



# 2022

June  
Newsletter # 4

## ***TOGETHER TO HELP***

Toll FREE: 844.TTH.0204 (844..884.0204)

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



*"Those who are happiest are those  
who do the most for others."*

*~ Booker T. Washington*



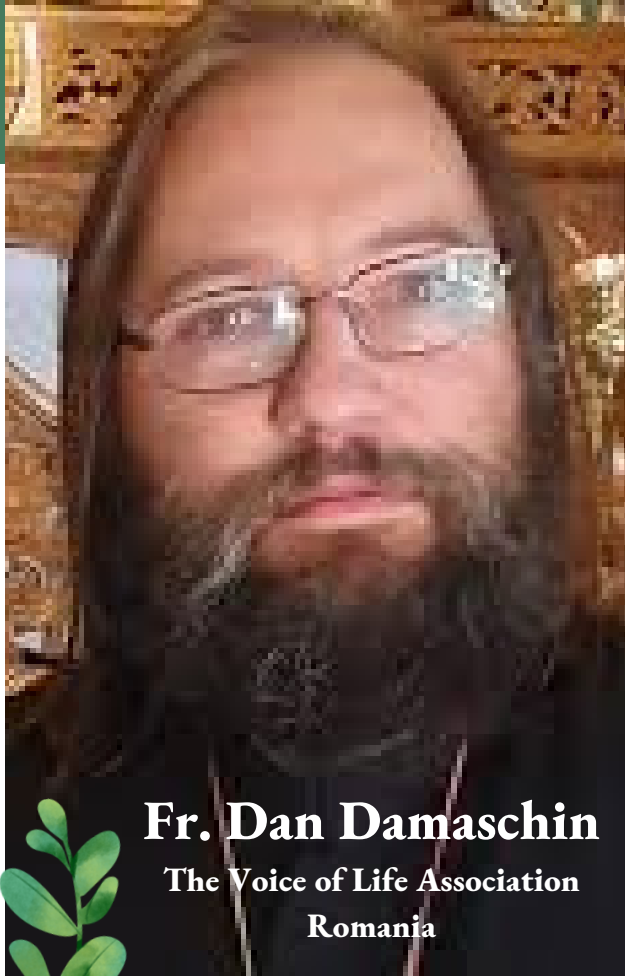
## **Inside this edition**

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# BENEFICIARY STORY



**Fr. Dan Damaschin**  
The Voice of Life Association  
Romania



*"We may cover a multitude of sins  
with the white robe of charity."*

~ Henry Ward Beecher

## THE GRAIN OF LIGHT CAMPAIGN FROM IASI TO LAS VEGAS

Christ is Risen!

Dear people, greetings and thank you for offering me the opportunity to send you thoughts from Iasi Romania. My name is Priest Dan Damaschin and I like to send you my best regards from Iasi, Romania to Las Vegas Nevada, USA. Honestly, recently I had an idea in my mind about Las Vegas as a desert, some casinos and I don't know what Rock and Roll. From the midst of the Las Vegas community, Mrs. Iuliana and that wonderful Organization Together To Help have shown us that God shows His work everywhere, in the wilderness and the city as well.

We can see that when, not many but good people put their souls in the state of sacrifice and their hands working, and miracles happen.

What else you can say when our small church receives from you beloved people who were sending everything that is needed to buy for all 65 children: clothes, shoes, food, hygiene and cleaning products. and everything necessary for this period.

Thoughts and prayers of gratitude from myself and all the love from our children. I pray to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who resurrected from the dead, to offer to all of you who put a lot of hard work for our children, those who might see or hear about us, and all people out there, that miracles can happen, blessings in all good work, help in all you need in your life and your salvation and of course we hope for many children to be happy, well dressed, clean and with self-esteem . Christ is Risen! May God Bless you all!

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT




***"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."***

***~Elizabeth Andrew***

## BRADLEY SCHWARTZ WEBSITE MAINTAINANCE VOLUNTEER

Bradley Schwartz is a 24 year old recent graduate of Vanderbilt University. He lives in Breckenridge Colorado and works remotely as a software developer. Bradley originally joined the Together To Help team to fulfill community service hours but has since continued on as an active contributing member. He has been in close communication with the board helping design and implement various pieces of the website and write a variety of the site's print.

Going forward, he wants to continue building the website to help attract donors and share the wonderful things Together To Help has been able to accomplish. Bradley loves helping others, and before working with Together To Help worked on a variety of other community service projects, most notably founding an organization to aid in the creation of assistive technology for disabled individuals at University. Outside of work Bradley is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys spending his time hiking biking and skiing.



***"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another." ~ Erma Bombeck.***



***"As we work to create light for others,  
we naturally light our own way."***

***~ Mary Anne Radmacher***







# OUR PROGRESS



## The Problem

According to Eurostat data, Romania has the highest rate of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, 35.8% - three times larger than the EU champion - the Czech Republic - and over 50% larger than the EU average. Over one in three Romanians are thus at risk of poverty.

## Our Solutions

- Orphans Program -in-kind donations collection
- Abandon and disabled children program
- Sustainability Program: Orchard for abandoned children
- Clothing, Shoes, Food for impoverished children on Orthodox Christmas and Easter
- War Crisis Respond



## The Outcomes...

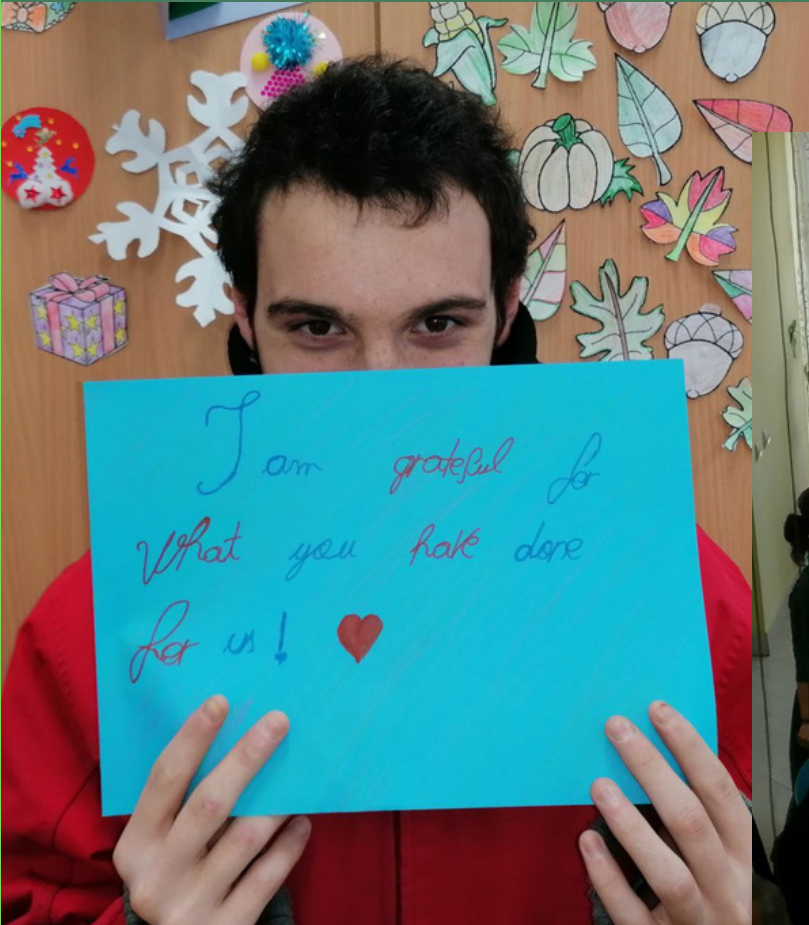
- In 2021, thanks to our donors 400 orphan children from Gura Humorului Orphanage received clothing, shoes, hygiene products, and toys.



# OUR PROGRESS CONTINUED

## Outcomes...

- Because of your generosity 95 children received a better meal



“If I am hungry, that is a material problem; if someone else is hungry, that is a spiritual problem.”

~ Paul Farmer

## Steven the Great Special Vocational School



# OUR PROGRESS CONTINUED

## Outcomes

- 2021 Christmas you brought a smile on the faces of 24 impoverished children who received your gift of new clothing, shoes and food.
- This was possible in partnership with "The Voice of Life" (Glasul Vietii) Association



**Glasul Vietii**  
ASOCIAȚIA

Tel: 0744798610

**GRĂUNTELE  
DE IUBIRE**



**O adevărată minune! Vă mulțumim!  
Slavă Pruncului Iisus!**





# Outcomes

- 2022 Orthodox Easter you brought a smile on the faces of 65 impoverished children who received your gift of new clothing, shoes and food.
- This was possible in partnership with "The Voice of Life" (Glasul Vietii) Association

## OUR PROGRESS CONTINUED



"If you're in the luckiest one percent of humanity, you owe it to the rest of humanity to think about the other 99 percent."  
~ Warren Buffett



# OUR PROGRESS CONTINUED

Steven the Great Special Vocational School Land

which needs to be prepared for orchard



## Outcomes

- Ongoing Sustainability Project Orchard planting 120 fruit trees for 95 abandoned and disabled children at Steven the Great Special Vocational School
- At this time the school was able to buy the proper tools and plating fertilizers to prepare the land to become an orchard
- In the fall of 2022 120 fruit trees will be planted on the School property land.
- Our donor's generous contribution will have a long-term impact on many generations of children of Steven the Great Special Vocational school



# OUR PROGRESS CONTINUED

## Ukrainian Crisis Response



- This is an ongoing project responding to the crisis created by the war in Ukraine.
- So far we have shipped blankets and hygiene products.
- Currently, we are fundraising to provide food, hygiene and cleaning products for children living in Ukraine.



**Fr Dan Damaschin, our partner  
(first from the left) and  
Mihai Chirica, Mayor of Iasi city  
(fifth from the right)  
with humanitarian aid in  
Chernovtsy, Ukraine**





# OUR PROGRESS CONTINUED

## Focus on Local Problems

Nancy Brune, senior fellow at the Guinn Center reports that, "nearly 25% of Nevada's rural youth ages 14 to 18 live in poverty, compared to approximately 15% of urban youth ages 14 to 18."

Source:

[www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2022/guinn-center-youth-outcomes](http://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2022/guinn-center-youth-outcomes)



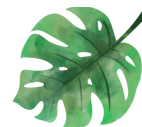
## Our Activities

- Partnership with Project 150 and UNLV Hope Students
- We are working in partnership with other Organizations to create new local programs and scholarships.

*"Anticipate charity by preventing poverty."*

*~ Maimonides*

# THE LAW



## AND YOUR RIGHTS



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### *Can a policeman legally search your car if you are stopped for a traffic violation?*

A car is your private property and you have recognized and protected rights of privacy in it. Generally, a policeman may not search your car incident to a traffic stop unless 1) you give permission, 2) there is "probable cause" for the search, or 3) he has a warrant signed by a judge. Since the existence of a warrant presupposes that the police know of an illegal situation prior to the stop, it is outside the scope of this article (except as set out below), and I will principally address mainly the first two situations.

If stopped, always be polite and cooperative and produce documents such as driver's license, insurance card, and the like. You will not win any argument with the policeman regarding those. If asked to step out of the car, do so. Comply with reasonable orders so as to avoid making the situation worse by resisting the officer's directives.

The policeman may ask if you consent to a search of your car. The mere question evidences that he does not, at that moment, have a "right" to search the vehicle. To search without your permission, he must have "probable cause," which is an objective reason for believing that there is some illegal matter that can be found in your car. Of course, if the illegal matter is visible to the naked eye - for example, an open alcohol container on the passenger seat - probable cause has been satisfied. Probable cause is never satisfied by a mere "feeling" of the policeman, even if based on decades of law enforcement experience, that "something is wrong." It must be based on objective, quantifiable facts.

If a policeman has a good reason to ask for one, he can usually obtain a warrant by phone to a judge. In Las Vegas, for example, there is always a judge who can order blood draws in the event of a suspected drunk driving stop, and who can be reached by phone, even on the middle of the night.

Bottom line: you do not have to consent to a search of your vehicle, and you should understand that a policeman who stops you is not your friend, nor is he interested in "justice." His job is to find illegal activity and you need not, and should not, help him in this endeavor. You have rights, and you should not waive them, because you can always lose those rights by your actions, even if you did not intend to give them up.



# A LIFE OF SERVING OTHERS



**“A true police officer  
fights not because he hates  
what’s in front of him, but  
because he loves who  
stands behind him.”**

**~ Unknown**

*“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay  
down his life for his friends.” ~ John 15.13*

What 15 years in law enforcement has taught me. Most of my career is marked with good stories, but there have been moments of blood, sweat, and tears. Up until a few years ago, I thought I was a person of strong faith. Completely secure in what I believed about God, and People. I loved (love) God and believed (believe) He loves us. Eventually I faced such incomprehensible evil that it shook that faith and trust. It shook the idea that most people are inherently good. An internal struggle ensued with the underlying premise that if God loves us, then how can such bad and evil things happen?

I do not have an answer to satisfy such a tough question, but I found peace in the verse from John 15 because I have seen it at work. People willing to lay down their life for a stranger. - I have seen it not just from police but from people who just wanted to help. Why? How? Love. It must be Love. I know it is love because I have seen the opposite which steals, kills and destroys.

The beautiful thing for me was accepting that God is not indifferent to the suffering in the world, but provides us the ultimate consolation through His Son Jesus, who gave his life for us. Such a sacrifice is the pinnacle of Love.

This opinion is not to diminish or discredit any arguments made against my chosen profession. Truly I speak for myself and I cannot say that I always get it right. Not at work or in life. I pray to do my best. My commitment to my fellow human is born out of love for people, love for God and a Love for life. God bless you and Stay safe.



Love,  
Anonymous

# SPECIAL THANKS

## To Our Donors

Fr John Dresko and Saint Paul the Apostle Parish Las Vegas

Elisabeta Comanescu  
Maria Jerinic  
Paul Hatch  
Liliana Cosma  
Camelia Bratu  
Magdalena Buzgau  
Neil & Bayza Mator  
Vismine Sue Titus  
Sue Warnke  
Robert Drollinger  
Elena Reynolds  
Violeta Preda  
Felicia & Dan Bratoi  
Laura Vesa

Anonymous Donors

Eddi Nelson  
Leonard Stein  
George Jerinic  
Howard Powell  
Nicoleta Purcell  
Cristian Jurau  
Cristina Reding  
Michael Hayden  
Claudia Vaida  
Marcian Moser  
Jarrod Huffman  
Daniel Marin  
Silviu Maresh  
Cornelia Ionescu

David Orfin  
Eric Woodman  
Alina Dillman  
Paul Gundrum  
Miriam Navarro  
Cristina Tobler  
Alina Kolman  
Jon Failla  
Bianca Crintea  
George Jerinic  
Lissa McCain  
Rita Jury  
Mihai Lehene



## Our Volunteers

Michelle Waldenmaier  
Newsletter Editor  
Bradley Schwartz  
Daniela Draia  
Ioana Caione  
Carla Caione  
Adelina Crintea  
Cristina Marin  
Daniel Marin







# Note from Leadership



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

*~ Margaret Mead*

Dear Friends,

One day Mr. D came to me with a white envelope and said "Take care of my kids." His face was calm, confident, and radiated with a joy that words could not describe. He offered his gift with such gratitude as though he were investing in a large business. When I said "thank you", he smiled and left.

This true story happened not that long ago, to this day I often think about it as the perfect meaning for the Together To Help Organization. When I received that envelope, I understood that TTH's role is to connect caring donors with the many children who expect and need someone to care about their needs. Everything we do is about the donors and beneficiaries; we are just an intermediary entity helping those groups connect. Mr. D's action teaches us all that giving is an "investment" for the most precious thing we have "our soul." His "investment" gave him immense gladness and radiant joy. As a result of Mr. D's generosity 7 underprivileged children received gifts of new clothing, shoes, hygiene products, and nutritious meals for the feast of Pascha (Christian Orthodox Easter). Those children live 15,000 miles away from Mr. D and do not speak English; they couldn't say "thank you" to him in-person and weren't able to see the look in his eyes when he made his donation.

Please, just imagine the eyes of the seven children. Don't you think that when they saw those gifts that they were also imagining; thinking about the donors that they couldn't meet? Don't you think that with their whole hearts and in their own languages they were saying "thank you?" Don't you believe that these gifts changed their lives in ways that they will never forget? Perhaps, Mr. D had thought of all that before he offered his envelope! Either way, it is undeniable that Mr. D made a positive and enduring difference in the lives of those seven children. No one can ever take that away from Mr. D! Which is why Mr. D's radiant joy was not from handing me that envelope but from his understanding that his donation would help create joyful hearts in children with so many needs.

Together To Help data, graphs, and numbers might give you a picture of what we are and what we are doing as an organization, but I believe that we are more than that. Mr. D's lesson was teaching us exactly what Mother Theresa said, "Love is not patronizing, and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same—with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead."

Love,

Iuliana

# The Science Behind Giving



## WHY GIVING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH?

Giving is Good for Your Body. According to Cleveland Clinic Mental Health, studies show that giving can actually boost your physical and mental health. And that People volunteering to raise money for a specific charity claim a series of health benefits associated to giving.

Research states that people who give social support to others have **lower blood pressure** than people who don't. Supportive interaction with others also helps people recover from **coronary-related events**. People who give their time to help others through community and organizational involvement have greater **self-esteem**, **less depression** and **lower stress levels** than those who don't.

**Longevity**- According to one study, people who were 55 and older who volunteered for two or more organizations were 44% less likely to die over a five-year period than those who didn't volunteer.

**Feeling Happier**- Biologically, giving can create a “warm glow,” activating regions in the brain associated with pleasure, connection with other people and trust. There is evidence that, during gift-giving behaviors, humans secrete “feel good” chemicals in our brains, such as serotonin (a mood-mediating chemical), dopamine (a feel-good chemical) and oxytocin (a compassion and bonding chemical). When you look at the functional MRIs of subjects who gave to various charities, scientists have found that giving stimulates the mesolimbic pathway, which is the reward center in the brain .

Reach out to someone in need, so your mental and physical health will thank you!

Source (<https://health.clevelandclinic.org/why-giving-is-good-for-your-health/>)







# Volunteer Positions

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





# Miscellaneous



If you are interested to book a consultation, enrolling in an Aromatherapy Class, or buying essential oils, flower essences, hydrosols, or candles, please contact us at:

[blessedsunshinearomatics@gmail.com](mailto:blessedsunshinearomatics@gmail.com)



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