

Annual Report 2010

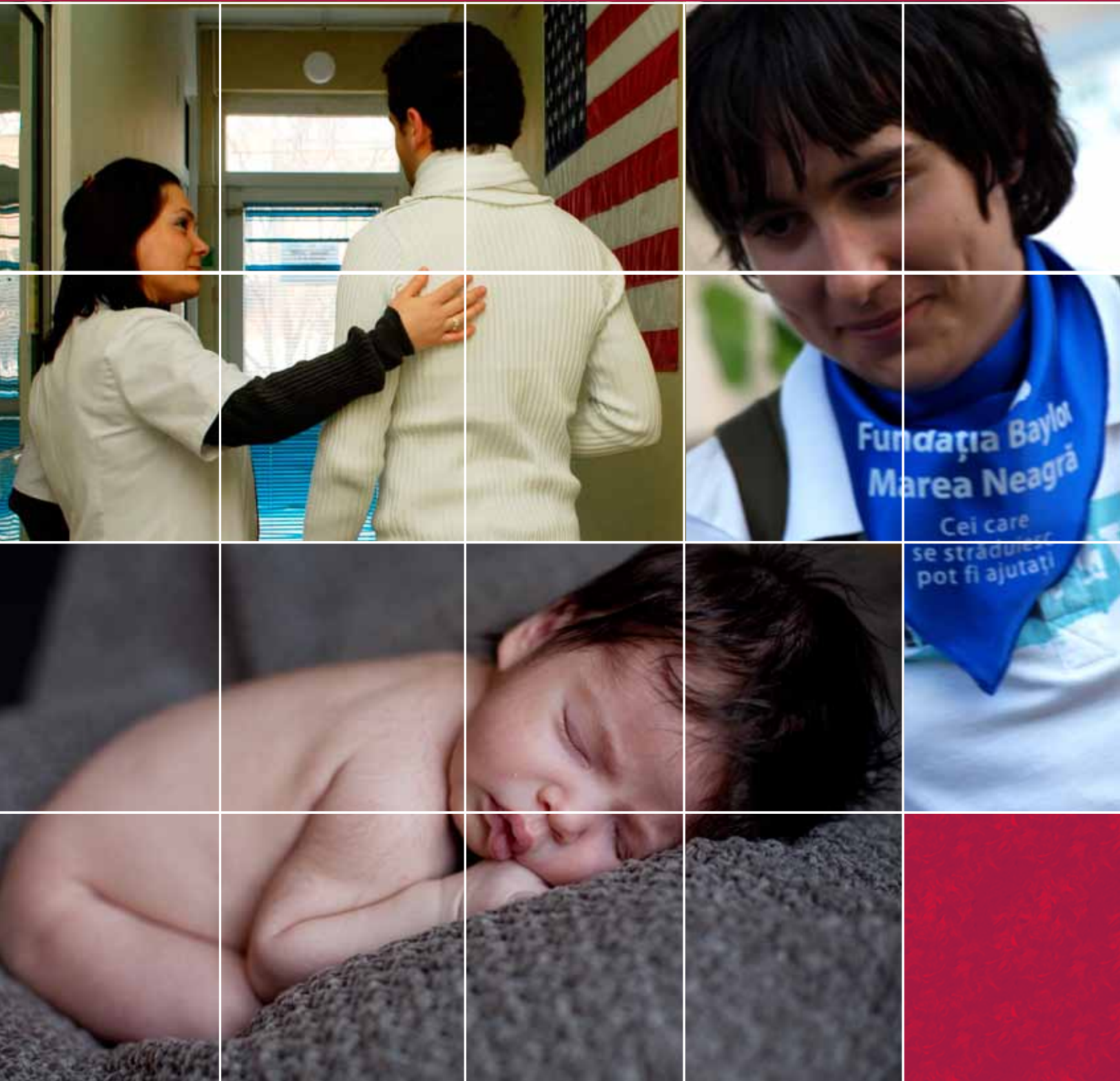


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 The Baylor Team

About BIPAI Romania:

The Romanian-American Children’s Centre of Excellence or Centrul de Copii Romano-American was opened April 6, 2001 and the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation was established in 2004. The COE was the result of a plan by Dr. Mark Kline to help the HIV-infected children of Romania he met in 1996 during his first trip to Romania. The COE became Europe’s largest pediatric HIV/AIDS care and treatment center, which includes a state-of-the-art outpatient clinic, inpatient observation unit, laboratory, pharmacy and specimen processing area, classrooms and short-term treatment and observation unit.

In 2008, the Center was renamed the Baylor College of Medicine Texas Children’s Hospital Abbott Fund Constanta Infectious Diseases Hospital Center of Excellence – Constanta or BIPAI Romania to reflect the growth in partnerships and services. The most mature of BIPAI’s programs, Romania, opened the first COE and has the oldest patient population. As a result, BIPAI Romania continues to focus on successful methods for transitioning HIV+ adolescents to adult care and meeting the health needs of its patients and their families.

BIPAI Romania is part of the BIPAI Network based in Houston, Texas at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital. The Network includes 11 countries where BIPAI is working to expanding access to family-centered HIV/AIDS services within Africa, North American and Eastern Europe.

Sustaining funds for the Centrul de Copii Romano-American come from Abbott Laboratories and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.



Letter from the Founder



When I visited Romania in February 1996, at a point in my career when I thought I knew everything there was to know about the HIV/AIDS infection, I witnessed the development of a tragedy and a disease whose magnitude I could not have foreseen. I knew right away that my life would never be the same again.

Dear colleagues,

I remember how, after a slow start, the Baylor international organization built and inaugurated a Children's Centre in Constanța in 2001. Over 400 Romanian children began highly active anti-retroviral therapy; at that time, this was probably the largest number of children being treated for HIV/AIDS in any centre in the world. In December 2007, the Romanian-American Children's Centre became a centre for HIV positive adults, too, an HIV Clinical Centre of Excellence.

Other children's centres were opened after this date: in Botswana in 2003, then in Lesotho, Swaziland and Malawi. The hundreds of HIV positive children under treatment and care became thousands, then the thousands became tens of thousands.

Baylor will found in 2011 a Centre for Global Child Health within the Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital, which will fight against severe diseases, such as: malaria, tuberculosis, diarrheic disease, malnutrition, cancer and sickle cell disease. Everything we have learnt during the past ten years of implementing treatments for children with HIV/AIDS will provide us with a model for these new programmes.

I want to sincerely congratulate all BIPAI personnel for the successes of the Baylor Romania team during 2010 and for the expansion of activities in the field of infectious diseases. It is my hope that we will continue to relieve the suffering of others.

Yours truly,

Dr. Mark W. Kline, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Paediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine
Physician-in-Chief, Texas Children's Hospital
President, Baylor International Paediatric AIDS Initiative

My Dear Romanian Colleagues,

I am very excited that we are about to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Baylor College of Medicine Centre of Excellence in Romania. It still takes my breath away when I think that the first clinic was opened on April 6th 2001 and I realize how far we have come!



It is remarkable that the Baylor Centres of Excellence in numerous countries offer services for more than 85,000 children and families in need! Even more amazing is the fact that Professor Mark W. Kline was told that nobody would be able to effectively treat HIV positive children outside of the United States, Europe or Japan.

Of course, we had to face great challenges, especially when the first Centre of Excellence was closed. However, the Romanian Centre team and the Baylor team did not give up on the children and families and here we are, ten years later, offering services to young adults and, to an extent, to their children as well! The Romanian programme has inspired the programmes of future Centres of Excellence from the entire world and continues to inspire other Centres of Excellence in their work with young people.

All the work carried out by the Baylor Romania team throughout these years represents an uplifting experience in every way.

I want to thank you for being the pioneers of one of the most incredible programmes which helps children, young people and families from the entire world!

Jeff Richardson
Vice President, The Abbott Fund

Apathy versus Empathy



2010 was a year which gave us every reason to call it a difficult year for Romania: financial crisis, street protests, austerity measures, limited rights for people with disabilities, repeated treatment interruption for people suffering from chronic diseases throughout the country. In such a context, how can one cope with the general apathy and discouragement throughout the country? What motivated the Baylor team during this year was our sense of empathy and compassion for the condition of those who came to the Baylor Centers for HIV and hepatitis prevention, care and treatment services. Prevention-testing-treatment for infectious diseases – this has been the focus of our programs during the last year here at the Baylor College of Medicine Texas Children’s Hospital Abbott Fund Constanta Infectious Diseases Hospital Center of Excellence – Constanta or BIPAI Romania.

I am happy to list below several notable achievements:

- ★ Due to donations from AmeriCares, medication and medical supplies amounting to totally almost 8 million USD, we have been able to offer vital support to care for HIV positive people during this year.
- ★ For the third year, we have ensured free counseling and testing for HIV and hepatitis to over 15,000 people in Dobrogea.
- ★ With the assistance of more than 100 teachers, who we trained about sex education throughout this year, over 2,300 students from rural regions were able to learn about infectious diseases and family planning in an interactive manner, by using a “magnetic board”.
- ★ By partnering with the patient representatives within COPAC (The Coalition of Patients’ Organizations with Chronic Diseases) and with the World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA), we consider that we have managed to address the needs of the patients we are working with, whether they are infected with HIV or with hepatitis viruses.
- ★ Beyond all statistics, the most important achievement is the actual help and results we were able to offer to patients and their families: newborn children with HIV and/or hepatitis seropositive mothers, who are presently healthy; patients whose health significantly improved after working intensely with our psychologists in support groups or in therapeutic camps; and patients who are healthy, after receiving the emergency medical aid we offer when dealing with serious cases.

I would like to thank my colleagues for their dedication and for their perseverance when dealing with the passive nature of official administration towards patients, as well as for the respect shown to our clients. I also want to thank our donors and partners, without whom our passion for a healthier community could not become reality.

Finally, my best wishes go to patients and their families, for whose passion for life and coping abilities we feel a deep respect.

Ana-Maria Schweitzer
Executive Director, Baylor Black Sea Foundation

Measurements of our Achievements

Prevention of Infectious Diseases

- ★ 8,500 copies of informative material distributed
- ★ 6 campaigns of non-formal education were conducted
- ★ 18,000 condoms distributed at the Baylor Centre of Excellence and during campaigns
- ★ 900 health care professionals attended CME (Continuous medical education) trainings
- ★ 15 medical education training curricula

Testing for HIV and for Hepatitis B and C

- ★ Exceeded the target of testing 15,000 people
- ★ 3 counseling and testing centers have continued operating for the 3rd consecutive year
- ★ 83% of all diagnosed patients were referred to the public health care system

HIV Treatment and Care

- ★ 53% of all patients in the county of Dobrogea received psychological support
- ★ 20% of all assisted patients received emergency aid
- ★ 204 patients received dental care
- ★ 430 obstetrics-gynecology consultations were received
- ★ 26 cases of TB were cured
- ★ 32 pregnant women were assisted
- ★ 13 young adults were beneficiaries of the „Flower House” housing complex



Psychological-social Services

Accessibility of psycho-social services to patients and their families:

- ★ 447 persons infected with HIV in the county received psychological and/or social support;
- ★ 73% of patients mentioned above received psychological counseling, including individual, couple or group psychotherapy;
- ★ 20% received home visits;
- ★ 74% of newly diagnosed cases were counseled after disclosure of diagnosis.

Adapting programs to the patients' needs

- ★ Implementing the "Precious Children" project for healthy children with young seropositive mothers
- ★ Instituting the first support group for children between 4 and 10 years of age who have difficulty adhering to treatment
- ★ Initiating the personal development group for HIV positive adults
- ★ Implementing, for the second year, the psychotherapeutic camp for children and young people with adherence issues
- ★ Initiating a training for pregnant Women, called "Motherhood", meant to introduce them to the new parenting responsibilities.

At the Baylor COE, the relationships between psychologists/social workers and patients are long-term, sometimes even longer than 10 years. Life as an HIV positive young adult brings many challenges: how to talk to your loved one about the diagnosis, how to start a family and how to deal with depression or affective issues. These are only some of the issues tackled during psychotherapy sessions.

Working year-after-year with our patients made us think about how best to develop our services in order to respond to a wide range of patient needs, whether these might be simple direct advices, such as how to complete paper work to obtain various legal rights, or more subtle and problematic issues, such as an identity crisis.

During 2010 we have also had to assist patients that underwent extreme life situations, such as rape, human trafficking or physical abuse. Working with key community partners was, in these situations, critical for the timely and adequate support of each individual case.

Since we were aware that our services were not very clearly gay supportive, we have worked to improve our message to patients that the clinic is a gay friendly and confidential environment.





Precious Children

In the past three years, almost 70 children born to HIV positive mothers have been cared for at the Baylor clinic. In order to ensure that these children remain uninfected, we work closely with the infectious disease physicians and the gynecologist, performing home visits and making sure that the newborns have access to vaccination and formula feeding, by providing powdered milk and a basic newborn kit.

Psychotherapy and Creativity

Throughout the years, we have learnt that simple recommendations for a healthy life do not help patients sufficiently, so we have introduced various forms of psychotherapeutic sessions, which allow the patients to grow emotionally and maintain their psychological balance through various life challenges.



Attention to Details

The primary objectives of the team of psychologists and social workers is to prepare counseling sessions in advance and to analyze the problematic cases on a weekly basis, in order to ensure that as much high quality time as possible is spent with the client. Every year, the psychosocial team studies new intervention methods. In 2010, our focus was family therapy.



Cristina (22 years old): *"The Bran camp helped me to know myself better, to trust myself, to see that I can overcome difficulties I hadn't thought I could overcome before."*

Georgiana (22 years old): *"I had a great time with the group, I discovered new things about myself, I learnt how to better handle certain situations in my relationship with my partner."*

Florentina (23 years old): *"Although I didn't think I was going to like it at first, now I'm sorry that it's coming to an end. I can say that I became responsible for administering my own therapy, whereas before it was my mother's responsibility. I hope the group continues next year."*

Mircea (6 years old): *"At first, I wasn't taking my pills... I realized later that they are important. Now I'm one of the Elves who defeated the Dragon-illness"*

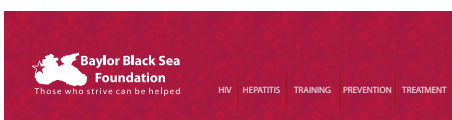
Dănuț (7 years old): *has "Smart elf" written on his T-shirt, because "Smart elves defeated Mr. Virus"*

Maria – parent: *"Now my little 6-year-old boy can't wait to put on his smiling face on the monitoring sheet after taking his pills, it's something he never forgets!"*

Research

In 2008, we started our first research study regarding patient difficulties in adhering to antiretroviral treatment. We worked with Alexandra Dima, PhD, health psychology researcher at Southampton University, Prof. Eduardo Remor from Universidad Autonoma in Madrid, Health Psychology Department and K. Rivet Amico, PhD, Research Scientist, Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention, University of Connecticut. The study allowed the adoption of two psychological evaluation tools on therapy adherence. The results were presented at two international conferences, in Vienna (AIDS World Conference) and Cluj (Health Psychology Conference). The study allowed us to better know our patients and to develop some new tools, such as:

- ★ a patient's brochure, which provides answers to the most frequently asked questions about: sexuality, treatment and pregnancy options;
- ★ a work standard on the minimal information that a newly HIV-diagnosed patient requires;
- ★ a list of the most frequently asked questions from patients who have been taking ARV's for a long period of time, including drug side effects and their health control.



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Programs for Medical Services

Ensuring the right to treatment for other health issues

- ★ Continuing – for the fourth year – the dental, gynecological and pulmonary care of patients at the Centre of Excellence
- ★ Preventing medical discrimination towards HIV infected patients by accompanying and representing the patients in various medical settings

Increasing the quality of life and life expectancy for patients

- ★ 67% of all patients were consulted by a pulmonologist
- ★ 40% received dental care
- ★ 65% of the HIV positive women from the Centre were assisted by a gynecologist

The direct services provided by specialty physicians also include a prevention component, especially for patients with a weak immune system or with a relevant medical history.

Our team works at the Centre or at the patients' homes to follow-up on clients exposed to TB, to ensure they accept the specified preventive treatment.

The novelty of this program was the introduction of prophylactic treatment of tuberculosis for eligible HIV positive pregnant women beginning at the 28th week of pregnancy and for newborns potentially exposed to TB. Prophylaxis for *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia was also introduced for all patients with CD4 counts < 200.

A large number of patients gave birth in 2010, resulting in 70 exposed children that Baylor is currently following to determine whether or not they will be HIV-positive. Romanian guidelines recommend Caesarean section operations for HIV positive pregnant women and we can report that 90% of our cases were referred to the healthcare system, and, therefore, the guidelines for a safer birth could be followed. There were also women that were diagnosed HIV-positive late in their pregnancy or presented late in their labor to the hospital, and, therefore, they had a vaginal delivery. We are pleased to report, that after more than five years of intensive collaboration with the County Hospital, the pregnant women referral and assistance has significantly improved. As a result, implementation of prevention of mother to child transmission prophylaxis measures has improved.

Since the health issues related to the Papiloma Virus (HPV) are well-known, a screening program for HPV was initiated this year, with the help of the Infectious Disease Hospital. As a result, 69 young women infected with HIV were vaccinated against HPV at the obstetrics-gynecology office.

By collaborating with a dental technician, the quality of services (denture care, treatments and dental procedures) provided by the dental care practice has improved, leading to a growing number of patients seeking dental care. After several interventions, Mihai said "I'm happy that I can now smile and laugh with my mouth open!"



Rapid Testing for Infectious Diseases

Promoting a healthy lifestyle among the people who get tested for HIV, hepatitis B and C

Referring positive cases to specialists for confirmation of diagnosis and treatment

- ★ 82% of clients with hepatitis C were referred for further diagnosis and treatment
- ★ 68% of clients with hepatitis B were accepted by a specialist physician for diagnosis
- ★ 100% of the clients who came to the testing centers received pre-testing and post-testing counseling
- ★ 100% of clients with reactive HIV results were referred to and registered with an infectious disease physician
- ★ approximately 50% of clients with reactive HIV results were linked with the Baylor psychosocial service

In 2007, we set as our goal: the expansion of our services by offering free HIV testing to the general population of two counties in Romania: Constanta and Tulcea. The service was designed not only as a screening program, but also as a unique potential for educating and counseling clients.

"A visibly emotional young woman gave me a hug today after receiving the testing result. She had had unprotected sexual intercourse with an unknown person in summer. She told me she was lucky and that she would never risk going through this experience again" – told a counselor of the Baylor Centre in December.

As our mission widened, in 2010 we have included hepatitis B and C counseling and testing as an additional service. This has dramatically increased the demand for testing, doubling in less than two months the demand for testing. Soon, clients were scheduling their appointments two months in advance and requesting from our team even more energy and commitment.

We have realized that simply counseling and testing of these patients was insufficient and therefore we have developed strong partnerships in order to ensure referral and patient orientation for continuum of care.

By the end of 2010, a cumulative number of 15 500 persons had been tested in our 3 counseling and testing centers, with prevalence rates of 0.1% for HIV, 4.3% for hepatitis B and 3.9% for hepatitis C.

We have initiated our first hepatitis B and C orientation support groups for newly diagnosed patients and for patients initiated on interferon treatment.



Improving Adults' Understanding

Encouraging appropriate care for people with infectious diseases within different community institutions

- ★ 15 training courses for professionals in Constanța and Tulcea
- ★ 97% of the trainees consider that they have improved their knowledge
- ★ 85% state that their attitude towards people with stigmatizing diseases has changed for the better

Promoting good practice to guide the activity of professionals for patient assistance

- ★ Adding five new themes of training: how to perform medical research, hepatitis B and hepatitis C, good clinical training practices (in-depth course), testing for HIV and hepatitis, issues related to the physician-patient relationship from a clinical perspective

The ongoing medical education courses organized by the Baylor Foundation are increasingly requested by the medical staff, even receiving requests from other neighboring counties. The courses include psychological, social and legislative elements and all maintain an interactive approach.

In September, along with several partners, we organized the second edition of the International School "HIV Medicine in 2010". After three days of workshops and courses, a participant noted that the "HIV Clinical Centre of Excellence in Constanța represents a model of multidisciplinary care and good practice for the HIV infection in children and adults". "I am convinced that the information I received will not only help me in my future career, but also to share this information with other young people in difficulty; I hope to have the opportunity again to take part in future editions" – mentioned a young woman infected with HIV, scholar of the International School.

Another group of adults which we targeted were the county teachers. With the help of the "Magnetic board" project, 104 teachers from 28 schools and high schools, mainly in rural areas, were trained about sexual education.

"This information was well-received by the children, who had the expected reaction (satisfying their curiosity). What is certain is that this first activity must be continued, so that they may "take" courage to discuss freely about this subject and to receive answers to all their questions and confusions." – Tudoran Alina Smaranda, biology teacher, "Marin Voinea" Vocational School in Cerchezu, Constanța county



Protected Housing

Supporting homeless HIV-infected young people without family support in view of social integration

- ★ 10 young people are independent
- ★ 3 continue to require constant monitoring

Ensuring minimum living conditions to keep them healthy

- ★ 13 young people assisted throughout the year

The protected housing complex, “Flower House” in Lazu, near Constanța, consist of two building which provide lodging to young HIV-infected people who face social problems and also lack family support. The clients include: independent couples, young people no longer integrated within the Romanian social security system, and pregnant women and newborns.

Three studios and four rooms situated in a beautiful natural setting represent “home” for young people like Ana or Marian, who have hopes to start a family and have a normal life. In 2010 we also celebrated the first wedding of two young people from the complex. *“I was invited to their wedding and I was so happy for them, as if they were my own children. Ten years ago, when the Flower House was founded, I couldn’t have imagined that I would be dancing at their wedding”* – says Doina, social mother.

The requirements for accessing the protected housing services are well-defined. Requirements of the part of the young adults include being gainfully employed and/or the continuation of educational studies. The clients are also required to cover the expenses for utilities, food and transport. As a result of its many years of experience in managing a family-style group home the Baylor team is able to offer assistance and counseling on continuous basis, encourage independent life for all clients.

Camelia’s Story: In 2010, a special situation arose with Camelia. She became pregnant and, due to misunderstandings with her family, she could not remain in her parents’ home. Camelia stayed at the Flower House until she gave birth and for six months after giving birth. Camelia was able to stay at Flower House when she needed it most. She was scared and vulnerable. With the help of the Center team, gradually the relationship with her family improved and Camelia returned to living with them.



Infectious Diseases and Young People

Raising the youth's awareness about the effect of infectious diseases on the community

- ★ Organizing – for the fourth consecutive year – a march in memory of the lives lost to AIDS
- ★ Celebration of World Hepatitis Day

Direct involvement of young people in community projects

- ★ 30 high school and college volunteers were actively involved in the projects
- ★ 4 large projects were mostly managed by youngsters
- ★ An innovative fundraising project for Constanța, – Youth Bank – was started by youth

During the Candlelight Memorial held in May, Baylor brought together over 300 young people, pupils and students, to take part in a memorial march and other events designed to raise awareness about HIV.

What were the types of projects the volunteers worked on? The volunteers got involved in distributing educational leaflets on hepatitis in public areas during the preceding year. They also organized photography exhibitions and contributed to the development of successful fundraising events and the International School. Awaited with interest, the second edition of the four day long, community event "Points of view" included a photography exhibition and the "Living library". The books were represented by people with extensive life experience.

"A wonderful exhibition. The stories focused in the photos reveal in an accessible way the mixture of problems related to indifference. My congratulations to the Baylor Foundation and especially to the volunteers for their hard work" is the impression of a visitor.

"YouthBank was a challenge, but at the same time an opportunity to break new barriers in Constanța. The project is innovative and, although at first it seemed to us as a nicely packaged unknown factor, it materialized in projects which managed to take the first step towards changing the community. YouthBank is exactly what I need, an accumulation of benefits, such as using time wisely, dedication to a noble cause, socializing and work accompanied by satisfactions." Diana Ștefania Țățârcă, Baylor volunteer



Press Centre

Media coverage

Newspapers	TV	Radio	Online
48	18	11	176

Total: 253

Press conferences: 7

Special thanks to Mioara Băiceanu and Alin Bujan who invested their time and energy in the HIV and hepatitis testing campaign and accepted to be spokesmen. We would also like to acknowledge over 3,000 Facebook friends and supporters.

You can find us on: <http://www.facebook.com/BaylorRomania> and <http://twitter.com/BaylorRomania>

The following media outlets have helped us raise awareness about our activities in 2010: Radio Constanța, Radio Sky, Radio Doina, Radio 21, TV Neptun, CTV, TVR Internațional, Telegraf, Cuget Liber, Adevărul, Replica, Observator, Ziua, Atitudinea, România Liberă, Jurnalul de Constanța, Liderul de opinie and the following websites: www.lumbuna.ro; www.stiriong.ro; www.formare.info, www.paginamedicala.ro; www.doctorbun.ro; www.infosanatate.ro; www.constanteanul.com.



Management and Financial Administration

Responsibility towards donors and partners

- ★ Transparent financial accounting system and audited financial operations
- ★ Open communication about project results
- ★ Initiation of the quality management system

Responsibility towards patients

- ★ Psychosocial patient intervention based on informed consent
- ★ Clear procedures for managing personal client confidential data
- ★ Studies approved by the ethics committees of Baylor College of Medicine and the Institute of Virology “Ștefan S. Nicolau” – Bucharest

Responsibility towards employees

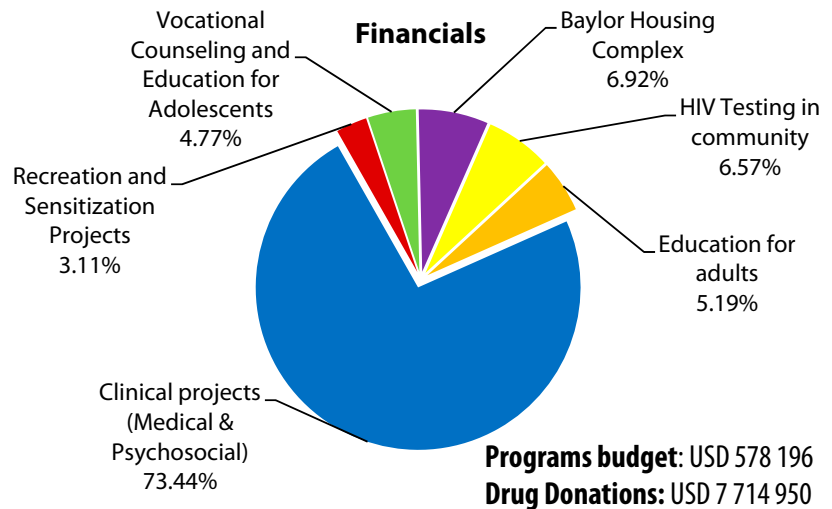
- ★ Permanent investments in employee training
- ★ Monthly evaluation system of employee performances
- ★ Encouraging individual initiative and responsibility for project management.

With the expansion of our mission to the field of infectious diseases, our responsibility has also extended to a new category of patients, those affected by hepatitis. At the same time, our commitment to HIV positive patients and their families has remained constant and has been adapted to their growing needs.

We consider that we would not have been able to expand if we had not kept our focus on our patients, donors, partners and employees. We encourage a work ethic that promotes compliance with the rules and, at the same time, an open and creative communication of opinions, ideas and decisions.

Our desire is that Baylor Romania serves as a catalyst, polarizing the local resources in a greater way to the persons affected by infectious diseases. In 2010, we took important steps to this effect, working with new donors and creating partnerships and campaigns in fields which do not receive exposure, such as hepatic diseases. There are many more steps to take in order to fulfil our vision of living in a community capable of preventing and treating severe infectious diseases.

We celebrate our successes, we acknowledge our limits and we hope that our vision of the future continues to inspire those who can help us.



The Baylor Image



Elena Mușat

Reflections from volunteers

“My participation as a volunteer in the activities of the Baylor Foundation is a new experience which gives me the opportunity to practice my favourite hobby: photography.

By being a part of the organization, I have had a number of accomplishments and I have been able to get involved in many interesting projects. I am a Baylor volunteer mainly as a photographer.

The Baylor team consists of special people who have taught me new and interesting things about how we can help those who need us.

Due to Baylor, I've learnt how to enjoy every moment of life and how to be myself. Volunteering gives me many opportunities and satisfactions, I am proud to be a part of their team”. *Elena Mușat, volunteer*

“I understood how important it is to correctly administer the treatment in the case of HIV positive persons. If I hadn't accompanied a Baylor Foundation team in home visits, I would have never believed that someone outside the patients' families could be so dedicated to their healing.” *Andreea Badea- Hahui, TV Neptun producer*



Andreea Badea-Hahui

“Our relationship with Baylor is one of those pleasant events which begin as any other professional relation, but turn into a real and sincere friendship. That is why, when you set up a meeting with Ana-Maria, Mihaela or Ștefania, instead of with Baylor, you can say that the barrier of the strictly professional relationship has been – luckily – overcome.

As far as the professional relationship is concerned, we can say that it was extremely revealing. Behind the camera or in front of the editing table, but constantly so close to the harsh reality, we have discovered not only how cynical it can be, but also that any problem is an open door. . .

The capacity of people to live and survive, their power of endurance – not just through medicines – is impressively greater than the force of the infection.

This is for us a reason of constant amazement. By comparison, we realize that many of our concerns are insignificant and that the power of example works perfectly: if they can do it, then so can we! We can do anything we set our mind to do!” *The Atelier Media team*



ATELIER MEDIA

The Baylor Image



Alina Caravețeanu



Steluța Picioarea



Cristiana Barcer and Marga Eftimie



Tania Ceapraz

Through the eyes of our team...

„For me, working with the foundation, specifically with the psychological-social team, has meant first of all a challenge, but also a form of experience. It has meant personal development, sometimes a sense of hopelessness, when some of the beneficiaries we were working with gave up the fight, but also joy and fulfillment when most of those I work with – youngsters, couples – have become responsible both in relation to themselves and to those around them. I feel fulfilled to be a part of the Baylor team and I’m happy to be part of a team that believes in the cause we support.” *Elena-Alina Caravețeanu, Clinical Psychologist*

“I am proud to be part of the Baylor team, coordinating the Housing Complex. I see this workplace as my second family, I enjoy guiding young beneficiaries and getting them involved in various activities which help them become more responsible and capable of standing on their own feet.

In 2010, a case that made a great impression on me was that of a young girl who became pregnant and was found HIV positive. At first, her family did not support her and advised her to give up the child. After the psychological-social team of the Centre of Excellence and the Housing Complex offered her shelter and support, the young woman gave birth in good conditions. Throughout this period, she learnt how to take care of her little girl, who is already two months old.” *Steluța Picioarea, Baylor Housing Complex Coordinator*

„The Baylor team has helped me discover how wonderful it is to be part of a project that helps people. Each member of the team has a clearly defined role and together we are trying to change both the risk behavior and the mentality surrounding the discrimination of infected persons, for all those who visit us.

There is no monotony in what we do, as each day brings new experiences which enrich us and make us want to be better. Together we can do it!” *The testing team at Tulcea – Cristiana Barcer and Marga Eftimie*

Through the eyes of our visitors...

“The testing program is extraordinarily beneficial for the population. People should know that this does not exclude them from society and they need to know their diagnosis. A disease which is found in time may be cured more quickly.” *Ovidiu Lipan Țândărică, artist*

What I have seen here, at the Baylor Housing Complex, is incredible. This is possible due to the great efforts of each person involved in this project. We would like to send our best wishes to the Baylor Foundation and to the Flower House. We are now back in Kyrgyzstan and we will try to do the same to help HIV positive children”. *Fatima Koshokova, “Info Center Rainbow” Organization, Kyrgyzstan*

„The people who work at the Baylor Centre of Excellence have the power of going beyond their own needs and focusing on the needs of others.

The very fact that this place exists is an example that we can respect our fellow human beings even when they are in difficulty, not just when they have something to offer to society.” *Tania Ceapraz, OTP Bank Constanța*

Baylor Needs You!



The Baylor-Black Sea Foundation has sought funding in 2010 by organizing fundraising campaigns and charity events and widening its circle of friends and supporters.

By buying beautiful accessories, hand-made by the young people of Lazu or by volunteers, or by donating to "Precious Children" – healthy children born to seropositive mothers, you have demonstrated that you truly support our patients and that together we can stop the transmission of diseases!

Your help can continue in many ways:

[Donate](#)

[Sponsor](#)

[Direct 2%](#)

[Offer your free expertise](#)

[Volunteer](#)

Because everything that affects our clients affects us, along with other organizations in this field, we were active in calling attention to and taking a stand against the dismissal of personal assistants of people with disabilities in Constanța county and the interruption of antiretroviral treatment. We pushed for the change of this social legislation by organizing press conferences, sending memos and petitioning.

The 2% Campaign

In 2010, almost half of the tests used at the centres for rapid testing in Dobrogea were procured because of those individuals who chose to redirect 2% of their income tax to Baylor.

We wish to address a warm THANK YOU! to the 600 people who redirected 2% of their tax income to Baylor.

Based on a simple form, without any financial effort, Baylor can rapidly test five people for infectious diseases!



"Precious children"
Fundraising Gala - november 2010

Main Donors



Fondul Global de Luptă
Împotriva HIV/SIDA, Tuberculozei
și Malariei prin
Fundația Romanian Angel Appeal

Middle Grant Donors

- ★ Matra/Kap Programme of Netherlands' Embassy from Bucharest
- ★ Governments of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the Financial Mechanism of the European Economical Space; BRD Group Societe Generale along with the Association for the Communitarian Relations
- ★ The Soros Foundation through the program East East: Partnership Beyond Borders
- ★ Shark Divers
- ★ AutoPrima Serv
- ★ NS Copiers

Individual Donors

219 persons donated gifts between 5 and 150 lei for the testing program, and the following artists donated paintings: Aurelian Broască, Marieta Besu, Ina Ioana Iordan, Băluță Lorincz Loretta, A. Lungu, Doina Misian, Laura Corbeanu, Constantin Grigoruță, Cătălin Botezatu, Eugenia Botezatu, Jeni Mazilu, Nicolae Morărescu, Claudia Stan, Eugenia Laura Mocanu, Laura Stroe

Donors in kind, services and expertise



Sponsors For the International School



Bristol Myers Squibb



Sponsors of „Precious Children” Gala

Winero, Murfatlar, Casa de Modă Licor, Agenția Diva Models, Casa de Modă Cielle, Master Print, Oriflame, Biba Bijoux, Sonjarlett, Mircea Marinescu, Karma Audio, Mr. Charbel Maroun

Baylor Romania's projects in 2010



1. Providing high quality care and treatment for the HIV infected patients and their families – clinical, psychosocial and medical assistance
2. Counseling for professional integration for people living with HIV/AIDS
3. „Precious children” – a project for healthy children with HIV-infected young mothers
4. Education for Life counseling project, conducted by professionals
5. Support for discordant couples
6. Emergency support for HIV+ patients
7. Baylor “Flower House” – Protected Housing Complex
8. HIV and hepatitis B and C rapid testing and counseling in Dobrogea region
9. Continuous Medical Education for healthcare professionals
10. Information, education and communication in the community – a volunteer project
11. Quality improvement of social services for HIV infected children and their families in Osh Oblast, Kyrgyzstan
12. “Camp Hope” – building self-esteem
13. Commemorative Events in the community
14. “Picturing Hope” – raising the community awareness through photographic art
15. The “YouthBank” project – philanthropy in action for youth
16. The “Magnetic Board” Project – training teachers in using new instruments for the health education activities in schools
17. Fund Raising in the community
18. Psychotherapeutic camps for increasing the adherence to the ARV treatment, for the HIV+ adults
19. Children's support groups for increasing ARV adherence
20. The psychosocial study “Determinants of adherence for the HIV+ patients”

AmeriCares and Baylor

Donors in kind to AmeriCares/ Baylor in 2010:

- ★ Abbott Laboratories
- ★ Merck Consumer Pharmaceuticals USA
- ★ Cardinal Health USA
- ★ B Braun
- ★ Holden Medical
- ★ Alcon Laboratories
- ★ Coria Laboratories
- ★ Midlothian Laboratories
- ★ Takeda Pharmaceuticals

AmeriCares is a partner of the Baylor College of Medicine Infectious Diseases Hospital – Constanta Texas Children’s Hospital Abbott Fund Center of Excellence and the Constanta Infectious Diseases Hospital since 2004. With the aid of the “Step Forward” Program from Abbott, AmeriCares delivers needed ARVs to the Center of Excellence twice a year. They also deliver nutritional supplements, medical supplies and medication for opportunistic infections.

Until now, AmeriCares has delivered over 32 million US dollars worth of humanitarian medical help to Baylor Romania.

On her recent visit to the Center of Excellence in 2010, the AmeriCares representative, Hannah Taylor, said that *“The Center of Excellence is a bright and friendly establishment, with exceptional staff, dedicated to the care of HIV infected patients in Constanta, Romania. AmeriCares is proud to support the efforts that the Baylor Center of Excellence makes to help the HIV and AIDS affected communities in Romania.”*



The Baylor Team

Psychological-social team

Luiza Ștefania Vlahopol • Elena Alina Caravețeanu • Gabriela Bâzâitu • Corina Iuliana Pop • Ruxandra-Cristina Neculau • Florica Niculaie

Medical team

Richard Sebastian Wanless • Emanoil Vasiliu • Mirela Paraschiv • Eugenia Trifescu • Angelica Butuc • Anca Georgiana Andrei • Cătălina Bianca Bejat • Rodica Mihai

Protected housing complex

Stănuța Picioarea • Liliana Dinco • Niculina Popescu • Rodica Moise

Project team

Ștefania Florentina Mihale • Mihaela Bogdan • Nicoleta Iacob • Raluca Costina Roman • Elena Monica Neacșu

Administrative team

Monica Frangeti • Leonica Meseșan • Cătălina Sevastre • Corina Luminița Țacu • Raluca Costina Roman • Nicolae Marin • Carol Schweitzer • Ion Picioarea • Marius Gabriel Poponete • Mariana Chiriș

Baylor Constanța Centres

Polyclinic no. 1, room 243

Mihaela Bogdan • Elena Monica Neacșu • Corina Iuliana Pop • Negivan Septar • Anca Georgiana Andrei • Rodica Mihai

Centre of Excellence

Corina Iuliana Pop • Ruxandra Cristina Neculau • Gabriela Bâzâitu • Elena Alina Caravețeanu • Angela Butuc • Rodica Mihai • Anca Georgiana Andrei

Baylor Tulcea Centre

Cristiana Barcer • Margareta Eftimie • Marcela Sulea

Volunteers:

Leonard Bancos • Vanghelița Beca • Yasemin Bechis • Andrei Butuc • Olimpia Gheorghe • Anca Hornea • Andrada Hurduc • Alin Iacob • Daniel Martac • Eleni Manole • Elmira Menlivuap • Mihai Moșneagu • Elena Mușat • Cezara Oprescu • Irina Pitilina • Mihai Rizea • Alexandra Stanciu • Laura Stroe • Marius Tarnoczi

Community consultants:

Mihaela Andrei • Alin Vintilă • Lucian Pascu • Cătălin Matei • Liviu Leca • Dan Crăciun • Manu Nistor

Board

Dr. Mark W. Kline • Michael Mizwa • Nancy Calles • Dr. Heidi Schwarzwald • Tiberu Csaki

Management

Ana-Maria Schweitzer

Baylor-Black Sea Foundation

Clinical Centre of Excellence

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Baylor Centers for Counseling and Rapid Testing for HIV and Hepatitis

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Tulcea

Spitalul Județean de Urgență

Secția de Boli Infecțioase – parter

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www.test-hiv.ro

www.test-hepatita.ro

www.baylor-romania.ro

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