



FREE

# ACTIVITY REPORT

2017 ASOCIATIA FREE

# A word of introduction from the board...



**Laetitia, Dan & Grace**

THE BOARD OF ASOCIATIA FREE

Dear friends and partners,

We are grateful for another year at your side. This year we saw many new exiting things happen, along with some challenging ones as well!

In 2017, we started the year having our one and only beneficiary from Casa Refugiu at the time. She has been trafficked in Greece for labor and sexual exploitation, though she had been already in a shelter she had still so many issues! That was the moment we had a true reality check about what residential restoration work truly meant! Another challenge we were facing was that we did not know how to financially support this project long term.

Today, a year later, we are glad about all the knowledge that we have learned through the good and the bad experiences we had in 2017. We are blessed to start the next year with a full home, but also we are blessed to know that Casa Refugiu will be sustainable thanks to our new partners. In May 2017,, Talita Sweden joined us in these projects and allows us to continue the work that has only just begun. Later on, Rescue Freedom also decided to support our work.

We are also glad to see key people coming aboard to help. This year, Sarah Smith, president of Anchor of Hope will be joining our board, as well as Raluca Lungu, future doctor and long term volunteer. Ryan Crozier, president of Good Bureau, will also be joining our board as an advisor.

What we envision for the year to become is more stable in our programs and to see more women graduate from the program and never go back from the life of exploitation they once lived!

Once again, **thank you for your partnership and support.**

# OUR VISION

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**LAETITIA DRĂGAN**

ASOCIATIA *FREE* FOUNDER

[Click Here](#)



# OUR MISSION

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**Reach out** to women trapped in or vulnerable to prostitution.  
**Support** those who want to break free from the sex trade and  
build new lives with dignity

**Restore** holistically the lives of the victims we encounter

**Offer** alternatives

**Prevent** and raise awareness on the issue  
of sex trafficking



# Thank you!

A special thanks to our sponsors and partners :

Talita, Sweden

Rescue Freedom

Good Bureau

Entraide Lutheriene

S'Pere

CDLR

And the many others organizations, volunteers, staff, and friends with whom we share the burden of seeing more sexually exploited women set free!

# EDUCATION/ AWARENESS PROJECTS

Association FREE tries to educate the public regarding the issue of human trafficking, about what it is and how it can be overcome. Some topics that we cover are general education matters, identification of victims, preparing teams for outreaches, and more.





### **CAM GIRLS DOCUMENTARIES**

This year, there were some great opportunities to spread the message about the impact of human trafficking on its victims and draw attention about the sex cam industry in Romania in different large audience documentaries (BBC, Canal +, TF1...).



### **'WE ARE FREE' VIDEO**

The video presents the true story of a trafficking victim and how our work as Association FREE started. The online coverage this year gathered approximately 30.000 unique individuals through our online campaigns. [Click Here](#)



### **OTHER PRESENTATION/EVENTS.**

We had 7 events, and beside church presentations, we could attend events like Women Conference (Loving Together Others), Youth Conference Connections Poitiers, Youth conference Stay Free in Bacau, Women on Matasari Festival in Bucharest, YWAM staff team meeting, church events, etc.

After one church presentation, one man who lives on the streets told us he knows a girl who is a minor and was trafficked in Cyprus.

# PREVENTION PROGRAMS

We had two prevention programs in 2017, 3D and Kids Gang. These programs are aimed to prevent vulnerable teenagers/children from trafficking by giving information about the issue and addressing different subjects that are related.



# 3D PREVENTION PROGRAM

Launched last year in October, 3D Prevention Program (Decisions Determine Destiny) opened for us, in 2017, some opportunities to go through the curriculum with:



## 1720 INDIVIDUALS

most of them are teenage girls in schools and also vulnerable groups (1307 teenagers 13-17 yrs; 170 adults, 243 children 0-12 yrs)



## 19 INSTITUTIONS

(9 NGO's, 8 schools, 1 church, 1 jail)



## 10 CITIES REACHED

reached (Bacau, Bistrita, Bucuresti, Cernavoda, Falticeni, Resita, Senereus, Sighisoara, Suceava, Tg. Mures)



## 278 BOOKS GIVEN OUT

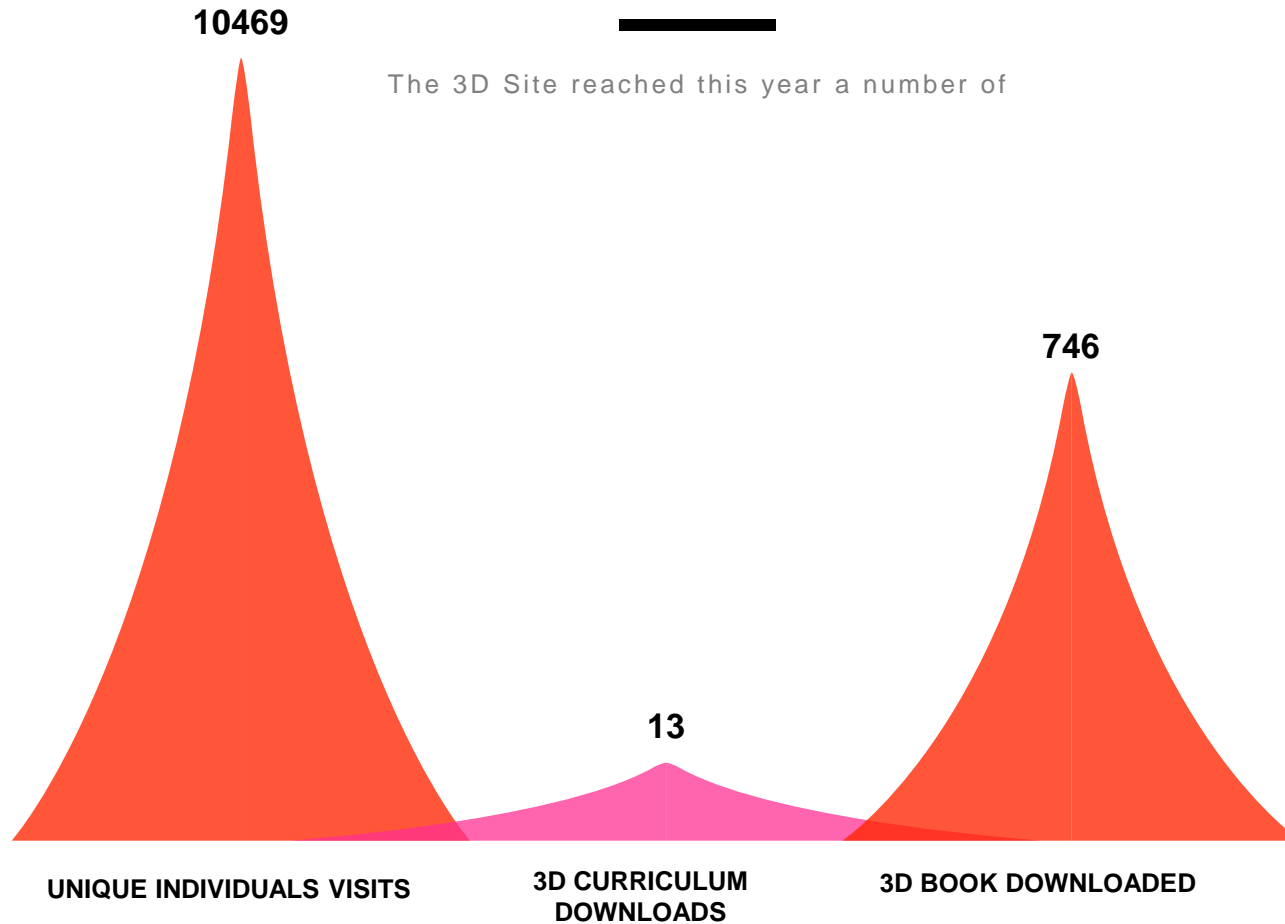
# Most of the beneficiaries were from high risk groups:

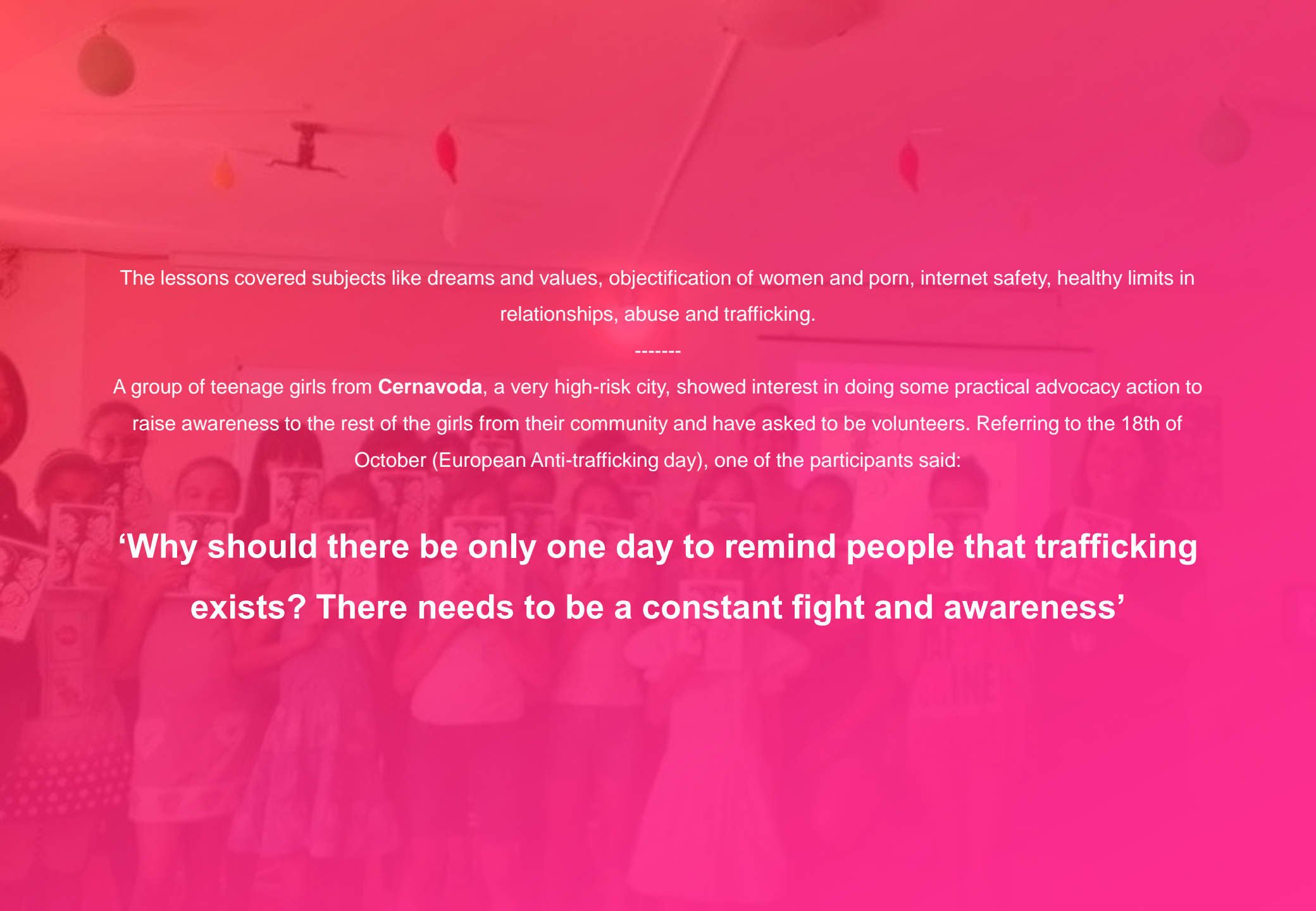


- Teenagers from day care centers in vulnerable communities
- Girls/children from social apartments in Bucharest/orphanages
- Mothers from a maternal center
- Drug addicts
- Teenagers from poor areas (rural or urban)
- Teenagers/ children with one or both parents working abroad



# STATISTICS



A group of teenage girls from Cernavoda, a very high-risk city, are shown holding up signs during an anti-trafficking awareness event. The girls are standing in a line, and the signs they are holding are partially visible. The background is a plain wall with some decorations, including a string of colorful paper lanterns. The overall scene is brightly lit, and the girls appear to be engaged in the activity.

The lessons covered subjects like dreams and values, objectification of women and porn, internet safety, healthy limits in relationships, abuse and trafficking.

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A group of teenage girls from **Cernavoda**, a very high-risk city, showed interest in doing some practical advocacy action to raise awareness to the rest of the girls from their community and have asked to be volunteers. Referring to the 18th of October (European Anti-trafficking day), one of the participants said:

**‘Why should there be only one day to remind people that trafficking exists? There needs to be a constant fight and awareness’**

# KIDZ GANG

Once a week, a dynamic team of volunteers meet up with the kids from the area for two hours of activities: crafts, games, stories, songs, snacks and many more.

This year there were **53 children** that participated in our activities. We had 21 meetings during 2017 at Casa Cana. And we were able to send 12 kids to summer camp, thanks to Stepping Forward ministry.

This Christmas we were able, through the help of Bread of Life, to give out Christmas gifts to **more than 50 kids** and share a message of hope with their families.





# RESCUE HIGHLIGHTS

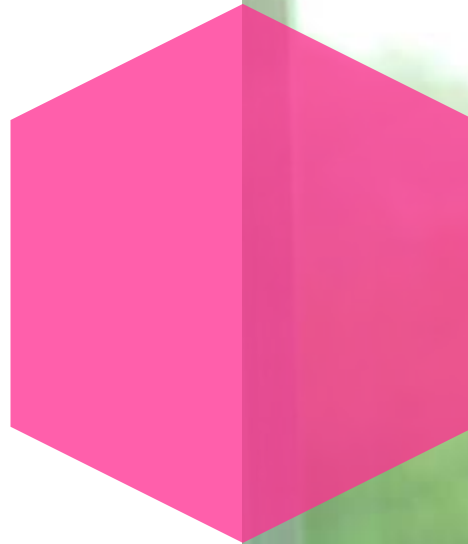
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This year we assisted with 10 rescues and/or repatriations. The youngest one was a minor at the age of 16, and the others were adults. One was a man, transvestite, who was exploited in France. Some of them were referred by partners, others we came across directly from the streets.

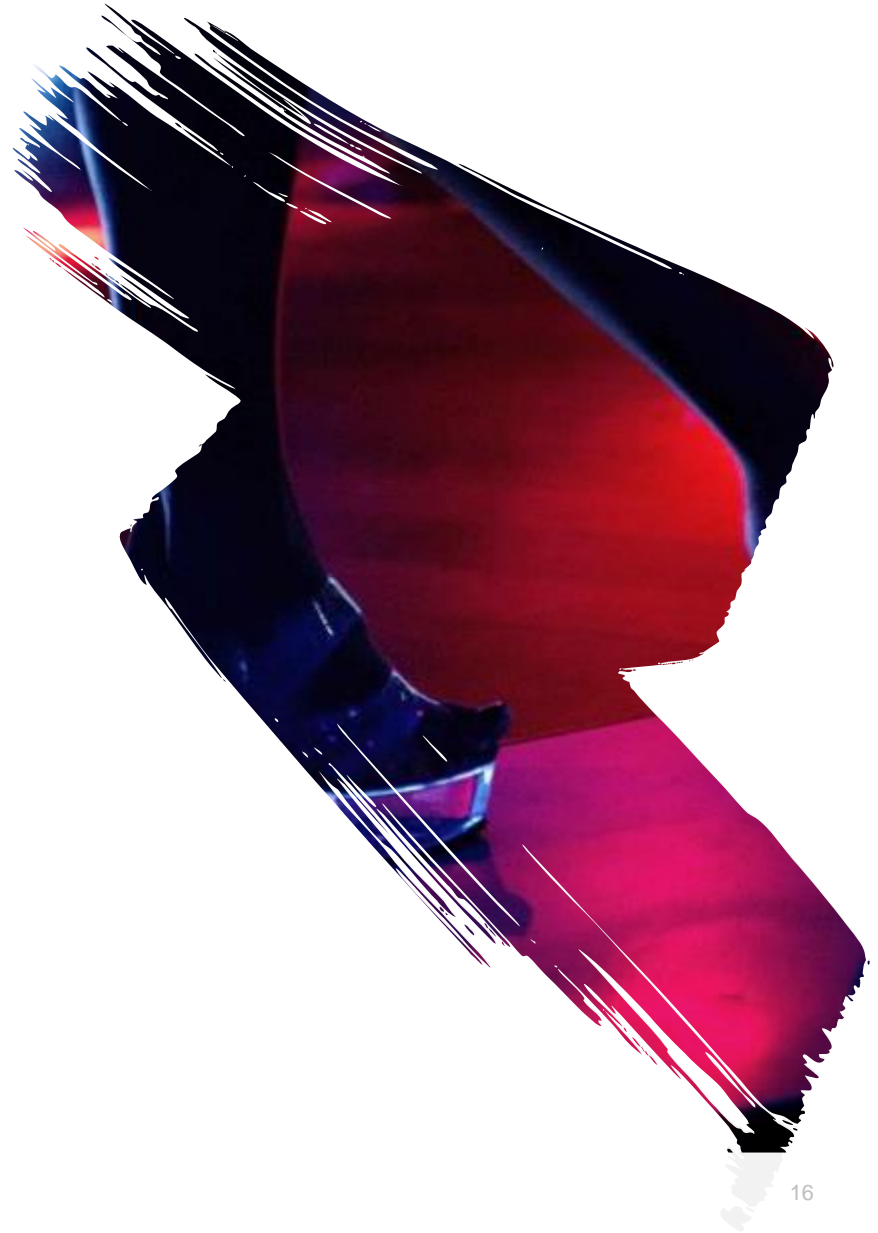
# AMALIA

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Amalia is a 36 year-old woman who has been sexually exploited in the country by her partner and her mother in law. While trafficked, all her money was taken, she experienced physical and emotional abuse from her partner, and she was controlled and deprived of her freedom. We met her during an outreach in Targu Mures. She called us because she needed clothes. She met with our partner, Asociatia Talita, and told them about her situation. She escaped and was transferred to our shelter in Bucharest. Though she had ups and down, she is still in the program to this day. She dreams of being stable enough to one day be a good mother to her 18 year-old son.



# INTERVENTION PROGRAM/ OUTREACHES



In the past 4 years we have met a total **1240 individuals** (838 identified and 402 non identified)

10 cities reached (Baicoi, Banesti, Brasov, Breaza, Bucuresti, Campina DN 1, Ploiesti, Sighisoara, Targu Mures)

**382 gifts given, of which 150 MP3 were with testimonies.**

*A girl who received an MP3 for Christmas, who was being trafficked, called us after listening to all the testimony and believing she too could receive help. She memorize the phone number we had given her. **We were able to organize her rescue and find a shelter for her and her baby boy.***



In 2017, during our outreaches on the streets and clubs, we met **373 persons**, out of which **274 were in the streets and 99 were in the strip clubs or massage parlors.**



972 interactions with the beneficiaries during our outreaches



21 striptease clubs/massage parlors



*After an outreach in Transylvania area, a girl called us and told us that after meeting us and reading the testimonies, **she decided to stop prostitution and found a job.** She was out of the prostitution for a few months already and was going to church, reading her bible and praying every day.*





# CHRISTMAS PARTY

**This year we had a total of 38 participants, beneficiaries, and their children.**

The girls on the streets are more open to come to our drop-in center activities, but the ones in the clubs, usually don't respond so easily to our invitations. This year we had two of them come to our Christmas party. They were touched by the testimony of one of our girls who has been an exotic dancer for many years. During the party, a woman from Teen Challenge was able to share her testimony out of her addictions. Many girls could identify with her, and most of the girls had tears in their eyes while hearing her story.

# OTHER OUTREACHES IN THE COUNTRY: TARGU MURES

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We have shared with you in the past about helping other cities develop their own outreach ministries.

Asociatia Talita was started officially in April 2017 after partnering with us almost 2 years.

During those 2 years they reached a total of 136 girls! Last year they assisted 2 women to find a new start through jobs, and also had 2 rescues!

Find out more about them:  
<https://en.stichtingtalita.com>





# OTHER OUTREACHES IN THE COUNTRY: CONSTANTA

Constanta is known as an area for sexual tourism, being one of the summer's greatest attractions in the country.

In 2013, we had our first outreach in the Constanta area. And in 2015, Marta Cotuna joined our team for our annual summer outreach/

Since then, she has started VISTA association which aims to reach out to women from the Dobroja area, but also to prevent vulnerable groups.

In 2017, VISTA team has reached out to 108 girls throughout 7 different locations around Constanta.

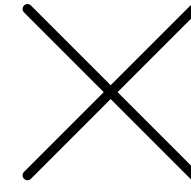
To find out more: [www.vista.ro](http://www.vista.ro)

[fundatia.vista@gmail.com](mailto:fundatia.vista@gmail.com)

# RESTORATION PROGRAMS

We had a total of **450 women** that we met this year. 373 were met only during outreaches (streets/clubs), and another 77 were met directly at the drop-in center, another location, or through contacting our hotline.





# RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

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As you know, last year we opened Casa *Talita*, a shelter to allow women in prostitution to have a new start in life. It can also welcome girls for a short stay, emergency cases, or while returning from abroad. This residential restoration home has served **9 persons (7 adult females, 1 adult male, 1 teenaged girl) this year**. 8 of them were added in 2017. The male was served through our partnership with another organization.



# ALINA

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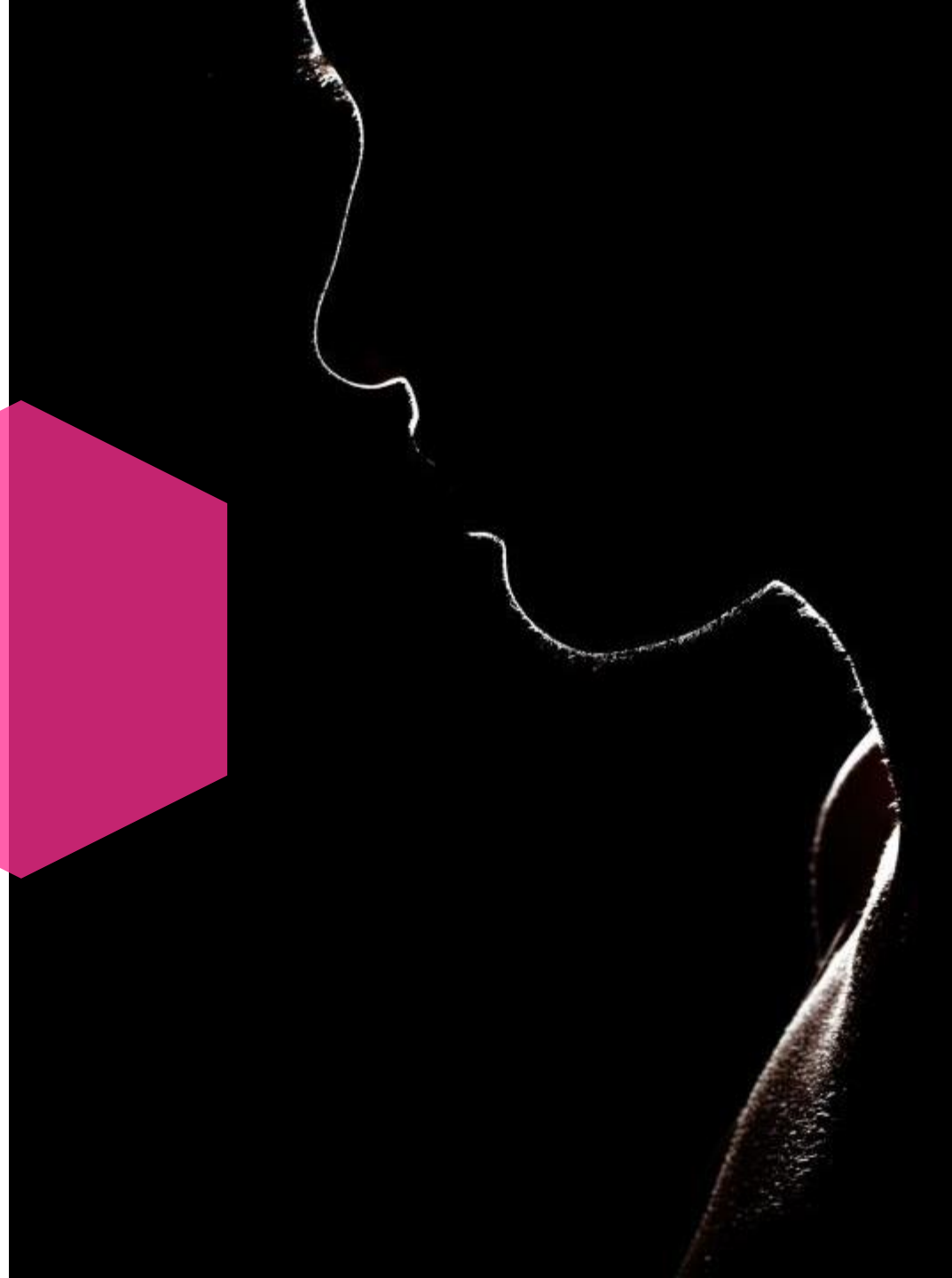
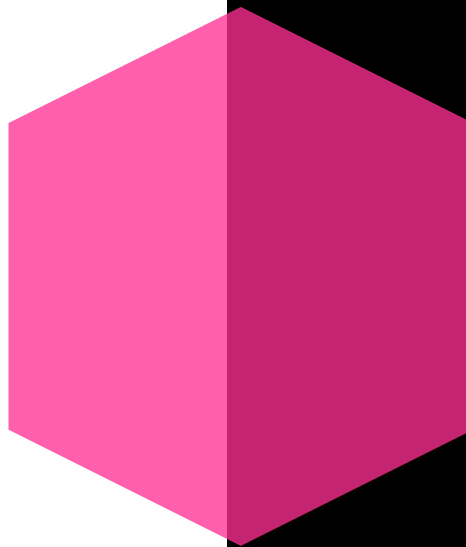
Alina was 18. She was just out of the orphanage where she grew up and where she was being sexually exploited. She had some psychiatric problems, and communication with her was hard. She was still in love with her pimp who was an older man with whom she was also using drugs. We decided to only receive her as a transit as her pimp was living close to our shelter. During her stay , we try to make Alina feel in a family. We surrounded her with a lot of love, though she was difficult to handle.

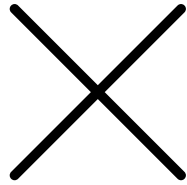
After the transition period, Alina moved to another safe house.

# DORINA



Dorina is 33. She had been sexually exploited in Greece and used in forced labor. She has been in a safe house in Greece, came back to Romania but she was still living an unstable life. She didn't have a job, she was in an abusive relationship, and we feared she might be exploited again. She had a hard time managing a budget, couldn't make friends, and had health issues. While being in our care, she was provided with medical assistance, counseling, as well as mentoring and trainings for independent living. During her time with us, she grew spiritually and made some new friends. At the time she finished the program she was employed, moved into her own apartment and continued to come to church.





# NON-RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM/DROP-IN

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This year we continued our work in the restoration process of some of our beneficiaries from our drop-in center. There were :

**129 beneficiaries this year**, mostly adults.

# On 129 beneficiaries

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31

**BENEFICIARIES**

had more significant contact/interactions (from 5 to 90)

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832

**INTERACTIONS**

with a focus for deepening our relationships with them

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288

**INTERACTIONS**

for mentoring/case management (34%)

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113

**BIBLE STUDY**

interactions (14%)

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78

**(9%)**

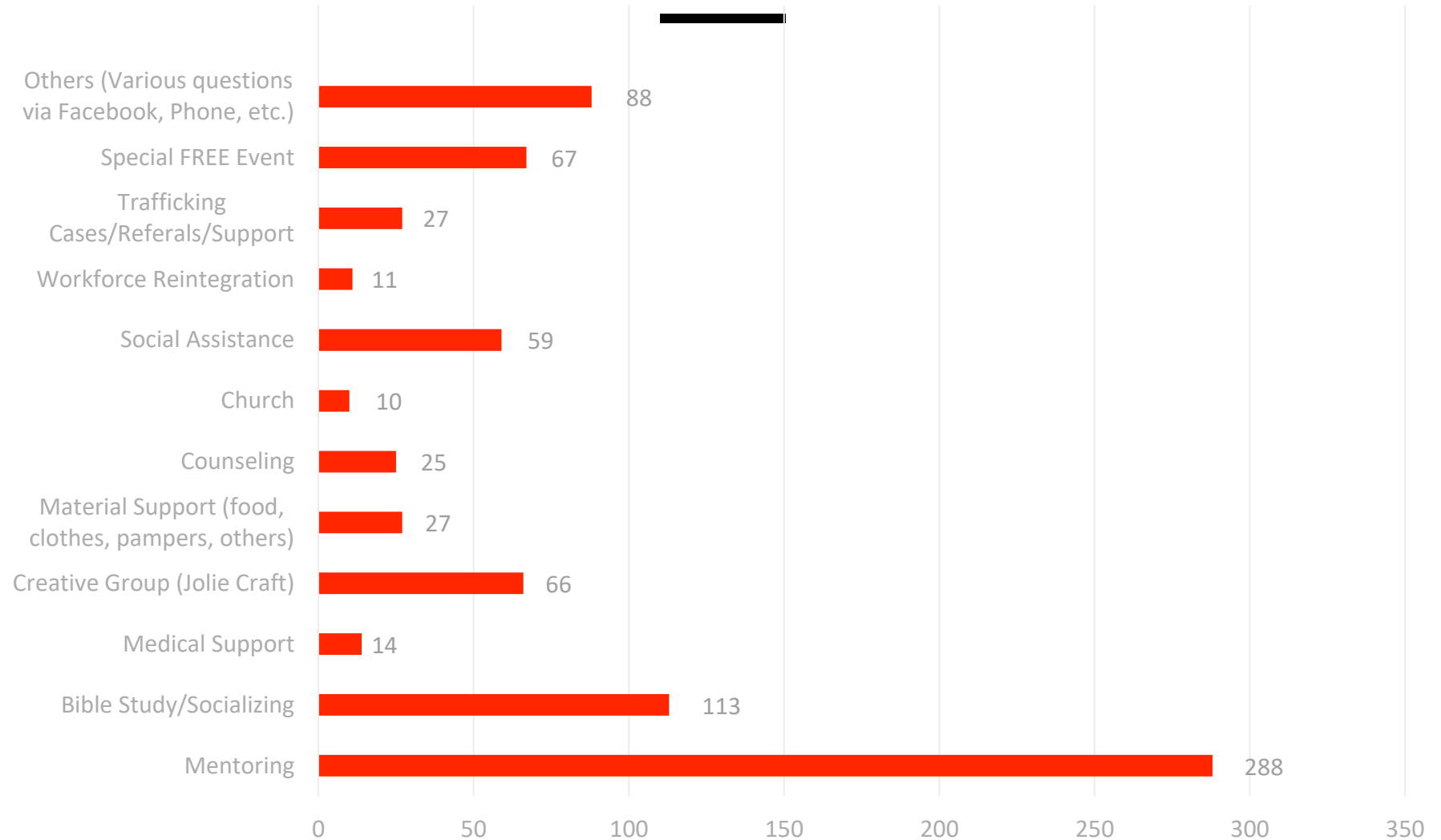
for Jolie Craft (creative group)

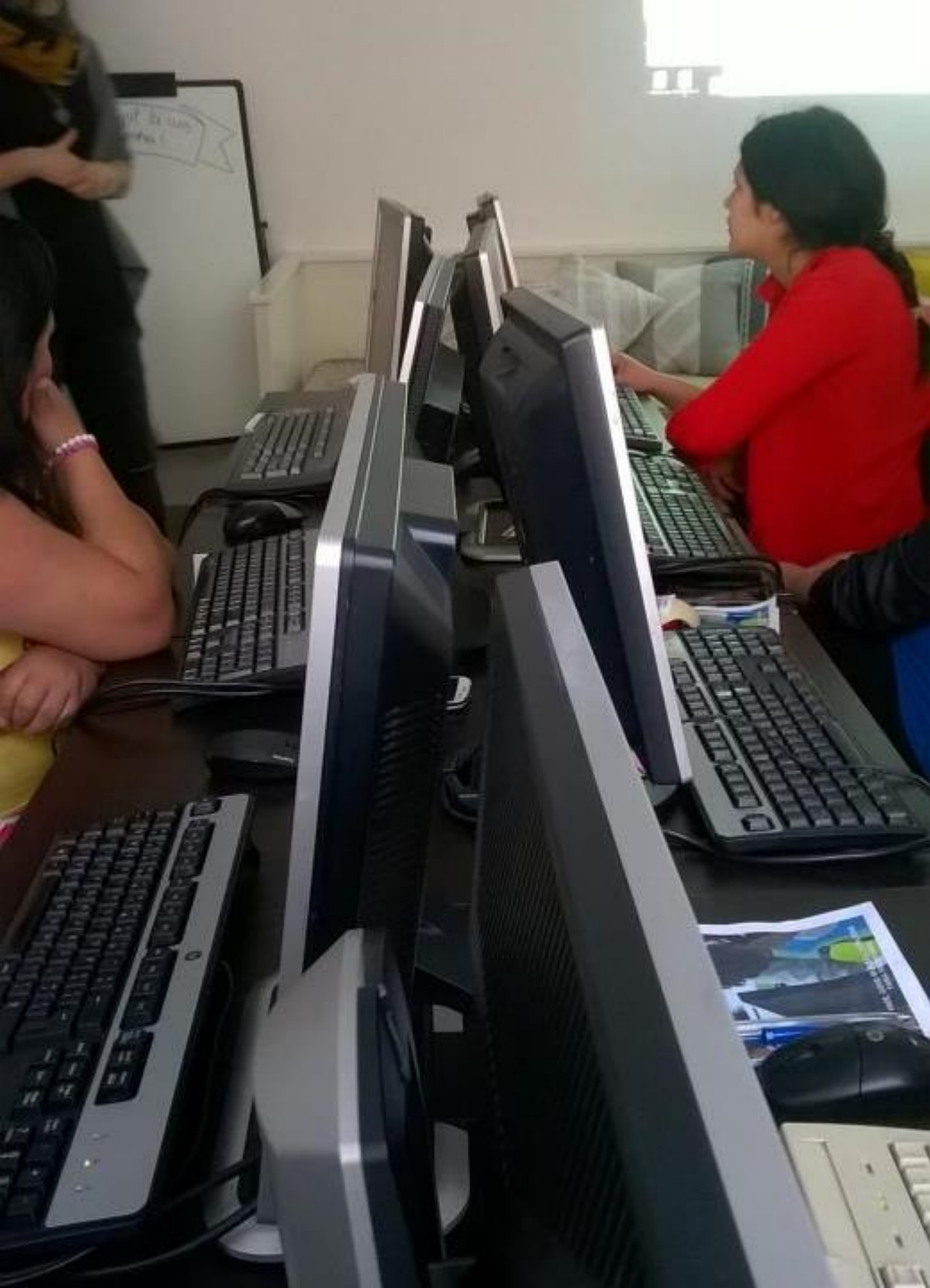
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and others mentioned in the following chart

# REASON OF INTERACTION

## RESTORATION PROGRAM





## Computer skill training

This year, thanks to the participation of Good Bureau and Ateliere Fara Frontiere, we were able to organize 2 trainings for 10 women in prostitution or at very high risk (2 of them). For two days, girls came to the drop-in center to learn how to use a computer, Office, and also had courses on: internet safety, how to use internet to find a job, writing an email, and accessing social rights.

Some of them that had hardly ever been to school still were able to do a class presentation with their own power point with very proud faces.



# HOW TO HELP?

In order to face the new challenges of having a residential program, please consider becoming a REGULAR DONOR!

**For US donations:**

<https://goodbureau.networkforgood.com/projects/24551-asociatia-f-r-e-e>

**Paypal ID:** asociatiafree@gmail.com

# Other ways to help?

- Volunteer!
- Become an intern!
- Pray!
- Talk to others about us!

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[@asociatiafree](https://twitter.com/asociatiafree)



[office@asociatiafree.org](mailto:office@asociatiafree.org)



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