



Meet Our New Board of Directors!

In March, we traveled to Southern California to officially name our Board Members. We are so honored and excited to introduce you to the five individuals who are helping to guide us wherever God leads!



Paul Giobbi

Born and raised in San Diego, Paul began his technology career at age 11 working in his family's business. In 2000, Paul co-founded Zumasys, Inc., a cloud computing provider based in Irvine, CA.

In 2012, Paul decided to give away 1% of Zumasys revenue to nonprofit organizations nominated by employees and customers through a program called Happyness Is a Choice. It was through this program that Paul met and began supporting Firm Foundations Romania. In September 2014, Paul and his wife Tiffany decided to take a 24 hour trip to Romania. The impact was incredible and since then, Paul and Tiffany have been actively growing their involvement with the very important work being accomplished by Firm Foundations Romania.



Turino Faud

Turino has been happily married for 24 years; he and his wife have two wonderful and gorgeous kids. Turino firmly believes in the future of children everywhere and wishes to make a difference in the life of kids in Romania and around the world. When the opportunity came about last year, Turino accepted the position of Treasurer for FFR. Though he does not live in Romania, he is certain God can use his talent of finance management to help support the cause in Romania.

“This is just the beginning; it is my prayer and hope that God will continue to make Himself known through FFR for the children.”



April Herin

April Herin is a stay at home mother to two busy toddlers. Prior to motherhood, April enjoyed a successful career in non-profit fundraising and development.

Last summer, she traveled to Brasov on a mission trip with Kingwood Bible Church and served in both the Brasov Children's Hospital and the village of Budila. April was extremely moved by both the children she met and the staff and volunteers from FFR. She felt called by God to be doing more to help.

After a visit with Sarah Berchtold and Mary Buckalo, April agreed to help in whatever way she could from the United States. Most recently, this included organizing a Sarah Vienna music concert at Kingwood Bible Church.

Raelene Schmalz



Born and raised on a cattle ranch in British Columbia, Canada, Raelene has a background in business management and has worked in worship ministry for nearly ten years.

She first came to Romania as a short term volunteer in 2010 and, feeling led to return, moved to Brasov to work with Firm Foundations Romania full time in January of 2011.

For the next four years, she served as a Hospital Supervisor and Administrator. Raelene also filled in here and there doing everything from becoming a tour guide for volunteers (she's been to Bran Castle 18 times), to painting and decorating spaces for various FFR projects.

She has returned to Canada to pursue other opportunities but is committed to continuing to serve FFR in this capacity as an individual who has loved and cherished time with the children of Romania and the dedicated team serving there.

Sarah Vienna Berchtold



Led to serve in Romania through her experience with YWAM, Sarah Vienna Berchtold has turned a short term outreach into a long term career. Sarah has been serving in Brasov, Romania for the past 13 years and is the president and co-founder of Firm Foundations Romania (FFR).

Sarah is a lifelong musician who seeks to transform hearts and lives through the message of her music.

Romania is Sarah's home and she has gladly accepted the role of Board President as she continues to bring hope to the Roma people. "It's an honor to be a part of a team where we are assisting to transform and inspire people's lives."

Thank You Faith & Kyle



My name is Kyle Maynard and I am 23 years old. It was in the spring of 2014 when my wife,

Faith, told me that she felt God calling her back to Romania. By the beginning of September we were getting on a plane. The crisp, cool mountain air in Brasov was a sharp contrast to the hot, humid Texas air we were used to.

For me, the first day working with FFR at the children's hospital was daunting. I had only changed one diaper in my whole life and was never very comfortable with holding babies. Faith, on the other hand, had been there before and showed nothing but excitement to see the babies again. Within the first few days my attitude completely changed and I felt myself getting excited every day to hold the babies. There were many babies who were regularly admitted to the hospital and stayed for weeks at a time. It was so special to be able to bond with those babies and watch them grow. Leaving the babies we bonded with is one of the hardest things I've ever done and we will always cherish the time we got to be part of their precious lives.

After our first few weeks in Romania, we were offered the opportunity to work in an orphanage caring for children with disabilities just outside Brasov. Soon enough, our Monday visits to the orphanage became a staple in our weekly routine. The orphanage is home to about 40 kids ranging in age from less than a year to seventeen years old. We loved being able to visit and spend time with the children. We also built friendships with the nurses who always seemed glad to have extra help.

FFR also gave us the opportunity to help in the village of Budila. Over the winter, we built some shelves for the schoolhouse and made a few special trips to wash feet at Kids' Club. It was such a joy to see the children's faces light up when they got their feet washed! We loved being able to help out and see all the awesome work that FFR is doing with the people there.

We found a great community in the FFR team and they all became dear friends to us. It was a blessing to be able to serve with such lovely people and to be a part of what God is doing in Romania. When I went to Romania, I was a little intimidated by the idea of even holding a baby. FFR gave me the opportunity to get outside my comfort zone in a meaningful way. My time in Romania gave me the confidence to care for children and inspired my wife and I to pursue adoption in the future. I would encourage anyone who is considering international and/or orphan ministry to join with FFR and become a part of this awesome ministry!

Supporting From Afar!



Throughout the year we receive boxes sent from people all over the world, from America to Hong Kong. All of these donations are always sent with so much love and we are blessed and thankful for every single donation.

Over the last couple of months, we were blessed to receive several big loads of donations! Clothes, toys, shoes, books, games, bikes and much more. We want to sincerely thank each and every one of you who have helped in the process. We are so grateful to all those who donated, collected, organized, paid for transport and kept the Roma people in their prayers.

A special thank you to the Judge Family from Scotland, the Lindner Family from Germany, TNT from Sweden, Mr. Lantelme and his organization as well as Steffi's parents and Constance Muerle and Family from Germany.

All of you have blessed not only FFR, but also the many children in our projects, a local kindergarten in Budila, an orphanage outside of Brasov, the children, babies and staff in the hospital and many families in and around Brasov.

A big THANK YOU also to all our volunteers who have spent hours sorting and making boxes and bags for those who receive the donations. We couldn't do it without all of you!



BECOME AN INTERN!

Only 1
Spot
Left!

Firm Foundations Romania is excited to announce that we are starting a 12 month, intensive internship program for women, ages 18 and up.

The Internship Program will be a way for young women, who are selected by application, to not only serve the Lord by serving others, but to be disciplined and mentored by our internship coordinator and long term volunteer, Rachel Titiriga.

We have already begun accepting applications for the 2015-2016 internship which will begin on August 1, 2015. The application deadline is June 1, 2015.

Any questions should be directed to internship@firmfoundationsromania.com

