

Captions :

# CEAUCESCAU'S ORPHANS

## 20 years on

Photography by  
**Elisabeth BLANCHET**  
Romania 1993 - 2008



Photo 01 – **Daniel**

1995. Daniel outside the orphanage in Popricani.

2008. Daniel, in the room he rents at a villager's. At 26, he has become the handy man at the ex-orphanage which is now a centre for adult with disabilities.

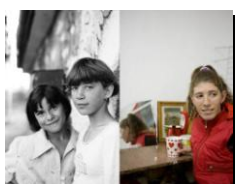


Photo 02 – **Daniela**

1997. Daniela, Daniel's twin sister, with a friend at the orphanage in Popricani.

2008. Today, in the room of a tower block, she shares with three ex-orphans. Daniela is 26 and works as a stitcher in a clothing factory in Iasi.



Photo 03 – **Liliana**

1997. Liliana, 14 (on the left) in the dormitory.

2008. Liliana in the room she lives in at her step-parents' home with her three children, husband and nephew. She married a farmer from Popricani.

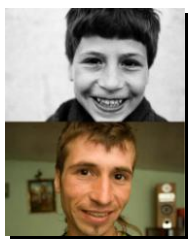


Photo 04 – **Catalin**

1995. Catalin at the age of 12 years.

2008. In the room he rents in an industrial suburb of Iasi. Catalin is a builder. He lives with his brother in this building which used to be a pigsty.



Photo 05 – **Felicia**

1995. Felicia at the age of 13 (on the left).

2008. Today at Dan's who used to look after her when he was a social worker at the orphanage. She lives with Florin, also an ex-orphan from Popricani. They have just had a baby.



Photo 06 – **Mariana**

1995. Mariana at the age of 10, (second left on the picture) in the dormitory at the orphanage.

2008. Today at the café where she works as a waitress in Popricani. She lives with a guy from the village.



Photo 07 – **Cristinel**

1995. Cristinel at the age of 12.

2008. In a bar in Popricani (first left on the picture). He is surrounded by ex-kids from the orphanage who still live in the village. Cristi is a workman in Iasi.



Photo 08 – **Diamanta**

1995. Diamanta at the age of 13.

2008. Now in a tiny room in Iasi she squats in with two other ex-girls from the casa de copii. Diamanta just had a baby. She has to beg to survive.



Photo 09 – **Adriana**

1995. Adriana at the age of 12.

2008. Now in a tiny room in Iasi she squats in with two other ex-girls from the casa de copii. Adriana is holding her one-year old little boy in her arms. He has been diagnosed with autism. Adriana also has two little girls who live with foster families. She has to beg to survive.



Photo 10 – **Daniel**

1995. Daniel at the age of 13.

2008. In the squatted place he lives with Adriana, Diamanta and other ex-kids from different orphanages. Daniel is the father of baby Ionut. He also has to beg to survive.



Photo 11 – **Ramona**

Ramona at the age of 12 (on the right) and her brother Remus.

1995 At the orphanage in 2009 with her friend Anisoara she hasn't seen for 2 years. Ramona is a baker and works in an industrial bakery near Iasi.



Photo 12 – **Nicu**

1995. Nicu, 10, (on the left) with social worker Dan, doing his homework.

2009. And now, in front of the industrial bakery he works for near Iasi.



Photo 13 – **Ramona**

1995. Ramona at the age of 10.

2009. In the winter, in front of the block she lives in with her husband Dorel and her son Marius, 2. Ramona is a cleaner. So is her husband.

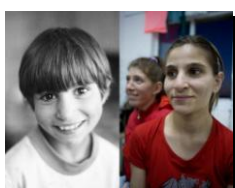


Photo 14 – **Gabriela**

1995. Gabriela at the age of 12.

2008. In Iasi in the room she shares with three ex-girls from the orphanage. Gabriela also works in a clothing factory, as a stitcher. She recently had a baby.



Photo 15 – **Marioara**

1997. Marioara, at the age of 13 (in the middle) surrounded by girlfriends of the orphanage.

2009. In the room she shares with a girl who comes from another orphanage in the Iasi area. Marioara is also a stitcher in the same factory as Daniela and Gabriela.



Photo 16 – **Mihai**

1995. Mihai, at the age of 12, at the orphanage's dining hall.

2009. Today in his bedroom at the apartment he shares with two ex-boys from the orphanage. Mihai is a delivery man in a department store in Iasi. He has managed to save some money and to buy a piece of land in Popricani where he is slowly building his own house.



**Photo 17 – Anisoara**

1997. Anisoara at the age of 13.

July 2009. Retraining from Switzerland where she works as a nanny for a Kosovar family. Anisoara hasn't been back for a year and meets up with her boyfriend Marian, who also was at the orphanage.



**Photo 18 – Marian**

1997. Marian at the age of 15, sitting on his bed in the dormitory at the orphanage.

2009. Today on the balcony of the flat he shares with two ex-children from the casa de copii. He works in a department store in Iasi. He has just got together with his girlfriend Anisoara he hasn't seen for a year.



**Photo 19 – Carmen**

1995. Carmen, at the age of 10. Carmen passed away the year after in November 1996. She had a sore throat and bad cough. She was sent to the hospital and never came back. She died of medical neglect.

October 2008. Dan, her ex-social worker, pays homage to her on her grave.



**Photo 20 – Radu**

1993. Radu in at the Casa de copii with a friend at the age of 15.

2007. Near St Andrews in Scotland. He came to spend three months to pick up strawberries and broccolis. Radu got married in October 2008 in Botosani in Romania. He has just finished his studies and is a vet. He is like an older brother for the others.