

IniCha e.V.

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INICHA ORGANIZATION OF JACOBS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND STUDENTS BUILDS SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECT IN ROMANIA - YOUNG PROFESSIONALS STIMULATE MOTIVATION THROUGH AN ORPHAN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM - JACOBIAANS APPLY THEIR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS

Jacobs University alumni and students from Germany, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela and Romania together with young local professionals work to develop ambition and inspire personal growth among disadvantaged youth. The Bremen based IniCha Association (IniCha e.V), founded by a group of Jacobs University Alumni in Spring 2012, has launched the first of its international projects.

“Open The World” is a mentorship program for orphaned and semi-abandoned children in Romania. For 10 weeks, 12 children cared for in a privately run orphanage “Ingerul Alb” (“White Angel”, <http://copiiingeralb.ro/US>) in Bucharest will directly interact with young, successful and supportive mentors and participate in group activities in various workshops.

The “Open The World” project aims to help children with disadvantaged backgrounds, orphaned or semi-abandoned, to develop a sense of independence, self-awareness, and confidence in their own powers, allowing them to reach out for their full potential. The project also represents a unique opportunity for the engaged Jacobs University students of the recently founded IniCha campus club to learn from motivated Jacobs University alumni how to apply their gained academic knowledge in a real world entrepreneurial environment.

“The strongest inhibitor of change is the closedness of the human mind”, says Marja Seidel, IniCha member and Jacobs University Graduate (2011). In order to expand the horizons of the children involved, workshops will be delivered throughout the course of the program. Held by

mentors and international guest speakers, the workshops are designed to encourage development in the areas of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and social diversity. Furthermore, children will be exposed to career path opportunities and learn about communication, leadership, self-expression and self-awareness. Each workshop has integral teamwork, discussion and reflection components based on close interaction between mentors and children.

At the end of the project the children will have the chance to design a personal project under the guidance of the mentors, making use of the skills attained throughout the workshops. IniCha members and volunteers will maintain meaningful and long lasting relationships with the children beyond the duration of the workshops through direct personal contact as well as social media platforms and other electronic communication. In the long term, the mentorship program will help orphaned children become responsible and independent individuals that inspire those around them and catalyze positive change for themselves and for others.

IniCha Association:

The IniCha association (<http://inicha-projects.com/>) is an international network of young professionals, spanning 9 countries, 7 time zones and 4 continents, linked across the globe by their shared trust and joint desire to bring about positive, sustainable change in modern society. IniCha serves as a platform to develop international projects, which embrace societal, environmental, or emotional development and fosters the exchange of experiences and knowledge between its members and partners. We aim at initiating intercultural collaboration, mutually beneficial relationships and above all, initiating change.

<http://inicha-projects.com/>

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bzc106gUzfaDYUpkQ1ZsaU5rVjQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Project contact:

George Bugan
Phone number: (+40) 741019175
inicha.projects@gmail.com

Pitar Mos no. 27 - 10
Piata Romana
Bucharest, Romania