

HAND OF HELP EDUCATIONAL MEDIA PROJECT

Motto: Paving the way for a promising future....

JUSTIFICATION (project description, needs addressed by the project, Hand of Help expertise in designated field): Hand of Help is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization, recently declared the largest independent orphanage in Romania, providing continuous help to orphans, widows and the impoverished since 1986. Recent international studies have shown that a child that does not have access to a computer, proper skill-forming software or the possibility to use mass-media outlets for research, suffers a huge impediment in career placing, in today's competitive job market. Even more so, children that are institutionalized often are seen as having a stigma and their chances of finding employment as under-qualified are slim to none.

Hand of Help aims not only to raise the children in a harmonious environment, providing for their basic needs, but also to prepare them for the future, that they may tend to themselves and not become a strain on social services. It is our experience that with proper motivation and support, orphan children that would otherwise never achieve educational excellence, are able to achieve just as much as children raised in a normal family setting. We strongly believe that with the proper technological resources the percentage of children who could pursue higher education would significantly grow, our project offering them the opportunity to lead a life independent of social support.

The Hand of Help Educational Media Project is aimed not only to assist the children residing at the orphanage, but would also be made available to the children of the community that are lacking the same resources. The effects of this project can go far beyond the orphanage walls, even challenging the Botosani community, known as one of Romania's poorest counties with the highest unemployment rate, to thrive for more, thus helping the local stability and economy.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: The project is intended to establish a Media center with free access to material resources, information and training to all orphans residing in the local community in order to prepare them for today's labor market and to offer them the chance to a better education and thus to a better life.

TARGET GROUP: 80 children of the Hand of Help Orphanage, ages 3-19, as well as children from the local Botosani community.

RESOURCES:

A. HUMAN RESOURCES

Staffing and Administration required for the project:

1. ***One Project Manager*** : DR. DANIEL BOLDEA
Already on staff

2. ***One IT specialist***
Cost per month: 500\$
Cost per year: 6000 \$

3. ***Three teachers***
Cost per month: 500\$
Cost per year: 6000\$
Total cost: 18000\$

B. EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL RESOURCES

1. ***24 personal computers, 8 for each of the 3 media centers***
Cost per unit: 800\$
Total cost: 19200\$

2. ***3 printers***
Cost per unit: 1000\$
Total cost: 3000\$

3. ***various computer programs***: Microsoft, Rosetta Stone language programs, visual art programs, photography programs, music programs
Total cost: 5000\$

4. ***27 desks, 27 chairs, 3 bookcases***
Cost per desk unit: 200\$
Total cost: 5400\$
Cost per chair unit: 100\$
Total cost: 2700\$
Cost per bookcase unit: 250\$
Total cost: 750\$

5. High speed internet connection installation and monthly service fee

Cost for installation: 300\$

Monthly service fee: 80\$

Total cost of service fee per year: 960\$

TOTAL COST OF PROJECT: 61310\$

Hand of Help Orphanage will provide the three rooms needed for the media centers at no cost, facilitating the use of these centers by the orphans of Hand of Help and also by the other children from poor local families who are already familiar to the location of Hand of Help Orphanage

EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT: The project will be evaluated both globally and on case by case basis. Firstly, the teachers shall evaluate each child at the beginning of their training experience and reevaluate at the end of each semester. Secondly, we will also evaluate the child's school grades as they get more and more involved in using the new media centers. Ultimately, the percentage of the children seeking higher education will be assessed and should grow significantly with every passing year of project implementation.

SUSTAINABILITY AND FUNDING AT THE END OF THE GRANT PERIOD:

After the first year of project implementation, the Hand of Help Orphanage shall include the cost of maintaining the media project in their annual education budget as well as pursue sponsorship from the city's local budget. We intend on encouraging beneficiaries of the program, upon graduating and seeking employment, to sponsor the program that made such a contribution in their own lives. We would like to encourage companies to offer free trial and/or permanent software and in return acknowledge them as sponsors on our official website, with logos and links to their activity.