

Enriching Lives, Unfolding Potential, Becoming Active Citizens

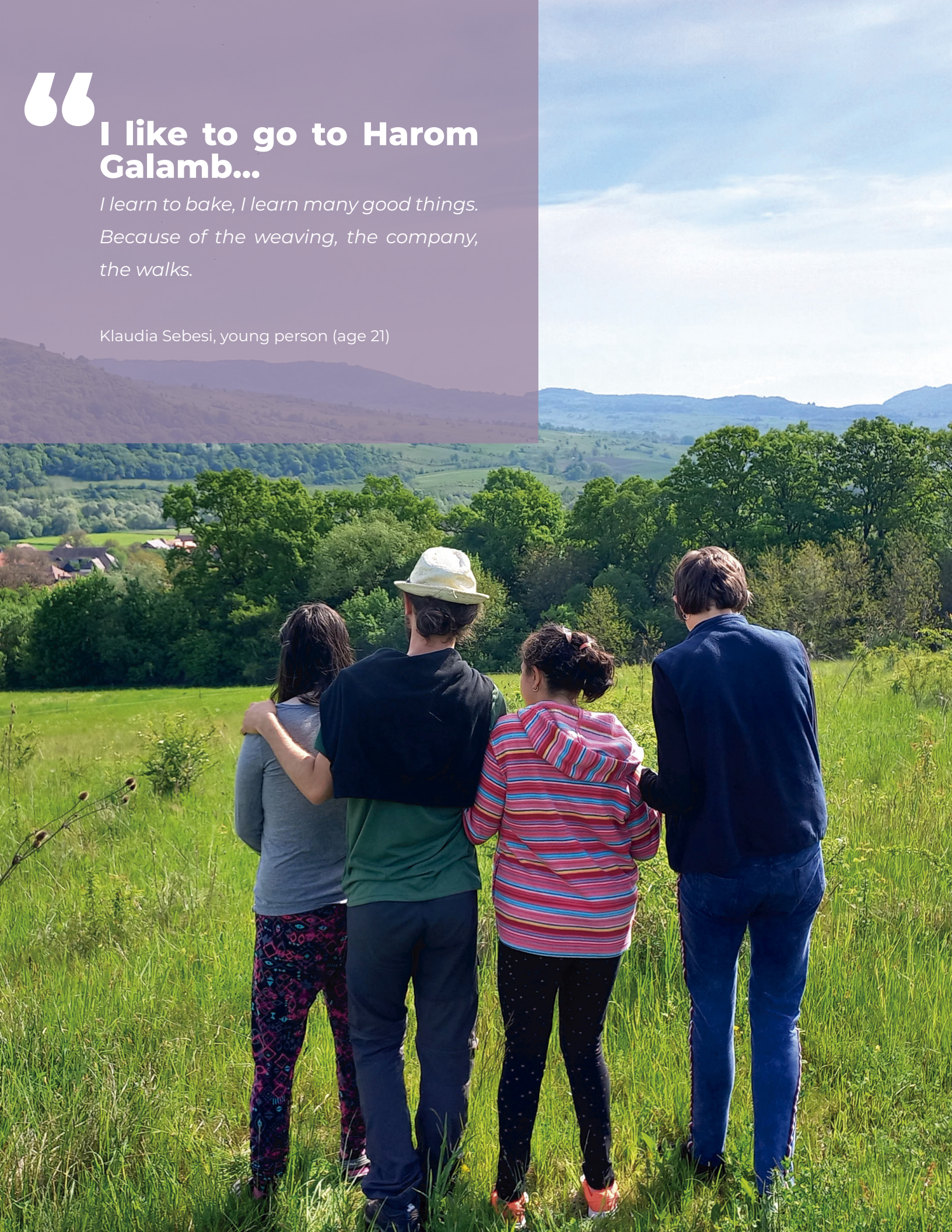




I like to go to Harom Galamb...

*I learn to bake, I learn many good things.
Because of the weaving, the company,
the walks.*

Klaudia Sebesi, young person (age 21)





An introduction to Harom Galamb from Zsuzsa Filipov-Soó, Project manager:

In 2009, my husband Mitko and I moved to Cairnlee House, which is part of a Camphill Community in Aberdeen, Scotland. Our intention was to gain a deep experience in community living and the life sharing model that Camphill offers for people with additional support needs, so we could begin a new initiative in my home country Romania. After learning so many new skills and with a wealth of experience, we were ready to return with our three children in 2020. Our aspiration is to become recognised as a member of the worldwide Camphill Community.

Our mission is for Harom Galamb to offer opportunities for between 12 to 20 young people in the day centre at any one time allowing us to accompany 40-50 beneficiaries in total during each week. We are passionate about providing a high quality individual person-centred approach aligned with best practice. In the current absence of state funding and receiving only minimal contributions, we are trying to raise €55,400 per year to cover the attendance of 10 beneficiaries for 5 days per week over 46 weeks. If a donor was willing to give €100, this would provide a guaranteed 4 days placement for a person with disabilities.

Together with you we can make a difference.

Thank you,

Zsuzsa.



The national and local context for people with disabilities

While there has been much positive change in Romania over the past 30 years, unfortunately adverse views towards people with disabilities remain largely deeply rooted in Romanian society.

Even though there has been some movement in recognizing the rights of people with disabilities, they remain low on the agenda for the Romanian government and low on the list of priorities.

Romanian Government statistics estimate there to be 846,000 people with disabilities. The World Health Organisation believes this to be an underestimation.

Harom Galamb has become one of the new services offering help to people with disabilities, in the knowledge that Government social assistance services for adults with disabilities provide a service for only 4% of people with disabilities.


Harom Galamb's emphasis on meaningful work recognizes that people with disabilities have a much lower employment rate than other people, and well below the average of other EU countries. (88% of young people with disabilities aged between 16-34 are economically inactive).

Harom Galamb is situated in a rural area and is therefore meeting another important need, as 90% of people with severe limitations in rural areas, who have not completed primary education, are inactive in work.

Harom Galamb's work, together with other social service providers, expects to make an impact on poverty levels in Romania which is judged to have the highest level of poverty of people with disabilities in the EU.

Together we can help our beneficiaries by enriching their lives, unfolding their potential, and enabling them to become active citizens.

Levente Gyerkó, Mayor of Kis- and Nagygálambfalva has said:

 *'It was a great joy for me when I heard about Harom Galamb being founded in our village. It's a good feeling that there are people in our times who think of those living with disabilities and they strive to support their integration into the society with the best of their knowledge. I was approached by Zsuzsa Filipov-Soó in 2018 with the initiative of the Day Centre. I welcomed the project in our village and assured her that I will do everything that is in my power as a mayor to support the success of the project. I believe that such a project is well placed in our village and that it will contribute positively to the village's life.'*

The initiative

Három Galamb is a grass roots initiative which has been organically growing since 2018, when the Association of Három Galamb was registered. This work is actively supported by the highly qualified and experienced group of Trustees from Három Galamb Scotland, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in Scotland.

A cornerstone in our pioneering work was the land bought by the Csiga Biga Foundation, who donated a 7540 m2 garden in the quiet and sheltered village of Porumbenii Mici, in the Harghita County or Transylvania.

We now have an orchard and land for growing organic vegetables and a courtyard where a little derelict house has been refurbished to serve as the first workshop space for the activities. Since then, an architectural plan and building permission are in place for a purpose-built Day Centre that will have three activity rooms with the necessary facilities for hosting our beneficiaries for work and therapeutic activities.

Together with you, we can support our beneficiaries by enriching their lives, unfolding their potential, and enabling them to become active citizens.



What we offer

At present, we have 7 young adults attending our day services on a weekly basis. Baking, gardening, and weaving, all artisan local trades, create the frame for our therapeutic work with them. Furthermore, between 11-20 young people come to a weekly folk dancing session, where new friendships are made, and a social circle is formed supported by professionals and volunteers. In addition, we host many special events where families can get together and take part in nourishing activities, share their concerns, and receive support from experts and each other. Many local and international volunteers are involved in Harom Galamb. They enhance the quality of support we can give, and at the same time, become advocates for Harom Galamb as they return out into the world. In addition, we have developed a vast regional network with other civil and governmental organisations, professionals, and businesses.

We have invested a lot into our garden with the intention to develop it into a self-sustainable social enterprise for market gardening, where a vegetable box scheme and food processing can be set up, thus contributing towards the sustainability of Harom Galamb as a whole and at the same time creating more meaningful activities for the beneficiaries supporting them to become active citizens.





What our parents say about our day service

Parents are vital partners in the process of delivering day services. Here are some of the things that parents are saying about their experiences.



For our children to be able to go to the Association of Harom Galamb means: Source of happiness, Learning, Development, Easier fitting into a community. For the parents the time, while they are at the activities, is a huge help and peace.

Ilona Imecs, mother of Enikő Imecs





“ *What Három Galamb means for me?... In the very first place the acceptance, which is given to us by very few. Then the kind of help, that only they can give in the development of the person, the group, the relatives. Last, but not least, that little bit of free time for us parents, that we haven't had before.*

Olga Gábor, mother of Bettina



“ *Három Galamb – human, safeboat, a place, where she goes gladly and leaves with extra, with knowledge. Simplicity, humanity, trust, colorful, original, support, acceptance, faith, growth, teaching each other, love.*

Kinga Bajcsi, mother of Ágnes Bajcsi





Dear Zsuzsa and Association of Harom Galamb
Blanka and I, her mother, would like to tell you that we are very grateful for what you are doing for us. We like very much going to you, because of the homely atmosphere and because we can take part in many interesting activities. We adore our little house where we can be together, the orchard where we can work to our delight. I, as a mother, am grateful to you, for paying attention to my daughter, you are teaching her and work with her with true patience. I can see the development which is due to your wonderful work and commitment. Blanka can already pay attention for much longer time; she is much calmer and better listener. You are all doing a professional work. We are thankful to you, for you and for being part of your team.
I hope you will hold our hands for long still and guide our steps, because we need this.

Ildikó Illyés, mother of Blanka Balázs



Here is what our architects Zsolt and Kinga Várday from the company 4ZET say and feel about Harom Galamb



While “stroking into the landscape” the building complex intended to be the home of Harom Galamb (Three Doves), a beautiful site hidden in the elbow bend of the Upper Street in Porumbenii Mici, we had the opportunity to reflect deeply as architects on the lives and worlds hidden in the shells of the soul. Is it a fully protected environment, radiating security and predictability, or a place that prepares you for life outside, setting up a ladder of challenges to be climbed? A temporary existence or a forever home, a world in the world? And finally, we understood that it is all of these things in one. We have been brought closer to knowledge with each conversation with Zsuzsa and all those who believe with her that there is always a way to a fulfilled life, if we persevere in the search.



Quality Counts

With money already raised we have renovated in local style, a small workshop on site which provides a wonderful learning and social space.



Once completed, our Day Centre will be able to support between 12 and 20 young people at any one time enabling 40-50 different beneficiaries in total to attend the Centre at some time during each week. Each young person attending has an individualised personal plan which follows best practice models.

Our two main fundraising targets

We are raising funds for 2 main reasons:

1. Day to day costs:

In the absence of state funding, we are trying to raise €55,400 per year to cover the attendance of 10 people with disabilities for 5 days per week over 46 weeks; if a donor would give €100, this will cover 4 days attendance for a named person with disabilities.

We are grateful to the Active Citizen's Fund Romania, a program funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants 2014-2021, which has supported us so far with our revenue expenses.

2. The capital costs of the new Day Centre:

We have been very fortunate to have received a grant from Michael Stiftung of €70,000 which is paying for the laying of the foundations.

We now need a further €140,000 to complete the building as shown below in the architect's 3D models.



Please act now, our beneficiaries need your support.

Thank you to each of you who have contributed in so many ways to support our initial phase of development. Without this we would not be where we are now.

However, for us to achieve our mission we need more support: please get in touch today and help us make the world of difference for vulnerable young people by supporting us to enrich their lives, unfold their potential and thus enable them to become active citizens.

If you would like to see a copy of our Development Plan for 2022-2025, please contact us.

Zsuzsa, Harom Galamb leader, and **John Richards**, Chair of Harom Galamb Scotland.



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