

Theranova Newsletter

This year has once again reminded us how important a prosthesis is for the many individuals we serve.

The impact a prosthesis makes on the life of a child and his/her immediate family is unfathomable. Out of the many individuals we serve, I would like to present the following three cases to you:



Lucian (11)



Cristian (16)



Cassandra (8)

Prosthetics

A crucial tool in life

1. **Lucian's** life seems to be a continuous battle in a marginalized gypsy community in a village called Cipau in the center of Romania. With his father in jail and his mother fighting to support their family, Lucian lives with his 7 siblings in a precarious little abode where resources are extremely scarce. At the age of 3 Lucian was hit by a truck which lead to his leg being amputated above the knee. He has been navigating his world on worn out crutches. His family has been helpless and hopeless as far as Lucian's mobility was concerned. After hearing about his case, we visited his village and immediately started the process of providing him with a prosthesis. We will need to make several adjustments in the first year for a boy like Lucian who will increase his level of activity tremendously. I look forward to keep you updated on his progress. He is 11 years old now and this is his first prosthesis. The whole village came out to observe the casting procedure...



2. **Casandra** is a girl aged 8 from Telciu in northern Romania. Cancer has robbed her of her leg, but not of her great smile. Her recovery is difficult due to her continued treatment of chemotherapy and a prosthesis is going to help her. Casandra's father is working outside of Romania in order to cover the financial burden of her treatments while her mother is permanently taking care of Casandra.



3. **Cristian** is a 16 year old boy from Vatre Dornei in northeastern Romania. At the beginning of this year he had an accident on his way to school when in a moment of absentmindedness, he was hit by a train and lost his leg below the knee. The trauma was extreme. Surgeons attempted to reattach his leg, but to no avail. His dream is to one day be able to ski again, but first, we *will* get him walking again.



The three cases mentioned above need financial support. If you are able to provide resources, we are in need of €27.500 to manufacture their prostheses, making sure that we are able to replace the sockets and adapt their prosthetics for the near future.

Ukraine

The world watches in horror at the atrocities of war in the Ukraine.

During the summer of this year, it has been said that the number of surviving amputees already surpassed the total number of amputees in the Second World War.

The plight of these people certainly is tragic and overwhelming.

We have been asked whether Theranova is involved specifically with prosthetic care in the Ukraine. We would like to use this opportunity to communicate our intentions and potential avenues of action.

- We have trained technicians from a Ukrainian prosthetic provider in L'viv
- We have been asked and agreed to provide training for other prosthetic manufacturers, but that has not yet materialized due to delays on their side. I am assuming that they are just engulfed with other responsibilities.
- Our presence has been requested by the Moldovan Republic Health Ministry in the first quarter of next year to discuss a potential collaboration to serve Ukrainian amputees. We will keep you updated on any developments.
- Best case scenario: due to substandard equipment and poorly prepared professionals; we should purchase a fully equipped container workshop, train Ukrainian prosthetists from scratch and set up a twin organization which could provide prosthetic care for decades to come in Ukraine.

Imagine that there are thousands of amputees. If we helped two per day, we could serve just more than 500 per year. The need is tremendous.

Please reach out with ideas or contacts which could aid in materializing steps towards providing this critical care to the war amputees.