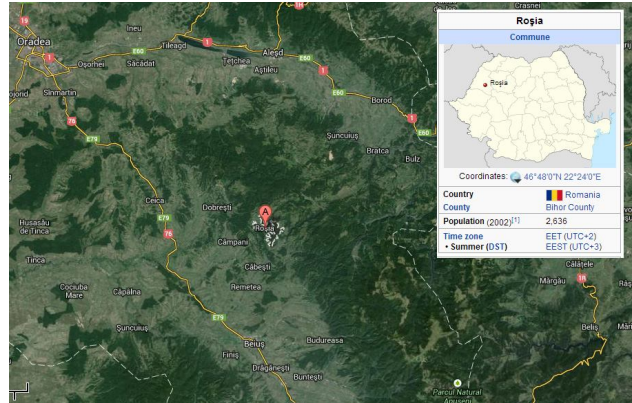


## The Dumșe Family Story

### Roșia

Located 20km from Beiuș, Roșia is one of the most picturesque rural areas in Romania. Here you see one house on a hill, another house on another hill. Many of these homes are without access roads, at most, just a pathway. You'll find more homes grouped together on the side of the roads that cross the commune in the central area only. The majority of home are mud brick, old and run down, as is the case of the Dumșe family home.



### A stolen childhood

Elisabeta Dumșe (34 years old) grew up in Oradea in an orphanage after being abandoned by her parents at birth. She had a difficult time in the orphanage, being beaten and abused by other children and even by those who were meant to educate her. This left scars not only on her body, but even more so in her soul. After the Revolution in 1989, she was confronted by another large problem because the state didn't have any strategy for the youth who were leaving the orphanage. They would pure and simply just be left on the street, where they would live in parks, train stations, apartment block stairways and they would survive by begging and the mercy of others. After a time on the streets, Elisabeta had the luck of meeting a young family from Oradea, who took care of her and helped her find a job. At 19 years old she met Dorin with whom she got married and they established themselves in Roșia.



Dorin Dumșe (44 years old) comes from a poor family with 4 children who grew up on the top of a hill in the village Roșia. Although the view is very beautiful, he didn't have much joy because one of his brothers was put in prison after killing their father. This left a profound mark on him and made him very introverted and even to run away from people. This being the main reason why he's never had a job and he's earned his existence by working in the forest, in the fields or going to collect mushrooms.



### **A Middle Ages Home in the 21st Century!**

After Dorin and Elisabeta got married in 1998, they set up home in an old adobe house left by his parents. The living conditions are from the middle ages, as nothing that you'll find in the house gives you the thought of the 21st century. The floor is made from down trodden earth, chickens and hens peck at the crumbs that fall from the old table. A rusty metal stove takes the place of a table, cupboard or bedside cabinet. Meanwhile the old bed has a bundle of straw covered with a mouse nibbled sponge sheet, instead of a mattress. The doors and windows do more to keep out animals than the wind or the cold. It was into these conditions that the twins Andrei and Dorel were born. The children go to school in the village and try to learn as much as they can, in spite of the really difficult conditions in which they live.



### **The Legend of Master Manole**

Elisabeta for many years had been working at a company in Beiuș. Her job is the only thing that brings money into the home other than their child allowance. It's not easy for her to commute daily the 20km each way between Rosia and Beiuș but she's conscientious even when her company did restructuring and she kept her job.

With a little money carefully put aside, they have managed to buy some construction materials. And also with the help of the church and some good willed people, they have been able to pour a foundation on which they tried to build. However due to a lack of money, the work proceeded as in the Legend of Master Manole: What they built today after a time had to be knocked down and built again so that they could move on to the next stage. So, even though they started work many years ago, the progress is barely visible.

One year ago, Elisabeta heard on Voice of the Gospel Radio about Habitat. She heard how Habitat was building homes for orphans and she immediately thought that maybe she could benefit from Habitat's help. So with courage she applied at the Habitat office and now she's looking forward to seeing her lifelong dream being fulfilled: to have a good home where she can offer her children a decent live, like the one she never had.



### **What is to be done now?**

Habitat is to pour a concrete floor over the existing foundation because the current foundation doesn't have the concrete plate that should exist in homes built these days. Then the current concrete block walls will be consolidated and we will continue in raising the walls and pouring the concrete pillars and belt. Works will then continue with the construction of the roof, the thermo-insulating and the interior and exterior finishing. All of this can be done with the help of volunteers in just 5 days! Thus in one week, a handful of people can radically change the destiny of a family.