

The home is trying to become more self sufficient. One of the "Upstairs" residents is a man whose home and possessions were swept away in the flooding which has affected Romania badly in the last two years. He has worked to grow vegetables at the home, and a number of animals are now being farmed - two pigs, four sheep and about 40 chickens. All this will help with the food bill for the home!

ROMANIA UPDATE

The newsletter of Romania Care, registered charity no. 1012759

June 2006

WHERE NOW? WHAT NEXT? HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The most pressing need for Casa Victor is the insulation project. To complete work before Autumn, we need to start in the next few weeks. The total cost of improving the insulation - external walls and roof spaces is approximately £18,000. Your help with raising this money would be gratefully received.

Development of the site in the village of Ilisesti. Ilisesti is on the main tourist route from Suceava to the painted monasteries. One idea is to open a good coffee/tea shop aiming at the growing number of tourists. Work is under way to design a building for the site with a few bedrooms (potentially for bed and breakfast), kitchen, office and a large room which could be used as a tea shop or a meeting room. Initial estimates of the cost of this project would be about £10,000 - this would create an ongoing source of income for Casa Victor.

Development of a small farm. This would be another potential source of income/food for Casa Victor - the set up cost is estimated to be about £1000.

Thank you for your ongoing support which is greatly appreciated!



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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IN BRIEF

It is now just over a year since the first guests arrived at "Casa Victor", our Nursing and Respite Care home near Ilisesti. The main part of this newsletter is a report on a recent visit to Romania, by Laurence Biggs, to review with our partners Bethesda the first year of operation.

Sadly this year there will not be a summer team going to Romania to run **childrens' holiday clubs**. By our cut off date for applications at the end of April, there were not enough people signed on to go. This gives the trustees time to review this area of operation before deciding what to do in 2007.

We are already beginning to think about **Food Parcels for Christmas 2006**. The scheme will be much the same as in previous years. If you would like publicity materials please let us know. The deadline for receiving cards and money this year will be in early November.

Some years ago we purchased a **house and land in the village of Ilisesti**. There were major legal wrangles with this purchase, which at time seemed un-resolvable. During his recent visit to Romania, Laurence was able to sort these out and hopefully, by the time you read this, the previous owner will have left the house and redevelopment can begin. A big thank you to those who were involved in praying for us in this area - God was certainly central to resolving this problem!

Finally ... don't forget to register with **www.bigcharitybox.com** and make money for Romania Care without costing you anything!



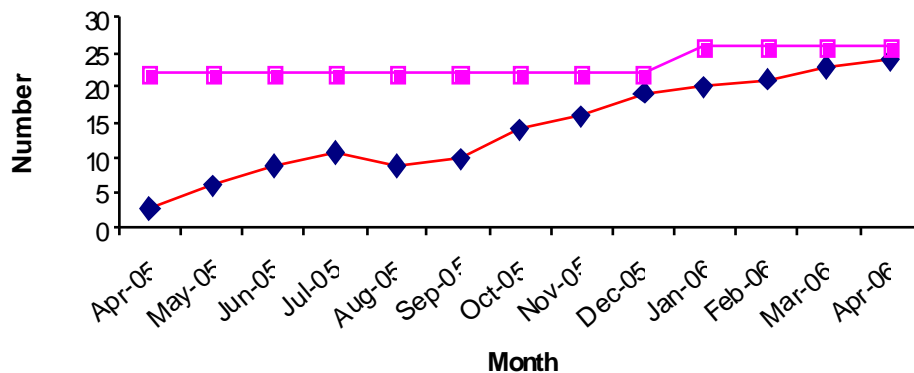
“Casa Victor”

First year review

In 2000 we set up this project to provide a new, purpose built Nursing home for 22 elderly and physically handicapped people. Places were to be split between “long stay” and “respite care” residents of all ages.

The home opened in April 2005 with 3 residents and is now operationally full. The capacity was increased from 22 to 26 during the last 6 months when Bethesda converted some of the upstairs rooms into bedrooms for more able residents.

Casa Victor - residents



Whilst at Casa Victor I met with the residents to ask their view of how things were and they were all very positive. Very pleased with care and conditions including cleanliness, patient care, food and



other residents. I have to say there was a real sense of family in the home - each resident and member of staff doing their bit to help the home as they are able. Their only concern surrounded temperatures during the winter, as well as condensation and mould growing on the walls.

This was no surprise - before going to Romania, all these issues had been raised by Irina Vatamanu (Our Romanian project officer). I had meetings with builders and insulation experts and all agreed that the problem was lack of insulation. During the winter, temperatures had been the lowest for many years. However, even with more normal winter temperatures, it was felt that improving the insulation of the building would not only address the issues raised, but also cut the fuel bill, and hence help the finances! The experts did also say that if we did not do this work, the building will quickly deteriorate. Moisture in the walls, with the extreme temperatures, would mean the walls start to crack and disintegrate. There may also be a secondary problem with lack of ventilation to en-suite bathrooms, but it was felt the insulation was the first issue to tackle.



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Financially Casa Victor is becoming more stable. Increased numbers spread the load in covering the finances, although continuing problems with lack of financial support from the local authority make things very tight. Romania Care sponsorship for operating costs has reduced over the year and ends in June 2006. The charity will now focus on sponsoring specific projects, such as the insulation, and trying to establish projects to help finance the home from within Romania.