



### First Day of School

September 17th was an exciting day at the Ruth School as it welcomed its students back to school after summer vacation. Many excited students along with a large number of parents gathered outside, bringing flowers for teachers and bearing smiles for the beginning of the year celebration. Students were welcomed by the headmistress Virginia and Executive Director Mishu. Also introduced was Sergio, a Ruth School graduate in his second year of university. Sergio brought words of advice and encouragement to the students, who could one day follow in his footsteps.

After much anticipation, the students and their parents were dismissed to classrooms to settle in and meet their new teachers. First time attendees to the Ruth School received new backpacks, and returning students were reunited with old friends. Pray for the students, parents, teachers and staff as enthusiasm, hope and excitement once again fill the hallways of the Ruth School.



### Class 0

Following in accord with the public educational system of Romania, the Ruth School started a class 0 this year. This class is designed as a first grade preparatory year in which students are able to adjust to daily school life and build a strong foundation

before entering the first class in the following year. Class 0 meets in the Ruth School and is actively involved in the programs of the school such as chapel, afterschool activities and enrichment clubs. Currently, class 0 has twenty four students who are six years-old.



Many of these students attended the Obed Day Center last year which is now strictly for four and five year old pupils. Their classroom is in the process of being remodeled from its current state so the students have been meeting in the library of the Ruth School.



### Record Breaking Attendance

The current enrollment at the Ruth School is over 220 pupils, an increase of almost 50 students since last fall. The higher enrollment is due partly to the opening of Class 0. Many of our new students are in second and third grade and have shared that they used to sometimes attend

a public school but their friends shared with them how much they love the Ruth School, how their teachers care about them and how they have all their supplies provided for school so they can be the best students possible.

Praise God for this record high enrollment at the Ruth School. Pray for our faculty and staff as they adjust to having more students. Also, please prayerfully consider becoming a child sponsor to help support our growing school. Contact us at [studentsponsorship@projectruth.ro](mailto:studentsponsorship@projectruth.ro) for more information on how you can partner with Project Ruth to transform the life of a child living in poverty in Romania.

## Summer Day Camps

Summer in Bucharest consists of hot, long days without much to do but get into trouble for young children. A group of volunteers sought to eliminate summer boredom for six weeks this summer for 50+ Ruth School students. These volunteers were high school and college age students from the UK and USA who organized and ran day camp Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week. Ruth School students were presented with biblical truth, joyful worship and enriching activities.

Anna Holladay, Jennifer Beville, and Kasey Gray (pictured top left in collage) were among the US volunteers that lead recreation for countless hours (bottom left in collage) with energetic young men and spent time making crafts and bracelets with the girls.

### Encouraging Positive Behavior

This fall, Ruth School students are encouraged to be on their best behavior in class in order to increase their retention of knowledge and overall academic selves. The teachers spent the summer months developing 10 guiding principles of behavior for the Ruth School. Students are encouraged to follow these guidelines and are rewarded with paper points when they are exceptionally well-behaved. Each Friday, students can use their paper points to purchase items such as tickets for movie Friday in the library, candies, fancy pens, small toys and even the occasional homework pass. This program is in its early stages but the students seem to be responding well. Our staff is loving being able to reward the exceptionally well-behaved students thus reinforcing that good behavior is desired.



Above: Students bring flowers for their teachers on the first day of school.

## Gypsy Smith Student Shares in Chapel

Sergio is an 18 year old Roma man who has been coming to the Gypsy Smith School (GSS) for training ministers. At one session of GSS in 2012 we asked Sergio to give his testimony at the Chapel service held for Ruth School students (grades 1-8). Knowing how restless elementary school students can be we were concerned about how Sergio would be received. Indeed, you could have heard a pin drop!

Just a couple of years before Sergio was badly burned in the kitchen of his home. He was admitted to the burn ward along with several other burn victims. Sergio became more concerned as days and weeks passed and several of the other burn victims succumbed to their injuries and passed away. You can imagine that Sergio became depressed and anticipated his own death. Sergio's father had long prohibited anyone in the family from attending church. Yet someone visiting the burn ward shared his testimony and Sergio asked Jesus into his heart.

A few months later Sergio was released from hospital and determined that he would defy his father and go to church. He was soon baptized and became the leader of youth activities in the church. Sergio feels a calling to serve in the church. God used his testimony that day to impact the students of the Ruth School.

Our thanks to all who support ministry among the Roma through GSS and the Ruth School!

### Lord's Prayer

Every student that attends the Ruth School receives a nutritional meal. Each day at lunch over 210 mostly Roma (Gypsy) children, anticipate what is often their only hot meal of the day. Most of the children live in poverty and come from large families for whom the feeding all their children is a daily struggle.

The students have learned and often recite the Lord's Prayer before their lunch. When the next meal is not an assured event, the words "... Give us this day our daily bread," takes on added significance.

