



**We bring new information and
put it into practice**

**Our Mission:
An active life for everyone!**

2023

Overview

In 2023, the Ancora Salvării Foundation continued its work in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine, focusing on counselling, social support, inclusion and the dissemination of specialist knowledge for people with disabilities, chronic illnesses and social vulnerabilities. Our activities combined direct support to individuals and families, community-based programmes, professional training and humanitarian assistance.

Counselling and Information Centre “Joy Park” Strunga, Iași County, Romania

Mission and Activities

The Counselling and Information Centre “Joy Park” in Strunga provides counselling, support and information to people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, individuals with social needs, their families and relevant institutions. Services include:

- Individual and family counselling
- Support groups for parents and siblings
- Socialisation and recreational activities
- Activities supporting the development of cognitive, psychomotor and independent-living skills
- Educational and awareness-raising events such as workshops, courses, conferences and public initiatives addressing disability and social inclusion

The centre is located in a natural setting next to a forest and includes a social centre, playground with trampoline, covered outdoor swimming pool and terrace. It offers a welcoming environment where participants and their families can combine recreation with professional support and personal development.

Ongoing Programme

- Weekly personal-development activities for children and young people with disabilities, learning difficulties or behavioural challenges
- Monthly support-group meetings for parents
- Consultancy visits to educational institutions
- Home visits providing counselling to people with special needs

Key Activities in 2023

- *19 January* – Participation in the “*Voice of the Community*” project, funded by the Active Citizens Fund Romania
- *1-8 March* – Creative workshops (including *Mărțișor* spring workshops)
- *20 March* – Assessments using the C-BiLLT test for preschool children with disabilities at special kindergarten in Fălticeni
- *28 March* – Educational visits and inclusive play activities for pupils from special and mainstream schools
- *3 April* – Organisation of Autism Awareness Day events in cooperation with local educational institutions Tg.Frumos
- *11 April* – Meeting at city hall Iași with other organisations about suitable care for people with autism
- *20 April* – Seasonal celebrations for Easter
- *3 May* – Transport from foundation Sarfath Netherlands
- *4-6 May* – Paediatric physiotherapist Hester at special kindergarten Fălticeni and Strunga
- *10 May* – Recreational outings for children with disabilities and their families from special school from Tg. Frumos
- *1 June* - Seasonal celebrations for Children's Day
- *29 June* – Hosting groups of young people with autism from partner organisations
- *30 June* – Ending meeting for the project: “*Vocea Comunității – Voce of the community*”
- *11-14 July* – Summer camp activities organised by volunteers
- *31 July* – Excursion for children with disabilities to a Zoo and monastery
- *17 August* – Excursion for children with disabilities to a castle and monastery
- *18 August* – workshop of crafts and play for mothers and children with disabilities in Strunga
- *12, 13 + 16 September* – Introduction of the FloorPlay method through workshops and book presentations in Iași and Suceava counties
- *27 November* – workshop for National Day of Romania
- *5 December* – Workshop for Saint Nicolas
- *8 December* – Presentations on augmentative and alternative communication in special education settings
- *18 December* – Seasonal celebrations for Christmas

Multifunctional Social Centre “Ancora” Bălți – Sadovoe, Moldova

Programme Development

In Moldova, activities focused on community support, counselling and skills development. Regular activities included:

- Church-based and camp-based events
- Home visits providing counselling in towns and villages
- Small-group activities organised at the camp, in public parks or at the foundation’s office

A major achievement in 2023 was the completion of renovations to the camp house in Sadovoe. During the summer, the facility was actively used for small-group programmes organised by age or place of residence. Skills-based activities, such as learning to sew using a sewing machine, proved particularly successful.

Key Activities in 2023

- *15 January* – Seasonal celebration for Christmas
- *11 February* – Workshops at the Faculty of Social Work in Bălți and with youth volunteers from the church Vifania
- *11 March* - Seasonal celebration for Spring
- *19 April* - Seasonal celebrations for Easter
- *26-29 April* – Paediatric physiotherapist Hester has evaluated children and youngers from Glodeni, Rîscani and Bălți.
- *2 June* – Children’s Day celebration at Vifania Camp
- *30 June + 1 July* – First camp days and group activities
- *12 August* – Support groups for mothers at our office in Bălți
- *30 September* – Community play days in public parks
- *18-22 October* – Volunteer visits from partner organisation GAIN from the Netherlands
- *21 October* – Seasonal celebration for Autumn
- *19 November* – Home visits in cooperation with local social worker from Glodeni
- *16 December* – Seasonal celebrations for Christmas
- *26 + 27 December* – Christmas carol visits to individuals unable to attend group celebrations

Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine

Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the Ancora Salvării Foundation has been actively involved in humanitarian assistance. Support was provided both to refugees in Romania and Moldova and to internally displaced persons and vulnerable populations within Ukraine.

Through established and newly formed partnerships, the foundation organised humanitarian transports and support activities throughout 2023, including:

- 22-24 March – Deliveries of aid to organisations supporting people with disabilities and war-affected populations in Odesa
- 24 April – Assistance to vulnerable families through local churches and community networks in Gorbova (Sinihău), Chernivtsi (Cernăuți) County
- 29 April – Hosting refugee groups for respite and recreational activities
- 9 + 10 May – Receiving delegation from Ukrainian church from Kyiv in Strunga to distribute aid
- 16 + 17 May – Receiving delegation from disability organisation for deaf peoples from Khmelnytskyi in Strunga to distribute aid
- 18-20 July – Delivering aid to regions Odesa, and through post office to Poltava
- 28 July – Organising recreational outings for young refugees
- 22 + 23 November – Delivering aid to region Transcarpathia, at Romanian speaking villages

Knowledge Transfer and Capacity Building

In addition to direct services, the foundation invested in the translation, implementation and dissemination of specialist knowledge:

- Continued development of the online platform nevoispeciale.ro, with particular attention to Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)
- Translation and publication of the handbook on the FloorPlay method for the Romanian market
- Organisation of introductory FloorPlay workshops with visiting specialists from the Netherlands
- Ongoing professional exchange regarding developments in the C-BiLLT assessment tool
- Initiation of translations into Russian to support activities in Moldova and Ukraine

The foundation remains committed to respecting participants' mother tongues and cultural contexts, irrespective of geopolitical circumstances.

Closing Statement

The Ancora Salvării Foundation believes that every individual is unique and valuable. In 2023, we continued to work towards an inclusive society in which people with disabilities and social vulnerabilities can lead active, meaningful lives, supported by professional care, community engagement and international cooperation.

Learning of
new skills

Activities in group



Equality

Enjoyment

Hope for the future

To be unique is valuable!!!