



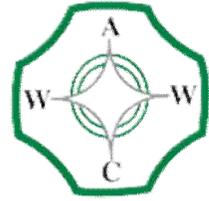
Women's Association From Sibiu

Annual Report 2016

INDEX:	Page
About our Association	1
About Shelter	1
Services Offered	1-3
Identification and assessment of cases of domestic violence.	
Hosting women alone or with their children.	
Mentoring and guiding.	
Social, psychological and legal counseling.	
Support Services.	
Sheltered Cases.	
Counseled cases.	
Projects:	3-5
Grant program social services.	
FDSC project - „Domestic violence causes suffering - to control and limit the phenomenon of domestic violence in Sibiu.	
ACWW Project.	
Organizational Development	5
Donations 2%.	6
Partners/ internal collaborators 2015	6
Partners/ collaborators/ external donors	6
Donation	6
Contact	7

About our Association.

The Women's Association from Sibiu is a nonprofit and nongovernmental organization active since 1996, who helps with activities and social projects women and children arriving in the position to be victims of domestic violence. Since 2007 the Association is a member of **ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World)** through which it regularly runs educational projects for victims and their children receiving specialized care from our Shelter.



In 2007 the Women's Association from Sibiu with the support of the Norwegian Women and Family Association has opened a shelter called "Center of emergency reception for women and children, victims of domestic violence".



The shelter operates according to law 217/2003 republished on preventing and combating domestic violence.

Women's Association from Sibiu is re-accredited in 2016 as a service provider of Social services and offers these social services through the Shelter:

- Identification and evaluation of cases of domestic violence;
- Hosting for a specified period women alone or together with their children;
- Mentoring and guiding;
- Social and psychological counseling and legal assistance;
- Support services for various difficult situations.



Our services are offered to women seeking accommodation only and those asking for support and advice to the problems faced by their families. The shelter receives women - victims of domestic violence and their minor children, regardless of ethnicity, political affiliation, nationality, race, religion.

About Shelter.

Our specialized assistance is addressed to persons facing extremely serious conflict situations in their families, so interventions to support them must be made in a reasonable efficient manner. Through access to social services, the shelter offers the victims a nonviolent and secure environment, and the trust that they could exceed well a difficult period in their life.

Services offered

Identification and assessment of cases of domestic violence.

Shelter staff seeks in their interventions in these cases to identify situations of violence and also assess the existing danger of the victims. Depending on the severity of the case / the number of places available, the victims are hosted or directed to other partner institutions.

Hosting women alone or with their children.

The capacity of hosting in the shelter is of 7 seats. By hosting the shelter offers victims a nonviolent, intimate environment of living and necessary protection, until they can resume their life as they consider to do so.

We aim so that during our assistance, the hosted people will continue their life and daily activities without stress, tension or fear accumulated in relationships with their partners. For victims with insufficient incomes, the shelter provides them within available resources, needed material assistance: food, clothing, footwear, medicines and items of basic necessities for themselves and their children to support them in their attempt to come over their crisis situation.

Shelter Team is composed of the shelter coordinator, social worker, psychologist, two night watchmen and an accountant, an employee of the Association, each with respective duties and responsibilities in performing the activities.

Mentoring and guiding.

The victims receive information about their rights they benefit of and about institutions they can support them in the steps they undertake to solve their cases. Specific information on domestic violence can be found on the website and the Facebook of the Association. The shelter distributes annually informational materials on the prevention of violence and contact details of the Association.

Social, psychological and legal counseling.

Social counseling aims to establish a plan of intervention together with the beneficiary, the safety plan for the beneficiary to avoid or limit the conflicts coming from the aggressor, her accountability with regard to parental rights on children, finding housing in accordance with her income, growing her income to be no longer financially dependent on the abuser.

Through psychological counseling we aim to identify the problems faced by victims, some of them are also affected emotionally and at the same time they have to understand the cycle and the dynamics of violence.

Subsequently, counseling focuses on establishing appropriate targets for the needs of beneficiaries, where they are encouraged to speak about the abuses they went through, to recognize signs of aggressive behavior in order to avoid unpleasant situations, to use means of nonviolent networking, to recognize and to control problematic situations she might confront.

Legal counseling is done by a lawyer, collaborator of the Shelter. Thus, victims are informed about legal rights they have in such situations and legal means they may require courts to punish the aggressor in accordance with the criminal or civil law. We note here as an example that such legal aid is to obtain Protection Orders, given by the judgment as emergency measures against the aggressors because of high risk of acts of violence coming from them. Victims may be assisted in court seeking legal steps to complete against aggressors.

Support services.

Cases of domestic violence notified by the Shelter mean confronting the staff with very high risk-taking / receiving victims and their children into the shelter, protecting them against aggressors during the hosting of the Shelter, accompanying victims in legal, social or health proceedings during hosting to the premises of institutions which may support them to complete her case.

The provided support means help in drafting petitions the victim requires to the Police or other similar institutions, finding other jobs, writing CV according to her professional or study preparation.

There may also be settled charges related to their cases (forensic certificates, medical treatments, medical tests, medicines, etc.).

In this way victims bear more easily the difficult time they go through after the separation from aggressors and this presupposes financial and material effort consumed, that victims do not always have in that period.

The Association collaborates with a medical unit that provides specialist consulting at the entrance to the shelter, victims who do not have or can not call their family doctor.

Hosted cases.

During 2016, the shelter has provided housing and assistance for 18 people from the Municipality or county Sibiu: 8 women, victims of domestic violence and their 10 children.

In 3 of the 8 hosted cases victims and their children had been received by Police stations in the Municipality / county of Sibiu.

In 5 of the 8 hosted cases the Shelter extended the hosting or rehired them because of legal, psychological or social problems, issues related to the completion of their cases, as follows:

- In one case, we extended the hosting for the victim and the children for 4 times;

- In three cases, the victim's and the children's hosting has been prolonged 3 times;
- In one case, hosting period for the victim was extended 2 times;
- In three cases, the victims and their children were housed for periods of less than 60 days;

In three of these cases, the victims have obtained Order of Protection for themselves and their children with the help of the Shelter. On leaving the Shelter 1 case completed divorce proceedings, 1 case was transferred to a center of GDSCCPs Sibiu, 1 case was returned to her family's home, 2 cases returned to their homes where they had gone away, 1 case has purchased a flat and 2 of the cases with their children are still housed in the shelter.

The specialized staff of the Shelter has accompanied them to the County Court, Sibiu City Hall, offices for family medicine, hospital, Police, their workplaces, schools or kindergartens where children of the victims were enrolled. During hosting, women and children received food, medicines, clothes, personal items, school supplies.

In December 2016 through the Association „ United Hands” from Sibiu and the Carrefour Hypermarket in Sibiu, the women and children sheltered at that time received food, personal items and gifts. The Association has thanked those mentioned above, in a message posted on the Facebook page.

The access to services provided by Shelter allowed the hosted women and children the contact and familiarity with a secure, peaceful and civilized environment, and also protection, empathy and support, trust, practical and legal solutions to solve conflicts with which they have faced, leaving a family conflict, a violent and highly dangerous environment for them.

We notice for many years that the external / internal injuries acquired from the blows by the victims, are causing trauma as serious as emotional injuries, with some costs of medical treatment as expensive as legal proceedings for separation from partners. Without the protection and assistance of our Shelter these women would have come in dramatic situations where their and their children's lives would have been in a major threat because of the violent behavior of abusers.

For instrumentation and completion of these cases, the Shelter has worked with the Public Social Service of Sibiu, the Police Inspectorate of Sibiu County, the National Agency Against Trafficking of Persons, DGASPC Sibiu, with the law firm which assisted beneficiaries in Court and family medicine office.

Counseled cases.

In 2016, a total of 28 people in the Municipality / county of Sibiu and counties of Vrancea, Harghita, Gorj, Buzau have requested Shelter counseling, support services and information in the field. The interventions were conducted by phone, e-mail and meetings held at the headquarters of SPAS Sibiu, Sibiu City Police headquarter or law firm with these persons.

The assistance given was to identify and assess conflict situations of the demanding women, guidance to judges (for obtaining Order of Protection), Police, Forensic Institute Sibiu (for obtaining medical certificates), to other shelters, social, psychological, legal (the law firm) counseling, drafting referrals for victims (to public institutions) and information in the field (prevention / avoidance of violence, data about the rights the victims benefit in Court).

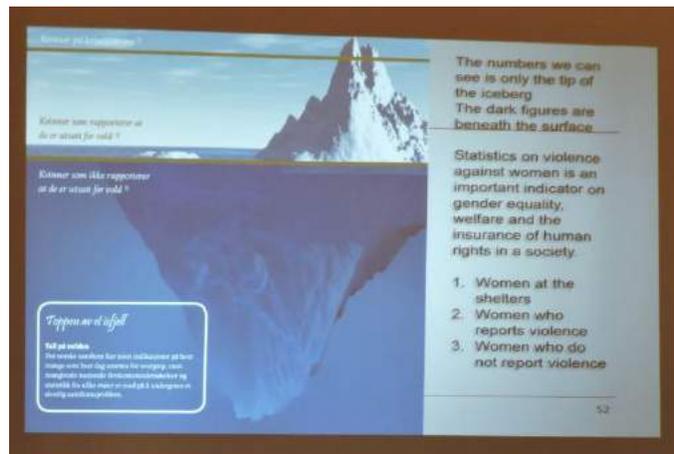
Projects

Grant program social services.

In 2016 the Association received the grant awarded by the Municipality of Sibiu and Local Sibiu Council, under Law 34/1998, on subsidizing non-governmental organizations that provide social services for people housing in the shelter. In this way we could support victims and their children residing in Sibiu, during their hosting in the Shelter.

FDSC project - „ Domestic violence causes suffering - to control and limit the phenomenon of domestic violence in the county of Sibiu. "

Women's Association from Sibiu in partnership with the Norwegian Women and Family Association, concluded in April 2016 the Project implemented by the Civil Society Development Fund after a call for proposals concerning the launch of the component „Social and basic services within the NGO Fund" as part of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA) 2009-2014 financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.



By the end of the project there were finalized activities initiated in 2014/2015 which we mention briefly:

1. Project Management.
2. Project auditing.
3. Project advertising and promotion.
4. Provision of social services within the Centre.
5. Establishing a campaign of information and awareness of the community in Sibiu to domestic violence, by creating and distributing 10,000 flyers.
6. Developing partnerships with key stakeholders in these tasks from Sibiu county and the organization and support of 15 sessions of information, awareness and consultation with specialized staff in these institutions, on the issue of domestic violence;
7. Strengthening the organizational capacity of the Women's Association of Sibiu.



In April 2016 took place the closing Conference of the Project at the headquarters of the Evangelical Academy Transylvania in Sibiu, with the participation also of a group of delegates from the Norwegian Women and Family Association, where there have been presented the results achieved during the project.



Information about these activities can be found on the web-site of the Association in activity summaries at: <http://www.asociatiafemeilorsibiu.com/ro/home/> and FDSC web-site at: <http://fondong.fdsc.ro/financed-project-159>

Also in April 2016 the Shelter Coordinator gave an interview to the newspaper „Sibiu 100% " about the activities / results achieved during the project and also very serious risks to victims facing family violence, due to the lack of support from the authorities towards this serious social phenomenon.

The interview can be found here: <http://sibiu100.ro/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Sibiu100Nr370.pdf> or here: <http://sibiu100.ro/sanatate/66388-specialist-despre-violenta-in-familie-oricine-poate-fi-victim/>



ACWW Project.

Since December 2016, owing to the Association the shelter runs the „ Art Therapy Project " for a period of 12 months funded by ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World).

Handmade therapy helps beneficiaries to overcome difficult moments of their lives. Producing handmade items is extremely useful in fostering creativity, relaxation of mind and body, generating a positive states and

developing social skills. This project is a support for the beneficiaries by fundraising for the materials, administrative costs of shelter and services offered to victims of domestic violence. The amount obtained from the sale of created products will be used for the continuation and development of activities in the Shelter.

International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women is celebrated each year on 25th of November, by a resolution of the United Nations Organization (UN).

The Association has decided in 2016 to emphasize this date by the ACWW Project (a message can be found here):

<https://www.facebook.com/240409293018407/photos/a.370885093304159.1073741830.240409293018407/370885046637497/?type=3&theater>



We thus emphasize symbolically that there is a world without suffering, a world as vivid and colorful as these twisted strips of paper (photo right).

Organizational development.

The Association participates on each Friday at the Bio-Market, organized by the Evangelical parish of Sibiu and held in the courtyard of the Evangelical Church, where there are displayed for sale items made by beneficiaries of social services and members of the Association.

April 2016 – Association's volunteers attended the Easter Bazaar, organized by the Evangelical Women's Circle held at the headquarters of the German Forum Sibiu, where there were displayed items for sale made by members of the Association and beneficiaries of services for these events.

May 2016 - The shelter received the visit of a group of students from the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences (specialization Social Work) from the city of Würzburg, Germany, who have come to Romania for a study visit, interested in intervention in cases of domestic violence and their development.

June 2016 - The shelter was visited by Mrs. Henny Davikness in Norway, one of the ladies who has supported the Shelter since opening in 2007.

September 2016 - The shelter received a delegation of an Association from Braunschweig - Germany, which offers the same social services to victims of domestic violence, an exchange of experience about the conditions in which authorities support centers housing the victims.

October 2016 - The shelter received the visit of a group of students specializing for Social Work in Germany. The students were very interested in the ways of intervention in cases of domestic violence, the work of shelter staff and evolution of these cases, where the victims were close to their own age.

October 2016 – the Shelter Coordinator participated at the roundtable organized by the National Agency against Human Traffick - Regional Center Alba Iulia in the campaign of prevention in „Prevention Week of Human Traffick. " This organized event has aimed to improve the interinstitutional activity in the fight against human trafficking and the significance of October, the 18th - European Day for Combating Human Traffick.

November 2016 – the President of the Association and coordinator of the Shelter have given a radio interview to Mrs. Carmen Vulcan correspondent of Radio Romania, on the International Day to Combat Violence against Women – November, the 25th that brought into question the severity of domestic violence and lack of interest at the authorities towards this phenomenon.

The interview can be listened here:

http://www.romania-actualitati.ro/stop_violentei_impotriva_femeilor-96670

and news can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/romaniaactualitati/photos/pcb.10154762304406202/10154762281171202/?type=3&theater>

December 2016 – Association's volunteers attended the Christmas Bazaar, held also at the headquarters of the German Forum in Sibiu, where there were displayed for sale items made by members of the Association and beneficiaries of services for this event.



Donations 2%.

The Women's Association has aimed to promote social services for victims who seek protection in the Shelter in 2016 by allowing those interested to donate 2% of gross income. At the end of the period for completing the form no. 230 in May 2016 on the intended amount of up to 2% of annual tax, 103 people in Sibiu County and other counties have completed those forms addressed to the Association.

Details can be found at:

<http://www.asociatiafemeilorsibiu.com/en/donation/>

Partners / internal collaborators 2016.

- Public Social Service Sibiu;
- Sibiu County Police Inspectorate;
- National Agency against Human Traffick;
- Association,, United Hands ";
- Association for Freedom and Gender Equality - ALEG;
- Women's Christian Association of German Esther House - Medias;
- Public / private institutions active in the field of domestic violence.

Partners / collaborators / external donors in 2016.

Norway: - Norwegian Women and Family Association;

- Private Norwegians;
- Mrs. Henny Davikness;

Germany: - Office for Mission, Ecumenism and Global Responsibility of the Church Evangelical Westphalia Region (Amt für Mission und Ökumene kirchliche Weltverantwortung (Möwe) der Evangelischen Kirche von Westfalen) - Mr. Thomas Krieger;

- Soroptimist International Club Hildesheim; Mrs. Dr. Lucia Ruhnau and Mr. Stefan Ruhnau;

England: - Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) - London;

Netherlands: - Heart for Romania Foundation - Mr. Jos Gisbert and collaborators in the Netherlands and Romania Foundation;

This year, too, we wish to thank those mentioned above as partners (especially those from abroad) for the support given to the Association and Shelter through which we have completed cases of domestic violence which occurred.

With their support, we provided to victims and their children another, safer and quieter beginning to decide for themselves without being humiliated every day, what they want to do next with their life. Unfortunately in Romania there is no understanding for the suffering of victims, as these donors agree to do so.

We note that victims and their children belong to all social levels, from the uneducated to the educated public and social status.

Through its activities during 2016, the Shelter has provided constant support to women and children who needed specialized care. Existing the seriousness of these cases, it is a priority for the community in Sibiu to support further this shelter, because of the lack of legislation and indifference of authorities, we provide assistance under increasingly unsafe conditions.

Donations.

If you wish to support activities in the Shelter and the victims which we provide specialized assistance, please make a donation to **Banca Transilvania - Sibiu Branch**

Bank Address: **Piata Aurel Vlaicu 1, bl. V4 / 550 377 SIBIU / ROMANIA**

Tel: **0040269/211 568**

Beneficiary Name: **ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN SIBIU**

Payee Address: **Str. Avram Iancu. 25, postal code 550 183 Sibiu, ROMANIA**

Bank accounts:

- In Ron **RO24BTRL03301205485079XX**
 - Euro (EU) **RO70BTRL03304205485079XX**
 - Pounds (GBP) **RO19BTRL03307205485079XX**
 - In Norwegian Kroner (NOK) **RO60BTRL03316205485079XX**
- SWIFT CODE: **BTRLRO22SBA**

Contacts.

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Web-site:

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Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Asociația-Femeilor-din-Sibiu-240409293018407/>

President of the Association

Cristina Mates.