



**2023**

# ANNUAL REPORT



**WE FACILITATE SOCIAL INCLUSION  
AND EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION  
FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN**



## FOREWORD

*„Through the programs run by the Real Madrid Sportive Social School of Bucharest and the WONDER Center, we continued to provide services for over 450 children from vulnerable backgrounds, offering them education, psychological counselling and social support.*

*We have joined forces to continue responding to the needs of families affected by the war who remained on the territory of Romania, but also to the ones on the territory of Ukraine, through the Isaccea Hub.*

*We redefined the association's 3-year strategy, setting new ambitious goals meant to strengthen our impact in the community. We reviewed the programs from a sustainability point of view, ensuring the necessary resources to implement them successfully.*

*We have introduced environmental education as a transversal part of FDP programs, contributing to the formation of a responsible generation aware of the importance of protecting the environment.*

*We have learned a lot from the experiences we lived together, we grew as a team and strengthened our relationships with those who were with us. We once again looked inside ourselves and discovered unexpected resources and solution meant to help face the problems encountered.*

*We express our deep gratitude to all of those who supported us in this challenging yet rewarding journey. Your involvement was vital for the success of our projects and has motivated us to continue our mission with even more devotion.*

*Looking towards the future, we commit to stay loyal to our principles and to dedicate our energy towards building a more just and compassionate world for those who need our support.*

*Thank you for being with us in this important mission to offer a chance for a better life to children and young people in Romania!"*

**With gratitude,  
Carmen Andreşoi  
Executive Director FDP-Protagonists in education**

**The Association FDP - Protagonists in Education (FDP) was founded in 1996 by Italian and Romanian volunteers, with the support of the Italian organization AVSI.**



# **THE MAIN STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS OF THE FDP-PROTAGONISTS IN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**





# 1. PREVENTING SCHOOL DROPOUT THROUGH SPORTS

## **Sportive Social School Program - Real Madrid Foundation**

Sportive Social School project is implemented in Bucharest, Romania, by the Association FDP – Protagonists in education since 2013, in partnership with the Real Madrid Foundation (Spain).

### **IMPACT:**

- ZERO School dropout, 97 children at risk of school dropout from communities on the outskirts of Bucharest are continuing their studies
- Over 80 families supported to overcome extreme poverty
- All 8th grade students managed to take the National Evaluation exams
- 360 children from the communities of Iazu and Ludești, Dâmbovița County, involved in non-formal sports and educational activities, motivated to stay in school;
- 10 children practiced the values they learned, in a multicultural context, by participating in the Copa Alma competition alongside representatives of other sports schools from all over Europe, supported by the Real Madrid Foundation



## **Beneficiaries' testimonials**

*"Since going to the Sportive Social School, my life is much more beautiful. I learned to play soccer, I made new friends and I feel much better in my own skin. The trainers are very nice and help me push my limits. I also got help with my homework and learned how to organize myself better. Now, I have more confidence in myself and I am more optimistic about the future. I know that I can succeed if I try and have people who support me."*

(GD, child enrolled in the Sportive Social School program - Real Madrid Foundation)

*"My daughter is 10 years old and she had quite a difficult childhood. She often felt sad and lonely and did not do well in school. Then I found out about the Sportive Social School and I decided to enrol her. It was a great decision! Since participating in the program, she transformed completely. She is happier, more energetic and more confident. She learned to play football, made new friends and has a much more positive attitude towards life. I am extremely grateful for the Sportive Social School program, as it had a tremendous positive impact on my daughter and helped her overcome many of the obstacles in her life. I would like to express my deep gratitude towards all those who are making this miracle happen.!"* (EC, mother of a child enrolled in the Sportive Social School program - Real Madrid Foundation)



## Partners' testimonials

*"In these 10 years of cooperation, FDP has shown great commitment in the field of social inclusion. In the social sports schools of FRM in Bucharest, they have been able to promote education, the feeling of belonging among the beneficiaries and the acquisition of healthy habits with the help of the FRM's educational methodology.*

*The staff willingness to participate in any event for the benefit of the children is always very appreciated. It is very palpable that they put the beneficiaries of their programs in the centre of their activity making them feel protagonist. It is remarkable that FDP has gone through a continuous improvement in the management of the social sports school through their participation in several impact evaluations carried out with external consultancies. It is very appreciated the expansion made in the number of beneficiaries and their good job in the search of local fundraising."*

Elena Fernández  
Fundacion Real Madrid - Europe Area Manager  
International Area





### **OBJECTIVE of the Program: Preventing school dropout through sports**

Annually, we aim to facilitate access to education for children from vulnerable families who live in the outskirts of Bucharest and in the rural area of Dâmbovița, by using sport as a tool to prevent school dropout.

#### **DIRECT BENEFICIARIES:**

- 47 children from the outskirts of District 3 of Bucharest (Faur-Republica area)
- 40 children from the outskirts of District 6 of Bucharest (Giulesti-Sîrbi area)
- 350 children from the communes of Cojasca, Ludești, Dambovița county

#### **INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES:**

- Over 400 volunteers;
- 72 adults (parents of children);
- More than 40 teachers involved





## **SPORTS TRAININGS' GOALS AGENDA**

The general and specific objectives, the content and the sports activities implemented were established based on the working methodology of the Real Madrid Foundation, with 7 values being promoted:

1. **team spirit**
2. **autonomy**
3. **self-esteem**
4. **respect**
5. **equality**
6. **motivation**
7. **health**

The sport trainings are related to education, the objective being to promote participation in sports activities for all children, without discrimination, regardless of sex, race, religion, ethnicity, social background.

Starting with the 2019-2020 season, in order to encourage the participation of girls, 2 new sports were introduced in the children's training program, respectively dance and multisport, thus increasing the access of to sports activities of girls from marginalized/Roma communities, children from marginal neighbourhood of Bucharest and children at risk of school exclusion.



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# 2023

## RESULTS:

### **251 SPORTS TRAININGS carried out as follows:**

- District 3: 77 football trainings and 19 dance/multisport trainings.
- District 6: 115 football trainings and 40 dance/multisport trainings.
- 22 psychological counselling meetings dedicated to children, both in group and individually, meant to facilitate the identification of children/parents' needs, in order to provide the best solutions for them.
- 43 parent counselling meetings, group and individual meetings with parents
- More than 450 children participated in the educational activities, gaining knowledge and developing skills important for their future (meditation laboratory, IT laboratory, Romanian language support, reading workshop, Virtual Reality Workshop)
- SPORTS EVENTS (10-year anniversary of the sports program, friendly matches between children, spectators in the stands of two matches, participation in the Copa Alma competition, Education Day organized in Bucharest, Iazu and Ludești, Dâmbovița County)
- SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES (visits to museums, cinema and theatre)
- TRAINING COACHES

### **Partners:**

Real Madrid Foundation, Spain;

City Hall of district 3 of Bucharest;

General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Bucharest District 3;

General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Bucharest District 6;

High Schools: 55, Mexico, 116 and 153.

### **FUNDERS:**

Activities within Sportive Social School programme took place with the financial support of: Real Madrid Foundation, UPS, Société Générale Global Solution Center, London Stock Exchange Group and Laureus Sport for Good



## 2. INCLUSION OF SEN CHILDREN (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS)

### WONDER DAY CENTER

The WONDER Day Center, dedicated to counselling and supporting parents and children, is the first Center in Bucharest that offers free counselling and support to children with special educational needs (SEN), as well as to their parents.

### IMPACT:

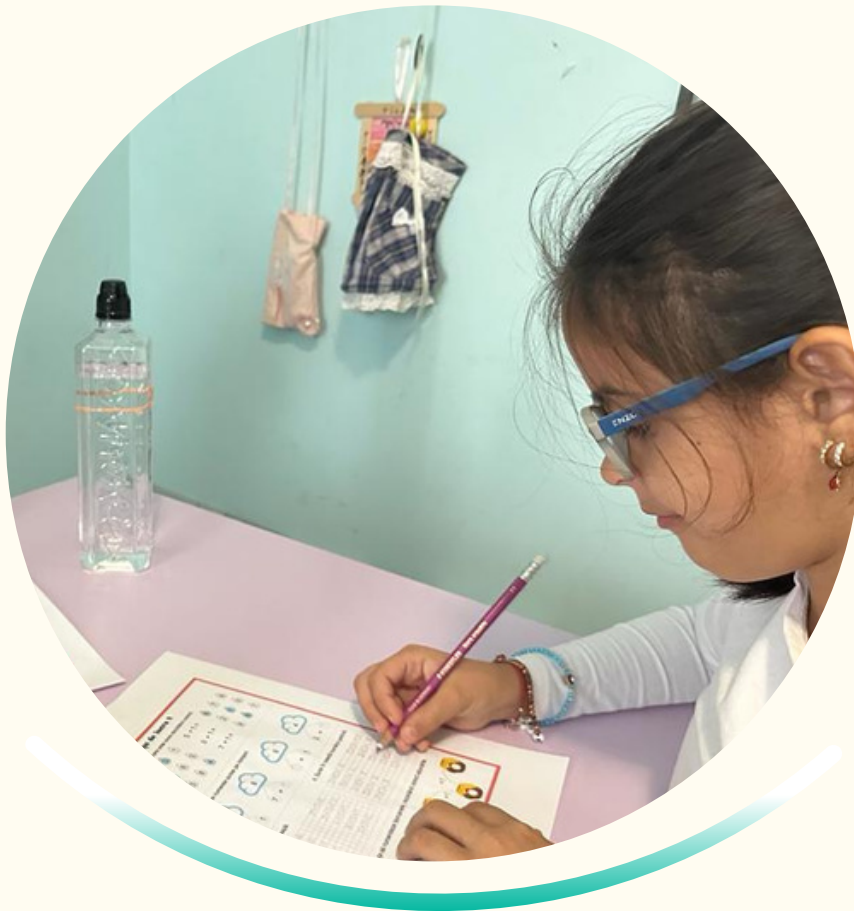
- + 4000 therapeutic hours offered to children with special educational needs with the help of the association's team of therapists and speech therapists
- All 73 children from the Wonder Center who benefited from integrated therapeutic and educational services are continuing their studies in the public mainstream educational system, and 3 of them were accepted into their desired high-schools.





## IMPACT:

- 50 children developed their reading and writing skills through the educational and speech therapy programs.
- 52 children explored science through interactive activities and technical workshops.
- 54 children participated in education activities focused on environmental protection.
- 70 children and 30 families were supported to overcome the situation of extreme poverty by facilitating access to daily food products;
- 240 children from 10 schools were involved in non-formal and formal activities to understand the concepts of inclusion and diversity
- 35 parents, participants of the "Parents Academy", began to understand the child's learning difficulties and improve their way of communicating with the children/with the school
- 57 teachers were informed about the rights of children with SEN, informing them about the legislative changes aimed at children with SEN
- 129 hours of volunteering contributed to the development of life skills for the children of the Wonder Center



## Beneficiaries' testimonials

*"I have dyslexia, which means I have reading and writing difficulties. At school, I used to always feel alone frustrated and hopeless. I was having a hard time keeping up with classmates, which made me feel helpless. Then, I have started coming to Wonder Center, although I was feeling that nothing could help me at that point.*

*However, after just a few months, I started to feel different. Now, I have more confidence in myself and I am more motivated to learn and I know that, with the appropriate help and support, I am prone to great achievements"* **(RT, child registered within Wonder Center programs).**

*"The WONDER Center has changed my boy's life. I am grateful for all the support I received here. Never give up! There is hope for children like ours!"* **(RS, mother of a child enrolled in the Wonder Center)**



## Partners' testimonials

*"I found the EduacCES online platform a real universe of diverse and carefully selected resources, crafted with care by experienced professionals.*

*EduacCES is not special only due to its name, but also through its complex contents and attractive design meant to facilitate and ease the user's experience on the platform. It has become, by far, a reference model in terms of resources for potential future projects of this kind.*

*I kindly and confidently recommend it! It is definitely like a Wonderful Place created in an open, friendly and responsible environment".* **(Florentina Gălbinașu, interscholastic speech therapist teacher, CMBRAE)**

*"I am an interscholastic speech therapist teacher. When in need, I am generally used to either researching for online tutorials and resources on specialized websites, or to either creating educational materials myself.*

*One of my coworkers recommended me to try the EduacCES platform. Although I had previously used other platforms, I was delighted to find such a resourceful tool to help me in my work. I have downloaded many materials from this website and they proved their usefulness on a daily basis.*

*I have also personally created worksheets for speech therapy interventions and, with the approval and encouragement of those who created the platform, I was able to share them on EduacCES.*

*Although I do not personally know those who support this project, I felt their care, concern and professionalism, for which I would like to thank them"!*  
**(Camelia Goga, interscholastic speech therapist teacher)**



## OBJECTIVES:

- Preventing school dropout and supporting inclusion of SEN children in mass education, through educational and therapeutic activities adapted to their needs
- Strengthening the dialogue with the parents of the children we work with in order to help develop a socially stable harmonious family environment.
- Collaboration with teachers for their training in order to integrate SEN children in mainstream schools.

## BENEFICIARIES:

+ 70 SEN children having specific learning disorders (dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia), behavioural disorders (ADHD), emotional disorders.





## Offered services:

- Psychological evaluation
- Social and psychological counselling (individual and in groups)
- Specific individualized therapies (speech therapy, psychotherapy and physical therapy)
- Non-formal educational activities (art therapy, rhythm and coordination games, independent living skills, carpentry workshop, theatre development workshop, socio-educational visits)
- School remediation
- Providing School Supplies for Children.
- Education for Environment Protection.
- " Parents' Academy ": Monthly meetings to raise awareness of the needs of children and support the parents;
- "Teachers' Academy": Webinars dedicated to teaching staff in the country.
- Support with Volunteers.

## FUNDERS:

The existence of WONDER Center and the support provided to the little ones diagnosed with SEN would not have been possible in the year 2023 without financial support of our partners: ROSS Foundation, United Way Romania, London Stock Exchange Group, Société Générale Global Solution Center, subsidies Law 34/1998.



## Educational platform Eduacces.ro – supporting school inclusion

**Eduacces.ro is a FREE platform launched in 2021, dedicated teachers, parents and education professionals which are working in the school system with SEN students.**

- Over 2,000 teachers registered at national level
- Over 1500 adapted educational resources
- 35 parents who benefited from counselling through the Parents Academy program.
  
- 2400 SEN children benefited from educational support
- 60-hour training course for teachers on "Inclusion of children with specific learning disorders in the classroom", currently under approval by the Ministry of Education
  
- 3 webinars on specific topics, such as Inclusion of SEN children in light of the new pre-university education law, Management of children with ADHD in the classroom, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Student with ASD.
- Resource download traffic increased from an average of 20,000 at the beginning of 2023, to 41,460 in December, with 925,466 download resources being operated so far
  
- December 2023 we launched a new page dedicated to teaching staff - [Eduacces.ro/ro/therapy-centers](https://Eduacces.ro/ro/therapy-centers). At the request of platform users, it was developed a page with quick access to a detailed map of therapeutic centers across the country, ready to provide support in working with children with special educational needs (SEN) at the local level.



## OBJECTIVE:

- Eduacces.ro is a digital Center of learning resources adapted for SEN children (worksheets, textbooks, research papers, lesson models, organized interactive games depending on diagnostic and class), provided for FREE for professions in education.
- **The platform encourages exchanges of previous experiences and the development of an inclusive community of education professionals.**
- EduacCES specialists (psychologists, psychopedagogues, psychotherapists, etc.) are providing online support to teachers who encounter challenges in the classroom.
- The materials are available in Romanian, English, Hungarian and German in order to ensure national coverage also for children with learning difficulties from minority groups.

## FUNDERS:

LSEG supported the addition of therapeutic centers within the platform



### 3. VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Our association makes it a priority to support vulnerable communities. In 2023 we were present where it was needed, providing first aid support and essential basic goods needed for survival. Education is important, but meeting basic needs such as daily food security is also essential. We are extremely happy with the partnership we have with the Food Bank and the help we can offer our beneficiaries.

#### IMPACT Ludești

**The FDP Association – Protagonists in education ran the "IMPACT Ludești" project between January 2022 and December 2023**

The project is implemented by the FDP Association - Protagonists in education in partnership with Ludești City Hall, Dâmbovița County and in collaboration with Potocelu Primary School, Telești – Ludești Secondary School and Scheiu de Sus Primary School.





## Impact:

- Educational support for 243 children through non-formal education means, such as learning through games and sport activities, and preparing for the national evaluation exam
- Informing and counselling 382 people, including 250 Roma, to overcome difficult situations and social integration.
- The professional qualification of 135 people in jobs such as cook's helper, barber, hairdresser, manicurist, pedicurist.
- Professional development of 15 teachers in digital skills.
- The involvement of 25 young Roma people in empowerment and civic activation sessions.
- Support for 15 local experts in advocacy, anti-discrimination and labour market techniques.



## **Beneficiaries' testimonials**

*"The hardships I experienced left me with few options for securing the future. But, at some point, I found out about some training courses in areas such as barbering, hairdressing, manicure and pedicure. When I found out about the training courses in personal care services, that news brought light and hope into my life. What I found there exceeded my expectations by far, as not only did I gain the practical skills needed to qualify in this field, but I was also supported and encouraged at every stage by qualified trainers and wonderful colleagues." **(CI, graduate of the training course)***

*"I am extremely grateful for this project. It had a tremendous impact on my child and helped him overcome many limitations in his life. Now he has purpose, motivation and hope for a better future. I know he will be able to reach his full potential thanks to the support he receives at school. Thank you so much to all of those who make this miracle happen!" **(MP, mother of a child signed up in the project)***



## OBJECTIVES

- Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty in Ludești commune, through the implementation of integrated measures of education, health, professional training, counselling and support for employment.
- Special attention was given to Roma children and young people, especially Roma girls. The project sought to create a solid local partnership between teachers, parents, students, public institutions and the community.

## Funders:

EEA and Norwegian grants 2014-2020, through the "Local Development Program, reducing poverty and increasing the inclusion of Roma ", implemented by the Romanian Social Development Fund, as Program Operator.





## Stimulating the participation of children from the lazu community, Dâmbovița County, in educational activities

### IMPACT:

- 300 children from the rural area were motivated to stay in school
- In the lazu community, Dâmbovița County, we organized a series of exciting activities for our children from the countryside, with the aim of encouraging access to education and highlighting the importance of personal development.
- Soccer, archery, paragliding, badminton, personal hygiene workshops and many other activities were fun engaging ways for children to learn that through play and sport they can develop their skills and discover new passions.

**Thank you to the dedicated volunteers from AVON, who chose to invest in the children's education!**





## 4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION - SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

In 2023 we continued to be together with the Ukrainian refugees, we shared their pain and saw their constant search for hope and trust. We witnessed their trauma and loss and did our best to provide them with humanitarian and emotional support.

### **HUMANITARIUM HUB Isaccea – a humanitarian project**

The Isaccea humanitarian hub, strategically located at 4 km from the border, established in April 2022 by the FDP-Education Protagonists Association in partnership with the CESAL NGO and Isaccea City Hall, is an infrastructure that has become essential to facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid and to provide support to the affected population in three regions of southern Ukraine (Odesa, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions).



## IMPACT:

- Over 300,000 people helped since its establishment, people who have received goods consisting of food products, personal hygiene products, household hygiene products, clothes (warm clothes for adults and children, underwear, special clothes and shoes), toys, generators, sleeping bags, strollers, lamps, radiators, thermoses, medicines as well as social assistance support.
- In the period March - October 2023 as a result of the break of the dam at the Kakhovskaya CHP, causing loss of human and animal lives, followed by the drone attack on the ports on the Danube (Reni and Ismail) which brought suffering and despair, 127,836 people have benefited from this joint effort, each individual receiving not only material goods, but also a glance of hope and solidarity.
- Over 2000 trucks full of canned goods, milk, pasta, oil, cereals, flour, medicines, drugs, hygiene products, clothes, etc. were unloaded and distributed in Ukraine, in the regions of Odessa, Nikolaev and Kherson.
- Hiring of support staff (people from Ukraine) for the Hub (1 coordinator consultant, 3 Hub consulting operators, 2 forklift operators).

**FUNDERS:** NGO CESAL and Madrid City Council



## “Walking with dignity to autonomy “, project funded by the Foundation United Way Romania (01 April 2023 – 31 August 2023)

### IMPACT:

- 70 Ukrainian children have access to education
- 50 mothers/grandmothers and 70 children integrated into the local community, accessing housing, jobs
- 50 mothers/grandmothers developed their skills

### Beneficiaries' testimonials

*"I cannot put into words how much it means for me all the support I received. FDP gave us hope and helped us rebuild our life. Now, my child goes to school and we are both starting to feel at home in Romania. Without their help, I don't know what would have happened to me and my child. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for giving us a chance at a better life."* **(MK, Ukrainian mother).**





## Objective:

- Improvement of life quality and facilitating community integration for a group of 70 Ukrainian refugees children from Bucharest, aged between 3 and 17 years, and 50 mothers or grandparents, also refugees from Ukraine, who live within the radius of the municipality of Bucharest.
- The 70 children benefited from educational activities structured according to their age group and focus ability, as follows:
- Games and sport activities for preschool children and various playful activities combined with learning basic concepts in the Romanian language
- Informal activities in which various topics such as road education or the risk of leaving unaccompanied were addressed.
- Pupils benefited from art therapy activities, easy cooking activities, science-related activities, exploration, various fun activities, an English language learning workshop and a Romanian language learning workshop.
- A support and counselling group was organized for Ukrainian mothers where the emphasis was placed on increasing the inner resources of mothers, developing resilience and providing a state of well-being, so that, in turn, they can provide the necessary support to their children.
- The group of adults also benefited from Romanian language courses as well as spending quality time with the children by participating in the children's outings in Bucharest, visits to museums and excursions during the summer.
- All 50 families were provided with a monthly package of basic hygiene products.





## TRANSFORMER PROGRAM

**The Transformer Program was an extraordinary journey where we explored together ideas and strategies to create sustainable impact in our communities.**

Through all the workshops organized and the mentoring sessions with the Personal Advisory Board, we had the privilege to open our hearts and tell our story, to share dreams and hopes, to think about our future as an organization and the future of the children/families that we met. We debated and outlined the directions we want for a more solidary, fairer and sustainable community.

We talked about sustainability, how we can initiate the wish for change for those we support and how every step we take today has an impact on tomorrow.



## EVENTS

### June 1 – Children’s Day

We celebrated childhood and the summer time through 3 sport events dedicated to treasure hunts, dance, sport and creativity, activities meant to bring together children from the communities of Ludești and Iazu, Dâmbovița county, with those from Bucharest. The initiative was based on our mission to integrate children and prove that they are equal.

At the end of the activities, each child received a holiday kit including a book which, after the completion of reading, it provided access to a final raffle with prizes. 16 raffle winners were awarded with the Explorers through Bucharest prize, a one-day trip through the capital of Romania.

We thank the volunteers from Société Générale European Global Solution for their support!

### October 5 – Education Day

Every year, on October 5th, we celebrate Education Day through Sport, this one magical connection of mind and body! Thus, in 2023 we gave life to some unforgettable days in Bucharest where the leading protagonists were 100 children from the FDP programs, together with a group of Ukrainian children who were able to explore the world of sport and education.

Through football, multisport, dance, creative workshops and many other surprises, we celebrated health, life balance and the competitive spirit in an atmosphere of joy and learning.

We thank the UPS volunteers for their involvement!





## MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

- With the help of Prima TV channel, we continued the promotion of the "Education Changes Lives!", a fund-raising campaign aimed at helping families with children who are part of our programs.
- Throughout 2023, Kanal D joined the FDP team in sustained efforts to help those in need. Through the "Wheel of Fortune" show, 24 families were helped with household appliances and with the support of Kanal D viewers and funds donated via SMS to 8844, we managed to continue our support activity.

### **Partners testimonials**

*"FDP and WONDER... it's a miracle that there are such people and that they persevere. In a world of consumerism, of monetization for any purpose and by any means, there are also people who have not forgotten their purpose as...fellows. For them, for those in need, there has been FDP and WONDER, for over 28 years. They are the ones before to whom we bow." (Marius Saizu, Prima TV journalist).*

*"For the past 10 years, Iulia and Diana, together with the "Wheel of Fortune" show team, have managed to help over 200 families overcome their financial difficulties. This helped children from the FDP Association come closer to their dreams. We, the "Wheel of Fortune" team, are proud of the achievements of all the children we met during the show. We hug you and wish you a lot of success in the moments to come!" (Corina Sava, Executive Producer, Zucchero- "Wheel of Fortune").*

A special guest in the TVR Weekend Morning show was our colleague Carmen Andreșoi, executive director who told about children who struggle with social exclusion, who live in isolation, who are on the verge of dropping out of school, who suffer from learning disorders, ADHD, language or development disorders, and also presented what are the solutions for these children.



## **CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN** **"SANTA COMES TO YOU EVERY YEAR,** **NEVER TO THEM!"**

**This was a heartfelt campaign carried out between November-December 2023, through which we wanted to bring emotion to the general public by telling the story of the needs of children living in disadvantaged families and to make known their small but meaningful wishes.**

For the children supported by the FDP association, Christmas is just another day of the year, perhaps even sadder. We wanted to bring the feeling of Christmas closer to them and make them feel that they belong to a community that values and supports them for who they are, regardless of their differences.

We shared their stories and talked about the sad reality they live in. They are innocent children, subjected to suffering that they do not deserve or suffering from certain conditions that make them different and excluded in the eyes of others.

In the Christmas campaign we were joined by good people who donated, small and large companies, the television stations Prima TV, TVR, Radio Cultural, Radio Romania Actualities and online publications that took over the message of our campaign.

We all managed to create Christmas magic and dedicate a day to the children of the FDP, a day in which **400 children from Bucharest and Dâmbovița received gifts, sang songs, played together, while also being accompanied by their parents or grandparents, feeling that they are part of the community.**

**Thank you to our partners, donors and volunteers!**