

## Ecaterina Raiu



Ecaterina Raiu was born in Straseni in 1926. She was one of ten children in her family. Four of her brothers died in the Second World War. These losses affected her family deeply.

Ecaterina attended school in Straseni through the fifth form and then started working to help her parents. She had a difficult childhood because of the necessity to work at such a young age.

Because of her lack of education, Ecaterina's working opportunities were limited. She worked for 39 years in different places as a janitor. She got married in 1972 but was divorced soon afterwards because her husband was an alcoholic. She had no children.

Now Ecaterina lives alone. Her pension is very small, hardly enough for food. She has problems with her stomach and she has severe pain in her joints.

She likes to sing very much and is a member of the local choir. Ecaterina says music is helping her to survive and to not feel alone.

During the cold autumn and winter months she uses wood to heat her house and she cannot afford to buy coal.

Ecaterina attends Rasarit Day Center for the Elderly. Here she feels good, cared for and a part of something special. She can have a warm meal, a shower, and laundry services.

Ecaterina asks for financial support for to purchase heating fuel.