

RICF Winter 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to our Winter 2016 Newsletter where we bring you feedback from Substitute Families for Abandoned Children's (SFAC's) recent training with our own maternal assistants (foster carers) and state employed maternal assistants and social workers and news of board member Ruth's recent visit to Romania.



Feedback from SFAC's training

From 16th-22nd October Substitute Families for Abandoned Children (SFAC) travelled to Bucharest to provide training for RICF. Mick Pease, Mandy Layton and Walter Young ran sessions on managing challenging behaviour, identity, family contact, child development, adolescence, substance abuse and the Secure Base Model (a framework for therapeutic caregiving). Staff and foster carers from RICF helped with the delivery of sessions for state-employed social workers, psychologists and foster carers from DPC (the department for child welfare) in Bucharest's Sector 6. Although this was Mandy Layton's first visit to Romania, Mick and Walter have been going there with SFAC since 2009. This

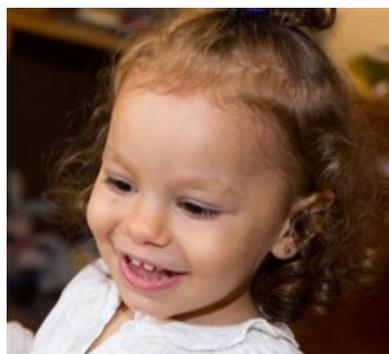


time they met a well-known Romanian singer called Bodo, who used to be in a band called 'Proconsul'. He joined the training sessions for a short time and spoke about his own experience of adopting two boys.



Board member Ruth's recent visit

Board member Ruth visited Romania in late November. During her visit she and the team undertook a review of RICF's activities and financial situation as well as meeting the mothers in the Maternity Project and Maternal Assistants. Ruth was encouraged to find



out from our maternal assistants how the Life Story Work (a therapeutic social work tool to encourage children who are fostered or adopted) which was introduced via training sessions last year had been received. They were able to discuss the benefits and challenges of using this approach during the monthly support group sessions.

Ruth was happy to meet again some of the mothers in the Maternity Project who are going to 'graduate' from this project in the New Year. Since this project started in 2009 62 mother and baby pairs have been supported. As far as we are aware we are the only foundation who is doing this work in Bucharest. Ruth was also able to meet the new mothers who had been included in this project since her last visit including our recent beneficiary who had given birth in early November. One of these new mothers is Maiada and her son Bayan who started the project in Oct.



Maiada who is originally from Syria has been living in Romania since 1997. She has four other children two of which have serious health problems meaning that Maiada is a full time carer. He hope that our short term support can help Maiada and her family successfully adjust to having a new member of their family.

