

## The Elderly of Vatra Dornei Have A Safer Future



Photo: Cornelia Bucur/Grasp

“I have been in this program since the beginning and it has been a great help for me. Old people can’t get around on their own much. These kids help me with household work and I also get medical assistance. I have no family here in town and no one else who could come to the rescue if anything happened, so I have to rely on the service and I’m happy to say that so far everybody has been very nice and trustworthy.”

- Ana Tanaszi, 84, beneficiary of the USAID service.

Although Romanian culture holds the elderly in great respect, those who have no family to care for them often live in poverty and isolation. With USAID assistance, a partnership between Christiana Charitable Association and the local city hall initiated a home care service currently assisting seventeen of the older and needier citizens of Vatra Dornei, Suceava County, Romania.

In addition to the direct assistance provided to recipients, the project has helped provide job opportunities for some of the younger inhabitants of Vatra Dornei. Liliana Candrea, an unemployed hospital nurse, learned from her former colleagues that USAID was funding a new activity and applied for a job. In Vatra Dornei, the city hall has had a similar social care program for elderly homeless people for the last two years. The cooperation between the two programs is permanent and USAID’s funding of \$32,561 is being matched by the local authorities both financially and in time provided by city employees.

First Person