

(Casa Ioana Virtual Gala Guide)

Everything that you would expect at an actual gala - only better!



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Celebrating 25 years of life-changing work 1995 - 2020

Casa Ioana has raised and invested more than €2,000,000 in giving NEW BEGINNINGS to

- 5,394 single adults
- 6,015 families
- 7,601 children

We have been supported by more than 500 corporate donors and 10s of 1000s individual donors. And over 450 volunteers joined our efforts and donated more than 9,000 hours.

Supporting women and children escaping domestic abuse and family homelessness

Domestic violence affects people across the world and social backgrounds every day, in both normal and crisis situations. United Nations' statistics show that, globally, one in three women is a victim of physical aggression. However, in times of crisis, cases of domestic violence tend to escalate amid high tensions. The current crisis caused by the pandemic is no exception, especially in a country like Romania where, unfortunately, family abuse is often normalised. In 2019, the Romanian police registered 44.094 cases of domestic violence and 51 deaths. This means that a Romanian woman has been killed almost every week.

Statistics from 2018 show that 24% of Romanian women have suffered a form of violence coming from their partner, while 28% of them know other victims amongst their friends and relatives. Only 47% of the surveyed women were aware of the legislation protecting them from domestic violence and 74% were unaware of the existence of a specialised support system.

The movement restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have had an impact on everyone's lives, but a particularly dramatic one on the lives of domestic violence victims. Romania did not deviate from the global trend and reported an increase in the number of cases soon after the restrictions were enforced. The National Agency for Equal Chances (ANES) highlighted that the number of calls to the special line dedicated to reporting cases of domestic violence doubled in the first month of lockdown (in comparison to the same period last year). As a new generation suffers from the horrors of domestic violence, the effects of the lockdown are likely to continue even after the lifting of movement restrictions.

As we face going into another national lockdown, we are once more deeply concerned for survivors. We want to make sure that women and children experiencing domestic abuse know that Casa loana remains open and are there to support them throughout the pandemic.

We want to send out a clear message that there is no excuse for abuse.

We want to let survivors know: you are not alone.

When the country went into lockdown in March, the pandemic had worsened abuse. Women living with their abuser during lockdown experienced increased abuse and isolation. Many reported that the abuse had worsened while many more said they felt they had no one to turn to during lockdown.

We are concerned that another national lockdown will again make it harder for survivors to escape to safety.

Casa loana is entirely funded by the private sector. We continue to rely on our partners, sponsors, donors and friends, particularly in these uncertain times, to continue our lifesaving and life changing support. We need you more than ever. We have worked hard to ensure that our major fundraising gala went ahead again this year. It promises to be an extraordinary event and offers the perfect platform to join with family and friends in a Gala packed with suprises!

Together, we can provide vulnerable women and children NEW BEGINNINGS – free from fear.

Casa Ioana's 25th Anniversary virtual Gala Saturday 28th November 2020 (8.00pm – 10.00pm)

Everything you would expect from an actual gala – only better!

With technology right at our fingertips, we want to connect with our supporters. By eliminating the costs needed to host a physical event, more of your donation goes directly to supporting families confronted with domestic abuse and family homelessness.

Guests are invited to organise their own dinner party - please follow any Covid-19 guidelines in place at the time – and join the gala by donating 250 Ron. Login details will be sent to guests prior to the event who can then join the Gala by using their laptop or tablet. Doors open at 7.30pm creating the perfect opportunity to mingle with other guests, friends and colleagues via private chat. In this virtual ballroom, quests can chose to watch videos, and see photos and information about Casa loana and our sponsors and partners. This is where you will find information about the gala, the evening's programme and the Table Plans so guests can see whom they will be 'sitting' with.

HE Andrew Noble, British Ambassador to Romania, will open the gala at 8.00pm. Ian Tilling, founder and president of Casa Ioana will welcome guests before handing over to Colin Lovering, the Gala's compere who will introduce the evening's events.

As with any gala, the meal is central to the event. This is when your dinner party will virtually connect with other dinner parties 'sitting' at the same table (maximum of 5 other dinner parties).

It is possible to arrange for guests to sit at the same table prior to the event, so encourage friends to join our Gala! It is an ideal opportunity for our Corporate Partners to invite their special guests to sit at their table. After each course, guests will be invited into the ballroom, where they will be entertained, before re-joining their tables for the next course.

The online silent auction (cick link: https://cutt.ly/mhqCjMe) is already live and winning will be announced towards the end of the evening and before the live auction takes place.

Guests are invited to post videos and photos of their dinner parties and post them on social media using the #CasaloanaGala.

At the conclusion of the event, guests may return to their tables and mingle with friends for as long as they like. The online silent auction will be up and running for a week before the event. Auction items include a variety of chefs who will prepare and cook your dinner party's meal, and cases of wine and other alcoholic drinks, which will be available in time for the gala. Other items will be delivered by currier after the event.

Tickets can be obtained by clicking this link: https://cutt.ly/qgV9Z6M

If you want information on Corporate Sponsorship opportunities or require any further information please contact Nicoleta Dinu at *events@casaioana.org* or on +40 760 249 392 or follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/1455799964684198/

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