

The Unitarian Community Fund — Help Us Make a Difference

NOVEMBER 2012

A letter from the PHH President

Dear friends:

A heartfelt thanks to all those who have so generously supported Project Harvest Hope (PHH) in our continuing work for sustainable development in the Unitarian communities of Transylvania.

We have just completed a second round of projects through the [Szekelyudvarhely Community Foundation](#) and our donor-advised fund, the Unitarian Community Fund. In the early spring of 2012, thirty-seven Unitarian communities applied for funding for a wide variety of projects: playgrounds, a soccer field, youth activities, training for emergency relief, improvements to public space, programs in traditional Szekely crafts. Fifteen received funding. The foundation reports that they were remarkably successful. By what standard?

Every one completed and many exceeded the goals established in the application. But just as important to the Project Harvest Hope board, participants were able to experience the value of cooperation and collaboration across generations, religious groups and ethnic groups. This is no small accomplishment in post-Ceausescu Romania. Our projects helped communities weave bonds of trust and respect frayed by years of secrecy, fear and repression. These bonds are not repaired overnight, but we can safely report that huge progress has been made in the past decade. The renewal of civil society in the Unitarian communities of Transylvania is right on track! A sense of agency has been renewed. The changes since the fall of Communism in 1989 and accession to the European Union in 2007 are palpable.

I invite you to examine the reports and photographs from these projects and to view the sense of pride in the faces of participants. See how your financial contribution has made a real difference!

In 2013, we will support a third round of projects through the [Szekelyudvarhely Community Foundation](#), after which PHH will review its ongoing work. The rapid economic and social changes in Romania require agility and flexibility in our response. That has been one of the hallmarks of our success.

In the meantime, please contribute generously to round three of our projects through the Unitarian Community Fund so as to maximize our outreach to those who so appreciate our support and care. You may [donate here](#).

Thank you very much.

Faithfully,

Will Saunders, President