



MISSION TRIP OVERVIEW

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in a mission trip with Livada Orphan Care! In this overview we will try to answer many of the general questions you might have.

What will you be doing?

Generally, you will be assisting our full-time staff in ministering to some of the approximately 700 orphans, at-risk children, and their families with whom we minister in Mures County. There will be ministry opportunities at camps, state run orphan homes, Gypsy villages, and/or abandoned baby wards at hospitals. Our ultimate goal is to be able to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through the platform of orphan care.

Your short-term involvement helps Livada staff minister to the kids throughout the rest of the year. Our Orphan Outreach and Prevention of Abandonment programs reach kids in the state run homes and those in Gypsy villages. With each group our goal is to instill and encourage these children weekly through humanitarian aid, dental care, educational support and counseling. Throughout the year we build upon these physical and emotional needs to also serve their spiritual needs.

You are a vital link in Livada's continuous ministry to the institutionalized and at-risk children of Romania. If you have not already, please take time to visit our website, www.livada.org, to see the complete picture of what we do and how your participation fits into the larger ministry.

Ways to Participate:

Summer Camp: Our weeklong camps accommodate 50-70 campers each session and provide a typical day camp experience with recreation, crafts and multiple opportunities to share Christ.

Outreach Clubs: This ministry consists of a VBS-style program to the children/teens in the state run group homes.

Cradle Care: This ministry consists of aiding the hospital staff, Livada staff and Romanian volunteers as they enter the hospital and minister to the babies in their care.

Gypsy Day Camps: The summer aspect of this prevention of abandonment ministry consists of helping run day camps for 150-300 children and teenagers with whom we work during the school year.

Who plans the trip/ministry work?

Our Livada staff will oversee your entire ministry experience overseas and will lead and encourage you along the way. Both Western and Romanian staff members will help your mission trip go as smoothly as possible. The experience you gain from these "coaches" will bear fruit directly in Romania and hopefully upon your return to your home country thereafter.

Our US Staff will assist you in preparing for the trip and managing the trip logistics like paperwork, trip payments and flight booking helps. We also lead a pre-trip orientation meeting to help prepare you in everyway before you leave to serve.

After you arrive in Romania, you will have a second orientation with our Romanian staff. By the end of both orientations, you will know where you will be serving and your specific assignments. There will be no guessing. You will be fully equipped and ready to go!!

What is the first step?

Groups: The first thing to do is choose a team leader/coordinator for your group and then recruit your team. If you want, a Livada staff person can come to a meeting you set up with potential team members to give an overview of the ministry and how a short-term team can have maximum impact. Once the team is set, a Livada staff person will come to your group and lead a mandatory orientation for the team usually three months before departure. This allows for the team members to get acquainted with each other and with Livada and for the final details to be put into place.

Individuals: We do offer trips where individuals can participate with us in service. If you do not have a group in which you can join, all you need to do is contact our office and we can walk through the process of approval and finding the best trip in which you can participate.

What is the schedule like?

Travel and Set Up: During your short-term trip, it will take you two days to arrive in Romania, and it will take you one day to get back to the USA. Upon arrival, a Livada staff member will greet you and help you get settled. You will have some time to get over jet lag, get to know your Romanian partners, and go through the second orientation to make sure everyone is clear regarding job roles and the ministry plan.

Summer Camps: A typical week of camp may look like...

Monday – Camp Directors, Livada staff, interns and/or volunteer staff will gather the state group home or Gypsy village kids that will be participating in camp for a day of getting to know each other, dividing into groups and high-energy activities.

Tuesday –Thursday – The teams that were formed on Monday will participate in morning and afternoon camp sessions that include crafts, recreation, Bible verse memory and team time. The teams will compete for the next three days to see who will earn the most points and be the winning team for the week. You will have the opportunity to lead your team through these sessions.

Friday – After some special team time in the morning session, the whole camp will load up early Friday afternoon to go on a field trip with the kids. Late that afternoon, you will return to the Casa Rene guesthouse for a much needed weekend of rest and relaxation.

Gypsy Day Camp Ministry: These Monday through Thursday day camps are usually held in a rented gymnasium or similar facility and include a morning and afternoon session, snacks, games, and competitions. Friday is either a field trip day or “big party/celebration” day with prizes and special memory making opportunities for all.

Typically there will be one OR two groups/day camps per day. Participants will come for the morning session, afternoon session OR all day.

Cradle Care: This ministry is specifically focused on spending time with abandoned babies in hospital wards. The Livada Cradle Care staff will show you how you can assist them in working with the babies developmentally and in between your added love and hugs are always welcome! (Don't be fooled. The schedule may look light compared to camp, but it is equally as demanding.)

A typical day will look like...

8am - Team meeting and prayer

9am - Leave for the group home or baby hospital

10am -12:30pm - Ministry program

1-3:30pm - Lunch Break

4-6:30pm – Ministry Program

7:00pm – Back in Targu Mures for the evening

Multi-purpose Trips: Some mission trips allow teams to multi-task and participate in many different mission opportunities during their trip, like humanitarian trips coupled with construction. These trips provide a lot of variety but do not allow for your group to be with the same group of kids each day.

Down Time: During the evenings, you will have the opportunity to phone home, check you emails, blog, hang out with interns/staff, Romanian friends or just rest.

Team Time: Every evening the team will have “family time” - this consists of eating dinner together, catching up on what is going on with each other, worship time, sharing about what the LORD has been teaching you through His word and your experiences and a time of prayer.

How much does it cost?

The cost of the trip is \$1,600 plus airfare per individual. How did we arrive at \$1,600? After over 10 years of traveling and stewarding the costs of a mission trip, we find this number generally covers all costs upon reaching Romania and assists in the cost of running the ministry programs in which you will participate.

Here is a cost breakdown for how we calculated this number:

- \$875 Participation Fee: This amount covers all your in-country expenses (transportation, meals, housing, translators, etc.), as well as some administrative and safety costs like trip insurance and background checks.
- \$725 Ministry Fee: This amount covers the costs incurred to help run the programs while you are with us. For example, a week at camp and other ministry outings costs \$133 per kid. Multiply that by 60 kids and you will see how quickly one week of camp can add up. All of our other programs have ongoing costs associated with serving over 700 children, teens and families weekly. Any remaining funds go directly toward the follow-up costs needed to continue ministering to the kids after you leave.

Livada will coach any organization/group on ways to raise these funds.

Other than that, the only money you will need is what you might spend on gifts and other items for your personal needs.

One last thing...

We hope this has helped present a clearer picture of a mission trip experience with Livada. Past mission trip team members have said this experience was one of the hardest, yet most impactful and encouraging of their lives. Be prepared to work, laugh, pray and love a lot! It is truly a life changing experience!

We would love to share more about it with you. If you have any other specific questions, feel free to email us at missiontrips@livada.org or call us, 972-941-4416.

Please know that we are praying for the Lord to show you His good, pleasing and perfect will.

**For Fruit That Will Last,
The Livada Orphan Care Team**