

**Give the
Roma children
a future**

PRO Roma
Association

Dear friends and interested persons

The Christian-run Roma Community Centre in Sabinov, founded seven years ago by Marian Kaleja and his Swiss wife, Elisabeth, is continually growing. Some 120 people attend the church services every Sunday morning, with the result that the present facilities are now bursting at the seams. Weekly prayer meetings, home gathering's, Bible studies, children groups – the Community is in urgent need of new premises to accommodate the wide range of activities on offer.



Roma Church Members

Thanks to generous donations, the Pro Roma Association has already been able to lay down a firm foundation. Due to high unemployment, the Roma people desperately depend on the financial support of fellow Christians from the Western world. The sponsoring association is presided over by two Swiss nationals and one local resident: Markus Korner, Stefan Frei and Pastor Marian Kaleja. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their willingness to continue to actively support this promising project.

Marian und Elisabeth Kaleja

Pastor couple



Tibor Godla

Roma Community member

«My life revolved around alcohol, I was utterly in despair. But after I was invited to join the Community in Sabinov, the Word of God touched me deeply. When I accepted Jesus into my heart, my life totally changed. I stopped drinking and am very happy that today my whole family – my wife and my four children – are also members of the Community!»

The situation of the Roma in Slovakia

Most of the approximately 400,000 Slovakian Roma live on the edge of society in ghettos with no electricity, water or sewerage. In many settlements, there is 100% unemployment; a family with three children receives income support amounting to the equivalent of just 320 Swiss Francs a month. The vast majority are fully impoverished and live well below the subsistence level.

A lack of education, a high crime rate, constant discrimination: the lives of the Roma are characterised by injustice, misery and a lack of prospects. It is therefore all the more important that a ray of God's hope is able to penetrate their hearts.



Slum in Hermanovce, near Sabinov



Youth camp attended
by Roma children



Children in Milpas,
outside Sabinov

Sabinov, in eastern Slovakia



More than half of Slovakia's 5.5 million inhabitants live in towns and cities. The capital city is Bratislava, with a population of 500,000. In 1993, the country split from Czech Republic to become an independent state.



The town of Sabinov has a population of 13,000, including 2,000 Roma. It has three primary schools, a grammar school and a business college, and also enjoys an active cultural life. The main attraction in the historical centre is the mediaeval church. The region mainly produces fruit, vegetables and milk, and wood and metal are also processed. The majority of the inhabitants belong to the Roman-Catholic faith.



Sabinov town centre



Peter Moclan
Mayor of Sabinov

«Based on the positive experience that we have had with your Community, we very much look forward to continuing our collaboration with you. We are also pleased to support your work with children in the spirit of the Christian tradition, your use of the city's sports facilities and your objective of further integrating the Roma people into our city and our society.»

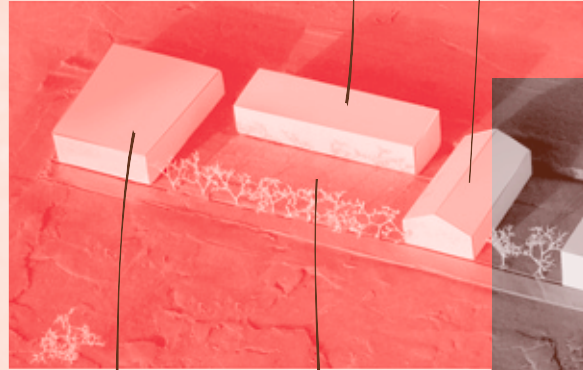
Project vision



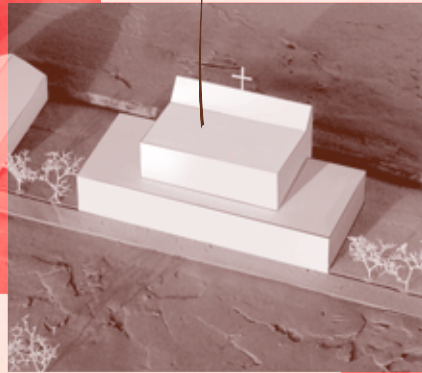
Laundry

Workshop

Group room
Church café «Soup kitchen»
Meeting/multi-purpose room
Youth room/Training facility



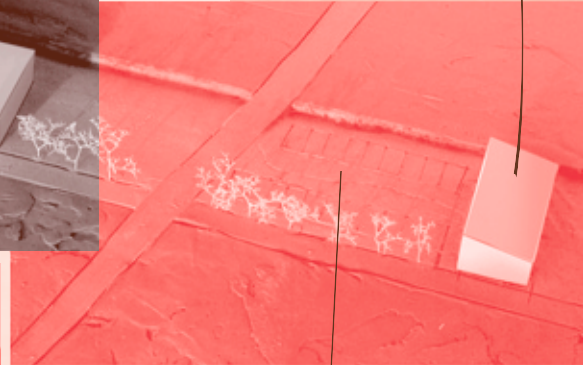
Playground



Youth room/Training facility



Administration office



Parking spaces

You can find out all the latest information about our project in the enclosed «Sabinov News».



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CH-6318 Walchwil

Bank account:
Raiffeisenbank Zug/Switzerland
60-8774-0

Thank you for your support!