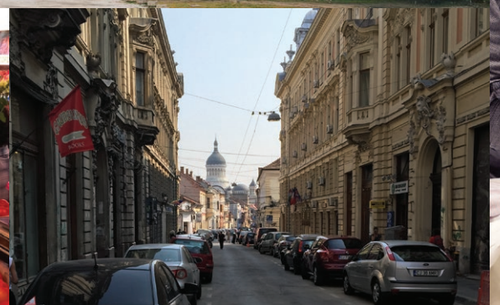
ROMANIA

A Crisis in Women's Healthcare

Healthbridge
GLOBAL



ROMANIA

The late 80's and early 90's brought sweeping change across the face of Eastern Europe. As dictatorships crumbled, iron curtains fell, and borders opened, the nation of Romania emerged from one of the most passionate and bloodstained revolutions of the decade to a new and potentially bright future as a free nation. The bane of Romanian communism had a firm hold for over four decades, and was considered particularly cruel and extreme even when compared to other communist dictatorships. The scars left upon Romania were imprinted on every life and in every sector of society. While communism's effects are pervasive, they are rarely found more striking and shocking than in Romania's medical system.

92,000

Square miles of land, the same size as Minnesota.

19 Million

People in the country, with 54% living in cities.

Dracula

Romania is the homeland of Vlad the Impaler, a 15th-century ruler and a key inspiration behind the fictional Dracula.

Language

Romanian is a Latin-based romance language, closely related to Italian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

The **BROKEN** *Reality*

Romania has been plagued by the remnants of a dilapidated medical system inherited from over 4 decades of rule by one of the most oppressive communist regimes in history. While visible in nearly every sector of the healthcare system, no area was ignored more than women's healthcare. Two striking issues stand out: a lack of dignified maternity care and an abortion epidemic.

MATERNITY CARE

Maternity care in Romania has been marked by a lack of privacy, outdated equipment, poor patient advocacy, misguided cultural assumptions, occasional bribery, and a general lack of dignity and value for human life... be it the mother's or the baby's.

Many women are left without advocates and support in the hospital. They are often placed 2-3 women per delivery room. Husbands and others who could provide support are often kept outside.

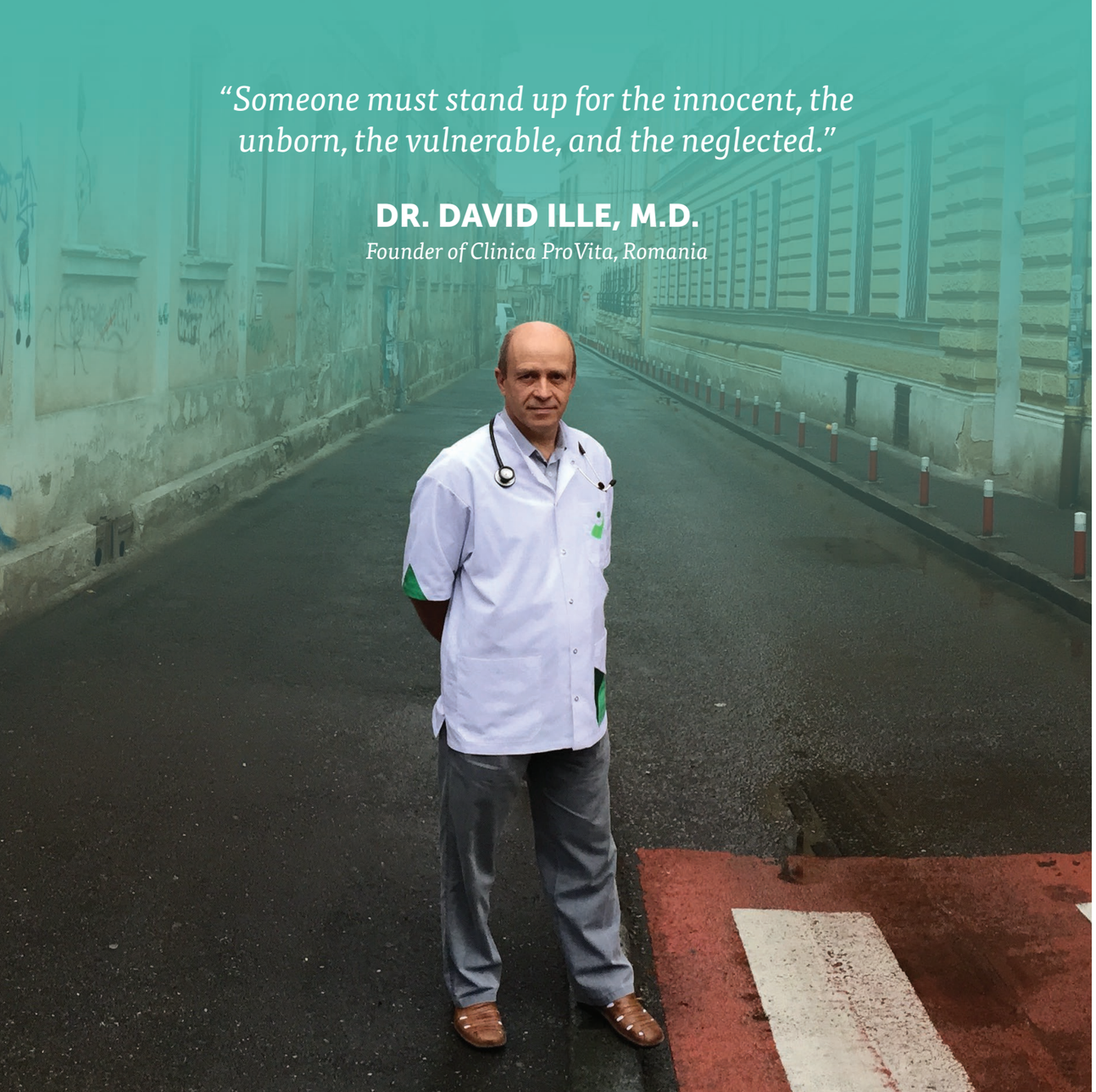
ABORTION

For nearly 15 years following the fall of communism, Romania had the highest abortion rate in the world. Legalizing abortion on demand was one of the first laws implemented following the revolution. In their first year of democracy alone, they aborted over a million children, or 5% of the population at that time. International healthcare agencies labeled Romania "a culture of abortion."

While the situation has settled in the passing years, the true percentage of pregnancies in Romania that end in abortion is difficult to ascertain. The government reports that 1 in 5 pregnancies are terminated, but the exact number is masked due to under-reporting by non-government clinics and the dramatic increase in chemical abortions. Some experts estimate the abortion ratio could still be as high as 50%.

Abortion is still the primary form of birth control, and the average Romanian woman will have multiple abortions in her lifetime. While some have none, others have been recorded as having more than 20 in total.

The system is marked by a general lack of dignity and value for human life, both the mother's and the baby's.



"Someone must stand up for the innocent, the unborn, the vulnerable, and the neglected."

DR. DAVID ILLE, M.D.

Founder of Clinica ProVita, Romania

ADVOCATE

David was the 7th of 8 children born to hard-working farmers in the beautiful but demanding countryside of Romania. Pressured to have an abortion because of her lack of education, David's mother refused, telling the doctor, "all the children God gives me shall live." David owes his life to the convictions of his mother.

David's parents were part of an underground Christian movement that frequently suffered persecution during the years of communist rule. Raised with deep and enduring convictions, David felt called to the medical profession and studied to become a pediatrician. Doctors in Romania are generally not afforded the same respect as in the West, yet David sensed a profound call to serve his people, caring for both body and soul. Many years later, God used a woman to challenge David to confront the epidemic of abortion and neglect that existed within women's healthcare. David accepted that challenge.

Decades later, Dr. David Ille and his dedicated team have been impacting Romanian culture and making a critical difference. Fueled by a love for God and a profound appreciation for the life and heritage left by his mother and father, David has become an unparalleled advocate for women and the unborn in Romania.

Making a

DIFFERENCE

For over two decades, Dr. David and his team of staff and volunteers at Clinica ProVita, the current women's clinic they operate, have been caring for women in the community through the following services:

- **Pregnancy Education and Counseling**
- **Post-Abortion Counseling**
- **Childbirth Classes**
- **Material Support for Needy Mothers**
- **Free Ultrasounds**
- **Pregnancy Prevention Education**
- **Biblical Sexual Education in Regional High Schools**
- **Gynecological Care**
- **Other Women's Healthcare Services**

Over the years, they've gone through multiple expansions of services, staff, and facilities. The ministry has gained a solid reputation in the city and the medical community in the Transylvanian region of Romania.

Full of vision, plans, and strategy, we are far from finished! The next step in Clinica ProVita's mission is LIFE Medical Center. This fully functional maternity hospital will walk with women every step of the way, from the moment they discover they're pregnant, through prenatal care and delivery, and into postpartum recovery, while also providing early pediatric services to support babies in their earliest days, months, and years.

1,000

Babies saved from abortion since the start of ProVita

40,000

Women counseled about pregnancy and motherhood

40,000

Students reached with training and education

50,000

Medical appointments provided to women in the community

The Future

LIFE MEDICAL CENTER

Dr. David Ille and his team are creating a culture marked by love, care, compassion, and dignity for women and the unborn. To be meaningful, these attributes must be demonstrated in very practical and tangible ways.

LIFE Medical Center is that vision!

Changing Culture

Birthing mothers and their babies will experience an environment of dignity and care like no other in Romania. The birth of every child will be a joyful celebration.

Gospel-Centered

Every person who passes through the doors of LIFE Medical Center will be shown the love and care of Jesus Christ. He is the motivation for all we do.

Sustainability

Once open, LIFE Medical Center will be financially self-sustaining, covering all of its own expenses and even providing necessary resources within Romania to continue the vital pro-life work of the ministry.

PHASES

Complete

- Planning & Research
- Land Purchase
- Government Project Approval
- Architectural Plans
- Local Ministry of Health Approval

In Progress

- Finalize Engineering Plans
- Construction Permit and Contractor Selection
- Break Ground and Pour Foundation
- Structural Completion
- Interior Finishings
- Staff and Open LIFE Medical Center

PROJECT FAQ'S

What is LIFE Medical Center?

LIFE Medical Center is a project of the Clinica ProVita Foundation of Romania. Our vision is to expand ProVita's reach and impact to meet deep maternity needs, while reframing the abortion situation by loving women in Romania well: with practical support, excellent medical care, and ongoing compassion.

What is Clinica ProVita?

The Clinica ProVita Foundation is a Romanian non-profit with more than 20 years of faithful service. They share Healthbridge Global's passion for bringing together the gospel of Jesus Christ and compassionate healthcare. ProVita is led by Dr. David Ille, alongside a skilled staff team and a board of devoted Romanian men and women.

What is Healthbridge Global's role in this project?

Healthbridge Global is Clinica ProVita's official U.S. partner on the LIFE Medical Center project. We've been involved from the beginning, advocating for the work and raising necessary funds by connecting like-minded partners in the U.S. with what God is doing in Romania.

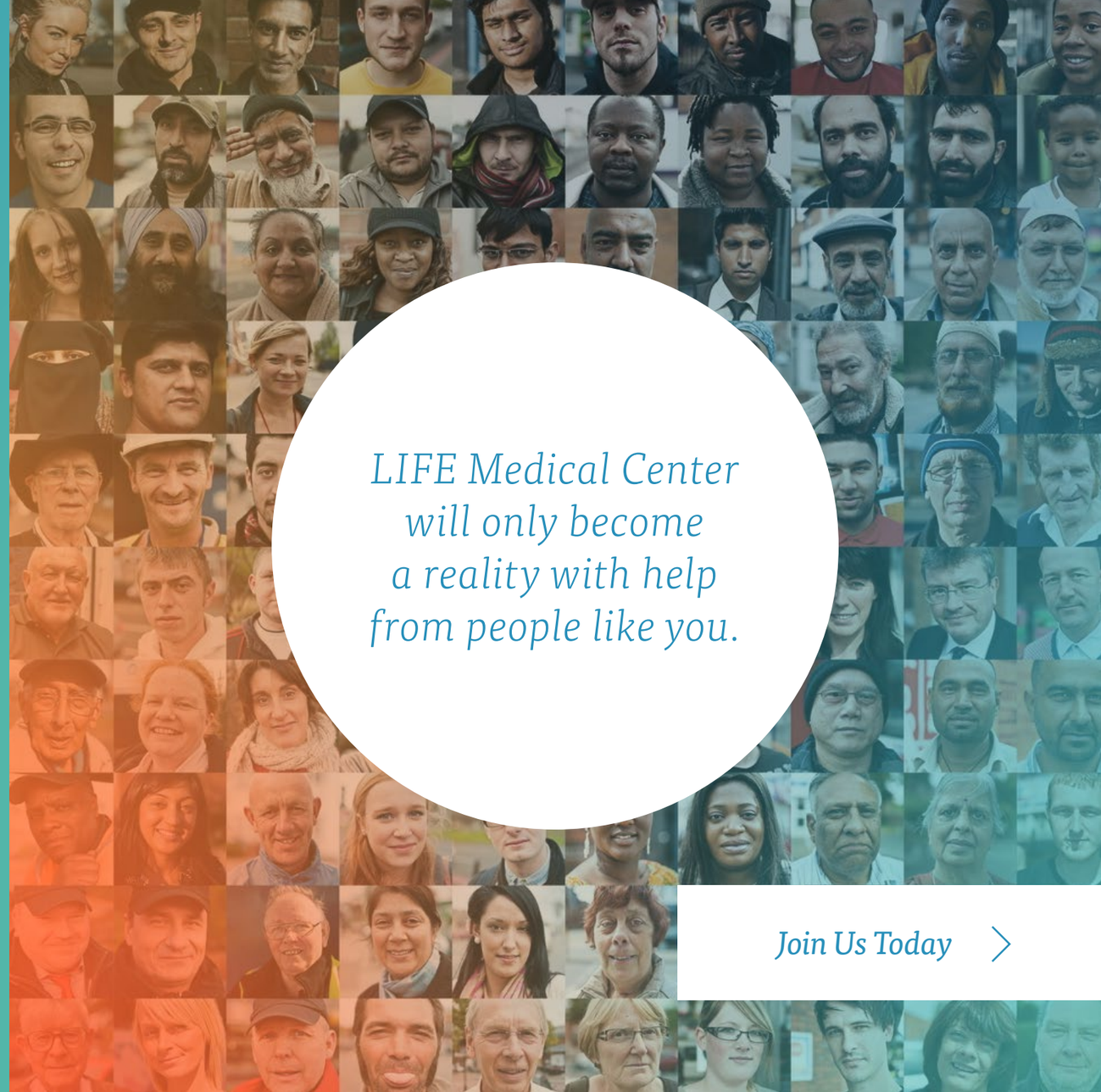
Does Healthbridge Global provide operating support for this work?

No. Clinica ProVita's ministry is already self-sustaining, and the LIFE Medical Center expansion has been designed from day one to be economically viable as well. Our role is to help ProVita take this significant step forward by advocating, mobilizing partners, and raising the support needed to launch the project.

Other questions?

Please reach out. We're happy to answer any questions you may have.

info@healthbridgeglobal.org



LIFE Medical Center will only become a reality with help from people like you.

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GIVE VIA CHECK

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