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QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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A SPONSOR'S HEART

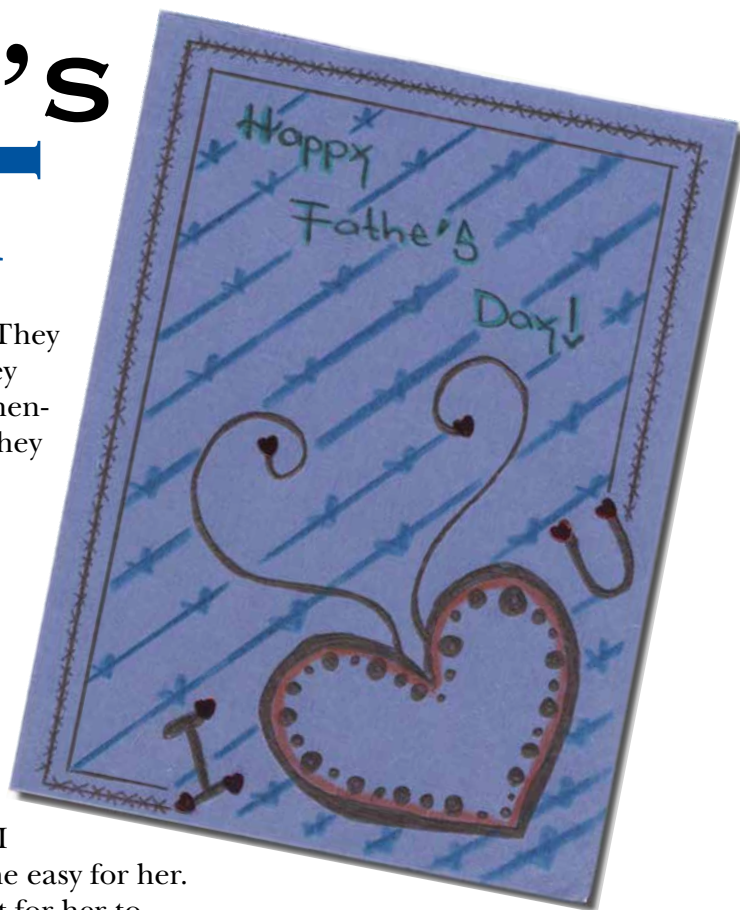
I have a little card sitting on one of the bookshelves in my office. It's a rather small card made of a piece of blue construction paper. The card has no value in and of itself and has never been part of a store's inventory, but to me it contains a treasure. I got it sometime in July and I see it every morning as I come into my office. This is a very special card. It has a beautifully decorated heart in the lower right corner, and a banner saying, "I ♥ You."

I need to tell you why this card is so special. It came from a child I love very much. A child that calls me "Papi" (daddy), a title I don't wear carelessly. No, I didn't get it from my young daughter, but it came from an equally special child, a lovely young lady my wife and I sponsor in one of ICC's projects.

Most of the children who come to ICC have endured incredible abuse and neglect. They have been hurt and abandoned by those who were supposed to love and care for them unconditionally. One day they found themselves completely forsaken

and in the street. They slept whenever they could. They ate whenever they could. They cried, but no one heard them. They pleaded, but no one cared. Love was a word without meaning. So when my little sponsored girl tells me she loves me, it means a lot to me because I know it didn't come easy for her. It was very difficult for her to trust again. It was hard for her to believe that my wife and I could love her. After all, before coming to ICC, no one had.

We have been with our sponsored child in the children's village where she lives, and she knows how much we love her. She also knows how much the house parents love her. She was a very small child when we first met her and it has been such a blessing to see her grow and develop. She has a very healthy attitude now. Every once in a



while we get little notes from her telling us how much she appreciates what we do for her. We are grateful to the Lord for the blessing this child has been in our lives, and I look forward to her little glitter-laden cards with decorative hearts that say, "I ♥ You."



Joel Reyes
Director of Public Relations

A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

For many years I've served as the administrator of ICC's project in Romania. The work we do for the children in our care can be rewarding and challenging. Our staff work long hours and expend much physical and emotional energy. Sometimes the struggle seems too much, and it's difficult to see any progress being made in our children's lives. However, there are times when we do see the precious results. When that happens we realize that God is at work and blessing the project here. To give an example of this, I would like to tell you about two of our children, Andrei and Elena. They are siblings.

After their natural parents were arrested, Andrei and Elena's grandmother cared for them for a while. After a period of time their grandmother asked the authorities to care for them. Eventually they were brought to the ICC Romania receiving center. At that time, Elena was two years old and Andrei was three and a half. In 2003 they became two of the first four children who were transferred from the receiving center to our first children's home. The children have grown up and thrived within this home.

In 2007, the children were given the opportunity to meet their grandmother once again. They were very eager to meet her. After their visit, they did not want to return to live with her. Elena believes that it is very important to stay with ICC, otherwise she has no chance to continue her studies and that's a very important thing in her life.

If you were to meet Andrei he would greet you with a wonderful smile. He has many other good qualities as well and is an excellent student. Two years ago he was accepted into the Adventist Theological School [similar to an academy] in Bucharest. He continues his studies there.

This year Elena is following in her brother's footsteps at the same school he attends. Although she considers herself as a girl that doesn't like challenges, she prepared and managed to pass the entrance exams. This is no small accomplishment as many applicants are turned away each year. However, Elena is an excellent student. Every year since the first grade, she has been the top student in her class and has received awards for her performance in school. Andrei and Elena are both very friendly and have good relations with school mates and children from the ICC village.

There are some moments when it is quite evident that the education these siblings have received at ICC has made a difference in their behavior. Here are some examples.

- A few years ago, the children's natural mother sent each of them an amount of money to use however they wanted. Andrei and Elena decided to spend it for the entire ICC family, for a short vacation at the seaside.
- When Andrei prepared for the admission exam at the Adventist Theological School he had to take a test on religion. The teachers were amazed at his knowledge. Then, the first week that Andrei was at the school he impressed the teachers and classmates when he found a wallet with a big amount of money in the school park. He gave it to one of the teachers to return it to the owner. Andrei was given special recognition for his honesty.



Andrei and Elena find a new home.

Living by the Word

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16 (ESV)

- This summer after Elena passed her entrance exam she was part of a group of our older children who attended a youth camp organized by the church. After the children returned the instructor at the camp called and said that he was amazed at our children's preparation and knowledge. He said that not many of the children from Adventist families have the same knowledge.
- One day a house mother was walking down the street with some of the ICC children. At a street corner they meet an ex-priest who started to tell them that Sunday is God's day. Andrei listened to him, and then he told the priest, "The Bible says the Sabbath is God's day." The priest asked him: "How do you know that?" Andrei answered: "From the Bible. If you want I will show you." But the priest ran away.

These incidents encourage those of us who are involved in this project to see that our efforts are not wasted. There are positive results even though we can't always see them.

Elena believes that God gave her a second chance for realizing her goals in life. "The most important things we have received from ICC," she says, "are confidence and love. The people who influenced me the most were the social parents we spent the most time with. They showed us God's character in a beautiful way."

Andrei also believes that the most important thing in his life is religion. "If I hadn't lived in this Christian environment, I would probably have ended in a mental hospital. This environment saved me...."

Although they have questions about their future, Andrei and Elena trust that God will work in their lives.

Here at our ICC project in Romania we continue to depend on your prayers and generous financial donations. Thank-you for all you continue to do to help us in our work.

May God Bless You,
Gabriela Costache
ICC Romania Administrator



Andrei and Elena then and now.

WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS!

ICC is adding new items to our online catalog! As of October 1st, you will be able to purchase quality hats and mugs branded with the ICC logo. These new hats and mugs are noteworthy additions to our catalogue. Remember, all proceeds from the sale of these items is applied to the budgets of our children's programs.

We've been working hard finding items that our ICC family would appreciate for their personal use or to give as meaningful gifts. What better way to support "His Kids" than to get a great gift for yourself or a loved one or friend? Plus, and most important, the children of ICC will benefit from any and all of your purchases.

Please make your order from our online catalog today!



<http://catalog.forhiskids.org/>

Custom Gift Cards From ICC

A young lady who recently worked here at ICC HQ is also a talented artist. She created—especially for ICC—five drawings of our children that we have made into illustrated gift cards and note cards.

Each card will be printed with one of the five different drawings. All five drawings will be included in each set of cards. For your donation of a *minimum of \$20, you will receive a set of ten "special occasion" gift cards. A set of ten note cards would be a *minimum donation of \$15. The interiors of the cards are blank so you may write a personal message of your choice.

To order your cards contact Jenny Reyes at ICC by emailing her at jenny@forhiskids.org, or by calling (800) 422-7729. You may also order our cards online at www.forhiskids.org/donation.php. Be sure to type either "Gift Cards 2013" or "Note Cards 2013" in the description field when ordering online.

Thanks for all you do for "His Kids!"



** Receipts for your donation will be based upon IRS stipulations.*