



## Families Story



**Irina Farkas**

*"I was abandoned by my parents and I grow up in an orphanage from Beius. I attended the vocational school, garment worker, and at the age of 16 I got hired at a garment factory in Beius. But I had no home and I was sleeping wherever I could find a place: on a bench, in pubs, in abandoned buildings, at the hospital. It was very hard because I had to go to work, too."*

One time she slept on the sport court where she suffered an accident and she woke up at the hospital with both her arms broken. As she hardly had something to eat, her injuries were slowly healing. She underwent several surgeries. Because she was living in the streets, her illness got worse. On top of this, she got ulcer and peritonitis, osteoporosis and brachial plexus paralysis (she doesn't feel her arm from elbow down). All these led to invalidity pension. Irina still needs some surgery to undergo. Now she is living at a friend and she was very happy when she heard she is going to have her own home.

*"I am so excited to receive the wonderful news that I will finally have my own house. I really appreciate the fact that Habitat became aware that I am in great need of a house and that they gave me the chance to improve my life."*

*"I have never known my parents. I grew up at the Orphanage from Beius and I attended the primary school there, too. I attended the vocational school in Oradea (a town 60 km far from Beius), where I graduated as brick-layer – painter."*

After finishing school, a family from Nimaiesti (a village 3 km far from Beius), the Morar family, came to the principal of the school and asked him if he can recommend a boy to help them with the household. *"The principal recommended me and so I lived 8 years with them. I was taking care of cattle, going to the harvest, to cut the grass and doing everything else needed in a household. They provided me shelter and food, but no money"*. When he grew up, he realized that he also need money, so he had to leave them. Vasile moved to Beius where he got hired and found a place to stay.

*"It was very hard for me after I finished school, at 18 years old, as I had no place to go. I didn't know where to head on. Now I cannot believe that I will have my home. I will be able to have a family knowing that I have a place to raise my children."*



**Vasile Dana**

*"When I was 5, our parents got divorced and we were left to the care of our grandparents. But they couldn't take care of all of us, so all three of us were given to the Orphanage from Beius", says Claudia.*

*"I live in with rent in Beius with a family. I graduated school in 2004 at a high school in Beius, confectioner-cook specialization. After school I got hired at a confectionery where I met Iosif. It was December and Iosif came to the place where I was working. He came one day, and then next day ... We started to have feelings for each other and soon got in love."*

Iosif stayed with his parents and other 4 brothers in a two-room apartment in Beius. His mother was married three times. Her first husband died, the second one left home and she got divorced from the third one. All the children from these marriages were left in the care of their mother. It was very difficult for everybody. All the boys used to stay in one room and his mother and his sister in another room. Iosif decided to stay in rent, got married and lives together with Claudia.

*"We had the biggest joy since we got married when we found out that we will be the beneficiaries of a Habitat house.*

*We started our life from nothing. Slowly we managed to buy*

*what we needed. We will never forget where we started from" says Claudia. "Last year we lost a baby when it was almost three due to the working conditions. I was working in shoe factory where there were gases from the glue used for shoes."*

Now, in the new home, they hope to have children and to offer them better living conditions that they had.



**Iosif & Claudia  
Toma**



## Families Story



**Ghiongyi Horvat**

Ghyongyi was abandoned in Oradea by her parents when she was 2 years old. When she was 6, she got transferred to the Orphanage from Beius where Ghyongyi stayed until she was 18. She attended the gardening classes at the vocational school in the town of Salonta (approx. 60 km. far from Beius) for 3 years. *"After school I came back to Beius where I lived on the streets for 1 year and 8 months. I used to sleep at the railway station and knitted macramé for various women in town in order to earn my living. It was very hard during winter as gypsies used to come at the railway station, people I didn't know, so I had to sleep with one eye open. I had many sleepless nights."* remember Ghyongyi. She was lucky to find out from an orphanage colleague that there is a person in town who is willing to help the orphans. Thus she met Adi Ciorna who sheltered us for 4 years in his own home. That was the moment when she started to get free of troubles. Adi looked for a job for her. Ghyongyi started to work at a gas station as a cleaner. *"Then I started to look for a job myself in construction because this is the job I like most"*. She started to enjoy construction when she worked together with the volunteers at the first Habitat house built in Beius. Afterwards she became a close and reliable Habitat volunteer. She volunteered for Habitat during the Eclipse Build in 1999, then in Korea at a Jimmy Carter project and at small or big volunteering Habitat events across the Romania. *"Now that I will have a home, I hope that God will help me have my own family as I long for one for so long. Also I had to say that my greatest joy on a building site is working side by side with volunteers. And since I know that I will be working together with volunteers at my own house, I am sending them all my best regards and gratitude because I know how important what they are doing is!"*

Andra was abandoned at the hospital with his twin brother, andor. They were transferred from an Orphanage to another and when they were 6, Andra and andor were transferred finally to the Orphanage from Beius where they stayed until they were 20. He have graduated the vocational school, food industry specialization, and the high school, mechanics specialization. After school, Andra got hired at a local company as a laboratory assistant and after a month he took an exam and became laboratory first-assistant.

*"When I was 16, a social worker helped me and my brother find our parents. Their reaction was an unexpected one for both of us: we were kicked off and they didn't recognize us as their children."* His brother settled in a town approx. 150 km far from Beius where he got married.

*"Now that I will have my own home, I will be able to have my own family like my brother does. This is one thing I was looking for to have for a long, long time. When we were at the Orphanage in Beius we use to dream about this moment. And now I am so glad that there is somebody who is helping us be part of the society. I thank God for giving me this new chance in life."*



**Andra Mate**



**Ioan Ponta**

Ioan grew up at the Orphanage from Beius. When he was 3 years old, her mother passed away. Short after, when he was in the 1st grade, his father died too. After school, Ioan worked for a year and so at a textile factory as a mechanic. Not long after, he had to go in the army in Marghita for a year. *"It wasn't easy, but it passed. I didn't know where to go, so I went to Timisoara to one of my brothers. I started to work in construction and there I met Diana, the mother of my two daughters. After a while, she left for Germany where she had some relative in order to earn more money for the children, and I stayed home to look after our daughters. We were living in the countryside, in my parents-in-law's house and it was very hard for me without having Diana by my side. She used to come home for a couple of days, then back to Germany."* Ioan accepted the situation for a while, but he considered that family is more important than money. *"I had a discussion with Diana asking her no to go, because if she was, then I would go, too."*

Still, Diana left for Germany and Ioan decided to leave also. It was very hard for him to make this decision. *"I even wanted to make away with myself, but God saved me. The most difficult thing was to leave my children whom I couldn't take with me as I had nothing to offer them. At first, I left for a village 10 km far where I stayed at a gypsy family in extreme poverty conditions. There I met a former colleague from the Orphanage from Beius who suggested me that I should go back to Beius to rebuild my life. So, there I was, all alone in Beius again with no place to go. I was lucky that another orphan, Santa Gavril, took me to live with him. At first he didn't ask for any rent, until I found something to work. In the beginning I worked where I could, until I found the company I have been working for 3 years now. Every year I go to visit my children. I didn't have the chance to see my daughters grow under my eyes. Once, my youngest one told me: "Daddy, you are going to stay with me until my birthday, aren't you?" ... and her birthday was a couple of months distance. I couldn't stay more than a week because the money was over. Good bye was always very difficult. I would like to have my own family after I have my house. I want to bring my daughters to live with me as much as they want to."*



## Families Story

Dorina is more outspoken in the family. She mentions to us her life's story: „I was abandoned as a small child, as a baby in a baby placement center in Oradea (a city 60km from Beius) and later I spent 4 year in the Beius Orphanage. I have a brother whom I know only when I was 11 years old. Then I moved from Oradea to Beius and he was already here in the Beius institution. About my parents I know absolutely nothing. My brother Vlad became a pastor in a baptist church and moved to Timisoara (a city in Western Romania) where he married. I graduated a vocational school in Oradea (I returned for it again to Oradea after 4 years in Beius), with a specialty in shoes manufacturing. As such, I got a job in Oradea but lost it because I lost my housing, ended-up on the streets and then returned again to Beius, a smaller community. The way I lost my my inexpensive rental in Oradea was like the family owning the place returned home after a number of years and I had to leave. Couldn't find anything affordable even though I had a steady income. In Beius I returned in 2005. Initially here I was on the streets but found a job quickly. Then I got to meet Kalman and not long after we married. Presently I leave in the same space with my in-laws, Kalman's parents.”

As she speaks, Dorina is very direct and firm. One can see she had a rough life. To date, she still has major dental problems. She goes on: „Kalman's life wasn't easy either. He has 4 more brothers, they used to live in an apartment in a block of flats, this apartment was damaged by fire and they lost it. Now Kalman hopes our life will be much better, with a Habitat home and that our daughter Andrada will live safely, not having homeless experience like us.”

Then Dorina ends her brief account: „By means of this sharing, I want to thank all who made possible to benefit of this dwelling, to the volunteers that will help us build and I hope that the good Lord God will give them a lot of health and happiness in return!”

Like all orphans leaving the state institutions, Dorina had odd jobs to survive, from among home cleaning and maintenance, selling newspapers, construction or gardening. Often youngsters like her were abused different ways due to obvious vulnerability.



**Kalman & Dorina  
Balasz**



**Teodor & Marcela  
andra**

Teodor remember that when he was 12, his mother died and the father went to jail and so he was raised by an aunt (my father's sister). In 1990, his father got out of jail but he died two year later. Teodor have two older sisters who got married and who are living in other localities. „I was married once more, my my wife passed away in 2004. In 2006 I married again and last year Andrei was born, the apple of my eyes. I have been living in many rented places and now I am so glad that I will have my one home where I hope I will provide my son with good and healthy living conditions.”

Teodor and Marcela are living now in a two room apartment in a house together with his mother in law, his brother in law and his family (his wife and their three children). The andra's family lives in a small room, and his brother in law with his family and the mother in law in the other room.

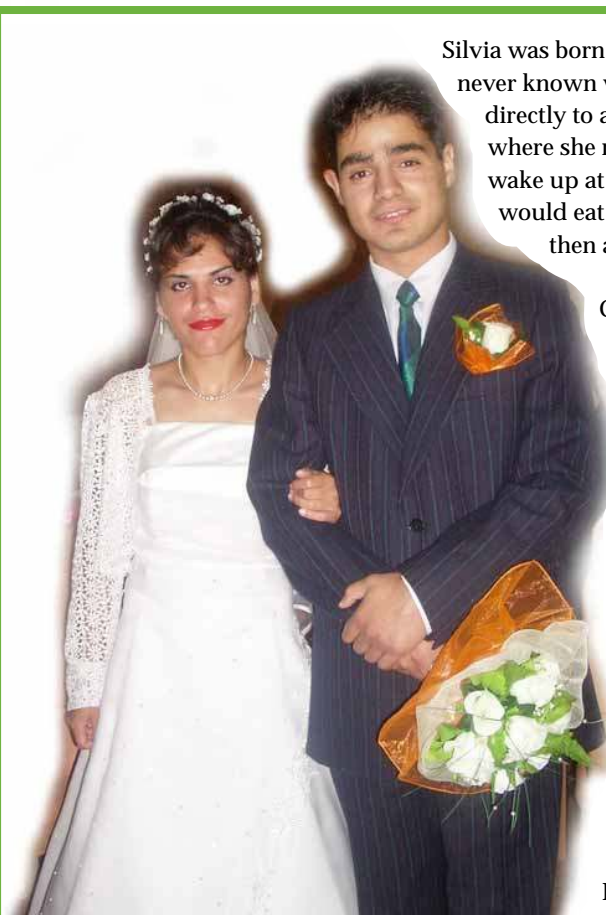
„We don't have running water and no bathroom inside the house, just a toilet in the garden. We have a wood burning stove in each room for heating and we make fire more than half a year every year.”

The andras are looking forward to having their own home, the foundation of their life. „This house will definitely help me give my family something I couldn't do so far and something I didn't have either. Our child will have his own room where he will grow health and sound.”

said Teodor with tears in the corner of his eyes.



## Families Story



**Roman & Silvia  
Covaci**

Silvia was born in Oradea and was abandoned by her parents at birth. She has never known what it's like to have parents. She was taken from the hospital directly to a care center for abandoned and abused youth in a local village, where she remained until she turned 18 years old. Her daily routine was to wake up at 7 am, eat breakfast and get ready for school. After school she would eat lunch, would be made to rest for 3 hours, do our homework and then at 10 pm in was "Lights Out" and everyone had to sleep.

At the same time, Silvia went to cooking school in Oradea. One day she heard about Good Samaritan in Beius, who proposed that she get a job with them as a cook's assistant in their restaurant. In 2004 she arrived in Beius and worked in the restaurant until it closed 2 years later. That was the hardest period of her life, when she was out of work and couldn't find a job.

She found two other jobs over time, working in various textile factories sewing and ironing cloth.

She met Roman after he arrived in Beius in 2006 from another care center he was living in. Roman's care center was a rougher place than Silvia's. The older children would beat the younger children on a whim, and the care takers would only intervene to beat them as well. Until last year, he was a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Beius for two years, learning about construction so that he could find a job on his own, while Good Samaritan found sponsors to pay him a stipend while he was learning.

In August they decided to settle down and get married. From that day on, they have lived together in a house provide for them from Good Samaritan in a village outside of Beius. "We can

*hardly wait to have a house of our own, where we can live like normal civilized people and we can start thinking about having children. We want to give them what we never had, the warmth of a parent's love and a home."*

*"I was abandoned by my parents whom I never knew who they were. I grew up at difrent Orphenage then I arrived to Beius where I stayed until I graduated the vocational school as carpenter. I worked for one year, and then I went to the army for a year. I worked for 12 years on a building site in a city from S-W Romania, but I had an accident, underwent a surgery and had to leave for another job which doesn't require physical effort." So Doru returned to Beius where he is working now as a male nurse. He had to move from one rent to another. He even lived in a small room located in the cemetery. "I stayed at the hospital and in many other places, in better or worse living conditions. I have applied for housing at the town hall for more than 10 years, but no favorable response to my file. Currently I live at the Orphanage which now is the location for a school, medical labs, shops. It's a Babel tower here I didn't have the courage to have a family, because I didn't want to move from one place to another. You can handle this by oneself, but with a family no."*

Doru remember that the most difficult time for him was after the surgery when he had couldn't work.

*"I am trying for a long time to get my own house, because now I feel like I am all tied up. If I have my own home, I feel secure for the next day, I know that I have a place to go every day. I thank the volunteers that will come to help us both in my name and in the name of the other orphans who grew up at the Orphanage from Beius and who will receive an unhoped for help. We pray God help you be able to do more good deeds like this one."*



**Doru uvic**

**BIGBUILD - 250 volunteers, one week, 10 new homes**