elijah

PATER GEORG SPORSCHILL SJ | SOZIALE WERKE
RUTH ZENKERT | INIȚIATIVA SOCIALĂ

Marpod, Advent 2026



Ten-year-old Melisa was the prettiest girl in our first dance group. Her radiance, her untroubled laughter, infected one and all when she glided effortlessly over the dancing floor. She attended school, came to the ELIJAH Social Centre and dreamed of becoming a dancer and succeed on great stages. Her stepbrother Gabi played the accordion; he was already on a promising path. Their mother, however, had difficulties with her ever-varying partners. She went out to work to keep the family afloat. The grandparents also lived with them in the cramped hut.

And then – catastrophe. The mother contracted tuberculosis, was admitted to hospital and died there a week later. Everyone was devastated, as Melisa still recalls. Her stepfather took to drink and would lash out every evening. Gabi broke off school and got into a clique who took drugs. Their grandmother took charge of the family, but she was completely out of her depth. Melisa had to care for her grandfather. Every day began and ended with quarrels. It was hell for Melisa. She moved in with her boyfriend and got pregnant soon after. He didn’t want the child and sent her away again. Back home she was barely tolerated. They didn’t want two more mouths to feed. Melisa gave birth to a boy, Adalin. She longed for the security she had enjoyed with her mother. And confided in a neighbour, who seduced her, although he had a wife and children. Melisa got pregnant again, and again the man sent her away. A nightmare.

Again and again, Melisa pleaded with Antoaneta, the head of our Social Centre, to find her a place in an ELIJAH house. At long last, a place for her was vacant in a mother-and-child home, Casa Nora in Sibiu. Now she and her son have lived there for seven months. Adalin attends the kindergarten across the road with the other children. Melisa can access help in caring for and educating her child, she is learning to cook and doing all the other household chores. Now she intends to finish her interrupted schooling.

„The most important thing for me is that I find some peace and quiet. A room, my own bed, no quarrelling." She can feel a new strength. „I was kicked out a thousand times. I was completely confused. Now I want to do all I can to be a good mum to my children. I want to protect them and keep them from going through what I went through." Melisa leans back and strokes her little boy's head. He has fallen asleep on her lap. And then she confides her dream to me: „When the children are older, then I will take up dancing again. "

Dear friends, together with you we are all brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers for the battered women and wounded souls of the children who take refuge with us. Many are they who seek a shelter, just as Jesus and his parents in Bethlehem. May the joy of Christmas shine from our home into your home and hearts!
With gratitude, Fr. Georg Sporschill and



When Melisa danced and still had dreams. In the Social Centre Casa Thomas.



She was living on the streets and pregnant – and found shelter in the mother-and-child home Casa Nora. Can we help her and her children?

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