

## Summer teams 2005

We are in the process of planning for our annual Holiday Clubs, in Romanian Villages, this summer.

The current plan is to run for 2 weeks in different villages and possibly do a Fun Day on the middle Saturday in another.

We would be away from 23 July to 7 August.

We are looking for people who can help with running games and craft activities - you don't have to be fluent in Romanian - or even feel you have a particular gifting with children. We allow within our programme ample time for you to experience life in the villages and see local sights etc.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information, please contact us as soon as possible.

We expect members of our teams to be self financing and the inclusive cost for the 2 weeks would be £500

Enclosed with this newsletter is a poster about summer teams, please display this in your church or any other public place you think suitable. Thank you.



It is possible to give to Romania Care by cash, cheque, CAF voucher, CharityCard and Give As You Earn.

### Romania Care

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# ROMANIA UPDATE

The newsletter of Romania Care, registered charity no. 1012759

## January 2005

### Happy new year - or is it?

Monitoring the situation in Romania, as we do, has highlighted some stark contrasts that mean for many in Romania, the new year does not look so happy!

- The poor are getting poorer! Inflation has meant that many normal purchases have risen in price to 70% of UK prices, while wages have stayed at 15%. To get some feel of the challenge, try multiplying your shopping bill by four or five!
- The pound has dropped in values by 10% in the last 2 months, which reduces the purchasing power of the money we raise. When we first went to Romania in 1990 £1 was worth about 100 Lei, last summer it reached nearly 61,000 now it is worth just 55,000!
- Romania has wrapped up membership talks with the EU - this means they will become full EU members on 1st January 2007. The question is will this benefit Romanians or the rest of Europe?
- We have so far only secured sponsorship for 1 respite care bed for 2005 - we need to find sponsorship for 3 more! Each bed needs sponsorship of £1820 per year.
- Due to bureaucracy in Romania, we still have not received the first resident into the new nursing and respite care home - we hope this will now happen in January 2005.

## Looking back to 2004 - what was achieved?

- The greatest achievement of the year was the completion of the nursing and respite care home in Ilisesti. The home was opened on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June at a ceremony attended by about 60 people including Bob Napier head of the DFID mission in Bucharest, the Prefect of Suceava, a government minister, as well as 8 people from the UK and representatives from all the local media in Suceava. Positive articles were carried in the 3 Suceava Newspapers and the regional television channel Antenna 1. The home was then passed over to Bethesda foundation to be run.
- Fundatia Romania Care (our Romanian partner charity) was setup and has begun operation.
- Holiday Clubs were held in Fintinele and Clit during the summer - these were run by a team of 7 volunteers from the UK.
- Further cooperation with the Dutch charity "Romania Committee TEV" took place—we are now working more closely together than before.
- 100 Food boxes were sent to Romania - most of these have been given to the poorest people in Suceava, many of whom live either in wooden shacks or in the heating system ducts.
- A "soup run" was setup to take bread and soup to street people during the coldest winter months.

**Thank you for your support through prayer and finance in making all these things happen!**

## How can you help at the moment?

**Soup Run** To take soup and bread to 30 people, three times each week up until April will cost in the region of £500. Would you help with sponsoring this?

**Respite Care home bed sponsorship.** Each bed needs sponsorship of £35 per week to enable a poor Romanian family to benefit from Respite Care.

**Join a summer team.** More details elsewhere.

**Become an active part of running the charity.** We have decided that if we are to go ahead with the new project outlined in our last newsletter, we need at least 2 more people to become actively involved in running the charity. The building is still available to us if we want it, but we need help raising the money, writing proposals, producing publicity etc..

**Prayer.** We are always conscious that the work we are undertaking is God's work. We need to know his guidance and his provision.

**Finance for Paul in Romania.** It costs about £7,300 to keep Paul working for us in Romania. In 2005, our Dutch friends will contribute £2,900 leaving us to find £4,400. Could you help with this, either with a one off or regular payment?



In November three nurses from Romania came for a skills exchange in British nursing homes. They have now returned home to become the initial staff at Ilisesti.