

Make Way Partners' House of Treasure Rescued Victims of Human Trafficking

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Name: Make Way Partners (MWP) was founded in 2003.
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MAKE WAY PARTNERS MISSION

Passionate to share the Hope of the Gospel with the least of these, Make Way Partners uses two criteria to select places of ministry:

1. Where women & children are at highest risk of human trafficking, forced prostitution and other forms of modern-day slavery.
2. Where little to no other help is available because it is considered either too dangerous, too expensive or too remote for most people to go.

ROMANIA:

Since the fall of the Iron Curtain former Eastern bloc countries, like Romania, have become major source countries for trafficking of women and children. Estimates as high as two-thirds of women trafficked for prostitution worldwide annually come from Eastern Europe. Today Romania ranks as one of the worst countries in the European Union for human trafficking.

Romanian's are considered among the world's most trafficked people. After Romania's inclusion into the European Union (or EU in 2007), it was noted that EU membership did not solve the root causes of human trafficking and in some ways may have made them worse because of the new freedom of travelling from Romania across international borders were the demand for prostitution and slavery is high. Today Romania ranks as one of the worst countries in the European Union for human trafficking. The EU membership has also increased Romania's position as a transit country for its non-EU neighbors (example, Moldova) where trafficking is also a devastating problem.



- In 2002, the International Organization for Migration estimated that as many as 20,000 women were trafficked from Romania each year; according to some estimates, 10-15% of them are minors.

- Between 2005-2007 female victims detected for being trafficked to Western Europe for sexual exploitation was highest in Romania of all countries in Eastern Europe.
- In 2008, Romanians' were identified as victims of trafficking in 23 countries around the world.
- According to the 2011 US Trafficking in Persons Report, *"Romania is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and women and children subjected to sex trafficking. Romanian men, women, and children are subjected to forced labor in agriculture and manufacturing, as well as some forced begging in Spain, Italy, the Czech Republic, Greece, Finland, Israel, Germany, Slovenia, the United Kingdom (UK), Cyprus, Australia, France, Belgium, and the United States. A large proportion of the children forced to beg in Western European countries were Romanian victims of Roma ethnicity. Men, women, and children from Romania are victims of forced prostitution in Italy, Sweden, Spain, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Greece, Germany, Cyprus, Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Denmark, Brazil, Norway, Hungary, Slovenia, and France. Forced labor and sex trafficking within the country claim Romanian men, women, and children as victims; this includes forced begging and forced petty theft."*



AORA & DANE

Aora was raised in a Romanian shelter before the government shut down all their orphanages. On her graduation day---at age 16---a man Aora did not know attended the ceremony. The handsome, well-dressed man told Aora that he had a business and offered her a job in his company. Aora trustingly went with him.

He was the recruiter for a trafficking ring that forced Aora into prostitution. When Aora first realized she was expecting a child, she was scared to become a mother because---raised in an orphanage---she did not know how to be a good mother. But when she escaped and found help at the House of Treasure, the founder Iana loved Aora and began teaching her how to mother Dane. As she receives love and nurture, Aora heals a bit more each day. Soon, she and Dane will be able to move into their own apartment!

Please pray for Aora and Dane's continued healing and transition into an abundant life!

MAKE WAY PARTNERS RESPONSE:

Make Way Partners is a Christian non-profit mission agency that works to combat and prevent human trafficking and all forms of modern day slavery.

Romania is well documented as one of the worst countries of origin in the world for victims of human trafficking. Yet, in this country Make Way Partners' House of Treasure is the only privately operated shelter for victims of trafficking. Make Way Partners adopted The House of Treasure into our anti-trafficking network in 2009. We are honored to provide all required funding, accountability and mission teams for the House of Treasure, as we do for all members of our anti-trafficking network.

Iana Matei is the founder and director of the House of Treasure in Romania. Iana has received many awards for her selfless service, including The Hero of the Year Award, by The US State Department in 2007 for her valiant efforts against human trafficking, The House of Lords in Britain honored her with The Abolitionist Award, also in 2007, and again, for valiant efforts against human trafficking. She also received The Woman of the Year Award, in 2009 by Romanian Woman Magazine together with Avon, for the constant interest and activity in solving social issues.



Our indigenous leadership cares for 12-20 girls at any one time who were trafficked into prostitution between the ages of 10 and 30. Each girl or young woman has been rescued from the brutality of forced prostitution, rapes and beatings. In addition to her role as director, Iana is also a psychologist. The shelter also employs four certified social workers to work with Iana in providing the professional treatment these girls need on their road to healing, restoration and reintegration.

Through House of Treasure, we offer a holistic healing approach that includes discipleship, counseling, medical care, job training, money management, and parenting skills for the young women who have borne children through their trafficking. We help them to rediscover who it is God dreamed of when He first formed them and give them the life skills to re-enter the world as the bright light that God intended them to be.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

Offering Holistic Healing Ministry to the Women & Children at House of Treasure

Below are **five opportunities** to invest in the women & children at House of Treasure. Each opportunity will empower MWP to protect the young victims at House of Treasure so that they can flourish in a safe, loving, and Hope-filled home. Your partnership is needed!

○ **From House to Home**

House of Treasure is more than a shelter for girls rescued from sex slavery, it is a **home** that offers a safe, welcoming environment where holistic healing can take place in broken hearts and lives. Make Way Partners has done significant work to improve the living conditions at the House of Treasure and more work is needed. Since 2009, through the help of grants, partnerships and short-term mission teams MWP has improved the conditions of the home with a new roof, new storage room, plumbing repairs and a new fence to heighten security. Additionally, our short term teams and the girls worked side-by-side to freshly paint the interior walls in bright colors chosen by the girls living there. Continued repairs are needed which includes:



- **New tile flooring:** Before MWP was able to add the new roof leaking destroyed the existing carpet on the second floor and it is now in need of being replaced. New tile flooring will create a more welcoming atmosphere for the girls, will provide more sanitary living and will be easier to keep clean and maintain. **Total cost: \$5,000**
- **Updated sewing room:** House of Treasure has a thriving micro-enterprise where we train and equip the young women in the skill of sewing as part of our holistic approach toward repatriation and reintegration through practical job training. The current sewing room is at the House of Treasure and is in need of updated equipment and new tables so that we can accommodate better training for the girls to be equipped for the competitive market upon transitioning from House of Treasure. **Total cost: \$2,500**



○ **Scholarships – Investing in the Future!**

Make Way Partners scholarship funds for the rescued victims of human trafficking are granted to women from the House of Treasure as a part of our holistic approach toward repatriation and reintegration through practical job training. The scholarships will provide preparation for the women in various fields, including classes in journalism, beautician training and culinary arts. When completed the program, each woman involved will have viable job skills that will help them have a fresh start so that they will be able to provide care for themselves and for their children once they have transitioned out of the House of Treasure.

- **Job training scholarships:** Scholarships are for a full year, the Romanian academic year runs from Oct - June. Schooling progress and accountability will be monitored by our indigenous staff at the House of Treasure. The girls will be transported safely to and from school by our staff in a van recently donated by a partner organization to MWP. **Cost of scholarship per woman is \$2,000**

○ **Recreational Therapy**

Victims of human trafficking often suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, multiple-personality disorder, fear and physical scarring due to their time in slavery. Without care and treatment this trauma can continue to destroy their lives. Therefore, our loving protection over them is needed during their reintegration

process. One simple way that we can provide opportunities for healing is through recreational therapy. Recreational therapy plays an important role in developing character, trust, determination, confidence, hope & healing in the hearts of traumatized children.



- **Recreation Space:** In order to offer more opportunity for safe play, we want to develop a half basketball court and other recreation space on our existing property to provide a safe place for recreational therapy. **Total cost: \$10,000**

○ **Legal Fund**

House of Treasure Director, Iana Matei, is working in a country where the entire system (spiritually, politically, legally, etc.) is designed against her work succeeding. The system is designed in favor of pimps, traffickers, corrupt businessmen and abusive parents rather than children who are or have been enslaved. Because House of Treasure poses as a threat to a system of corruption by standing as a witness for Christ and for truth, we have many legal battles to keep the girls who are younger than 18 under our protection. We foresee more legal battles to come. Make Way Partners has developed a **Romania Legal Fund** that we are inviting law firms, individuals and churches to invest in so that as our lawyers wage war in the legal realm for the hearts and lives of the girls under our care. **Total cost: Ongoing funding needs**

ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY:

Make Way Partners annual budget and mission is supported by more than 5,000 supporters among all 50 states and 10 different countries. The majority of our donations come from a broad base of Christians around the world committed to end human trafficking, especially as it preys upon the most vulnerable people groups to human trafficking – **orphans and widows**



Make Way Partners has a proven track record of working in war-torn and corrupt nations where trafficking thrives and few other attempts to work due to harsh conditions by establishing long-term orphan care and transitional living ministries. Corrupt governments often accuse missionaries of espionage, and force them to leave their country at critical points in their work. If a ministry is dependent upon foreign missionaries, the ministry will collapse when the missionary leaves. Thus, a foundational component of MWP's successful strategy is building *indigenous ministries*—

identifying, training, supporting, and providing financial accountability for indigenous leaders who exhibit the call, heart, and integrity for this sort of ministry.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

Make Way Partners has earned the seal of approval from the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA). ECFA is a highly respected agency which recognizes nonprofit organizations that faithfully adhere to high standards for financial accountability. According to www.ecfa.org: "The ECFA seal of approval is the sign that an organization has met the requirements for membership in ECFA. When an organization earns the privilege to display the ECFA seal, it clearly demonstrates to the public its willingness to follow the ECFA model of accountability."