

Halfway through 2025...

It's hard to believe that half of 2025 has already passed! We can't stop the passage of time, but we *can* choose to use it wisely. None of us knows how much time we have on this side of heaven, but we live and work with an eternal perspective—counting our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom, just as David, the psalmist, advised us thousands of years ago.

Highlights from Our Social Ministry

The first part of this year kept us very busy in the social department. Our focus was on daily tutoring classes for socially disadvantaged children, helping them prepare for end-of-year school exams, high school entrance exams, and final high school exams needed for college admission.

By God's grace, all of the children completed the school year with good results. We are especially proud of the four students who successfully passed their entrance exams and are now officially high school students!

At the end of June, we brought together the children, their parents, and our dedicated volunteers—many of whom are students from the West University of Timisoara and other places—to celebrate the journey so far.



Testimonies

We were deeply moved to hear from the parents, who shared how the program has made a real difference in their children's lives:

"I've seen a clear improvement in Math and Romanian. He's doing so much better. We're truly grateful for this opportunity and want to thank the entire Areopagus team." (Parent 1)

"We could never afford tutoring for our children! You've made such a difference by helping them keep up in school and even improve. At first, we had to push them to come, but now they want to be here. They've built great relationships with their tutors, and that makes such a difference. Thank you for everything!" (Parent 2)

We also heard from the children themselves:

"I was only in the program for one year, but I fully enjoyed it. I became more confident, and my teacher encouraged me throughout the year, helping me achieve a great result in the high school entrance exams. I'm really happy I got to be part of this program." (Darius, 14 years old)

"For me, it was fun and helpful. My tutors were really nice and supportive, and I managed to get better grades. I'd love to keep coming, if I'm allowed." (Ianis, 12 years old)

And our volunteers shared their perspectives too. Some have been with us for three or four years, while others joined more recently:

"For me, it was both a challenge and a great opportunity to improve my teaching skills and prepare to become a good teacher. I'm thankful I could apply what I'm learning in school and find creative ways to explain lessons so they're engaging and easy to understand. One thing I truly appreciate is that the children are eager to learn and are putting in real effort." (Bianca, Math teacher)



"I'm a Math teacher and retired last year. I was worried that I might feel like I had no purpose anymore. I was looking for volunteer opportunities when Areopagus was recommended to me. After two years here, I can truly say—it was exactly what I was looking for: a small group of professionals doing impactful work. I'm so happy I joined. I feel like I've received so much in my life, and now it's time to give back. The children are amazing—respectful and eager to learn—and that makes my work a joy. Thank you for the opportunity!" (Mr. Aprodu, retired Math teacher)

We thank the Lord for His wisdom, guidance, and provision, which allow us to run this program—not only to provide quality education but also to invest spiritually in these children and their families.

At the end of our celebration, each child received a gift: a Christian book appropriate for their age, some chocolate, a T-shirt, and a cap. The T-shirts and caps were generously donated by one of our dear supporters from Ireland, Carol Hennessey and Golf Ireland.

Strengthening Our Impact

In addition to tutoring and meeting urgent material needs like food, we are deeply committed to equipping these children with wisdom for life. In the spring, we hosted an awareness event on addictions, especially drug abuse, with guest speaker *Beni Lupşa* from the *Living Free* organization. Beni courageously shared his testimony as a former drug addict, describing the bondage he experienced and how God delivered him and gave him a new life. The children learned about available support and resources, and the parents received practical advice on prevention and what to do if they suspect drug use.

We wish these kinds of meetings weren't necessary—but we know the reality in Romanian schools today. As such, we must all be prepared to face this issue with wisdom, love, and readiness. We plan to organize more events on topics that matter to both children and parents—empowering them to make wise, informed choices as they navigate life.



Summer activities

One way we grow our impact in the community is through summer activities like summer schools and Vacation Bible School (VBS). This summer, we were blessed to welcome our friends from Faith Fellowship Church in New York—Paula and Levi Choate and their team—who helped us run a vibrant VBS for children ages 5 to 12. Over 40 children attended daily for almost a week, enjoying songs, games, crafts, and Bible lessons about the goodness of God. They especially loved practicing English with the American team and the sweet treats they received. We were thankful to have both Christian children and those from non-evangelical backgrounds, giving us a special opportunity to share the Gospel.

Along with the VBS team came their pastor, Daniel Berger, who also taught a module in our Biblical Counselling program, which was a great encouragement and blessing to our students.

Beyond VBS, the team also helped with practical tasks like painting our porch and assisting a rural family we support with painting their home. Their help was a great encouragement and blessing. We hold great memories of our time together and we hope and pray to continue this partnership in the future.



In our next newsletter...

We're thrilled to share a major milestone: for the first time ever, we're able to send 13 children from our social program to a Christian camp! For most of them, this will be their very first camp experience—and certainly their first Christian camp. We can't wait to tell you more soon, so stay tuned for all the details!

For direct donations to Areopagus Center please visit our [webpage](#).

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For donations through [Areopagus Romania Foundation](#), please contact John Livingston, jlivingston@arfus.org

Please direct any support for the Areopagus Center to: **Areopagus Romania Foundation INC.**

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