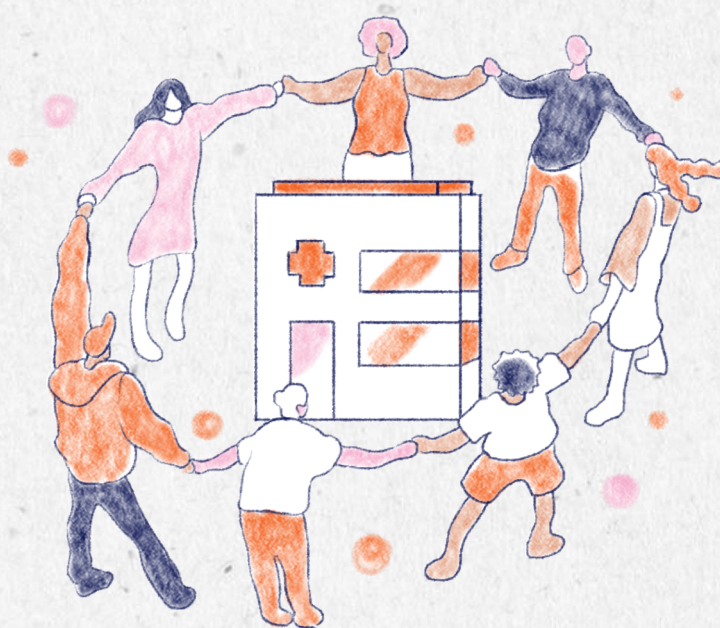


FUNDAȚIA

REGINA PACIS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Together for a Better World!



www.reginapacis.org



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About

the Regina Pacis Foundation

The Regina Pacis Foundation is a charitable organization that has been active for over two decades in the Republic of Moldova, dedicated to supporting individuals facing social vulnerability and living in poverty.

Initially established in response to the urgent need to raise awareness about the risks of illegal migration and to prevent human trafficking, the Foundation has since expanded its scope of intervention. Over time, it has adapted to emerging social challenges, playing an active role in strengthening social cohesion.

Today, the Regina Pacis Foundation implements a variety of projects aimed at protecting the rights of children and young people, offering support for the recovery and social reintegration of those in difficulty, and promoting inclusion through vocational training programs for minors from at-risk groups, including those in penitentiaries. The Foundation also provides daily hot meals to elderly people living in extreme poverty and supports economically disadvantaged families.

In recent years, following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the Regina Pacis Foundation has been actively involved - since the very first days - in providing free assistance to Ukrainian refugees. With promptness, empathy, and solidarity, the Foundation responded to this major humanitarian crisis by offering material support, counselling, shelter, warm meals, and social guidance, thereby helping to alleviate suffering and to facilitate the temporary integration of refugees into the local community.

Through all these actions, the Foundation upholds its commitment to promoting human dignity, solidarity, and social equity within the most vulnerable communities of the Republic of Moldova.



Mission

To create a safe and supportive environment for the development of children and young people at risk, and to improve the quality of life for elderly individuals.

Vision

We strive for high-quality services for people in vulnerable situations, within an aging society facing increasing demographic challenges.

Message

from the Director of the Regina Pacis Foundation

Dear partners, supporters, and friends,

The year 2024 has been one of solidarity, renewed hope, and life-changing transformations. Despite increasingly complex social and economic challenges, the Regina Pacis Foundation has remained a helping hand, a voice for the unheard, and a shelter for those without support.

This year, we committed to being present where suffering runs deep, where injustice is felt, and where poverty has a human face. Through every project, every warm meal served, every life lesson shared, and every embrace given, we reaffirmed our mission: to create a safe environment for children and young people at risk, and to improve the quality of life for the elderly and vulnerable.



Every reintegrated child, every refugee supported, every elderly person fed, and every young person building a future through education is proof that our work has a real and lasting impact. None of this would have been possible without you - the ones who have supported us with trust, generosity, and compassion.

On behalf of the entire team at the Regina Pacis Foundation, I thank you for your continuous support and for helping us keep alive a foundation that is not just an institution, but a place where hearts beat for those most in need.

As we look to the future with hope and determination, we remain committed to being the bridge between need and solution, between abandonment and care. Because where there is commitment, there is the power to change the world.

With gratitude and respect,
Ilie Zabica

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ilie Zabica'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'I' and 'Z'.

THE IMPACT of our Work

Each number reflects the outcome of a concrete intervention — timely support provided, an obstacle overcome, a path continued with greater confidence.



Children in Placement

20 children fully supported (24/7 care)
Over 400 beneficiaries since 2006



Support for Refugees

40 individuals housed and assisted
(including food, hygiene items, and psychological support)



Social Reintegration

60 children and young people in penitentiaries supported through vocational guidance and resocialization activities



Hot Meals Program

Over 51,000 hot meals and 600 food packages distributed annually to elderly individuals and people living in extreme hardship



Vulnerable Youth

20 young women and men in difficult situations received housing and complex assistance, being encouraged to build their own path toward independent living



Educational Activities

Over 100 educational and recreational activities organized for vulnerable children in Chişinău and in Vărvăreuca, Floreşti district

Every child is a mission.

Together with you, we continue to build their future - with love, professionalism, and hope.





Children's Placement Center – where care becomes family

At the Regina Pacis Children's Placement Center, 2024 was a year of smiles, achievements, and small but steady steps toward a safe childhood. Throughout the year, **20 children received not only shelter and daily meals, but also the care of a family that helped them dare to dream again.**

The children placed in the care of the Regina Pacis Foundation participated in over **100 educational**, cultural, and recreational activities, ranging from guitar lessons and vocational courses to concerts, creative workshops, theater visits, summer camps, sports, and environmental initiatives. Each experience played a vital role in their harmonious development and in rebuilding their confidence and self-esteem.

The outcomes speak for themselves. Two children successfully graduated from middle school, four gained work experience over the summer, and three enrolled in vocational studies. One child was successfully reintegrated into their biological family. Fifteen children maintained active contact with their families, nine continued to be monitored after exiting the placement program, and two young people were prepared for adult life, receiving personalized support for their social and professional integration.



Our Placement Center is more than just a place to live – it is a space full of opportunities, where children discover who they are and who they can become. We offer them not only services, but also values, safety, and the courage to grow.



A second chance for two brothers left without support

Many years ago, brothers Cornel and Nicolae, just three and five years old at the time, were diagnosed with a dangerous and contagious illness. Their mother, who was also seriously ill, refused to hospitalize them, putting their lives at risk. Following intervention by the authorities, the boys were placed in a specialized center for treatment and recovery. Tragically, their mother lost her battle with the disease, and their father, overwhelmed by grief, disappeared - leaving the children without any support.

After completing their treatment, the boys were placed in a boarding school in Chişinău, where they spent many years facing unimaginable hardship. However, when the institution was closed, fate brought them to the Regina Pacis Children's Placement Center, where - for the first time - they found protection, safety, and a warm, caring environment.

At the Placement Center, the brothers received specialized medical care, counseling, and took part in activities that helped them regain hope. Over the years, it was discovered that they had close relatives in Chişinău, including an older sister. With patience and determination, the Placement Center team succeeded in reconnecting the boys with their extended family and building a support network around them.

Although their father returned to the country and attempted to reconnect with his sons, the authorities determined that it was not in the children's best interest to live with him. Even so, the boys continued to benefit from visits and emotional support from extended family members.

Today, the older brother has enrolled in a vocational school to pursue his dream of building a career, while the younger one is in the ninth grade and preparing for a promising future. Their journey has not been easy, but thanks to the dedication and care of the Placement Center team, these young men have found the strength to move forward and create a better life for themselves.

Because every child deserves joy, safety, and the magic of childhood!



Behind every refugee we support is a life that has found its direction again.



Support for ukrainian refugees



The year 2024 continued to be a challenging one for the Regina Pacis Foundation team in its efforts to support Ukrainian refugees. We transformed our temporary placement centers into spaces of safety and hope for those forced to flee the war.

Throughout the year, 40 refugee women and children received shelter, daily meals, and hygiene products through two temporary placement centers - benefiting from essential support and protection at a critical moment in their lives. Beyond immediate assistance, we invested in their long-term integration by offering psychological counseling, cultural orientation, and access to information about community resources.

We organized educational programs for refugee children, recreational activities, and interactive sessions designed to ease their transition into the national education system. Psychological assistance proved essential in helping them overcome trauma, while support groups became trusted bridges between families and our team.



SHELTER, FOOD PACKAGES, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, COUNSELING



We made sure refugees didn't just survive - they began to dream again.

Maria's Story – a journey of courage in a foreign land

When Maria arrived in the Republic of Moldova in July 2022, she was just 17 years old. She and her family were fleeing the war, leaving behind everything familiar in search of safety. They were welcomed at the Regina Pacis Foundation's Refugee Center, where they received more than just temporary shelter - they found emotional support, guidance, and the security they needed to begin a new life.

Maria immediately began searching for a job. She had a manicurist certificate and knocked on the doors of several beauty salons. However, due to her age - she was still a minor - she was repeatedly turned away. Undeterred, she enrolled in free courses offered by refugee support centers and began learning Romanian. At the same time, she continued her law studies online at the Kharkiv Aviation University, determined not to abandon her dreams.

Facing rejection at every interview due to her limited Romanian language skills, Maria realized that true integration depended on her ability to communicate. With support from the Regina Pacis Foundation, encouragement from new friends, and an extraordinary level of determination, she reached a B2 level in Romanian in just one year.

In 2023, having turned 18, Maria secured her first job as a barista in a café in Chişinău. The salary was modest - 4,800 MDL - but for Maria, it was a huge achievement. She worked there for a year, during which she grew, developed confidence, and gained her independence. As of August 2024, Maria works at Nova Poshta - a stable job with a decent income. Every day, she communicates with clients in both Romanian and Russian, proving how far she has come in such a short time. She continues her law studies online at the Kharkiv Aviation University.

Last summer, Maria met a young man from Moldova, and they now live together. Her life has taken root in this new place, and what once felt like exile has gradually become a hopeful new beginning.



**Because every young person
deserves the chance
to thrive**



“In Cammino” Assisted Living – a home for young women left without support

Young women who exit the child protection system upon reaching adulthood and lack family support often face harsh realities and numerous challenges. For them, the Regina Pacis Foundation has created a safe space full of opportunities: the “In Cammino” Assisted Living Program.

In 2024, 12 young women benefited from housing, psychosocial assistance, and educational support, receiving guidance and encouragement to build their own path toward an independent and dignified life. With patience and respect for each individual’s pace, the Foundation’s team developed personalized intervention plans tailored to the specific needs of each beneficiary.

We invested in their professional development and education. Five young women continued their studies at the “Alexei Mateevici” Pedagogical College, and two were admitted to prestigious universities in Chişinău. Two beneficiaries completed vocational training in beauty services and driving, while six young women successfully entered the labor market.

The girls also took part in personal development workshops focused on strengthening social and communication skills, with topics such as healthy boundaries, emotional intelligence, and self-esteem. The Foundation provided 12 vocational counseling sessions, and our partnership with the NGO “REthink” added further value by offering access to individual psychotherapy and group workshops.



90%

of the beneficiaries improved their social skills, and 12 of them (60%) successfully integrated into society.

Anastasia's Story and her dream of a career in IT

Anastasia grew up in an unstable environment marked by hardship. At just four years old, she was abandoned by her father, leaving her mother alone with two children and in a constant struggle for survival. Without stable housing, the family was forced to move frequently, and this constant insecurity left deep marks on Anastasia's childhood. Yet, even amid such challenges, she found refuge in education - a path toward a different kind of life.

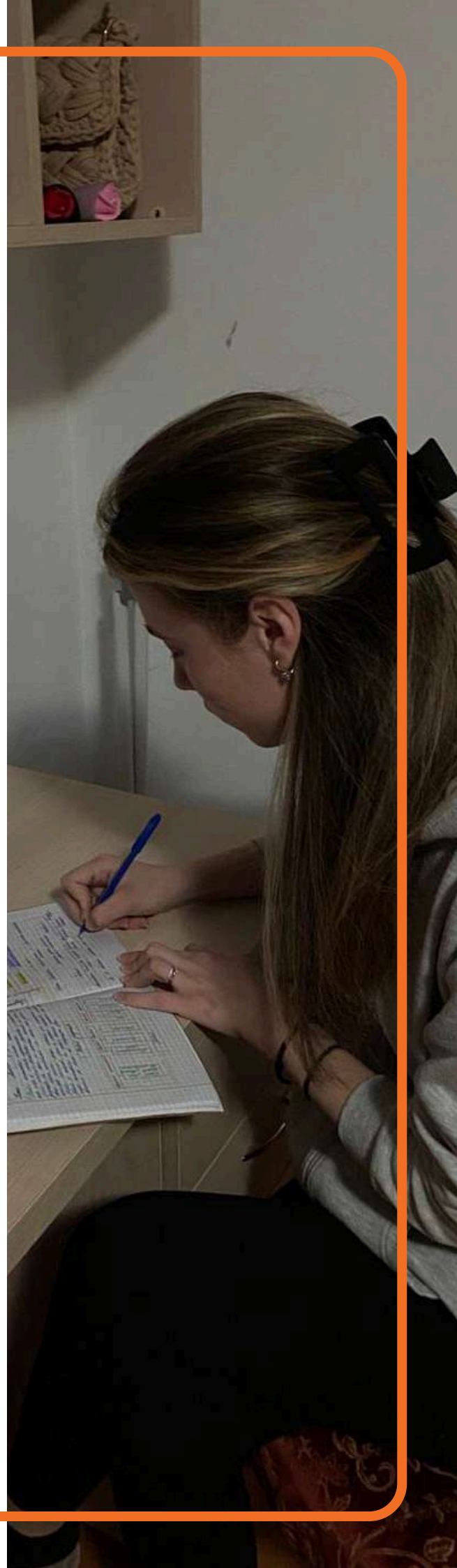
A decisive turning point in her journey came when she was accepted into the "In Cammino" Assisted Living Program, a social service implemented by the Regina Pacis Foundation. For the first time, she had a safe and stable space - a place that truly felt like home. There, she could finally focus on her studies without the fear of instability or isolation. Alongside housing, the program provided psychological support and social counseling, helping her confront past traumas and regain emotional balance.

Determined to build her future independently, Anastasia now works as a cafeteria assistant at McDonald's, successfully balancing her job with her university studies. With perseverance and resilience, she proves that when a young person in difficulty receives the right support, vulnerability can be transformed into real potential.

Today, Anastasia is in her second year at the Faculty of Computers, within the Technical University of Moldova, and dreams of becoming a technology specialist.

Although the program is demanding, she manages her time well, achieving good results both academically and at work.

Anastasia's path is a powerful reminder that, with a stable environment and the right support, even the most difficult beginnings can lead to a future built with dignity, courage, and hope.



Expanding “In Cammino” opportunities for young men in need

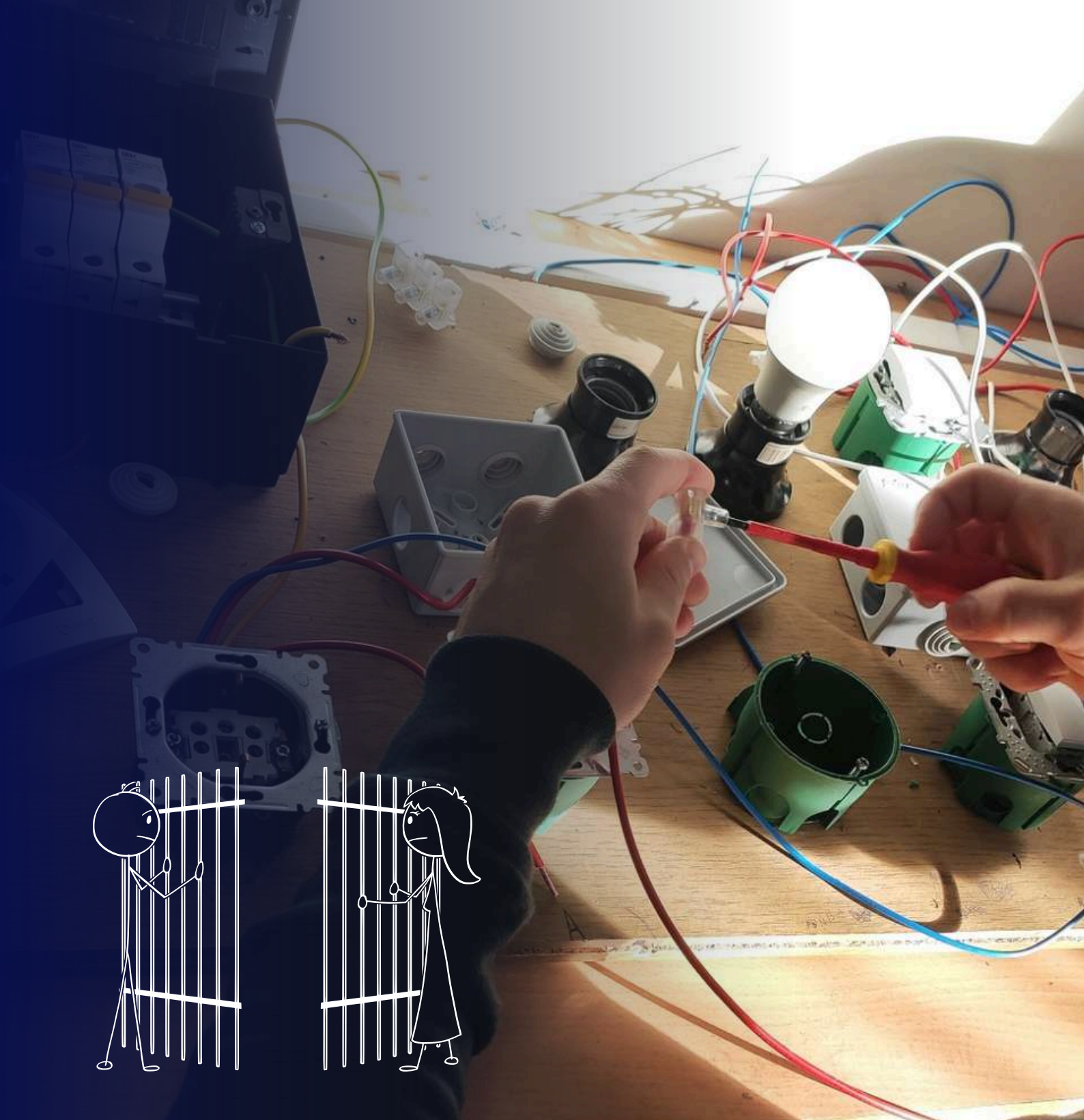
In 2024, the In Cammino Assisted Living Program extended its support to include young men exiting the child protection system.

The Regina Pacis Foundation responded to this pressing need by creating a safe space for seven young men in transition to adulthood. They received free housing in a supportive environment, along with psychological counseling, social assistance, and vocational guidance - all aimed at helping them build autonomy, develop social skills, and acquire practical life competencies.

Mirroring the program designed for young women, this service emphasized a personalized approach tailored to each beneficiary. Household responsibilities, personal development workshops, and volunteer engagement were complemented by one-on-one discussions, vocational counseling sessions, and support in finding employment or continuing their studies.



We invest in them because we believe that a well-prepared, confident young adult becomes an active citizen - and a pillar of their community.



**Hope doesn't stop at prison walls —
young people still have the right to
dream, grow, and change**

Education and Reintegration

In 2024, the Regina Pacis Foundation, in partnership with the National Administration of Penitentiaries, continued to implement vocational training and resocialization activities for children and young people in Penitentiary No. 10 Goian. We believe that social reintegration begins with trust, emotional support, and access to quality education.

Through our programs, **60 young people benefited from professional courses** aligned with labor market demands (hairdressing, plastering, cooking, electrical mechanics, plumbing), individual and group psychological counseling (27 sessions), as well as personal development and mentoring workshops. At the same time, penitentiary staff participated in specialized training sessions designed to encourage a more empathetic approach when working with minors in detention.

Every activity was rooted in the belief that a young person - regardless of their past - has the potential to become a responsible adult capable of reintegrating into society. Through education, support, and trust, we offer young people in detention not only a sense of purpose, but also the tools and opportunities to rebuild their lives with dignity.



The graduation certificates awarded to young people who complete the vocational training courses are accredited by the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova. These certificates do not contain any mention of the fact that the training took place within a penitentiary, thus providing real and equal opportunities for reintegration into the labor market after release.

Beyond bars – Vasile’s story, 16 years old

Vasile begins each morning with a prayer - not to be released sooner, but to be released better. He is only 16, yet he carries the weight of difficult choices and the regret of a childhood lost on the streets, with “friends” who led him away from his family, from school, and from himself.

Today, Vasile is in a juvenile detention center. When he first arrived, he was restless, confused, and distrustful. Aggression was his way of coping in an unfamiliar world where he felt he had to fight to survive. But within this space, Vasile was guided toward education.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the center’s staff and the Regina Pacis Foundation team, Vasile was encouraged to take part in educational and psychological activities - and most importantly, in vocational training courses held inside the penitentiary. He completed three professional training programs: barbering, cooking, and plastering. For him, these courses weren’t just a way to pass the time - they became an anchor to a possible future. He learned to cut hair with care, to cook with skill, and to repair with precision - not just walls, but also his own life. He discovered that he has skills, that he can learn, that he has patience, and that, step by step, he can become someone trustworthy.

He now understands that change begins with himself. He has learned how to communicate respectfully and to reflect on his decisions.

Vasile is not an isolated case - he is living proof that investing in the education of young people in difficulty can transform lives. With the right support, even under the most difficult circumstances, a teenager can turn away from a path of mistakes and begin a new journey - one of growth, self-respect, and reintegration into society.

The Regina Pacis Foundation believes in second chances and will continue to provide young people in detention centers with the tools they need to build their future - with dignity and courage.



An Award that honors our work for the future of the most vulnerable – children in detention



On World NGO Day, the Regina Pacis Foundation was honored with the "Trusted Justice Partner" Award, presented by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova during the "Trusted Justice Partners" Gala. The award was granted in the category dedicated to non-governmental organizations implementing projects that make a significant contribution to ensuring access to justice and upholding human rights.

This recognition reaffirms the impact of our work in supporting vulnerable groups, particularly through our resocialization projects for young people in conflict with the law.

The award belongs equally to our dedicated team, to the partners who have supported us over the years, and to the beneficiaries who have shown us that change is possible.



**A blank page. A fresh start.
Every child deserves both.**



No one should grow old feeling forgotten and hungry.

SOCIAL CANTEENS.



We provided daily meals to over 200 elderly people in need.



A warm meal might seem like a small gesture - or a daily norm - for most of us. But for those living in loneliness, poverty, or with physical limitations, it can mean everything: a lighter day, a calmer heart, a reason to hope. In 2024, the Regina Pacis Foundation responded to these needs through its Social Canteens in Chişinău and Vărvăreuca, Floreşti district, offering consistent and compassionate support.

Thanks to our partners and dedicated teams, over 51,000 hot lunches and 600 food packages were prepared and distributed - providing not just nourishment, but also a sense of dignity.

The beneficiaries of this project include elderly people left without support, individuals with disabilities, children from large or single-parent families, and other vulnerable social groups.



Behind these numbers are real people - faces marked by time, who smile when someone offers them a warm bowl of soup and a kind word. For many of them, the social canteen is not only their only source of hot food, but also a place where they feel seen, heard, and valued.



205
elderly
beneficiaries

600
food packages
distributed

51 000
hot meals
served

180
holiday gift
packages offered

We will continue to stand by those who need us most, offering not only material support, but also care, presence, and respect.

Once a farmer, now seeking help

Mr. Ion is one of the 205 elderly people who come to the Regina Pacis Foundation's Social Canteen for food assistance. He is 78 years old and has spent his entire life working the land. A man of the soil, he toiled in agriculture, paid his taxes, and contributed in the best way he knew to the well-being of his community.

Today, however, Mr. Ion lives in the painful silence of old age marked by loneliness. He has no family left, and his health is declining with each passing day. His modest pension barely covers the cost of essential medication - some days, not even that. Food has become a luxury.

Every day, with heavy steps and eyes cast downward, he walks to the Social Canteen of the Regina Pacis Foundation. There, he receives a warm meal - a bowl of soup, a main dish, and sometimes even a small dessert. He often saves half of it for dinner.

It is difficult for a man who has worked all his life to depend on a canteen. What hurts more than the hunger is the shame. But there, at the canteen, he receives something that can't be found in any pharmacy: a kind word, a helping hand, a look that doesn't judge.

For Mr. Ion, the canteen is not just a place to satisfy his hunger. It is the only space where he still feels seen, where someone smiles at him, asks how he's doing, and helps him feel human among humans. In a society that so easily forgets, the Regina Pacis Social Canteen becomes a place where dignity remains alive - even in silence.





**A place of safety, discovery, and dreams
for every child.**



Educational and Social Support

in Vărvăreuca, Florești District

In the village of Vărvăreuca, the Regina Pacis Foundation supported the operation of a Day Center dedicated to children from vulnerable families and Ukrainian refugees. Through educational and socio-emotional activities, the project contributed to the development of both academic and personal skills among beneficiaries, while also encouraging parents to take an active role in creating a supportive learning environment.

What did we achieve?

- ✓ Daily tutoring sessions for 25 children aged 7 to 11, supported by a dedicated teacher who assisted them with their homework. As a result, a visible improvement in school performance was observed.
- ✓ Interest-based clubs held twice a week for children aged 10 to 16, based on the innovative Self-Organized Learning Environments (SOLE) methodology. These sessions encouraged critical thinking, collaboration, and autonomy in the learning process.
- ✓ Thematic workshops focused on life skills, aimed at helping children develop practical competencies needed in everyday life.



Snapshots from Summer Camp 2024



With support and trust, brighter futures become possible.

Communication, Fundraising, and Media Engagements



We encourage people to direct 2% of their income tax to support hot meals



As a result of the 2% designation campaign, the Regina Pacis Foundation received **33,645.97 MDL** in 2024.

This amount was fully used to produce and distribute hot meals, offered free of charge to elderly people in need.

1345
hot meals

provided thanks to the 2%
income tax redirection

Iată cum ne poți ajuta!

- Completează online Declarația persoanei fizice cu privire la impozitul pe venit (Formular CET-18)
- Introdu în secțiunea FACULTATIVĂ, Desemnare procentuală, Codul fiscal al Fundației Regina Pacis - **1015620000999**
- Aplică semnătura mobilă/electronică și depune online Declarația pe venit până la finele lunii aprilie

Scanează codul pentru a accesa Declarația electronică

Sharing the voices of youth determined to change their future



[Click to watch the video about a beneficiary's journey in the In Cammino program.](#)



[Click to watch the ZdG report about the In Cammino social service.](#)

We raise awareness about resocialization initiatives for young people in detention and encourage society to respond with empathy



Giving voice to children and youth through community engagement



Creating materials that inform, support, and empower





Study Visit to Austria: Inspiring Models for Sustainable Social Interventions

To enhance the services offered to its beneficiaries, the Regina Pacis Foundation participated in a study visit to Vienna, organized with the support of partners from CARITAS Austria. This experience provided our team with the opportunity to explore effective models of social intervention and innovative initiatives dedicated to young people at risk. In addition, examples of social enterprises and European best practices were explored, with a focus on adapting them to the local context, thus contributing to the continuous improvement of the Foundation's projects.

The visit aligned with our strategic objective of identifying sustainable and adaptable solutions that respond to the real needs of vulnerable communities. The exchange of experience with other international organizations strengthened our team's professional capacity and offered new perspectives on the development of integrated services for young people.



Partners in Making Good Happen

Donors:



Governmental Sector:

Ministry of Justice
General Directorate for Education, Youth and Sports
General Directorate for the Protection of Children's Rights
National Council for the Accreditation of Social Services
National Administration of Penitentiaries of the Moldova
National Employment Agency
Detention Center for Children and Youth in Goian
Vocational School No. 7
Vocational School No. 11

Non-Governmental Sector:

Charity Foundation Caritas Moldova
Social Mission "Diaconia"
NGO "Concordia. Social Projects"
NGO "Demos"
NGO RETHINK
NGO Island of Hope

We express our sincere gratitude to all donors, sponsors, institutions, and partners who made the achievements presented in this report possible. Without your trust, involvement, and support, our impact on the lives of vulnerable people would not have been possible.

Your support has meant more than contributions and partnerships - it has been a profound gesture of solidarity, a vote of confidence in the potential of every child, elderly person, refugee, or young person who has received help through the Foundation.





Together, we make the world a better place!



You can follow our work on:



Anyone who wishes to support our activities for elderly people and children in need can contact us directly, redirect 2% of their income tax to the Regina Pacis Foundation (Tax ID: 1015620000999), or make a financial donation.

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Cod Fiscal 1015620000999

Grateful for each and every one of you!

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