

# The future begins in the family

Newsletter of the project "Ensuring the right of the child to a family, and his protection against violence, abuse, and neglect", implemented by EveryChild in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, and the Ministry of Education.

## Social services supporting the reform

*Valentina BULIGA, Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family:*



“The residential system reform aims at the development of community-based social services for the child and the family in difficulty. A network of 1200 social assistants works in Moldova. This is a step towards the introduction of modern practices in social assistance in the Republic of Moldova, and it considerably increased the access to social services for people from all areas, urban and rural. It’s very useful that the social assistants network provides services to all categories of the population, not only to children, because it increases the capacity of social as-

sistants to work with adults before their families enter difficulty, instead of waiting to intervene when the children get into institutional care.

MLSPF develops a variety of services as alternatives to residential care: family-type homes, foster care, extended families, temporary placement centres, etc.

Deinstitutionalization is a process that needs to be implemented entirely, making the money follow the child, consolidating the family and increasing the parents’ responsibility for their own children to the highest level”.

### Child abandonment will be subject to punishment

**The Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family will promote draft amendment of the Administrative Code to be approved by the end of this year. The amendment intends to increase responsibilities of families that neglect or abandon their children.**

According to Viorica Dumbraveanu, head of department of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, the legislative initiative will require a number of responsibilities from the local public authorities who decide on the placement identification and establishment for the children in difficulty.

### A summer camp for the most active children from Făleşti, Ungheni, and Călărași raions

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## A model of inclusive education will be piloted in schools across the country

A model of inclusive education and methodology of its piloting within the following four years was the subject of a round table discussion held by the Ministry of Education and the Lumos Foundation Moldova.

According to the methodology, support services with inclusive practices will be created at raion level and in schools, where children with special education needs will be examined by the school multidisciplinary commission, and receive the support of the teaching staff, the psychologist, psycho-pedagogue, speech therapist, etc.

The model of inclusive education has three forms of inclusion: total, partial, and occasional, and the transfer from one form to the other shall base on the child's progress. The child with special educational needs will receive assistance, according to individual plan of education aimed at the development and giving value to his potential.

### Mihail ȘLEAHTIȚCHI, minister of Education

“When we speak of socialization, we operate with three poles – school, family, and community. When one of these three factors is missing, we cannot speak about qualitative education. The great problem faced currently by the residential childcare system is that it lacks the essential – family and community environment. Not in vain, when speaking about children in raised this system, specialists operate with adjectives like stigmatized, isolated, marginalized, lacking reality, etc.

The development of inclusive education models perfectly fits the policy of the



Ministry of Education, being one of its strategic directions and priorities.

Inclusive education supposes the reform of the entire system of education. Under this principle, the system of education should accept all children. In a friendly school, a child should be accepted by

all other children, no matter whether this child can pursue general education without any difficulties, or has learning, development, or behavioural problems”.

### Valentin CRUDU, head of pre-school, primary, and mainstream secondary education Department of the Ministry of Education:



“Piloting of inclusive education means ensuring legislative coverage, organization, monitoring and evaluation of the piloting results at different stages. Upon validation of the piloted results and approval of the inclusive education model, decision shall be made on its extension at the level of the entire system of education.

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Unconditioned access to qualitative education supposes school integration of all children, regardless of their physical, intellectual, or material situation.

The prejudices of the old system lead to the separation of problematic children from family and community environment. Thus, hundreds of children with motor and intellectual deficiencies were stigmatized, segregated, isolated in residential institutions that are not able to offer them protection, care, education, and attention they need.

Approving in 2007 the National Strategy and Plan of Actions of the residential childcare system reform for 2007-2012, the Government of the Republic of Moldova assumed the responsibility to change the situation in the area, adjusting to the modern trends of educational and social inclusion of persons with special needs. Efficient reform of the residential care system can be pursued by developing and promoting alternative forms of care and inclusive education.

In 2005-2006, in about 160 institutions of mainstream education, various models of inclusive education were developed. Apart from around 4000 children who live in auxiliary residential care, there are other 990 children with special educational needs who wait to be integrated into mainstream education”.

# Children from institutions come back home



The ultimate goal of the residential care system reform is to ensure secure family environment to all children who have lived for many years in residential care. The changes launched by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the partner organization, helped scores of children come back home, to their families and communities. Inclusion of children into school and community life is carefully monitored by the evaluation team of the project.

Recently, the Department of pre-school, primary, and mainstream secondary education, along with the Ministry of Education Implementation Unit of the framework plan of transformation, supported by UNICEF, in partnership with CCF Moldova, Lumos, and EveryChild, performed several monitoring visits to families in Edineț, Dondușeni, Florești, and Ungheeni, where children from residential schools were integrated.

The specialists wanted to get the information on the spot, regarding the situation of the children reintegrated into the biological or extended family, placed in substitute family-type services (foster care, family-type homes, etc.).

Monitoring visits were made to 14 biological or extended families where 23 children were reintegrated. Besides, 5 foster care families, 1 family-type home, 6 schools implementing inclusive education, 2 community centres were visited.



***Natalia NEAGU, depute head of the Social Development Department of State Chancellery, member of the evaluation team, spoke to us about the results of the evaluation:***

*“The monitoring visit revealed very good examples of reintegration. Discussions with the social assistants, teachers, and parents showed that these children have better school records and communicate easier than in the residential institutions. Their psycho-emotional state also considerably improved.*

*In my opinion, for the change to run smooth, the reform and its results should be made well-known to the public. This information is necessary not only*

*to public officers, but also to teachers and parents who have concerns regarding the child’s integrated into the school, family, social environment. Besides, parents, teaching staff, social assistants, community doctors need to be trained.*

*This reform starts from the child’s best interest, and all activities are pivoted on it. The child needs a family, while the residential institution is not able to meet this demand.”*

# Summer camp for the most active children from Făleşti,

Several months ago the Advisory Board of Children (ABC), created within a project of EveryChild Moldova, started its work in Călărași, Ungheni, and Făleşti raions. The goal of these structures is to provide the children with a platform on which they can express their opinions and realize their own projects that meet their interests and needs. The ABC members participate in the decisions consultation process and in the monitoring of social policies in their communities.

About 50 members of advisory boards of children had an opportunity between June 27 and July 1 to learn what child participation in decision-making means, to exchange ideas, and to have fun at a summer camp organized for them in Vadul lui Vodă.

One of the results of the summer camp is the regulation of activity of the ABC – a document that will facilitate the participation process. At the summer camp, participants worked on an informative plan covering the ABC activity. This promotional material will be distributed in schools and mayoralties.



# Ungheni, and Călărași raions



will be included in the process of needs assessment of children in care or at risk of being separated from their families, and in the development and monitoring of local policies and programs focused on child rights protection.

Natalia Semeniuc, child participation consultant of EveryChild said that the ABC members were selected within a competition announced via local mass-media, where tens of children and adolescents applied.

*“The boards will act as partners of the Social Assistance and Family Protection Departments/Sections, within the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and local programs concerning children and young people”,* pointed out Natalia Semeniuc.

The ABCs include children between 12 and 17 years old, with or without experience of residential or other forms of care (fostering, family-type homes, guardianship), or whose parents



work abroad, or children with special needs, Roma children, and children from community schools.

It is planned that the members of Advisory Boards of Children regularly attend the meetings of local councils where decisions will be made concerning the future of children. They will come up with recommendations and proposals for the improvement of the child protection system. Young advisors



## The sad story of 6 siblings from Albinețul Nou village, Fălești raion, who ended up in the street after their mother died of cancer, entered deep in the souls of people.

EveryChild Moldova, in collaboration with "Teleradio Moldova" Company, launched a public awareness and fund-raising campaign to buy a house for them.

Journalists from Radio Moldova organized a charity concert "Help them have a house of their own", to support the Șeremet brothers and sisters.

We remind our readers that the Șeremet siblings, the eldest of whom is 17 and the youngest is 4 years old, live currently in their aunt's house in Albinețul Nou village, Fălești raion. There are only three small and dark rooms in the house that lacks elementary living conditions.

Angela and Alexandru Nicolaenco, the owners of the house, who became the guardians of the siblings, say that they would be glad to offer these children the necessary conditions, but they have been struggling poverty for years. None of the family members has a permanent job, and the only income of the family comes from social payments. Two of the family members are persons with special needs requiring medical care.

The journalists, artists, and people of good will expressed solidarity with the pain of these children, and contributed within the limits of their possibilities, to the raising of the necessary amount.

**Alexandru DOROGAN,**  
General director Radio Moldova

Today the Radio House announced the day of the Șeremet family from Albinețul Nou, Fălești. We all know that nobody can replace the parents, nobody will ever be able to replace the mother. We also know that together we can help an orphan family get their own nest. Together we can make a home. Nothing is new under the sky for our people, because our homes were always built with the help of those around us. The young always used to give a helping hand to each other – neighbours, friends, relatives, the whole village would pitch in. In this sense,

# Journalists and artists

**Ajută-mă să am o casă**

**Șapte copii orfani de mamă și abandonați de tată au rămas pe drumuri.**

Un destin familial tragic, de care ei nu sunt responsabili, i-a făcut să uite prea de timpuriu de jocurile vesele ale copilăriei. Nu au cui spune mamă și tată și tot ce au sunt amintirile frumoase de pe timpurile în care erau toți împreună.

Aceasta este povestea tristă a șapte frați din satul Albinețul Nou, r-nul Fălești.

**Tu poți să le oferi SIGURANȚA să rămână ÎMPREUNĂ**

Banca de economii fil. N 28 Fălești, BECOMD 2x 648, C/B 280 96484 988, Cont de transfer 986364, Tutore Nicolaenco Angela, tel. 0259 70336

Radio Moldova has definitely relied on this good old tradition of our people, when nobody stays indifferent to other people's need.

The foundation of the house, I think, has already been laid by our colleagues at the radio, who contributed to this through their reports. Now we are trying to build the walls as well. Maybe today we will manage to collect the necessary money for a door that will be open to friends, relatives, or, maybe, for a window through which these children will be able to see the world – with other eyes, happier and more optimistic.

I am thinking of another performance that we could organize for the Șeremet family – and that time we want them to come to this show from their own home.

**Iraida BĂNZARI,**  
Depute head of Fălești raion

We welcome this noble intention of the organizers of this performance to support these children now that they need our help most of all. Here, in Fălești, we managed to do something for them, but, unfortunately, our budget does not allow us purchase a house for them, a nest for this family.

We would have definitely been able to find other families for these children, but we did not want to separate them. Nor did we want to take them away from their own community, as it is their own fortress, the place where their relatives and friends live, who will continue helping them.

By now, with the efforts of the authorities

## supporting the Șeremet family

and some organizations, we have managed to raise 24 thousand lei. However, this money is insufficient. This is why we appeal to you, asking you to give a look to these six children who have lost their mother. The family that instituted guardianship of these children also is in a very difficult situation. Their house has a surface of only 34 square metres, and one of the children has disability.

### **Anișoara PUICĂ, singer**

Life is ephemeral, and this is why, as long as we live on this earth, we need to give love and treat with compassion those people who are sadder than us. It is true happiness when your parents are alive, not just in your thoughts, which is the case of this and many other families. He who has parents is not lost yet, he who has parents still has past, said a poet. The greatest and most important thing a person has is parents and children.

It is natural that the parents rejoice of their children's achievements, pray to the Heavens when their child is in difficulty, and forgive their child, when he makes mistakes.

I am coming with a donation on behalf of my family, and I promise that I will continue staying around them, at a holiday, or when I have possibility and time.

### **Yan RAIBURG, singer**

I didn't hesitate even for a moment, when I was offered to participate in this charity show. I have tried all my life to stay



along with people, to help them with what I can do best – with singing. I am very glad that I can help somebody with my music.

I personally had a happy childhood, as I had parents and grandparents with me. I regret that many children do not have an opportunity to live in atmosphere of love and affection that only a family can provide to them.

### **Daniela LEAHU, fundraising manager, EveryChild Moldova**

EveryChild launched this campaign together with Teleradio-Moldova Company, because we believe that the child's future is in the family, as only the family can give love and care so necessary for the children to grow up and develop in harmony. And because the symbol of a family is a house, we want to join the efforts of all people of good will, so that we all can help these children get roof over their heads and stay together, a united family.

Any person with big soul can make a donation on the following account: Banca de economii fil. N 28 Falesti, BECOMD 2x 648,C/B 280 96484 988, Transfer acc. No. 986364, Tutor Nicolaenco Angela.

The house will be bought in the same community, so that the children from the Șeremet family are not taken away from their relatives and friends. Persons who wish to make a cash donation or contribute with household materials, can dial the phone number of the Mayoralty of Albinețul Vechi community: 0259 70 336, social assistant Maria Chelianu.



# A loving family for a child who is alone in the world

**A**driana, a 16 year-old teenager, is the sense of life for foster carer Nadejda Motilică. The girl came into Nadejda's house after the reorganization of the auxiliary residential school where the girl studied along with other children who, in fact, did not suit the statute of the institution and were deinstitutionalized. For some reasons, Adriana could not return to her own family, and that is why she was placed in foster care.

factor for her school and social integration. The girl was accepted with understanding and warmth in the village where the majority of the inhabitants are former pupils of Mrs. Motilică, and where everybody knows and respects their teacher. Since Adriana came to the community, she managed to make lots of friends in the school and in the area she lives.

Being absolutely healthy, from the mental point of view, the teenage girl ended up in this special school for the mere reason of school underperformance.

***"I don't need anything, but to know that she is healthy. I hope to help her get a profession and find her own way in life..."***

"I don't need anything, but to know that she is healthy. I hope to help her get a profession and find her own way in life", says Mrs. Nadejda, hoping that Adriana has a beautiful future.

Nadejda Motilică has been a teacher of biology for over forty years. Several years ago, when her both sons died in a terrible car accident, she decided to become a foster carer. Last summer the woman lost her husband... The thought that she can be useful to somebody gives her forces to live.

Adriana started her life from the scratch in the foster carer's family. Very patient and sensitive as usual, Nadejda makes small but confident steps on the way of covering the girl's educational gaps. She started with elementary life skills that Adriana never got in the residential facility.

In a couple of months she learned more than she was able to learn in several years of institutional care.

"I learned to wash the dishes, I know how to cook a soup. I feel very well in my new family. I have lots of beautiful things. I didn't have anything of my own in the residential school. Sometimes when I gave my clothes to the laundry wash, I would never get them back, and in a couple of days I would see other girls wearing my jeans and blouse", says Adriana.

"I am very glad the girl is very open and accepts all I tell her. I hope that All-Good God help me give a much better way she can follow in her life", says Mrs. Motilică.

The fact that her carer works in the school Adriana attends, is a favourable

