



SAVE THE DATE

April 17 – RCE’s Spring Walk A Thon

Manu (pictured here the year he came into RCE’s care in 2007) was born into a very poor family in a Roma community– his mother died when he was two and his father was so violent the local authorities removed Manu soon after. But life did not get better for him for some time. Manu continued to live in an environment where he experienced abuse and neglect until RCE took over the state orphanages (cottages) where he was living and turned them into our recuperative homes called Darius Houses.



Early trauma, and some mental disability, left Manu unable to speak. Elena Dudas was his first teacher at Sunshine School and she taught him how to communicate with limited sign language and even speak a few words. Today, Manu continues to add words to his limited vocabulary and he is learning to write and do simple math. Carmen Bocsa, (Carmen and her husband Mihai direct RCE’s domestic adoption program), and Elena will accompany Manu on his big adventure – a trip to America for the Walk a Thon.

This year the Walk a Thon will benefit Darius House and RCE’s newest program – Amy’s House. The Walk–Run–Roll– Bike a Thon will be held at the Temporary Road Pavilion on the W & OD Trail in Reston, VA from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (More details to follow on the web site.)

Amy’s House is RCE’s next step in rescuing abandoned children with disabilities. It will open in May, in a remodeled existing house on the RCE campus. Now 15, Manu will be one of the first young people to benefit from this program that is named after Amy Boyle, the beautiful 12–year old daughter of RCE Board Member, Hannah (and Mike) Boyle. Amy battled a brain tumor that finally took her life but never her spirit. She had a simple trust in Jesus Christ and unique bond with the Darius House kids – because she understood what it means to struggle with a fragile, broken body as they do.

Amy got to know Teo, a little boy from Darius House, when he visited the US with his adopted mother, RCE Director, Mariana Fasie, for the 2007 Walk a Thon. Teo suffers

from aggressive, terminal muscular dystrophy. Amy and Teo became friends and she prayed for him every night as long as she had a voice – then her father gave words to her prayers for him.



Here they are enjoying getting to know each other in 2007.

Amy's House will provide a family environment for Darius House teens (that reach the age of 15 and have not been adopted) to prepare them to one day live and work in the community – not shut away in an institution.

House parents will nurture the young people in the Lord and teach them life skills like cooking, cleaning, and shopping so that age 18 they can 'graduate' to live independently or semi-

independently and enjoy the dignity of work.

Some of RCE's partnership churches have already expressed willingness to welcome Amy's House graduates into their congregation and provide limited support as needed.

– RCE's Job Center (to open in **2011**) will provide opportunity for Amy's House, and other disabled young people, to gain real work experience and a transferable job skill. The center will include contract work from businesses, a bakery & flower garden (to grow, arrange, and sell).

In addition to these exciting new and future plans we are happy to see the progress of Darius House and Sunshine School children today.



RCE's dedicated staff continues to do a great job exposing children from tragic backgrounds to God's wonderful world. The Darius House children enjoyed some exciting activities over their winter holiday break, including a trip to the forest for the older boys to play paint ball games.

Manu is the happy

'soldier' on the far right. It is truly amazing to see the metamorphosis of these kids from having very stereotypical institutional behavior (rocking, aggressive or withdrawn) to playing sports, going to school, attending church and even playing paintball. It is nothing short of miraculous.

Thank you for your prayers, and financial support that make it possible for RCE to rescue and restore these needy children in Romania. Come and meet Manu, Elena & Carmen on April 17th!