

Background of the Trade School Project

Historical Context

After the fall of the dictator in 1989, thousands of children, mandated by the communist dictatorship as a future workforce, began to be released from orphanages each year as they reached young adulthood – without jobs and lacking the social and technical skills necessary to become productive members of the local economy. These youths were literally turned out into the streets to fend for themselves in whatever way possible.

Help is On Its Way for the Romanian Youths

The Transition House

The first part of the solution was initiated by the *Heart to Heart International Ministries* of Ramona. They set up a Transition House to provide shelter for youths leaving orphanages – a temporary home where they could learn social skills and how to cope with the economy. This was completed in 2001.

The Trade School

The second part of the solution was conceived by the Ramona Kiwanis Club in discussions with *Heart-to-Heart* to provide the job-qualifying technical skills that would supplement the social skills learned in the Transition House's family environment. In this brochure we show the project's evolution from concept to reality.

Current Status and Future Goals

The response of the community has been phenomenal. Direct donations to Ramona Kiwanis completely funded the purchase of land, construction costs, and much of the furnishings. Donations are currently being solicited for supplies and to provide funds for Heart-to-Heart to operate and maintain the Trade School.

The Objects of Kiwanis International

- To give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life.
- To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
- To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.
- To provide through Kiwanis Clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.
- To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.



Ramona to Romania
The Trade School Project
A Public Service Project of the Kiwanis Club of Ramona




This is a project to build, equip, and support the operation of a Trade School for Romanian youth who are transitioning from living in orphanages to living on their own within the recovering but fragile Romanian economy.

The Kiwanis Club of Ramona initiated the Trade School Project in the fall of 2001, working with another Ramona-based organization, *Heart-to-Heart International Ministries*.

In a little over 18 months, we have purchased the land, obtained permits, completed construction, and are close to completing efforts to furnish and equip the shops and classrooms.

Although there is work yet to be done and additional funding to secure, the project has reached the point of impending success.



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Ramona, California**
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Officers

Jim Ward, President
Dave Carpenter, Immediate Past President
Gary Besaw, Secretary and President-Elect
Jim Cooper, Treasurer

Directors

Glae McDonald	Jeff Funk	Ellen Deuel
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The success of the Trade School Project is due to both the generosity of all the donors and the hard work of several individuals representing sponsoring organizations. Peter Zindler (pictured) is the key player – the School was his idea and is his passion. He is the Ramona Kiwanis Project Officer, a member of the Heart-to-Heart Ministries, and Elder of the San Vicente Community Church, another of the sponsoring organizations.



Seated with Pete is Felicia Antip, Secretary of the Bucharest Kiwanis Club, and our key liaison for day-to-day activities and on-site problem-solving.



In the above photo, Pete is sharing smiles with youngsters at one of the orphanages in Bucharest. These often neglected children hunger for love and in a few years will thirst for the knowledge and skills that the Trade School will be able to provide.



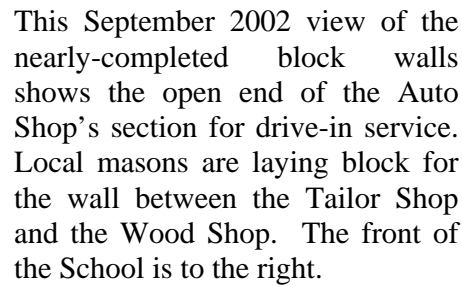
Ramona Kiwanis purchased the 2½ fertile acres pictured above, adjacent to the Transition House and its soon to-be-reactivated dairy. This land will make it possible to grow vegetables and feed for animals. The Trade School was built in what had been the Transition House's modest but productive garden. (photo taken in May, 2003)

Construction Phase

Construction began in May, 2002. In this picture, several of the young men from the Transition House are helping the masons and are already adding to their marketable skills.



The foundation was completed in June 2002. Steel reinforcement is in place for the concrete columns that will be supporting the roof.



This September 2002 view of the nearly-completed block walls shows the open end of the Auto Shop's section for drive-in service. Local masons are laying block for the wall between the Tailor Shop and the Wood Shop. The front of the School is to the right.



Front view of the Trade School in September 2002, ready for headers over doors and windows, then roof to complete the outside construction. Labels show where the 5 shops are located.

The Auto Shop is spacious and has a deep concrete-lined pit for working under vehicles. As is the case everywhere, a source of reliable and reasonably priced auto repairs will be much in demand.



The Trade School was beginning to look like a real building in April, 2003. Stucco had been applied to the exterior and door and window frames installed.



Bakery equipment was received from a donor who upgraded all of his equipment. This photo includes a bread machine, a super-sized oven, and other important equipment for making bread and pastries. A local baker has already volunteered to provide training.

On May 2, 2003, a group of young people participate in the Trade School's dedication ceremony. The completed auto shop is pictured in the background. "H2H" is a logo of "Heart-to-Heart International Ministries."

