

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Another year in which we supported vulnerable children,  
their at-risk families and the surrounding communities









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-  [www.yana.ro](http://www.yana.ro)
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-  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/fundatia-yana>

## **Our Four Day Care Centers for Children At-Risk**

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# The YANA *story* : how it all started?



The story of YANA began in 1995, when Antonia Frick, at that time president for over two decades of “Familienhilfe Liechtenstein”, came to visit Romania. Deeply moved by the vulnerability of the elderly and the families she met, and with a firm desire to support them, she began selecting academic collaborators in Bucharest, with whose help, in 1996, she founded, YANA - You Are Not Alone Charitable Foundation.

Over the next years, the foundation’s work expanded steadily, first in Bucharest and then in Bacău, providing vital support to hundreds of beneficiaries affected by extreme deprivation. A turning point came in 2006, with the inauguration of Casa YANA in the village of Nicolae Bălcescu in Bacău County. The opening of the first day care center for at-risk children marked the strategic refocusing of the YANA team towards the prevention of school drop-out and family separation, building an integrated support system for vulnerable children in rural areas.

For more than a quarter of a century, Antonia Frick built this project with remarkable dedication and energy. In 2024, after a life devoted to the common good, she passed the baton to Anna Maria D’Hulster, who firmly takes up the commitment to honour the founding values and to carry forward YANA’s mission: to support the most vulnerable and to give them opportunities to allow them to create a self providing life in dignity.

YANA Foundation has shown once again that sustained commitment leads to meaningful change. We have continued to deliver strong results on our core mission: supporting vulnerable children and their parents to prevent school drop-out and family separation. We are particularly proud that in 2025 we reached our goal: nearly 100% of the children successfully completed secondary school and went on to high schools or vocational schools. This will allow each of them to build a future based on opportunity rather than limitation. YANA is breaking the cycle of poverty for these children and for the generations to come.

*It is extraordinary to see how our work has real impact, is appreciated, and continues to grow. The results presented on the following pages are equally yours. Without your support, transforming these lives would not have been possible. (Anna Maria D’Hulster, President of the YANA Charitable Foundation, Liechtenstein).*



YANA was once again in 2025 a safe anchor for 140 children and their families in Bacău county.

This year was marked by courage and growth. We took on the challenge of laying the foundations of a new day centre in Berzunți, bringing hope to a marginalised community that was in great need of us. In parallel, we brought to life a heartfelt project: our educational garden. Here, the children discover gardening, and the vegetables we grow end up on the plates in our centres, nourishing each child’s future in a healthy way.

*We are a constant presence at the heart of communities, turning daily support into lasting change. Thank you for being our partners; thanks to you, solidarity is turned into action and no child has to face hardship alone. (Gabriela Mateiu, President of the YANA Foundation, Romania)*

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# For children and their future

29 years, thousands of lives, and one single belief:  
no child should have to struggle alone

Over our 29 years of presence in Bacău county, developing and implementing social projects, we have succeeded in bringing lasting change to the lives of hundreds of children and families. Our mission is to create and develop projects that support families, children, and other vulnerable groups, aiming to improve their quality of life and increase their autonomy. We prioritize actions that allow them to remain within their own communities and families.

The Day Care Centers program is the cornerstone of our activity. In 2006, we opened our first center, Casa YANA, in the village of Nicolae Bălcescu, Bacău. Two more followed in Valea Seacă and Luncani. Most recently, in September 2025, we expanded our reach by opening a fourth center in a Roma community in Berzunți.

Throughout 2025, 140 children in our day care centers benefited from: comprehensive care and homework assistance, psychological counseling and socialization activities, life skills workshops and vocational guidance. These efforts have had a profound impact on preventing school dropout, resulting in a 95% reduction in school absenteeism.

Furthermore, by engaging parents in parenting education programs and providing conditioned quarterly subsidies, we have helped families to overcome their challenges, preventing the separation of children from their families.



We prevent family separation



We reduce school drop-out



We improve school performance



We do therapy through art



We promote mental health and social skills

In March 2025, we launched the “Acasă” (“Home”) project, co-funded by the European Union, taking on the responsibility of leading a strategic alliance made of three foundations and a state institution. Over the next three years, we will work together to provide essential support to those in deepest need across Bacău County.

With a tradition spanning over 20 years, our yearly volunteer camp remains a cornerstone of our work, delivering help where it is most urgently needed. This model of solidarity creates a dual impact: tangible support for the beneficiaries of our day care centers and an authentic framework for personal growth and development for the volunteers who join our mission.

Year after year, we ensure that every program we implement creates a lasting impact and contributes to the long-term development of the children and the communities.



We educate, counsel and support parents.



We reduce juvenile delinquency and unemployment



We bridge generations



We raise awareness and engage the community

## YANA by the numbers

2025

## Our programmes and projects

4	day care centers for children at-risk
140	supported children
43	Roma children
89%	improvement in school performance
95%	reduction in school absenteeism
100%	transition to high schools and vocational schools
52.000	hours dedicated to homework and educational activities
1800	hours of psychological counseling
400	hours of creative workshops
195	children attending our summer schools
24.000	warm meals
99	supported families
100	parents attending parental-education sessions
6000	hours of social assistance
4	communities where we operate

*Day care centres for at-risk children*

*Summer schools opened to the community*

*Scholarships for high school students*

*YANATEEN camp*

*School for parents*

*Femmme/Homme Tisch*

*YANA garden*

*Volunteering camp Lărguța*

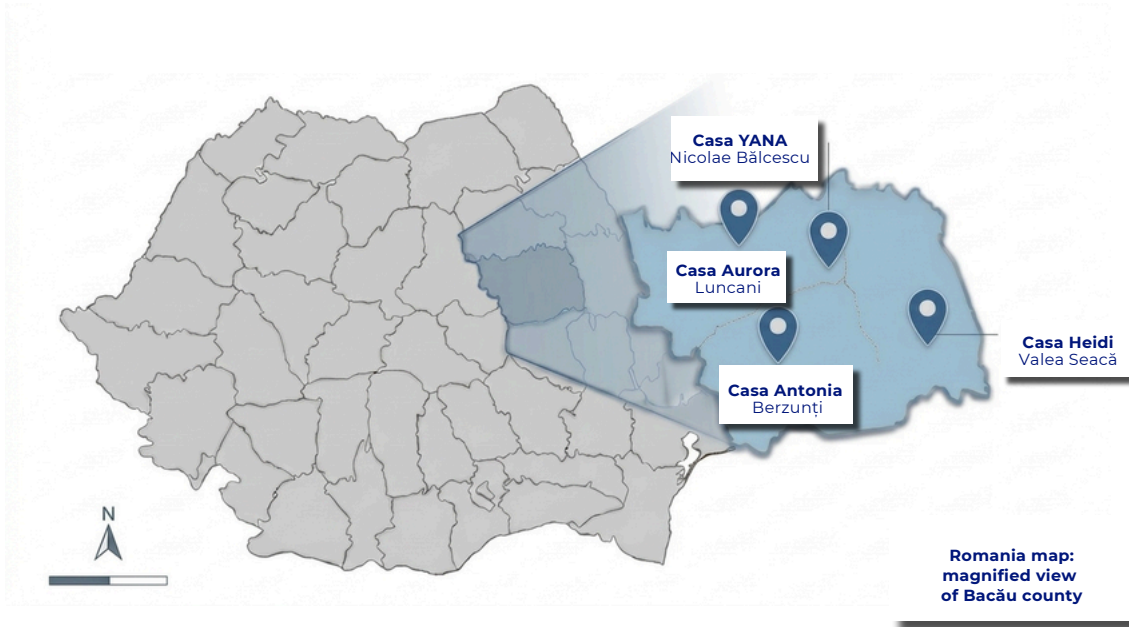
*Intergenerational Programme*

*Volunteers training*

*Project „Acasă”*

*The story book "The Ink Thief"*

# Care, education and support for children and families



## Our Day Care Centers for Children At-Risk

In the rural areas of Bacău, mornings are often clouded by worry rather than brightened by play. With empty backpacks and heavy hearts, children face a world where the only certainty is hardship. Without a timely helping hand, the light in their eyes gives way to a somber truth: the struggle is too great to face alone.



In this fragile universe, **the Day Care Centers become true homes for vulnerable children aged 6 to 15**, daily, when they leave school. It is a place where hunger is stilled by a warm meal, and helplessness is replaced by the patience of educators and psychologists. It is about more than just getting help and guidance with homework; it is about the strength children build day by day through activities and play, or by learning to sew and cook in our workshops.

Here, children discover they can go to high school and learn a trade, and that one day, they will be the ones to change their families' destinies. It is our promise that, through education, no child will ever again be forced to remain a mere shadow of their own potential.

# Our Day Care Centers – pillars of support for children at-risk



## Casa Aurora

Since 2015, Casa Aurora has been a place where safety and care rebuild destinies. In 2025, for the 30 children who walked through our doors, homework assistance and psychological counseling were complemented by learning the rhythms of a home: kneading bread and preparing preserves for the winter. Here, guitar and acting lessons also transformed their vulnerability into courage, giving them the confidence that their voices deserve to be heard.

## Casa YANA

For over 17 years, vulnerable children from the village of Nicolae Bălcescu have found a warm and safe place here. In 2025, 50 children were embraced by the care and support of a dedicated team of specialists. Alongside junior and senior volunteers, these children developed independent living skills, gained self-confidence, and took steady steps toward a brighter future.



## Casa Antonia

Since September 2025, our new center in the Bâșca community has been supporting 20 Roma children daily, whose parents are away working in Western Europe. Through academic support, psychological counseling, and participation in various activities and workshops, we provide these children with the resources they need to build a stable future here, at home.

## Casa Heidi

Operating in a former school building that we fully renovated, the day care center has provided education, care, and a warm meal to the community's vulnerable children for over 15 years. In 2025, our educators helped 40 children close their educational gaps, while our psychologist guided them in finding emotional balance and self-confidence. With the forest just steps away, the children often set out on hikes, where the stillness of nature helped heal their invisible wounds.



Help the children  
in our day care centers



# A better future starts today

At YANA, we believe every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and forge their own path. That is why, beyond our daily activities in the centers, we constantly strive to implement educational, social, and personal development programmes. Our goal is to provide not just immediate support, but the essential tools needed to break the cycle of poverty and vulnerability of the past generations.



## YANATEEN camp

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### Summer school

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Over the course of four weeks, our summer school brought together 195 beneficiaries from our centers and children from the wider community for an engaging educational journey. From exploring science to workshops in creative arts, fretwork, and culinary arts, every activity was designed to spark curiosity and a practical mindset.

Beyond learning, the time spent together strengthened the bonds between children, playing a vital role in fostering inclusion and reducing bullying and social isolation.



The educational journey of adolescents from vulnerable backgrounds is often marked by obstacles. Lack of resources, family hardships, and the absence of positive role models lead many to drop out of school prematurely. To provide support and new perspectives for teens facing such challenges, we created the YANATEEN camp.

In 2025, 15 adolescents facing difficult family situations enjoyed a fun and educational experience by the sea. These camps are our way of encouraging them to stay in school during their most vulnerable years and to successfully transition to high schools and vocational schools for a more secure future.

*What I like best at YANA is the time we spend playing together and the way we celebrate our birthdays.*

- Darius, 10 years old

# Growing together: education, support and volunteering

## Scholarships for high school students

Once they transition from middle school to high school or vocational schools and no longer attend our day care centers, we do not give up on our children who are still at risk of dropping out. We support them with monthly scholarships, monitoring their progress until they complete their studies and gain a professional qualification.

This program has been running for 21 years, offering scholarships to over 500 young people.



## Volunteer training

At YANA, volunteering means becoming part of a dedicated community where every action shapes the future of the children in our day care centers. Truly inspiring are our former beneficiaries who return to the centers to volunteer, sharing the same care and guidance they once found here.

Since the beginning, hundreds of volunteers have contributed to the children's progress, helping with homework, organizing sports activities, playing games, and working together in various workshops. It is a rewarding journey altogether, as our volunteers gain experience and useful skills that stay with them for life.



## The story book "The Ink Thief"

For several months, 20 children embarked on a creative journey, learning how to write a book. The result was a small volume filled with their own stories and illustrations.

For the children at the day care center, publishing and launching their very own book at the Gaudeamus Book Fair in Bucharest was a powerful validation of their potential. Given that many come from families with limited access to education, the experience of writing, illustrating, and signing a book gave them confidence, a voice, and the belief that they can succeed.

"The Ink Thief" stands as a symbol of breaking barriers and opening new horizons through education and support.

*The children come and hug me when I least expect it. I feel useful at YANA. I feel like I can truly achieve something through my own efforts.*

- Anisia, volunteer & former beneficiary



# We go beyond help: we restore dignity



## Lărguța volunteering camp

What began in 2008 as an emergency response to two homes destroyed by fire in the village of Lărguța grew into a regenerative force in the community: 22 homes rebuilt or renovated with the help of 'Friends of Lărguța' and volunteers from Liechtenstein, Austria, and Romania.

In the summer of 2025, they refurbished the home of a family whose children are beneficiaries at Casa YANA. In addition, they refreshed the interiors of our day care centers, prepared preserves for the YANA kitchen using vegetables from our garden, and chopped firewood for the winter.



## YANA Garden

In our greenhouses, built with the support of 'Friends of Lărguța' and volunteers from the Lărguța camp, we grow vegetables for the YANA kitchen.

In 2025, 90 children from Casa YANA and Casa Heidi took part in gardening activities, developing skills that can lead to practical and sustainable ways of life, while also learning responsibility.



## Intergenerational program

For over six years, we have been rebuilding bridges where time has drifted us apart. In 2025, eight senior volunteers became mentors to our children, offering not only homework help but also life lessons through fretwork, tailoring, and gardening workshops.

This symbiosis heals both ends of the generational thread: while children bridge educational gaps under gentle guidance and develop autonomy, the seniors regain a sense of purpose and belonging, transforming loneliness into active contribution.



## Follow our work on social media



[www.yana.ro](http://www.yana.ro)



[www.facebook.com/fundatiayana.bacau](https://www.facebook.com/fundatiayana.bacau)



[www.instagram.com/fundatia.yana/](https://www.instagram.com/fundatia.yana/)



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# We change lives step by step

## **"Home":** *Actions and services to prevent family separation and strengthen the family of origin*

Many children in Bacău County, particularly in rural areas, live in conditions of extreme vulnerability, partly due to parents leaving for Western Europe for seasonal work. For these children, school dropout and family abandonment are painful daily realities. High dropout rates in primary school have a strong impact on their development, leaving them without access to education and, consequently, to better life opportunities.

In this context, the "Home" project, co-funded by the European Union and launched in March 2025, provides an integrated response. We offer support services to 266 vulnerable children (out of which 27 are Roma children) and their families across six communities in Bacău County.

As a key achievement of this project, in September 2025, we opened a new day care center, Casa Antonia, in the village of Bâșca (Berzunți commune), in a Roma community facing an alarming school dropout rate.



Over a three-year period, the children in the project will benefit from support for independent living skills, psychological assistance, medical aid and rehabilitation, homework support, and financial literacy. They will also engage in socialization and leisure activities and, last but not least, receive vocational guidance.

Educational success in our centers depends on stability at home, which is why we provide parents with a parental education program. To the same end, they also receive material support, conditional upon their active participation in the provided activities.

To raise awareness of the vulnerabilities faced by children and families in these communities, we will run information and public awareness campaigns.

As partnership leaders, we enjoy a fruitful collaboration with our project partners and the local authorities in the targeted communities.



Find out more about  
our **"Home" project**



# Stories from YANA

Andreea and Marcu, glimpse into how YANA's mission is coming to life in Romania



**Andreea**

Andreea came to YANA when she was 9. Her mother suffered from severe mental illness, and she has never known her father. Despite many hardships, her maternal grandmother took on the responsibility of raising her.

At YANA, Andreea found kind-hearted people who helped her build self-confidence. Hardworking by nature and supported by our educators, she completed the eighth grade, becoming the first in her family to attend high school.

Throughout high school, we continued supporting her with monthly scholarships, and she returned to the center as a volunteer, eager to give back a part of what she once received.

'I learned many things at YANA that I later put to good use. I remember how, during meals, an educator would challenge us to speak in rhymes. That's how I started writing poetry, and writing became my passion,' says Andreea.

Today, Andreea is a student at the Faculty of Letters in Bacău. For the future, she dreams of becoming a teacher, not ruling out an academic career.

Marcu is a 9-year-old boy, the youngest of seven siblings in a family facing many hardships. When he first arrived at Casa YANA in 2025, Marcu was very withdrawn. He was difficult to understand, and most of the time he kept to himself. Despite being in the third grade, he could not recognize numbers or letters.

With the consistent care and individual attention provided by our team, Marcu began to take part in activities and workshops. To bridge his educational gaps, he works daily one-on-one with an educator. Today, he speaks clearly without hesitation, and he naturally joins the other kids in sports activities.

Marcu has a dream: he wants to become a pilot. And we will be by his side for as long as it takes.

**There are 140 children like him in Bacău, supported by YANA.**



**Marcu**

# 2026: A year of growth and innovation

## ***YANA garden: from seed to plate***

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In 2026, we are turning support into sustainability through our newly built educational greenhouse. Here, gardening becomes a living lesson in responsibility. Moving beyond the role of beneficiaries, our children are becoming young horticulturists, actively growing their own future. The vegetables they take care of go straight to the YANA kitchen, providing healthy meals, while green waste returns to the soil as compost—nourishing the land that, in turn, nourishes them. This is a circular economy model where your donation doesn't just buy food; it funds an on-going mechanism of education, health, and environmental respect.

Support YANA projects  
with a **donation!**



## ***We build a playground in Bâșca***

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In 2026, we are transforming the heart of the Roma community in Bâșca, Berzunți, into a space of inclusion. Our project focuses on building a playground dedicated to vulnerable children who, until now, have lacked a safe space to simply be... children. What makes this initiative both sustainable and impactful is our strong tripartite partnership: we are working hand-in-hand with the Berzunți Town Hall and the 'Alexandru cel Bun' Middle School. This partnership guarantees that the project is more than just building an infrastructure; it is a long-term investment in the children's holistic development and education.

Therefore, by supporting this playground you build a genuine bridge of trust between the community and institutions, giving these children the dignity of growing up in an environment that values them.



## ***YANA Club: Children, Parents, and Seniors***

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By opening YANA Club, we aim to build a cultural legacy where opportunities are often forgotten: in the Romanian countryside.

Imagine a place where a vulnerable child doesn't just receive homework help and a warm meal at the day center, but also learns to master guitar chords or the secrets of the stage, sitting alongside a classmate or a senior who shares whispers of wisdom.

Our project transforms the day center into a living ecosystem of inclusion; the 'Mothers' Club' and 'Seniors' Club,' running in parallel, will become the emotional safety nets for the entire area. You are not just funding piano or theater lessons; you are funding the dignity of belonging to a rural environment that no longer means limitation, but creative potential.

# Our financials in 2025

<b>Income (CHF)</b>	<b>682,297.32</b>
Donations	332,362.14
Sponsorship	102,867.30
Non-reimbursable funds	238,582.22
Exchange rate differences	8,485.66

<b>Expenses (CHF)</b>	<b>598,087.38</b>
<b>Running costs</b>	
Payroll	391,379.92
Scholarships	19,941.11
Warm meal	61,971.32
Consumables	55,847.61
Garden	8,773.04
Camp Lărguța	17,853.73
Website & Communication	11,834.23
Fundraising	6,019.50
Unforeseen	382.41
<b>TOTAL running costs</b>	<b>574,002.87</b>

Find out what we do for children, parents, seniors, and the entire community



<b>Investments (CHF)</b>	
Car-staff and children transportation	10,493.31
Garden investment	13,591.20
<b>TOTAL investment</b>	<b>24,084.51</b>



## Awards & recognition



YANA was honored with the **Bacău Community Award** at the 22nd edition of the Bacău Community Awards Gala in May 2025, highlighting the significance of our impactful social projects & programmes, which we have been creating and implementing for nearly 30 years in the rural communities of Bacău county.

In August 2025, Ana Gabriela Mateiu, president of YANA Romania, was awarded the title of **Honorary Citizen of Nicolae Bălcescu**. This distinction recognizes her dedication to developing educational and social programmes for vulnerable children and their families.



In December 2025, Enya Budăeș, our volunteer at Casa YANA, was named **"Best Volunteer of 2025"** at the Bacău Volunteer Gala, organized yearly by The Community Support Foundation.

## YANA Executive Team & Board Members



**Antonia Frick**  
Honorary President  
YANA Liechtenstein



**Anna Maria D'Hulster**  
President  
YANA Liechtenstein



**Ana Gabriela Mateiu**  
President  
YANA Romania



**Camelia Coșa**  
Program Coordinator  
YANA Romania



**Diana Livia Neacșu**  
Member YANA Romania



**Sandra Pralong**  
Senior Advisor YANA Romania



**Liviu Gabor**  
Member YANA Romania



**His Serene Highness Prince Michael of Liechtenstein**  
Board Member  
YANA Liechtenstein



**Hansjörg Frick**  
Honorary Member  
YANA Liechtenstein



**Andreas Aczel**  
Member  
YANA Liechtenstein



**Nadja Frick**  
Member  
YANA Liechtenstein



**Daniel Wanger**  
Member  
YANA Liechtenstein

## Volunteers



For nearly 30 years, at YANA, solidarity turns into action by volunteering. Whether it's about helping children with homework, leading various workshops and sports, or offering community support, junior volunteers always bring energy and enthusiasm, experiencing firsthand the impact of their actions.

To this picture, our senior volunteers add the colors of patience and wisdom, repeatedly offering the 'calm in the middle of the storm' and wholeheartedly providing closeness and understanding during the difficult times children face.

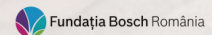
By investing in this vital intergenerational dialogue, we ensure that kindness is not just a momentary act, but a living force that unites the community's past, present, and future.



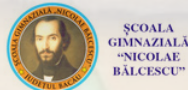
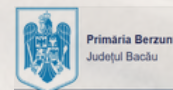
# We don't wait for the future; we build it!

## Thank you for being part of our journey!

### Sponsors



### Partners



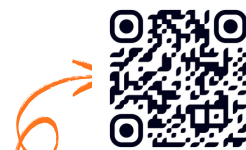
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Sustainability is at the heart of our work. Nevertheless, we currently provide our annual report to our sponsors in printed format as well. If you would prefer to receive our communications electronically in the future, please let us know by sending your email address to [info@yana.li](mailto:info@yana.li).