Truckloads of good deeds!

Author: Vanessa Von der Muhll
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The Scouts of Romania, have recently initiated a fund-raising and campaign in aid of 112 families who are victims of the severe flooding that has recently affected the country.

The area around Tecuci has been the most affected by the disastrous September floods, which caused great damage in the eastern part of the country. There, over 600 families are either homeless or have suffered great material loss.

In honour of the Scout Law (A Scout is a friend to all), Scouts all over the country have joined forces to give a helping hand to all those in need, as winter draws closer and the situation has not shown improvement.

The call of the Scouts from Tecuci was heard and the idea quickly spread all over the country.

On September 20, collecting centres were opened inside the capital city Bucharest, as well as other cities: Cluj-Napoca, Rimnicu Valcea, Tirgu Mures and Brasov, along with the opening of a bank account for other financial support and donations.

The Scouts managed to raise far more than expected, sorting and packing all kinds of donations, from clothing to blankets, from household items to furniture and stationery items.

On the morning of October 21st, around 7 a.m., on rainy day, two huge trucks made available by the Constabulary service headed towards Tecuci, packed after only one day and filled with good deeds!

?Could someone possibly imagine how it is to have nothing left? NOTHING at all! To see the high water level and loads of houses being completely erased from the face of the Earth?All one?s life savings gone in just one night... This is what motivated me to coordinate this project, because I knew that Scouts really can make a difference!? said Iuliana Birtea, the project coordinator. ?Scouting is much more than hiking and mountain climbing, it?s about being a part of the community, making a difference in society, helping out where you can and not expecting others to do it for you!? she added.

?Words cannot express the joy of a 6 year-old who opened the front door and was simply amazed by the fact that someone actually came to bring him sweets and clothing? says Carina, an 18 year old Rover Scout. ?I am proud to be a Scout and to have been able to help these people in need.?

Thanks to the large quantity of clothes as well as other items, a second transportation of goods has been organised for the next weekend and will have two destinations: Tecuci and Nicore?ti. The campaign has extended its term to last as long as supplies keep coming in. Scouts will continue to collect necessary items and medicine, and they are also intending to put up a social/helping tent, equipped with a stove and a washing machine.

The Scouts of Romania want to thank everyone that have made this campaign possible, the volunteers that have eagerly taken part in different stages of the campaign, generous sponsors and donors, to everyone that has done their bit into making this dream possible.

In this, the Centenary year of Scouting, it's wonderful to see Scouts taking such initiatives and making a real difference at a grass roots level. Romania Scouts are actively involved in the global Gifts for Peace project and this campaign is yet another demonstration of their commitment to making a difference in the lives of their communities.

More details on the development of the campaign and on how you can still make a difference are to be found at www.sinistrati.info

By Ioana Sandu and Radu Seuche

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