



**Sisters by
Choice**

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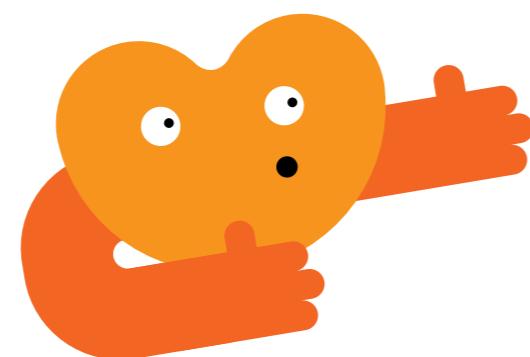


C and **G** are each other's best friends in the world. One starts laughing and then the other one continues, and you, as the interlocutor, have to be very careful to see if C. is laughing, or if G. is laughing, or if they are both laughing in complete harmony. They are introverted and sensitive, but if you know how to bring their smile to the surface, they become the happiest beings in the entire universe. We, at "Heart of a Child", are proud to have made them laugh for the first time four years ago. G., used to the unpleasant noises at home, quickly became addicted to the silence at the Day Center. For C., on the other hand, it was more difficult for her to come to us regularly: at first she was absent because she had to take care of her three younger brothers, one of whom was only a year old. Her parents were away to their jobs or to work the field, and she had to become the responsible adult in the family. She was only 7 years old!

Simple dreams, after a difficult period

Step by step, together with the team from "Heart of a Child", G. and C. (or C. and G.) have discovered the taste of childhood, learnt to learn, and understood that it is alright to have dreams. They are now in 5th grade and do well in school. "I want to learn a lot of new things next year", says G. "I wish we have a very good next year and we don't have to wear masks anymore", adds C. These are simple and introverted dreams, tailored to their lives and the times we live in. C. and G. want to get rid of the mask because the pandemic has deepened the problems their families had. During

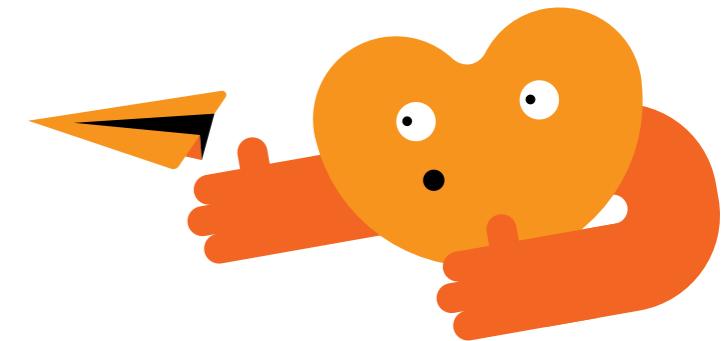
lockdown, C.'s mother became unemployed, and her father had to sell the animals he had been raising to support his large family: there are seven souls. G's family also went through a difficult period, since her mother could no longer do her house cleaning job. For a while, they only had the allowances of the two children to live on.



They want to become doctors

“I want to share my dream with you because you support and encourage me in what I do. When I grow up, I want to become a pediatrician to help children who have health problems.”, says C. “When I grow up, I want to become a veterinarian”, mentions G.

that they like the smell of lilac flowers because it reminds them of spring and the smell of vanilla from grandma's pies.



After four years with the foundation, their dreams are starting to get more daring. But most of all, the two girls want a normal life. To learn, but also to have fun, not to wear masks, to go to the sea, to have friends... and obviously, to have each other as lifelong friends. They want to share with everyone

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At Heart of a Child Foundation we say stories filled with kindness.



Poverty should not be a barrier to success. Heart of a Child helps children, parents, and their communities in difficult and at-risk situations with medical, educational, emotional, and economic support.

Together, we can transform inequality into equal opportunity, creating strong and inclusive communities. We have been doing this for 25 years in the poorest area of Romania: **Galati, Braila, Vrancea and Vaslui**.

Here at the foundation we believe in kindness, **kindness that heals, no matter what**. We let ourselves guided by the stories of the children and young people we support, and we make a purpose out of helping them raise their voices. They are the ones for whom we are here every day.

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