



Hotel Stefanie Schick-Hotels Betriebs GmbH  
Taborstraße 12  
1020 Wien  
Austria

08/12/2023

## Your sponsorship for SOS Children's Village Bucharest

Dear Team Hotel Stefanie,

In the SOS Children's Village, the children had an amazing summer and autumn filled with fun and educational activities! They are now preparing for Christmas with much enthusiasm. I am going to tell you three wonderful stories focused on tradition and its importance. It helps us create stronger bonds and memories that will last forever.

All names have been changed due to data privacy.

### — Football matches are filled with laughter and friendship

When passionate children meet and give their best, something beautiful comes out. That is what happened during the National Football Game, where children aged 12 to 18 trained and then met to play against children from other non-governmental organizations. For most of them, it was a great opportunity to visit Bucharest and to train with a professional football trainer. At first, they were quite shy, but, with the help of their trainer, they gained confidence and became more enthusiastic about the game.

#### May the best team win

Vali, aged 12, was so happy to participate in this project. At first, he was shy about being the youngest one in the group and would often avoid getting the ball to score a goal, but after a week of training and interacting with his siblings, he gained confidence. At the football match, he scored not one, but two goals! It was fantastic seeing him so happy and proud of himself. Everybody congratulated him and his team.

'It's such a beautiful memory! And I had the best time. I can't wait to play again and win a big trophy!' shares Vali with a big, proud smile.

He is now dreaming of being part of a big football team and becoming a professional football player. The village team encourages him to do his best and keep dreaming big. Vali is one of the 90 children in our care who can pursue his dreams while experiencing fun, exciting and unforgettable moments in his life.



A wonderful time with beautiful memories

## — 'A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.' – William Arthur Ward

Music, dance and fun activities, that's what FestiSat was all about! The children in our care from the villages in Bucharest, Cismadie and Hemeiusi travelled to Bucharest to celebrate and have a joyous time together. There were concerts, face painting, wall climbing and many more activities, but the best part was the smiles on everyone's faces, the hugs they shared and the beautiful memories they made.

'I danced so much with my siblings, Ela and Ana!' shares Rodi, showing me a video of them dancing.

'I loved the concerts!' chimes in Ana with a big smile

'We had such a great time and I loved that we were all together, we went on the climbing wall, then we went to the photo booth and now we have some great memories!' says Denisa with a big smile.

### Celebrating 30 years of SOS Children's Villages in Romania

Now this was a beautiful time to celebrate a wonderful event and we hope to have many more years where we help, encourage and support more children than the over 100.000 that we supported in these 30 years.



Dancing, singing and enjoying the moment

## — A costume party full of vampires, ghosts and pumpkins

When you hear the word holiday, what comes to mind? Many young people in our care are excited about the Halloween party. Everybody joined in to make a very spooky house. Bianca and Alina teamed

up to make scary but delicious snacks. Alina chose to make the sweet ones- cookies shaped like ghosts, pumpkins, and bats and Bianca made the savoury ones, opting for creepy finger-shaped cheese straws and mini mummy hot dogs. Everybody in the Youth Home loved the snacks and there was none left! Let me know if you want the recipe!

Dragos, a quite shy teenager, doesn't usually like to participate in activities when there are lots of people involved, but now he had the most fun with his two costumes, a vampire and a mummy, which he changed after he ate with his friends and family. He also helped clean after the party and everybody thanked him.

'Maybe big gatherings aren't so bad after all and I can't wait to get my costume for next year!' says Dragos. Thanks to this traditional celebration Dragos and other 20 young adults in our care experienced the comfort and belonging the tradition brings.

We are coming to an end with this letter. I hope you enjoyed the stories and I am looking forward to telling you more in my next letter. You can never predict how your support will make a big difference in someone's life. On behalf of all children and families, I thank you for being our friend and I wish you a wonderful holiday.

Best regards and warm hugs,

No child should grow up alone



Teodora Dragoi

**National Sponsorship Co-ordinator**

No child should grow up alone