



TOGETHER TO HELP

December 12, 2020: 1 year of existence



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December 12, 2020 – Together To Help turns 1

Together To Help Store

Special Thanks

Together To Help

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Iuliana Popescu-Hatch

President & CEO

"If one suffers, we all suffer.

Togetherness is strength."

Courage.

--Jean-Bertrand Aristide--

Together We Can Give

I am addressing you as partners in the most noble act of giving. Our organization **Together To Help** believes that no one can do anything alone.

We know that without you - donors, members, volunteers - the organization could not meet the needs of the hungry, poor or homeless youths in our communities. Together, we are tackling an enormous endeavor and will continue to do so. Acts 4:34-35 speaks to the power of togetherness; how the members of the early church banded together to answer God's call. God is with the people who are working together to meet the needs of the others. The power of almsgiving gives wings to our prayer. Our care for the poor unite our hearts and minds. Especially on these days of pandemic challenge the act of giving can save lives. As you read our first newsletter, may your hearts be touched by the stories of the abandoned and poor, and by the sacrifice and love of our donors and sponsors.

Thank you for your dedication to our mission!

Together we are making a difference!

Together
is a Wonderful
place to be



Giving

Giving is the essence of what it means to be human. It is what distinguishes us as unique amongst all of God's creation. Giving requires a conscious act of the will to do the exact opposite of what one's instinct would demand. Yet, there are different degrees of giving and different attitudes. There is begrudging giving, there is giving required of us by association such as with our employer, social groups, organizations, and religious affiliation. There is giving out of abundance and there is giving that requires self-sacrifice. We remember the parable of the widow's mite, a woman who gave all that she had. This was no ordinary act of giving, but one of great faith and one that could not have been achieved but by the gift the Holy Spirit.

Giving then can be a type of spiritual martyrdom wherein we die to our selfish inclinations and in giving we find a glorious and heavenly crown uniting us with the saints. With what love a grandmother lovingly dotes on and bestows her generosity upon her grandchildren; finding life within herself through her connection with that future generation.

With what superhuman sacrifice did Jesus Christ Himself give up His life for us. With that sacrifice he destroyed death by death. In His resurrection, He has raised up all of humanity and made us partakers of His Divinity. In this way, we can see that giving is no longer a choice that can or cannot be made but rather it is the lifeblood that flows through the very heart of humanity, edifying and nurturing the one body of creation in Christ Jesus. Giving, therefore, is at its' essence, life itself.

by Jon Failla – Program Associate Director



Corona virus, hunger and isolation



Fr. Petru Munteanu

Executive Director

“The most sublime act is to set another before you.”

William Blake

Fr Petru Munteanu was calling us at the beginning of the pandemic describing the situation he was confronting every day. The Romanian lockdown found many people unprepared facing sickness, hunger and isolation. *“I received many phone calls from parents with young children asking for help. Yesterday, families with 3-4 children came to the church. I gave them everything that I had available.”* said Father Petru. This happened in Neamț County, Săvinești and its surrounding areas where people who live not on a salary, but on what they earn each day from day labor, were facing hunger. Elderly people isolated in their homes have no food to put on the table. The church was closed. Many tears and suffering” saw Fr Petru who did not waste time and act immediately. He raised awareness about the situation and many people were getting involved. Using the catering services from “Together for Social Solidarity Foundation”, Fr Petru was feeding around 200 people daily for almost 5 months. It was not easy to accomplish this without self-sacrifice. **Together To Help** being at the beginning of its existence, couldn’t help as much as it was needed for Fr. Petru’s battle with the pandemic crisis. Somebody from here who was battling cancer had a great heart and donated for this cause. Good hearted people from here have donated to this cause. We couldn’t do it without you! We are thankful to Fr Petru for being such a great role model and leader of our organization!



Lives You Have Touched

UNLV HOPE Scholars

Thanks to your donations, around 40 UNLV HOPE students received school supplies, paper towels, hand sanitizer, soap and snacks during the pandemic lockdown. We thank our volunteers, *Cristina* and *Daniel Marin*, for their donations and assistance in delivering the items to the UNLV students.



UNLV Summer HOPE Students

On June 17, 2020, *Saint Paul Orthodox Church* and *Together To Help* donated food and hygiene supplies for UNLV Hope students. We thank *Fr John Dresko* and *Saint Paul the Apostle Church* for donating food and gift cards. We couldn't do it without the dedication and continuous support of *Professor Maria Jerinic Pavica*.



Visit the following link to view a warm *Thank You* note from the students:

<https://togethertohelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/thank-you-from-UNLV.mp4>

Lives You Have Touched

"Steven the Great" Special Vocational School

-packages become gifts from Saint Nicholas



Steven The Great Special Vocational School from Romania is taking care of 118 special needs children ages 14 to 18. Most of them have been abandoned by their families who are unable to care for them. They live in a dorm near their school, receiving food and clothing from state childcare services. The principal, Ms. Liliana Apachitei, and the school staff are their only family.

Fr. Petru Munteanu proposed to get together and help the students improve their quality of life and skills so they will be able to function in the society after the age of 19. In this sense, Together To Help in partnership with the school plan to accomplish 2 important projects: building a greenhouse and planting fruit trees where students will learn agricultural and horticultural skills. The harvested produce will help the school to self-sustain the food necessary for daily meals. Our hope is that the project will happen soon with the help from great hearted donors. During this past summer, I visited the school site and I found out that they have enough land that can be used for agriculture and horticulture. The land is not cultivated yet due to lack of funds.

Meanwhile, with the help of Project 150 in-kind donors, and our financial generous donors, we were able to send six packages of clothing and shoes to Steven the Great Special Vocational School. This donation was offered to the students as a gift from Saint Nicholas on December 6th and made a great impact on the students. There are six more boxes of winter clothing and shoes waiting to be sent to them. We need just few generous donors like you to support the shipping payment to Romania.

The students are still in need of school supplies and other things mentioned on our website.

One hundred and eighteen children with broken hearts are waiting for us to heal their wounds and give them a survival skill in the future!

Would you be the one who give them a drop of care and love?

The school's uncultivated land:



Lives You Have Touched

"Steven the Great" Special Vocational School

-packages become gifts from Saint Nicholas



***Together To Help* board members training at SCORE**



On October 7, 2020, *Together To Help* Nonprofit Organization offered training classes for current and future members.

We thank SCORE and Attorney Robert Cushman for presenting the workshop titled: "*How To Become a Better Nonprofit Board Member*".

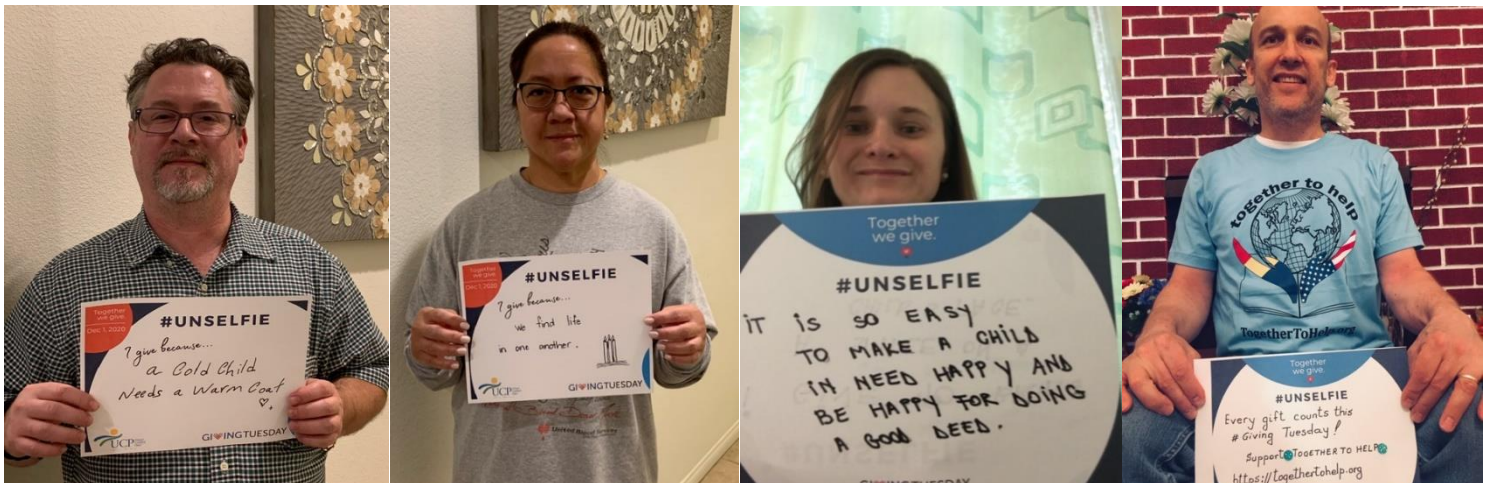
This training prepared our organization for grow by adding new energetic members. Togetherness is our strength. We all believe that the power of love and giving can build a better world around us.



Care for Special Needs Children in Las Vegas

One of our board members with medical expertise offered a free consultation to a family with a special needs child. A complete spectrum of the problem was discussed and opened many opportunities for this special case. We are thankful for his dedication, kindness and care

Giving Tuesday 2020



We're proud to have joined thousands of changemaking organizations on December 1st, 2020 for #GivingTuesday! #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving with the goal of building a more just and generous world.

The funds we raised on #GivingTuesday will go to 30 impoverished and underserved children so who have no warm clothing and boots for winter. Fr. Dan Damaschin from Iași through "Glasul Vieții" Association is taking care of buying a coat and a pair of boots for

almost 7000 poor children from Iași, Vaslui and Botoșani counties. Thanks to our donors we were able to accomplish the amount necessary for 30 children at this point. (\$2000)

It is important to remember that we're our best when we come together. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

We couldn't do it without you!

Visit the following link to view the list of children you helped: <https://bit.ly/tth-gt2020>

Donation Opportunities under CARES Act



Lissa Elena McCain

Treasurer

"I find joy in giving donations"

Sudha Murty

CARES Act Section 2204 amends IRS Code, adding new § 62(a) (22)

The new law allows all taxpayers to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300, even if you do not itemize. If everyone gave "just" \$300, such support would have a huge impact on goals, missions and those the charities serve. The law provides for a universal, above-the-line, deduction of up to \$300 cash made by any taxpayer – whether they itemize or not. This will reduce taxable income for 2020. It makes giving less expensive for donors. This is up to \$300 they won't have to pay taxes on, even if they don't itemize.

Conditions:

1. Gifts must be made in cash.
2. Gifts must be made to a public charity, not to a supporting organization, private foundation or donor advised fund.
3. Gifts must be made in 2020 (or after; this is not currently limited to just this year), and cannot be carried over from excess contributions made in a prior year.

Gifts are eligible for the above-the line deduction in addition to the standard deduction.

For those who do itemize their deductions, the new law allows for cash contributions to qualified charities to be deducted up to 100% of adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year.

Conditions:

- Gifts must be made in cash to qualify for the 100% of AGI deductibility.
- Gifts must be made to a public charity, not to a supporting organization, private foundation or donor advised fund.
- The increased deduction is not automatic; it must be elected. It is likely the IRS will provide further guidance as the 2020 tax filing deadline approaches.

It's possible the deduction could be disallowed if the donor also makes noncash contributions.

The new law temporarily suspends the requirements for required minimum distributions (RMD) for the 2020 tax year.

Many donors use their RMD to make a gift from their IRA. If you are 70½ or older, you can still make a gift from your IRA or name a 501(c)(3) charity as a beneficiary.

Donors should see this as an opportunity because there will no longer be a \$100,000 limit on the amount they're allowed to transfer to charity from their IRA. Due to the unlimited charitable deduction allowed for cash gifts this year – even exceeding 100% of AGI – donors can ask IRA holders to sell assets (above the amount of the RMD) and distribute the proceeds to them in cash. They can then donate the cash, realizing an offsetting income tax deduction for the full amount. This may be the only year they can do this. Up until now, donors had to wait to transfer IRA assets in excess of the \$100,000 allowable annually until their death. And those assets could be assessed both income and estate taxes.

This is not intended as financial or legal advice but rather as information.

(Taken from “DONATION OPPORTUNITIES TO CHARITIES UNDER THE CARES ACT”,
By Claire Axelrad | April 13th, 2020 | COVID-19 / Coronavirus, Nonprofit Sector, Philanthropy;
Fundraising Coach at Bloomerang; Link to article provided by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center.)



Year-End Campaigns for Holidays

1. **Delia:** Save a life of a child on the last day of the year (Delia suffering of Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia)
2. **Apopei Ionut Catalin** suffering of Lobstein disease or Osteogenesis Imperfecta Type I – genetic disease or brittle bone.
3. **School supplies** are needed for “Steven the Great” Special Vocational School, from Neamt, Romania.
4. **Sewing machines:** “Steven the Great” Special Vocational School needs sewing and embroidery machines and supplies that will help students learn the trade of sewing.
5. **Cristian** is a baby boy, 1 year and 9 months old, and can only be fed a special baby formula, Alfamino. The price per box is ~\$50 and the baby needs 3 boxes/week, ~\$600/month. Your help will be appreciated.
6. **Baby feeding supplies:** The baby that needs the feeding supplies can only be fed through a feeding tube that pumps liquid food directly into his stomach. The tubes are one-time use only and he needs about 3 per day. There is only one distributor in Romania, “Nutrient Solutions”, and the supplies cost ~\$750/month. When available, the baby’s parents buy supplies from eBay at a reduced cost. A minimum donation from each of us will greatly help this family.
7. **Homeless father and son:** - We are trying to help a hard working father of a 3rd grade child. The child’s mother left them. The father works at Jolidon. They had been sleeping in the car for a while, but now the father has started building a small, one room, wooden house. He doesn’t have the necessary funds to isolate and finish their new home and the winter is here. The child also needs winter clothes and boots, school supplies and tutoring as he is falling behind in school. Any help will be appreciated.
8. **New family:** The couple are in their early twenties and are expecting their first child. They live in Florești, near Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in a rented apartment. The husband was an orphan, raised in an orphanage, and the wife doesn’t have her family’s support. The husband has a young brother currently in the orphanage whom they would like adopt. They are a wonderful young couple. They will need baby clothes and diapers for their newborn. Your help will be appreciated.

Please email: donate@togethertohelp.org if you need more information

You can also help by starting fundraiser campaigns and sharing them with your friends and family.

Visit the following link to start a campaign: <https://www.facebook.com/fund/donatetth/>



Future Events

1. Year-End Campaign for Holidays
2. January 24th = Romanian National Day



December 12, 2020 – *Together To Help* turns 1



Saint Spyridon of Trimyphunteia is commemorated on December 12. The saint concerned himself about his flock with great love. Through his prayer, many sick were healed and demons cast out. He had the custom to distribute one part of the gathered harvest to the destitute, and another portion to those having need while in debt, without taking any portion for himself personally. Saint Spyridon lived his earthly life in righteousness and sanctity, and in prayer he offered up his soul to the Lord (+ c. 348).

Saint Spyridon is the protector of our organization, *Together To Help*. On December 12, 2020 we celebrate our first year of existence and we ask God, through the prayers of Saint Spyridon, to guide us.

VISIT *Together To Help* Store

We continually improve and develop the store. You can currently purchase **Blue**, **Yellow**, **Red** TTH t-shirts in our store. All money received will go to helping children in need.

Store website: <https://togethertohelp.com/>



Special Thanks

Greg Wilken ESQ

Robert Cushman ESQ

Stacy Chapter and Project
150 Team

Prof Maria Jerinic Pravica-
UNLV

Principal Liliana Apachitei

Radio Journal FM Piatra
Neamt

Mrs Ileana Danciu

Fr John Desko and Saint Paul
the Apostle parish

Fr Petru Munteanu

Fr Dan Damaschin

Dr Cristian Jurau

Anonymous Major Donor for Sending packages to Romania and Giving Tuesday Campaign

New board members:

Jon Failla

Visminsue Titus

Brândușa Paula Dediu

Claudia Vaida

Our Volunteers:

Cristina Elena Marin

Daniel Marin

Special Thanks to All our DONORS who made a difference!

