# Happy International Day of Children June 1st

**In 1925, The World Conference for the Well-being of Children in Geneva, Switzerland, proclaimed June 1st to be International Children's Day.**

**After the conference, some world governments designate one day annually as Children's Day to highlight children's issues. With the creation of World Children's Day, UN member states recognize that all children regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national or social origin, have certain rights. Those rights include the receipt of affection, love, and understanding, in addition to having adequate food, medical care, and free education. Furthermore, all children should have the right to be protected against all forms of exploitation with the ability to grow and develop in a peaceful world. No specific date was recommended, so countries across the world designate whatever date is most relevant to their individual culture and national identity.**

**The date of June 1st is used by many ex-Soviet countries as "The International Day for Protection of Children", it was established on June 1st, 1950 following the Women's International Democratic Federation's congress in Moscow that took place in 1949.**

**International Children's Day, which is not the same as Universal Children's Day, is celebrated annually on June 1st. Although widely celebrated, many countries do not recognize June 1st as Children's Day. In the United States, Children's Day is typically celebrated on the second Sunday in June. ~**

Text sources:

<https://www.compassion.com/world-days/international-childrens-day.htm>

<https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/269716161/world-celebrates-international-childrens-day--1-june>

*by Inegbu Bright  
Chimezirim*



# Prayer for the Children of the World

**Dear Heavenly Father,**

You say that Children are a precious gift from you to mankind. And with this gift, you gave the privilege and responsibility to care for children, not just to fathers and mothers but also to all people. You gave all of us the duty to protect and keep safe the children of this world so that they can live the full and abundant lives that you desire for each of us.

Horrifically, too many children are not safe. Security and love are not part of the reality that hundreds of millions of children are living; those suffering sexual exploitation, labor in hazardous conditions, and/or struggling to survive on the streets. These children are separated from their families in many places by warfare, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

Often, they are forced to join armed rebel groups, carry heavy dangerous loads as porters, become sex slaves, and are subjected to other heinous acts or things. Beyond warfare, increasing bouts of extreme drought and subsequent starvation force their families into making desperate choices either putting children to work or forcing girls into child marriage. Child abuse, neglect, exploitation, child labor, bodily harm, child marriage, and all other forms of harm against children to include murder and child sacrifice are some of the greatest evils in the world.

Thus, it is with a heavy heart and contrite spirit that we ask for your help and guidance to do more for the protection of children, for knowing how to end all harm against children, for the wisdom to rescue children who remain trapped in these nightmarish atrocities, and for your continued blessings for World Vision's work to protect children around the world.

**Amen**

# Our Leadership

## MEET THE FOUNDER

Fr. Petru Munteanu is the founder of the Together To Help organization in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Our team is proud to have his guidance and blessings! Fr. Petru has an academic background in theology and philanthropy. He lives in Romania, where the parish from Saints Archangels Michael and Gabriel from Savinesti, Neamt gather around him every day for prayers, church services, and many other activities. Thereby, in 1995, he founded the "Impreuna Pentru Solidaritate Sociala" Foundation that takes care of unprivileged people from the Northeast side of Romania. Since then, thousands of abandoned and disabled children, elders, and orphans have received help in order to better their lives. Radio Journal FM was founded in 2013 to promote cultural, spiritual, and educational values in the area. April 22nd, 2021, Fr. Petru inaugurated the third-social house (family type) in the Neamt commune of Săvinești, which will house 10 orphan children. The Las Vegas Romanian community and local Romanian authorities should be excited to have Fr. Petru as a spiritual, philanthropic, and academic asset.



**FR. PETRU  
MUNTEANU**



Despite being newly founded, Together To Help provides care not only for disadvantaged people in Romania but also for those in Las Vegas. As such, we are open to collaborations with both Romanian and American local authorities in order to fulfill the mission for which we exist.

~

# Our Leadership

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



### IULIANA POPESCU-HATCH

*Life isn't about getting and having, it's about giving and being." Kevin Kruse*

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is a success." – Henry Ford

Dear friends,

As I enter my second year as President of The Together To Help Organization, I am amazed by our donors, members, and volunteers. At this point, I am pleased to announce that our board members increased, and new volunteers sign up every week.

"There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others."(Mandy Hale) These are our donors who helped us accomplish our mission and offered smiles on sad faces. We are thankful for their most generous donations, and we hope they will continue their vital support. We cannot do it without our most precious donors, and we greatly appreciate their willingness to be a helping hand.

Indeed, the blessing of togetherness has come over our organization. With a new mission and vision, we are looking forward to benefiting many people who struggle in our community and Romania.



"A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal!"

- Steve Maraboli

# TOGETHER TO HELP NEWSLETTER

## *Special Thanks*

Fr Petru Munteanu  
Claudia Vaida  
Robert Cushman  
Visminsue Titus  
Principal Liliana Apachitei  
Paul Hatch

Mrs. Ileana Danciu  
Brandusa Dediu  
Elena Cristina Marin  
Jon Failla  
Daniel Marin

### **Our Volunteers:**

**Bruce Glazer - Website Maintenance**  
**Kierra Clanagan - Website Maintenance**  
**Charles Gooley - Website Maintenance**  
**Michelle Waldenmaier - Public Relations**  
**Dominique Ruby Alvarez Meza - Social Work**

## Volunteers needed

**To apply please visit:  
[www.togethertogether.org](http://www.togethertogether.org)**

### Current Volunteer Openings:

- Grant Writer
- Social worker
- Autism Care Giver
- Speech Therapy
- Bookkeeping
- Cybersecurity
- Video Production





# MISCELLANEOUS

*Please note that all listings are posted without warranty or guarantee by the organization*  
**Together To Help**



Notary Public Services  
Free for TTH subscribers



I Need to Rent an Apartment in Las Vegas for under \$1000/month - Adina  
Please call 1-954-995-1110



**Call us if you want your business advertised on our website**  
**1-844-884-0204 extension 300**



Romanian Interpreters in Las Vegas  
<https://www.link-translations.com/state/nevada/las-vegas/Romanian/interpreters>

If my child is a Romanian citizen, born in the US, can I request a state allowance for him/her?



Find answers to what documents you need for state allowance for Romanian children abroad at the link below:

<http://www.dasp.ro/acte-pentru-alocatia-de-stat-pentru-copii/>





## BENEFITS OF GETTING INVOLVED

- interacting with new people
- donating your time to help others helps develop a new sense of appreciation for yourself
- decreases your stress
- expands your connections
- promote your ethnic background and culture
- personal satisfaction of being useful in the community

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- become a member or a volunteer
- donate your time and skills
- participate in leadership and teamwork
- participate in fundraising
- offer personal connections between nonprofits and volunteers
- spread the word about our mission and causes to your friends and family
- donate money
- travel
- buy TTH T-Shirts or other products
- spread the word about our mission and vision on your social media accounts
- shop at Smith's using our organization code YK180 (*visit our website for details*)
- shop at Amazon Smile after you add TTH to your account (*visit our website for details*)

## Together To Help Store



If you visit our website please check out our online Store as well. We might update the page periodically with our TTH products, traditional Romanian products, and many other Romanian souvenirs.



## Contact Us

**Mail to: PO.Box 12671, Las Vegas, NV, 89112**

**Office: 6628 Sky Pointe Dr. Suite 116, Las Vegas, NV 89131**

**President Iuliana Popescu-Hatch:**

 **844.TTH.0204 (844.884.0204) ext 100**

 **E-mail: [President@togethertohelp.org](mailto:President@togethertohelp.org)**

**C.O.O. Claudia Vaida:**

 **844.TTH.0204 (844.884.0204) ext 300**

 **E-mail: [contact@togethertohelp.org](mailto:contact@togethertohelp.org)**

**Secretary Paul Hatch:**

 **844.TTH.0204 (844.884.0204) ext 200**

 **E-mail: [secretary@togethertohelp.org](mailto:secretary@togethertohelp.org)**

**Program Associate Director Jon Failla**

**844.TTH.0204 (844.884.0204) ext 400**

**E-mail: [secretary@togethertohelp.org](mailto:secretary@togethertohelp.org)**

