

## COMPUTER CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

A project entitled, *School, Social, and Professional Integration of Institutionalized Children in the Community*, was developed during a PSBH workshop in Bucharest in 1999 by Mrs. Alecsandrina Broasca, General Manager of the General Direction for Children's Rights Protection in Braila. This project was the first of seven, now known as *Computer Clubs for Children*, to be launched in Romania. The initial project focused on improving the social and work skills of maladjusted children from community orphanages through workshops in carpentry, housework, handcrafts, "Gobelin" (tapestry), tailoring, shoemaking, and computers.

Originally conceived by Mr. Paul Florea, PSBH Coordinator for Romania, and Dr. Daniel Levine, Director of the Children's Help Net Foundation, and a PSBH workshop facilitator for DHF, *Computer Clubs for Children* is a joint partnership between the Romanian Andrea Foundation, the United Nations Development Program, the Children's Help Net Foundation in the USA, and the Ministry of National Education and Mobifon-CONNEX in Romania.

The establishment of these computer clubs gives children from orphanages and poor families the opportunity to develop computer skills and access the Internet, and increases their chances for future employment.

Many of the children were, at first, reluctant to use a computer, but they have now created their own Web page, with the help of the Children's Help Net representative, Dr. Daniel Levine. The children say that their participation in these computer clubs has completely changed their lives and ways of thinking.

Due to the success of this project, the Andrea Foundation and its partners hope to extend the program and attract other partners as well, in order to grant access to the Internet to as many young people as possible. The future of Romania very much depends on these children and the knowledge they gain from information technology.

Submitted by Mr. Paul Florea  
PSBH Coordinator, Romania

## ...IN UKRAINE

### SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS RESULT FROM PSBH WORKSHOP HELD IN LVIV

During a PSBH follow-up workshop in Lviv on April 5, 2001, reports were made on several successful projects.

#### Summer Windsurfing Camp for Ten Teenagers

Project leader Oleg Krystiniak and ten teenagers spent ten days in a small house on Lake PISOCHNE, where the group prepared their own meals, swam, and took windsurfing lessons. The weather was wonderful and they were able to spend each day perfecting their skills. At the end of the ten days, all of the teens could windsurf across the lake and back. Several reported that this short holiday was the best time of their lives.

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