

Open World Alumni

ELIZA STĂRUIALĂ

Social Worker

Carousel Association, Bucharest

Mental Health & Counseling Albuquerque, NM October 2022



Eliza joined the Carousel organization as a volunteer since she was a student. She demonstrated a lot of balance, involvement and desire to learn. The initial programs in which she got involved were those aimed at homeless people. When the conflict started in Ukraine, Eliza was among the first people who responded positively to the Carousel call and she started working in the "Serban Voda" Refugee Shelter. Due to her courage and commitment, Eliza joined the executive team of the Carousel organization as a Social Worker.

"An unprecedented, once-in-a-lifetime experience. It will give you the opportunity to create connections both with people from the US and with people from Romania who may not have this experience, you would not have met"



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ELISABETA TRĂISTARU

Director

"Casa Bună" Association, Bucharest

Mental Health & Counseling
Albuquerque, NM
October 2022

Elisabeta is one of the core people of the Casa Buna NGO. Throughout the years, starting as a volunteer and now as an employee, she demonstrated complete dedication to the organization's cause. With hard work and initiative, she is able to start new projects and improve the ongoing ones, while being a good communicator with her colleagues and volunteers.

"Thank you for the opportunity to listen to other people's stories and for the opportunity to tell our own stories. I think that traveling, seeing, listening is the best way to grow. We came back with ideas and plans inspired by the places we visited."



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ELENA GEORGESCU

Social Teacher

**"Inocenti" Foundation, Bucharest
Branch**

**Mental Health & Counseling
Albuquerque, NM
October 2022**



As a social teacher, Elena supports children from disadvantaged communities to come to school and develop their learning skills. She also provides support in schoolwork as they need to learn literacy skills. Through the program she also keeps in touch with their parents and other siblings in the community, in order to involve them in the educational process and tries to make them understand the importance of education in their future adult life.



"When I applied for this program, I didn't know exactly what to expect. That's why I left with confidence and openness to a world that will probably have a different system from ours and with the desire to learn as many things as possible from the community I'll end up in. Although I left without concrete expectations, the program offered me a great experience, from which I learned a lot."



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IOANA MEȘTERELU

Psychologist

**"Inocenti" Foundation, Bucharest
Branch**

**Mental Health & Counseling
Albuquerque, NM
October 2022**



Ioana is working on projects related to the mental health of children, adolescents and their caregivers. Her activity involves providing literacy sessions in the field of mental health to high school students, building psychoeducational materials for mental health, providing psychosocial support to children and adolescents hospitalized in the pediatric psychiatry and addiction clinic in Cluj, and coordinating student volunteers in psychology. She also worked with Ukrainian refugee children as part of her professional work within the Inocenti Foundation. Ioana is passionate about learning, values contribution and is devoted to the work she does.



"The Open World program meant, for me, an extraordinary chance to be surrounded by special people, both fellow delegates, members of the local communities, and the speakers of the official meetings. I am impressed with the difference this program has made to my perspective on addressing mental health in the community. I believe that I received not only the theoretical resources, but also the motivational and emotional ones necessary to support new and impactful initiatives in the Romanian community. I consider myself a lucky woman and thank you from the bottom of my heart."



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DIANA OZARCHEVICI

Counselor

Romanian National Council For Refugees, Suceava

Mental Health & Counseling Albuquerque, NM October 2022



Once she joined the team of the Romanian National Council for Refugees, Diana came to truly understand the fact that if you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life. Helping others has always been one of her interests. Within this organization she has the opportunity to take significant actions, the main asset being the close collaboration with government institutions, such as: the Border Police, the General Immigration Office or The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Also, Diana participates in trainings dedicated to volunteers who work directly with Ukrainian refugees.



"Participating in the Open World program was an unforgettable experience that has already changed me more than I possibly thought. I was surrounded by wonderful people, from whom I certainly had something to learn. I spent a week in Albuquerque attending professional meetings, really getting to know the ABQ networking and culture. The friendships and bonds made along the way are sure to last a lifetime!"



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