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ABOUT US

"Taxiul cu Bomboane" (The Candy Cab) Children's Charity was founded in 2016. Our story, however, begins in the spring of 2014, with a very decent initiative of then taxi driver, Cristian Roman, who wanted to transform a mundane cab ride into a special experience for his passengers! It all started out with offering a piece of candy, playing a pleasant selection of music or sharing fascinating stories of obscure Bucharest landmarks... It was only a matter of time until stories of **The Candy Cab** started spreading through Bucharest and the interesting taxi driver became a viral internet sensation!

That was the moment when the cabbie decided to use this good fortune to support a cause that he believes in. Every Saturday he would bring books and toys to the "Marie Curie" Children's Hospital of Bucharest.

Over time we have been joined by hundreds of volunteers, patrons and other *"partners in good deeds"* (**#parteneriinfaptebune**)!



In many ways, "**The Candy Cab**" is in fact a metaphor, a reference to the original concept of the candy taxi. It is about the small gestures of ordinary people - small gestures that can have a large impact on the lives of people around us. And as always, anyone is invited to get in this happy little "vehicle" of ours!

"**The taxi**" only has a few destinations these days, namely the children's hospitals and special schools of Bucharest. Volunteers from all ages and walks of life, both from Bucharest and overseas, visit these locations to share love, bring smiles on the faces of the ill or disabled children, offering them hope and encouragement!

We have a number of projects dedicated to the mothers and children of Bucharest: "**Fairytale Evenings**", "**Tiny Pillows for Tiny People**", "**Sweet Little Candy Mugs**", "**A Stocking full of Candy**", "**Hopeful Fridays**", "**Chatting with Dolphins**" and **many others!** You will be reading more about these projects shortly...

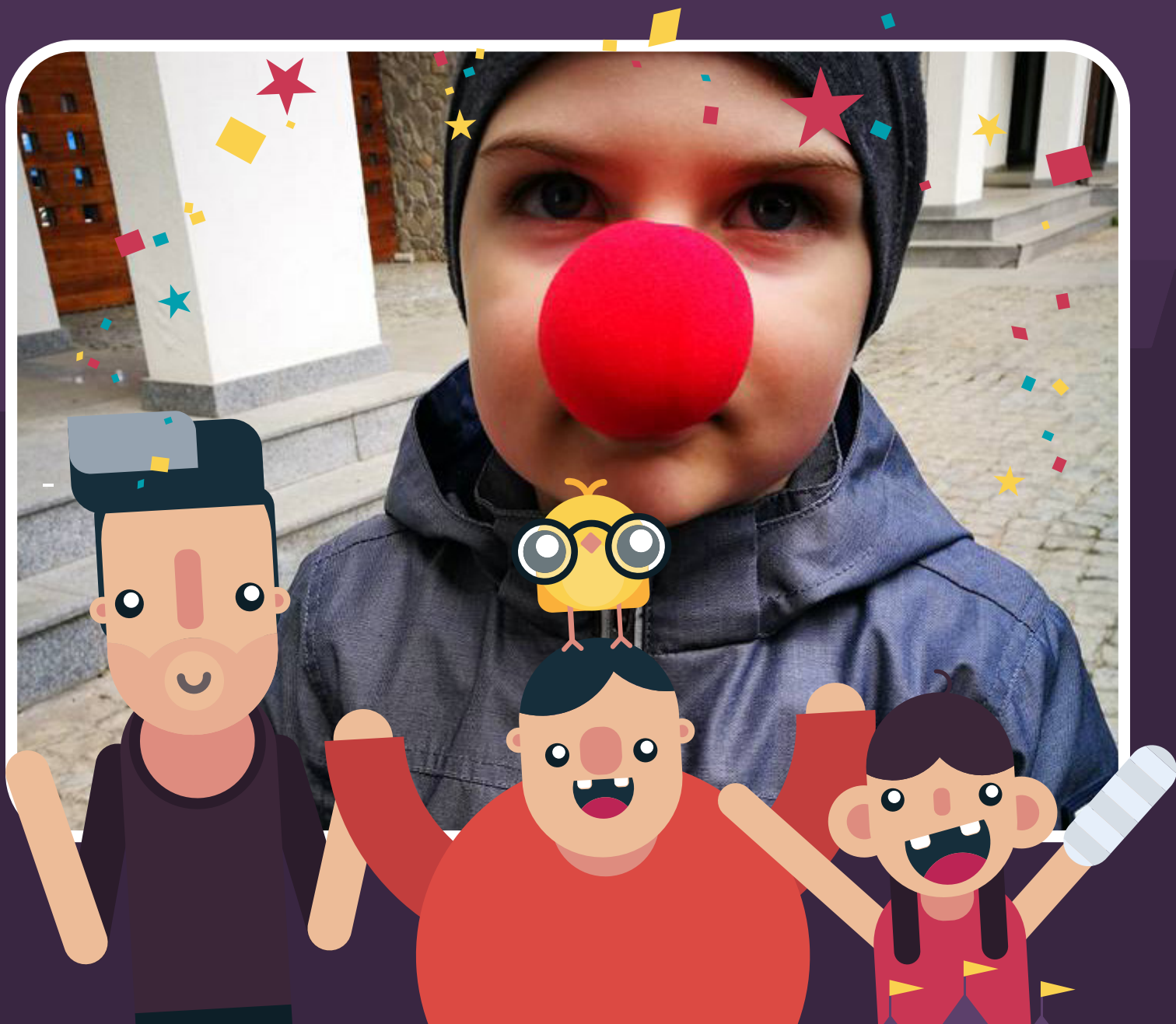
In order to run all of these projects, our organisation welcomes all the volunteers and all the support that you can offer us!



OUR MISSION

Our main focus is the wellbeing of ill and disabled children. We organise “playtime therapy” activities and other campaigns designed to uplift the spirits of the little ones and help them interrelate.

Being hospitalised can be an overwhelming and sad experience for children, many of them feeling vulnerable and scared. These difficult experiences can have a deep psychological impact and the children need someone’s encouragement and support - and this is where our members and volunteers step in to make a change!



There is also a very special place for special children within the “**Candy Cab**”. We want to help these kids find a path in life, by learning an occupation in our new location “**Bomboland**”! (Candyland) More on page 11...



OUR PROJECTS

"Fairytale Evenings"

Seara de Poveste ("Fairytale Evenings") is one of our permanent "playtime therapy" projects, dedicated to the children in hospitals.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, volunteers of all ages visit the major Paediatric Hospitals of Bucharest and read stories to children and their parents.

Therapy through storytelling and laughter is a frequently encountered practice in many countries. Sometimes you need a little bit more than medical care alone to overcome an illness and the suffering that comes with it. Medical staff and doctors across the world know this fact perhaps better than anyone else.



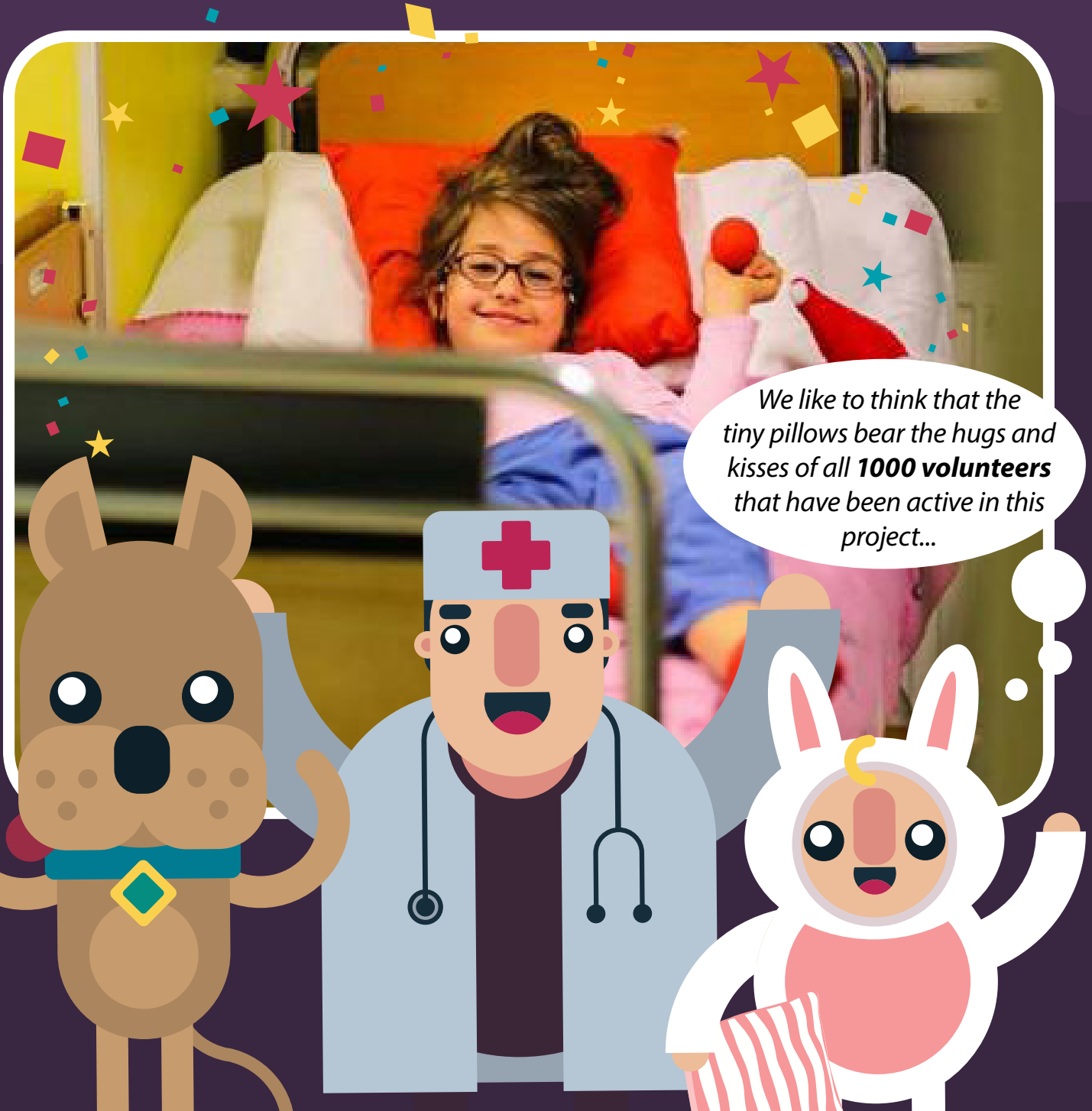
The project started in December 2015 with our "Fairytale Month". Since then, volunteers of the "**CandyCab**", accompanied by cheer and magical books, have been bringing courage and hope to all children in the hospitals. Over 3000 volunteers have been involved in this project up to this date, either through reading stories to the children, or through donating books to support our cause.

“Tiny Pillows for Tiny People”

The “**Pui de Pernă pentru Pui de Om**” campaign (“Tiny Pillows for Tiny People”) is organised every year during or around the Easter holidays and is usually accompanied by our cheerful bunny mascot!

The children receive fun-sized pillows for a more comfortable stay and lots of colorful books, to awake their interest in the world of literature.

We have a very special place for reading in the “**Candy Cab**” and reading is something that we try to encourage through many of our projects. It is an activity that helps one discover the world and discover oneself.



We like to think that the tiny pillows bear the hugs and kisses of all **1000 volunteers** that have been active in this project...

"Sweet Little Candy Mugs"

"Cănuța cu Bomboane" ("Sweet Little Candy Mugs") is the campaign that we run on every June 1st, the International Children's Day. On the 2016 debut of this campaign, children received candy in mugs adorned with motivational messages, and were surprised by the presence of their favourite cartoon and comic book characters! Nearly **2000 people** have made various contributions to this project.



A candy is the perfect symbol of good deeds: it's a small gesture that brings lots of joy! Anyone can do a good deed as such!



“Having a Chat with Dolphins”

“**De vorbă cu Delfinii**” (“Having a chat with Dolphins”) is a project dedicated to the special needs children, to whom we offer free trips to the dolphinarium of Constanța.

Between March and November groups of children from the special schools of Bucharest go on day trips to spend time in the proximity of dolphins, to observe their behaviour, relax and at the same time enjoy the benefits of non-verbal communication.

The trip is free for the children, their legal guardians and our volunteers. All transportation, food and entry fees being covered by the generous donations of our campaign sponsors.



"The Christmas Tree Festival"

"Carnavalul Bradului de Crăciun" ("The Christmas Tree Festival") took place between the 5th and 17th of December last year. Volunteers of the **"Candy Cab"** visited the hospital wards and special needs schools of Bucharest, where they have brought fruits, sweets, toys and books from over **2000 people!**

There are plenty of children in hospitals each year before Christmas. And this is perhaps one of the saddest times of the year to be in a hospital for a child. Everybody wants to be home, by their family, waiting for Santa! Our volunteers visit all hospital wards, packed with toys, books, love and encouragement for the little ones! A special moment of the **Christmas Tree Festival** is the **Stocking full of Candy** (Ciorapelul cu Bomboane) the last 2016 stop of the **"Candy Cab"**. On the 18th of December, our helpers stopped at all Children's Hospitals in Bucharest with Christmas Stockings filled with sweet treats and kisses!



"Sociotherapy through Theatre"

Project financed by the **Bucharest Sector 3 City Council** in partnership with the **"Candy Cab"** Charitable Organisation. The participants were the students of The No. 5 Elementary School for Children with Special Needs. The project featured workshops on communication, theatre and interrelation for children with forms of autism, Down syndrome and other developmental issues. For the finale the children organized a theatre play within the **Metropolis Theatre** of Bucharest.



"You are invited to the Theatre"

Project financed by the **Bucharest Sector 5 City Council** in association with the **"Candy Cab"** Charitable Organisation". The children of The No. 9 Elementary School for Children with Special Needs and the **"Cutezatorii"** Centre for Children with Social Needs took part at our workshops on theatre, communication, socialization and social inclusion. The project finished with two shows featuring dancing and recitals of the pupils.



Our social therapy through drama workshops been taught to over **300 children!**

"Bomboland"

Bomboland ("Candyland") is the latest project of the "**Candy Cab**" Charitable Organisation. It is a 100 square meter facility within Flaros (www.flaros.com). This is where our association is planning to organise free workshops for children with special needs. They will be taught how to paint on wood, glass and canvas, how to make sugar cake decorations, or how to create stunning floral arrangements. We plan to have 28 workshops a month and the lecturers will be volunteers from our non-profit organisation.

Children from the special schools of Bucharest will benefit directly from these workshops. After graduating the mandatory 10-year educational cycle, some of the children cannot find a fulfilling job and our task is to provide them with valuable skills that could help them in the future!



To begin this project we need to set up the space that we have received pro-bono, on behalf of **Flaros SA**, our obligations consisting of paying the utilities and renovating the premises at our expense. More precisely, we have to refurbish the existing water closets, put in new wooden flooring, mount a few shelves and paint the walls.

WHERE TO FIND US

Tuesdays from 18:00

Institutului pentru Sănătate a Mamei și a Copilului "Alfred Rusescu" 120 Lacul Tei Blvd.

Wednesdays from 18:00

Spitalul Clinic de Urgență pentru Copii "Grigore Alexandrescu" 30-32 Iancu de Hunedoara Blvd.

Thursdays from 18:00

Spitalul Clinic de Urgență pentru Copii "Marie Sklodowska Curie" 20 Constantin Brancoveanu Blvd.

Bomboland - within **Flaros SA** 67-93 Ion Minulescu street



Thank you for your support! Any help brings countless smiles to hundreds of less fortunate children within Romania!