



IOM International Organization for Migration  
 OIM Organizația Internațională pentru Migrație



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**June 9, 2008**  
**Press Release**

**AN ISLAND OF HOPE FOR SOCIALLY VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

On June 11, the vocational school Republican Society for Social Protection of Youth – “Island of Hope”, located at 3 Cornului Street, opened its doors for its “Youth Vocational Festival – Open Day for Careers”. This outdoor event is open to all young people interested in attending vocational courses, to the general public and to media representatives.

The “Youth Vocational Festival – Open Day for Careers,” will include professional contests and master-classes for the following fields: cosmetology, including hair stylists, manicurists and makeup artists; culinary and hospitality services and office administration. This year’s award winning vocational course graduates will also give a performance highlighting the knowledge and skills gained during their studies. Representatives of the enterprises which usually employ graduating students will also attend the event.

“Island of Hope” was designed as a vocational school for teenagers; later it started focusing on youth coming from socially vulnerable families. In addition to providing free counseling and vocational training for this category of beneficiaries, “Island of Hope” works with the latest teaching modules using advanced equipment and didactic material. Courses offerings are updated every year based on the labor market demand in the Republic of Moldova, thus ensuring high rates of integration of program graduates into the labor force.

Vocational training is complemented by social and psychological assistance provided through regular consultations, specialized trainings, and computer-based testing. The students also receive training on business communications and opportunities for social development through the organization of cultural events and activities.

Over the last 10 years, “Island of Hope,” together with the National Employment Agency, has trained more than 5000 youths who were formerly unemployed. During the period 2003-2007 only, 350 socially vulnerable individuals, including 117 students from boarding schools, learned a trade.

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*The event “Youth Vocational Festival – Open Day for Careers” is organized within the Year of Youth 2008 in the Republic of Moldova and to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the “Republican Society for Social Protection of Youth – Island of Hope”, with the support of the National Employment Agency and the International Organization for Migration (IOM Moldova).*

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