



# FELIX FAMILY VILLAGES

I N T E R N A T I O N A L





**Because every child deserves a family...**  
We give families to the children of the world!



# Felix Family Villages

When we were children, having a family that loved us and kept us safe were things we took for granted. In today's world there are great numbers of children that have been abandoned, live neglected and orphaned, without that love and safety. At Felix Family Villages we work to



break that, by taking care of the children when they are at their most vulnerable, and nurturing them back to a life in dignity, assisting them, like any family would, into adult life.

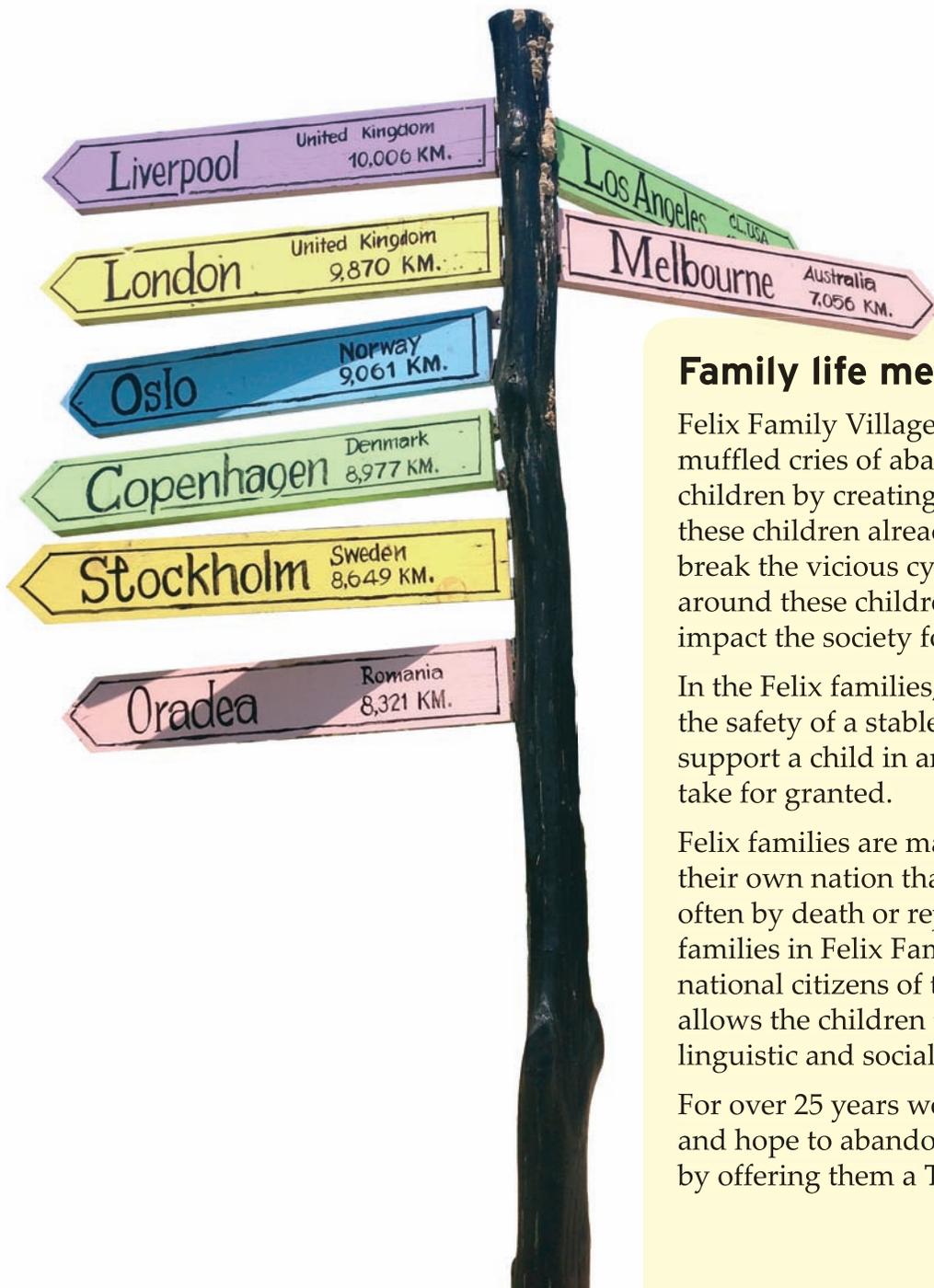
According to the UNICEF, if you are an abandoned child, you don't know where your next meal will come from or where you will sleep that night. You don't go to school and you resort to begging and stealing just to survive. If you fall ill, you have no medical support and you are often abused by adults who either trade you as goods or use you for their own pleasure.

Being an abandoned child means being stigmatized and shut out from society, which leads you to fend for yourself. Often these circumstances can lead to child pregnancy, a phenomenon which aggravates the situation, and which is one of the reasons that the number of abandoned children increases each year.

## What is the solution?

The most natural solution to the problem of being an abandoned child is to give that child a family. No other form of care can replace a real family when it comes to physical, emotional and spiritual recovery and growth. Foster care and adoptions are very good options, but unfortunately a very small number of the abandoned children in the world can access and benefit from these. This requires a lot of work, but rather than compromising on something we see each child as something unique and amazing. We believe that is how God sees them too.





## Family life meets the need

Felix Family Villages wants to answer the muffled cries of abandoned and orphaned children by creating families locally where these children already live. It **IS** possible to break the vicious cycle, tear down the stigma around these children and fundamentally impact the society for positive change.

In the Felix families, children can grow up in the safety of a stable home and receive all the support a child in any family should be able to take for granted.

Felix families are made up of children from their own nation that have lost their parents, often by death or rejection. The parents of the families in Felix Family Villages are always national citizens of that specific country. This allows the children to have their cultural, linguistic and social needs met and supported.

For over 25 years we have been bringing love and hope to abandoned and rejected children by offering them a **TRUE** family.

# Romanian Villages

In 1990, two children moved into the first Caminul Felix apartment in Oradea, Romania and those two soon became seven!



The Swedish NGO Erikshjalpen was one of the first supporting organizations and in partnership with Caminul Felix, the first family village was constructed.

## The First Village

More than 100 children received new parents and a new family in these six homes. Each house had a Romanian couple as parents, and 15-18 children each. These formerly abandoned children have been rescued and now live in an atmosphere of love, hope and peace. Each mother and father are committed to every once-forgotten child. These children are often traumatized by past rejection and homelessness, yet through love and dedication, the parent couples are able to help transform these children's lives.

**The dream to save these children from neglect has become a reality!**

## The Second Village

The second Felix village was built by churches, private individuals and corporations and was completed in 2001 by volunteers from the US, the UK and Sweden. Assist International from the United States was the main sponsor. The village has ten homes, with 12-14 children in each family.

### Caminul Habitat

At the end of this project, 83 young families will have a house where they can offer their children a warm and vibrant home.

### The Farm

We are the largest dairy farm in Bihor County and our farm fully meets European production standards.



Felix has grown, and in total there are over **250** children in the different families in Romania.

Around **600** children have been part of Caminul Felix through the years, most of them having integrated successfully into society.

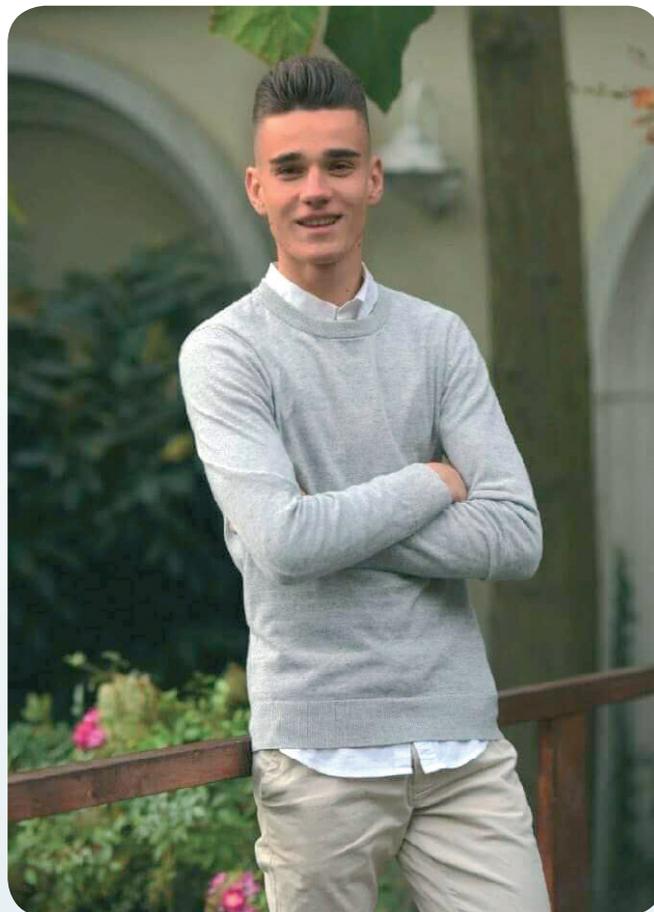
Today we have children who have studied at different colleges in Oradea, elsewhere in Romania, Europe and the US. Others have married and have started their own families. The greatest joy we experience is when their lives are transformed by God's Word and decide to live by the values instilled in them by their "adopted" family.

## Iulian Gavrilu

“Eighteen years have passed. Eighteen years since two young people, husband and wife from Caminul Felix, opened up their heart and decided to raise me, to teach me how to take my first steps, to speak, to read and probably the most important thing – to know that there is something beyond us, beyond this world..., another life for which we live while here on Earth.

My name is Iulian Gavrilu, I am nineteen years old and I have four sisters and eight brothers, out of which one sister and one brother are my biological siblings. I was brought into my new home at the age of one and a half. The story of the first eighteen years of my life is written by them, the people I am privileged to call Mom and Dad. The parents who brought me into this world were only able to take care of me for about a year, a year in which my sister took care of me most of the time, even more than the people who gave life to me. Nevertheless, I was blessed beyond measure when I arrived at Caminul Felix, where I found people with a big heart, who were willing to love me, to raise me and to offer me everything that I needed.

I am aware that it is also because of the support of many of you that I am here today, at the beautiful age of 19, when the story of my life continues. But from now on, it will be my responsibility to make the best decisions. This summer I finished high school with very good results in the graduation exams and I have enrolled at college, so I am looking



forward to starting my studies at the Faculty of Economic Sciences in Oradea, the International Business program. I am so very glad about the support I am offered in order to be able to continue my studies. I believe that determination is important when it comes to fulfilling one's dream, but I know that it is also of great value to have someone beside you to support you so that you are able to fulfill your dreams. What a beautiful leap! From the age of one, when I did not know what I wanted to do with my life, today I am able to write these things. The story of a life that seemed lost is being shaped into a story that I want more and more people to hear about.

Thank you so much, beautiful people, whether I know you or not. It is with your help that my story continues.”

## Loredana and Ovi Csoka, parents in House 1

Caminul Felix is a place where a beautiful community lives, made up of children and adults, and friendship is an essential element that contributes to the harmony and efficiency of this community.

For over 15 years, we have been a part of this community and we are glad to be surrounded by true friends, who have always been there for us. The friendship that we share goes beyond the relationship of collegiality. Together we can share our joys or the sad situations that we encounter, together we have built the most beautiful memories, and also together we work for the achievement of important projects for the future.

We are thankful to serve in such a community, along with people who share the same principles and values, who have demonstrated solidarity and support, appreciation and love for one another and for the children.

As we think about our children and see them grow, we desire that they too will come to know true friendship more and more by learning to be honest, good, trustworthy, selfless and helpful to those around them. That is what we teach them, but mostly we want them to see those qualities in us, so that we can build beautiful characters.

They rightly say that friendship is like an oasis in the wilderness, a breeze in the scorching heat of the desert. That is what the friends of Caminul Felix are like, all of those who stand by us and our children. We are blessed because of you – because of true friends.



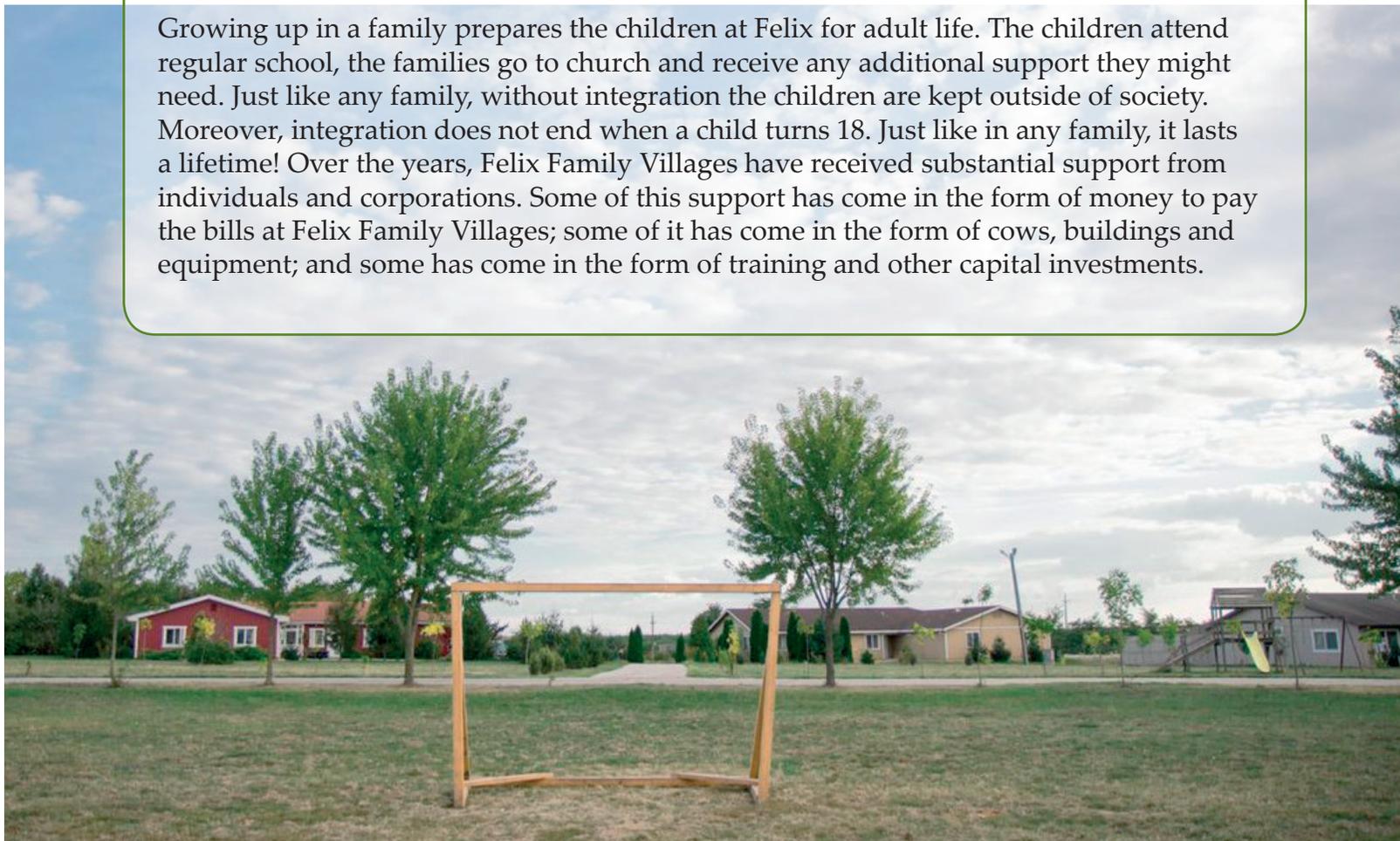
We wish you all the best and may you enjoy your friends and may you in turn be friendly!

God bless you!

## When they grow up

### Integration is the key to success.

Growing up in a family prepares the children at Felix for adult life. The children attend regular school, the families go to church and receive any additional support they might need. Just like any family, without integration the children are kept outside of society. Moreover, integration does not end when a child turns 18. Just like in any family, it lasts a lifetime! Over the years, Felix Family Villages have received substantial support from individuals and corporations. Some of this support has come in the form of money to pay the bills at Felix Family Villages; some of it has come in the form of cows, buildings and equipment; and some has come in the form of training and other capital investments.



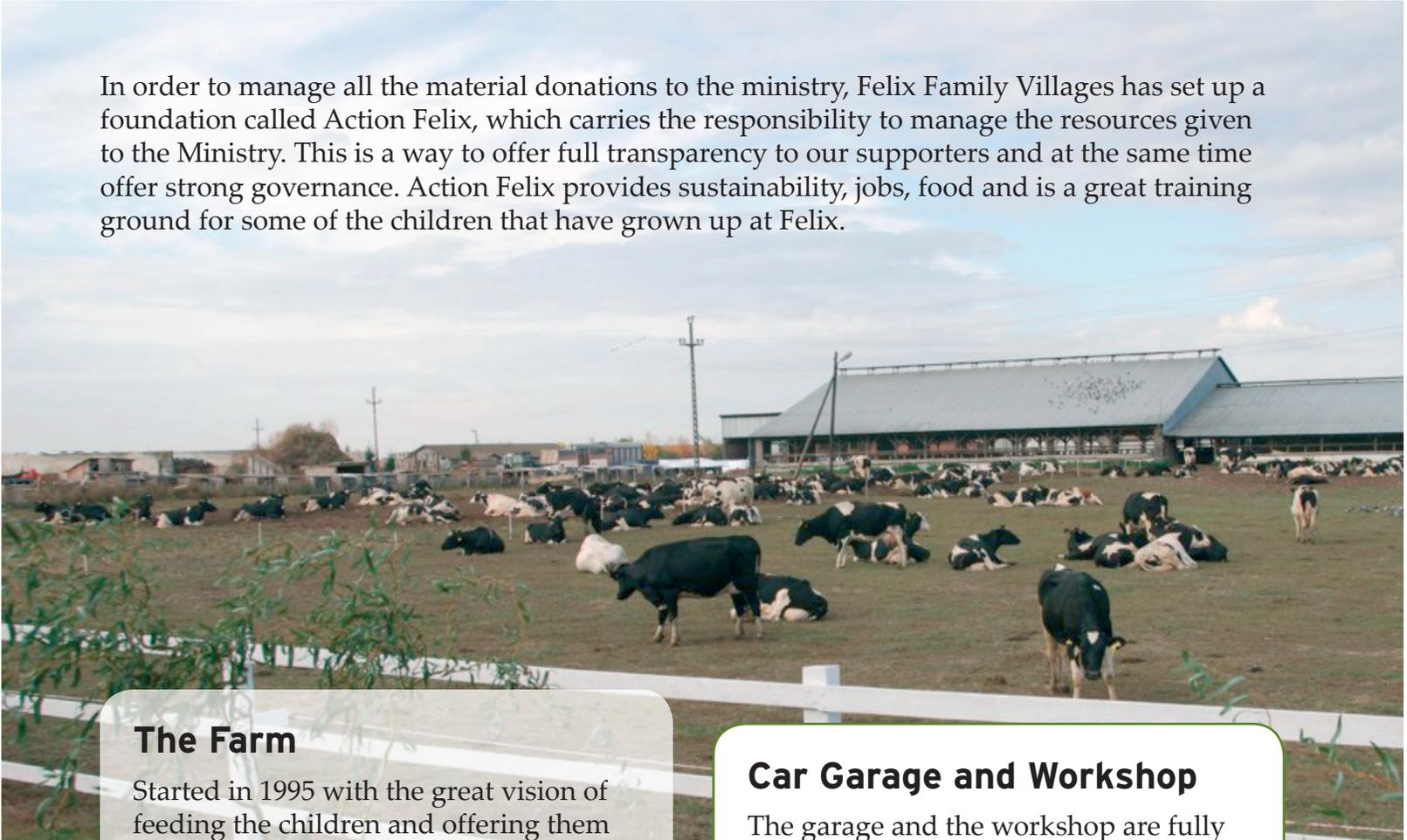
## Choir and ensembles

Felix Family Villages has two children's and youth choirs as well as some smaller groups. Every month they travel to various Romanian churches to present the work by sharing their stories of having found a new family.

The Caminul Felix choirs have almost two decades of international and national experience traveling, performing and fundraising for Felix through testimonies and the sharing of their talents. The choir gives children exposure to the world, and all children, regardless of talent, are given an opportunity to participate in the choir.

# Action Felix

In order to manage all the material donations to the ministry, Felix Family Villages has set up a foundation called Action Felix, which carries the responsibility to manage the resources given to the Ministry. This is a way to offer full transparency to our supporters and at the same time offer strong governance. Action Felix provides sustainability, jobs, food and is a great training ground for some of the children that have grown up at Felix.



## The Farm

Started in 1995 with the great vision of feeding the children and offering them a place to develop different skills, many people got involved and helped the farm develop in ways we did not see coming! Today there are more than 10 jobs that were created, and they are mostly filled by children that grew in Caminul Felix. Our farm is one of the few from Bihor County that has stood the test of time. Most of our milk is shipped to one of the biggest milk processors in Romania and some of it is sold through milk dispensing machines at Caminul Felix Village 1, at the farm itself and in one other location in the town of Oradea. The rest of it is provided to the Felix children as daily groceries. Feeding and caring for the animals is based solely on natural produce, and the high demand proves that the economic potential of the farm represents an important financial resource.

## Car Garage and Workshop

The garage and the workshop are fully equipped to service and maintain a wide range of vehicles. This helps to keep costs down for Felix and at the same time gives on-the-job training for the young men and women of Caminul Felix. The garage and workshop have experienced mechanics and also employs young adults from the Caminul Felix Villages.

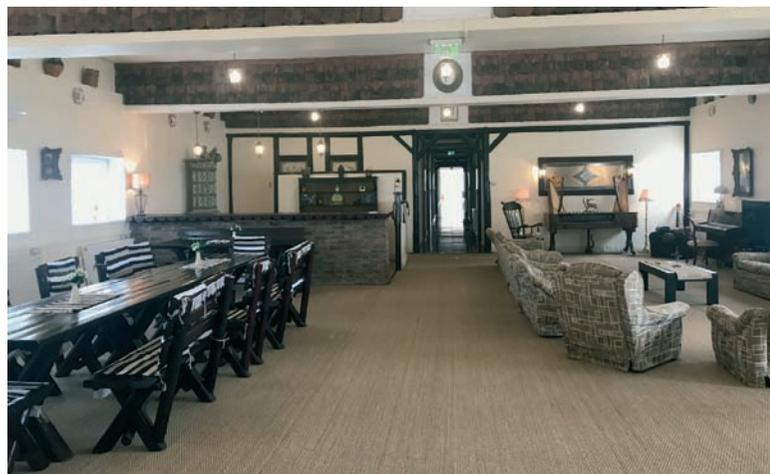


## Sunflower Design Workshop



Sunflower Design is an integral part of the education of young men and women at Caminul Felix. Its purpose is to provide an environment where they can learn design, sewing and craftsmanship skills. Over the years many girls have received training and employment at Sunflower Design. The first aim of this ministry is to provide jobs and practical education to the young people growing up in the Caminul Felix Family villages. Sunflower Design also gives opportunity for individual development and social support in a hands-on, real world way.

## The Noble House Hotel



Noble House was originally created as a studio for arts, crafts and antique refinishing projects. It was envisioned as a place where the children of Caminul Felix could develop and learn applicable skills. The building was finished in the spring of 2006. Today Noble House serves as a rustic guesthouse. It offers 12 modern double guest rooms with suite-style bathrooms. The house also offers meeting rooms and a gathering hall decorated with Romanian antiques. The Felix youth can receive training in hotel management at Noble House.

## Happy School Workshop



Happy School was created a few years ago at Caminul Felix Village 1, from Sânmartin. Our wish was to help children find their passion and ability by exploring areas that are important in life. It all began as mothers, teachers and children made greeting cards and crafts around a table. The children were so passionate that we have started other activities such as painting, decorations and modeling.

Realizing how important and beautiful wood is, we have started making all sorts of wood items and the results have thrilled parents and students alike!



### Carpentry and Handicraft Workshop

Through generous donations we have a fully equipped carpentry workshop for boys and girls at Caminul Felix, Sântandrei. The carpentry workshop offers a very popular training site for the youth, and extracurricular activities for the school children.

It also meets the needs of our village homes by making new furniture or fixing existing furniture. The workshop represents a way to stimulate and develop practical skills for the children who have the gift of working with wood and want to follow a career in this area. The leaders of the workshop are experienced and skilled in this field and some of our youth are earning their salaries being employed here.

Toward the end of 2018 we had the joy of starting a small workshop to designed to fix bicycles; some kids have great interest and are delighted to participate. In the future we are thinking of exploring other areas such as gardening, sewing, media and cooking. We are aware that children have great potential and they need help to discover, develop and deploy that potential at even the earliest days of their lives. We are thankful to all that love children and join us in this lovely project. Only together can we make a change by being a blessing for this generation and for the one to come.

# Long term support



## Life Development Fund

In the past it was named Study Fund and then later it became the Life Development Fund. Initially funds were given to students who excelled in their studies, but we soon realized that other students may not be headed to higher education. Some might become skilled laborers and workers in other areas, and they needed funds to help launch their adult lives. This was the case with Greta who in time received €2.000 so she could buy furniture and household appliances for her studio. Yearly we have 10-15 students who participate. Donations towards this project can be given to the Caminul Felix account by earmarking the Life Development Fund and the child's name. Some are small donations, but done on a monthly basis, and over time, it becomes significant. Some people choose to send the donations early when children are in high school, and in this case the funds remain in the accounts in Sweden or United States. Once the young person needs access to the funds, we can send it to them either for their studies or their start in adult life.





### **Teenage House**

Consistent with Felix Family's emphasis on integration, the Teenage Adaptation Program provides additional support to the families as the children make the transition into adulthood. The Teenage House offers temporary accommodation and offers practical support as well. The Teenage House is an apartment building with 14 double occupancy apartments where young adults from Caminul Felix can begin their transition into independent living.

### **Habitat Homes**

These small, decent and affordable homes are intended to house the families that were started by young people who grew up at Caminul Felix Villages. The houses are built with the help of future owners and volunteers from Romania and abroad. They are not given for free, but rather paid over time in instalments without zero interest. The houses have a wooden frame structure and a living area of 64 sqm (689 sqft), on a 400 sqm (4310 sqft) plot. Today we have built 15 standard homes, 18 studio's and one transitional home. We have 7 families that are on the waiting list for a new home, as well as 12 to 14 waiting for a studio. Our objective is to build 2 homes per year. It's important to note that the most requests are for single people who would like a studio home. Any help with materials, labor, tools or funding is much appreciated.

# Thailand - The land of smiles

## Surat Thani Village, Thailand



The concept of families as the way to raise children is universal. Families have different habits and customs, but there are many common denominators. Nothing makes up for the parent-child relationship when it comes to providing holistic care and guiding children through childhood. Felix started a village in Thailand in 2007, with 10 new homes. This was done in partnership with churches in Thailand, Sweden and the USA. The village is located in Surat Thani, Thailand, and it's providing families for the abandoned and rejected children of the country, with priority given to children that have lost their parents to HIV/Aids.





## Bakery Project

With the help and support of a team from the United States, we've built a bakery where our older teenagers can learn the practical skills of baking and cooking. The bakery is directed by one of the mothers from the village who is trained in this profession. This kitchen is equipped with the best tools available for cooking and baking, all of which were generously given by a Thai donor.

## Life testimonies



### Supot & Ning's Testimony

We love what we are doing, and we do strongly believe in the FAMILY setting. This is the answer for children to have a better life. Because of the support of many people, churches and organizations, their lives have been lifted up and today they have a full life. It is incredibly meaningful and powerful because their whole world is changed after they have been brought in to a family with a mom and dad.

Supot and Ning – *House Parents*

### Leah's Story

I give thanks to the Lord that He brought me here. A new life began for me in the Felix Family Village. I have a new family, mom, dad and also brothers and sisters.

Most of all I have met Jesus Christ and my life has been totally changed. Now I have finished high school and had a graduation ceremony. I'm so proud of another step taken in my life. On that day many people came to greet me and that made me happy and I could not stop smiling! I'm preparing to start my studies in the university. I'm very excited but at the same time worried about many things that I will face in the university. I love my family, dad and mom, and I do strongly believe that being given this family was the answer for me to have a better life. I'm serving God in our church together with other young people.



# Bangladesh - a new opportunity



It is such a joy and an honor to see what God has done, and is doing, in the Caminul Felix Villages! The villages in Romania and the village in Thailand are testaments of God's love, grace and provision for the orphaned and abandoned children of those countries – and we would love to see those villages expand to other countries as well!

We are now in the initial stages of finding a location in rural Bangladesh so that we might establish a new village to serve and love the children of this beautiful nation. We have now made several visits and have begun to narrow down our search for a piece of property not too far from the capital city of Dhaka.

Bangladesh is a unique country with numerous challenges and concerns but with great opportunity as well. We look forward to what God has for us! Will you join us in prayer as we work on this new project? Bangladesh is a country with many orphaned and abandoned children who need the loving stability of a mom and a dad and a family to call their own. We hope we can begin serving those children soon! Please pray and please give if you are able. Thank you!!!

# Governance of Felix Family Villages

At the core of Felix Family Villages is the right of the child. A local village is made possible by free families that live as all families are called to live - led by the parents, in unity and accordance with all families in the village. In order to ensure this, the organization must be transparent, have clear lines of accountability and at the same time have a clear focus on efficiency and team work. An effective way for Felix to ensure this is by having local Executive Leadership. Local leaders receive training at the Felix Academy in areas ranging from budgeting, teamwork, quality assurance, and most importantly, child welfare. Felix Family Villages is governed by an international board that is made up of representatives and leaders from churches, business, mass media and international charity organizations, as well as parents and leaders working in Felix Family Villages.

Felix Family Village International (FFVI) has a simple call: To reach children with no homes, no place, and especially, no family. The pacesetter for us are the words and values which we see in the compassionate Love of God. Is there anything that can match that?

With our faith firmly in God, we are being formed into the workers who are building the homes, families and priorities for abandoned and rejected little ones. And while they may be rejected by so many, they are accepted by God and Felix Family Villages!

With the love and values of our loving Heavenly Father everybody grows in character, grows deeper and grows stronger. Truly in His presence the little ones are being healed and empowered to trust, love and become strong members of their world.

Felix International focuses on certain areas of action, all of which are driven by the needs presented to us and the call on our hearts.

Our vision is to build new homes, families and Felix Villages in ever more nations. Our priorities include finding funds for faster development of Felix Villages and sharing the heart-breaking situation and information about the 200 million abandoned little ones of our world.

Through our publications and marketing, sharing the need of support and training for Felix parents we hope to find more resources for new Villages and encourage the perspective of Family – that God wants all children to have a mom and dad.

## **We need you!**

Join the support group of FFVI - the Felix International Force, to rescue more children.

## **Write to**

Chairman Martyn Sheppard for FFVI in general  
martyn@georgestreet.co.uk

Gabriela Ilinca  
gabriela.ilinca85@gmail.com,

or/and

Lars Hornberg for further contact with Felix Romania, Felix Thailand or Felix Bangladesh  
lbhornberg@gmail.com

# How Can You Help?

Felix Family Villages is funded by individual and corporate sponsors, as well as churches that want to be a part of the solution to help abandoned children become part of families and change the direction of their lives. Growing up in a family is the most natural way for a child to find a secure identity and become a whole person. It is also the most economical way.



## Support a Project

Whatever you want to give will have a huge impact. Your gift will make it possible for us to become even better at what we do, to reach more children and give them the best care available. There are always a range of projects on the go at our villages. For more information and an updated list of projects, please get in touch with any of our offices.

## Come Visit

You and your mission team are more than welcome to come and experience the Felix Family Villages. Your passion, talents, skills and knowledge would be of great value to us at Felix Family Villages. If you and your mission team would like to come and visit us, please visit our website [www.caminulfelix.org](http://www.caminulfelix.org) for a full list of relevant contacts.

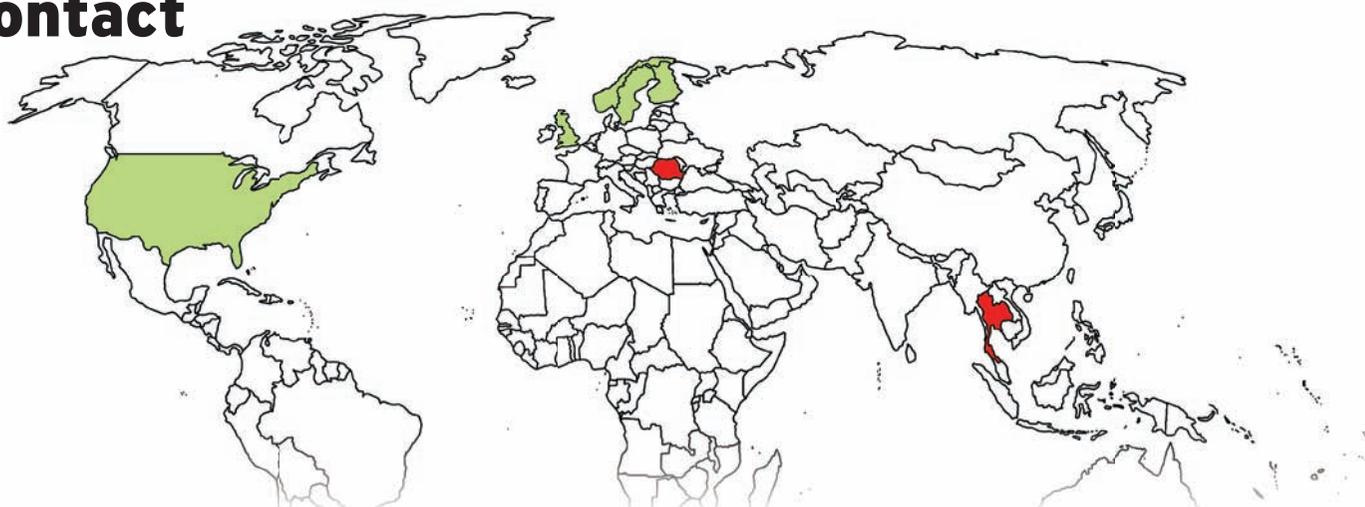
## Become a Sponsor

If you choose to become a sponsor you will make a world of difference in the life of a child! With a loving mom and dad, proper medical attention, schooling, and all the emotional and spiritual support they need, the child will blossom. If you would like to get involved, please get in contact with one of our offices, or find out more on our website: [www.caminulfelix.org](http://www.caminulfelix.org).

## Estate Planning and Living Family Memorials

Many families contribute to Felix Family Villages as part of their estate or as living memorials. We are proud that they have entrusted in us this respect, and we are honored to be a comfort to families who have lost a loved one. All such decisions should be made in complete confidence, and we invite you to contact us for more information about how to establish a living family memorial.

# Contact



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