



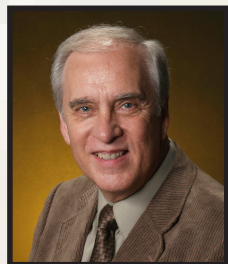
**Friendship
INTERNATIONAL**
*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
Reaching Out to a Needy World*

UPDATE MONTHLY ... 2023

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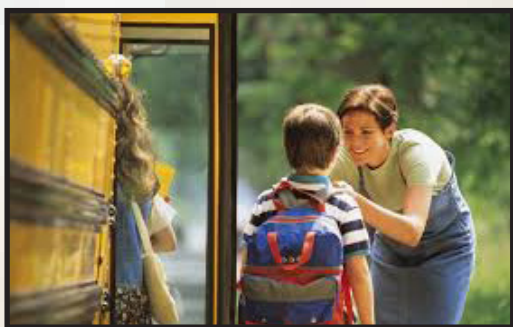


Del Huff
Executive Director

Changing Seasons, But It's Not Only The Weather

Friendship International has officially closed the chapter, season, of summer camps 2023, when children are free from school and parents are happy to have them away for at least one week at camp. But that's our time to sweep them up and invite them to a most wonderful time of the year. But for now, it's come to an end.

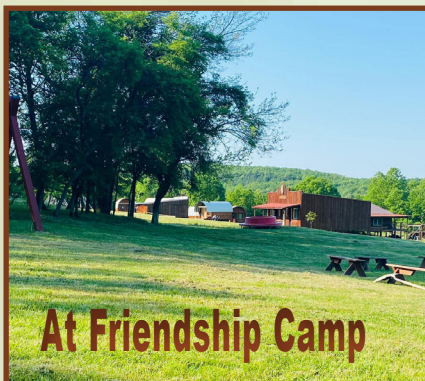
In this month's edition of the UPDATE you will read about some of the most encouraging and life changing experiences in the life of hundreds of children.



The season is changing not only for children, but their parents, their grandparents, those who are teachers, and the whole world switches gears and focuses on the classroom.

Back-to-school season is here once again. And the best way to prepare the students in your life for a great year is to pray for them at the beginning of this year. Let's offer this prayer for them now.

Lord, I pray for your emotional, physical, and spiritual protection over my kids (grandkids). Keep evil far from them, and help them to trust You as their refuge and strength. I pray You will guard their minds against harmful instruction and grant them discernment to recognize truth. Amen.



At Friendship Camp



Friendship Camp Summer Camp 2023 WRAP UP

by Adi Muscan, FI Director, Romania

This was an amazing summer. There were 9 weeks of camp, and more than 550 people participating. There were groups with over 85 people and groups of 60. Kids came from different orphanages, adopted kids, from large families with low income, special needs kids, and also normal kids from churches and their friends from non-Christian families, youth from Ukraine and the kids from the village of Sistarovat where the camp is located.



Working with all these kids was great, and day after day we realized how blessed we are. I don't know about you, but every time we invest ourselves in others, you think they are being blessed by you, but in fact, often, it's the other way around, you are the one who receives the blessing. And this is again, God's grace and kindness, who takes and prepares you to be a blessing for the others and at the same you become the recipient of blessings from those you serve.

Camp life brings new surprises every day, especially when you think, after all these years, a camp worker should know what to expect at camp. Sometimes it's not the case, at least at Friendship Camp. Kids are amazing, and they can present life lessons that stays alive forever in your mind. Because of the very hot weather, we had to find



ways and games to keep kids cool, and you know how patience can be lost when it's really hot. One little guy explained to us one day how to stay "cool" :- "patience", he said, "there's plenty for everyone, you just have to use it." This is another life changing short sermon that we received at camp, and I tell you, it's something you don't hear every day.



We never keep count of how many receive Jesus as their Savior during camp, but we see a difference in their eyes, in their words and actions. Seeing kids come to Jesus is a wonderful blessing and benefit of working at camp. But it also is a reminder that we need to be a testimony, clear, strong, straight and transparent no matter what the circumstances, working with each child who comes to camp. In Joshua 1:9 it says, "Be strong and courageous, for I am with you always, says the Lord."



Summer's End

by Callum King, Camp Supervisor

This week school begins again in Romania which means the summer camp season has now come to an official end,



which means the covered wagons and tepee tents are once again vacant and silent.

It's time to take a short break and reflect back on all of the great moments and all of the things God did over the past months.

Firstly, we are grateful for people like this, who God brought to help us and serve alongside us throughout the spring and summer months.



Without the help of His people we would not be able to do what we do. This year we've had teams from Scotland, Germany, America and of course Romania. More than 100 people were involved in preparing for and leading the camps this year. For each one we are thankful!

We are also extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve "the least of these".



The majority of children who come to Friendship Camp come from disadvantaged home situations. Some are from children's homes, some are in foster care, and some come from families who are struggling financially or have different social problems.



This summer we even had a small number of children from Ukraine. Through the generosity of ordinary people, we are able to bring these children to camp either free of charge or at a much reduced rate depending on each child's personal circumstances.

We also thank God that throughout the summer we had no major problems or incidents. Apart from some minor bumps, scrapes and insect bites, there were no accidents and nobody got sick. This summer we had several inspections from the public health department, and we are happy to say that, thanks to the improvements we have been able to make over the past few years to the camp, everything was found to be in order and up to code!

Even if we've just finished this summer of camps it's time to think to the future. Currently, between the tepee tents, cowboy wagons and cabin rooms, we officially have 68 sleeping places in the camp. This capacity is significantly less than it previously was due the enforcement of a law which specifies the volume of air required by each child in a bedroom.

We would love to be able to add to this number by next summer by adding 6 new modular cabins which would take our capacity back up to over 100 people. The cost of this project is \$6500 per cabin and through God's goodness we currently have money to purchase 1 1/2 cabins. If this is something you think you can help with please get in touch!

* EDITOR'S NOTE

This past Spring, we mentioned this great need, that due to the huge increase in prices of construction materials, after extensive research, we have decided the most practical and cost effective option is to buy prefabricated modular accommodation containers which come pre-insulated, watertight, with windows, doors, flooring and electrical installation.

The benefit of this option is that in the future they can also be heated, allowing us to extend the camp season into the spring and the fall when nights are colder.

The containers will come with a painted metal finish on the outside however we will clad them in wood to incorporate them into the theme of the camp. Each container will be another building in our western town - a bank, jail, saloon, sheriff's office, hotel and a post office.



Maybe you, your church or business could think about sponsoring the cost of one container. One container will allow at least 40 more children to come to camp each summer!

This is how you can give.

Make checks payable to -

Friendship International, P.O. Box 50884, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-0884
OR - e-Giving at www.friendshipintl.org, look for the Donate button at the top of page and follow instructions for your donation. Mark for Container housing.

Thanks to each one of you who has prayed, given financially or come to serve. The Lord is at work and we are privileged to play a tiny part in his master plan. God bless you all!

**Eighth Annual
Christmas Markets of Europe
Mission Trip
to Germany, Austria
Hungary & Romania
Nov. 24 - Dec. 5, 2023**

Join Us, IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

For more infos go to www.friendshipintl.org
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