

## **Charity program**

Hungary is a small Republic in Central Europe. Its population is approximately 10 million at present. It used to be much bigger with much more inhabitants. After the 1st World War, in 1920 Hungary lost two-third of its territory as well as its population due to the Great Powers' interests. The Great Powers signed this contract in Trianon Palace, Paris. They changed the borders of Hungary for political, ethnical, cultural and economic reasons ignoring separated families, people's interests and industrial potentials.

Hungarian minority lives in the neighbouring countries such as Rumania, Austria, Croatia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Serbia and Slonénia. For instance, a number of Hungarians live in Transylvania, Rumania. We keep in touch with these Hungarians, we support their folkdance tradition, culture, language and identity not to get lost in a foreign country.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9nX9qQH9U8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0YOv-tlSKg>

The Foundations' activities are very diverse. They work on the educational field to maintain the Hungarian diaspora. One of this foundations is the Zoltan Kallos Foundation, which pay attention to the Hungarian children living in the 28 scattered villages. Those children cannot learn their mother tongue in their native villages. The children's parents are poor because of high unemployment.

Zoltán Kallos, who is a recognised ethnographer and won Kossuth award for his activities, established a boarding school in a small village, called Válaszút /Crossroads – It has symbolic meaning!//. This settlement is situated 30 kilometers away from Kolozsvár. The boarding school is operated by Kallos Foundation. It accommodates children from the age of 4 to the age of 16. It houses a nursery school, a primary school and a technical shcool as well. Students stayed there from Monday to Friday and go home for the weekend. The ethnographer's objective is to contribute to the persistence of the Hungarian diaspora. Since 1999, the Hungarian-language education has been raised. As commuting, board and lodging

cannot be paid by the indigent parents, Kallos Foundation covers most of the costs for parents. Fortunately, many organizations and individuals have contributed financially as well as material donations being given, or – since 1999 as Arany János School makes - school - books and gift packs being delivered. School books are sent to the library in the boarding school. Gift packs are handed out at Christmas. The children at Arany János school express their love and devotion to their siblings. They put their surprise in shoe boxes, wrap and tie them carefully. Sashegyi Arany School Foundation established by János Novák arranges the shipment to Transylvania.

The parents took the initiative to contact the Kallos Foundation. We were looking for Hungarian partner schools which we could help. We have been organizing charity programs since then. We want our children to feel the natives' responsibility and experience why they need to support their peers living in the annexed areas. The goal is to understand: they must be proud of being Hungarians at home and abroad, in addition our traditions must be preserved and protected. The school's educational program contains these educational principles, where folkdance teaching running in the curriculum frameworks plays an important role.

Moreover, the personalization of gift- making is significant. We ask parents to send the gifts that children can be happy with. On the one hand, they write the giver's names onto the boxes, then they add what age girl or boy the package is destined for.

On the other hand, in order to personalize the current remote connection, we give a chance for the kids to get to know each other. We organize trips to Válaszút. The cross-border travel matches the government program, but so far unique in that, unlike the tradition, our children can take one of their parents for the trip.

We have another partner school in Arad town. We have joint projects we work on and we encourage the students to visit each other, keep in touch through e-mails, facebook and twitter. These relationships are promising and productive in the personality's development.

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