

Casa Irina

For some time now we have been considering what to do with the land we own in the middle of Ilisesti.

We looked at trying to open a coffee/tea shop with the possibility of offering bed and breakfast as well. We also looked at opening a small medical centre.

Earlier this year the trustees made the decision to build a small building on this land to initially provide :

- A kindergarten - run by Irina who already works in a kindergarten in Suceava half time, this will allow us to strengthen our work in the village and build on the success of our holiday clubs.
 - Office and storage space for the charity (freeing up space in Casa Victor which can potentially be used for more able residents)
 - Bedrooms for visiting volunteers or families
- (A small Baptist church is also interested in meeting in the building.)

The building has been designed to be versatile and adaptable, so other uses may become clear once the project is finished.

At the moment we are working through the bureaucracy - it's a long process - joining the EU seems to have made things more difficult rather than easier! Progress is however being made and it is hoped that the outside construction will be completed before the winter sets in.

The whole project is likely to cost about £33,500 and we will be seeking to raise this amount as soon as possible.

We would also like to find regular sponsors to fund Irina's work for us - this currently costs £100-120 per month including petrol and phone. We could not do what we are doing without Irina. Costs are increasing in Romania and we would like to increase her allowance from £55 to £100 per month, is this something you would consider helping with?



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

Romania Care

Office: 4 Bury Lane, Codicote, Herts, SG4 8XT

Phone/Fax: 01438 – 822007.

ROMANIA UPDATE

The newsletter of Romania Care, registered charity no. 1012759

September 2007

Christmas Foodbox Appeal 2007



Following previous years success, we are once again running a Christmas foodbox appeal. This enables you to send a food box to a poor family in Romania at Christmas time containing :

3 kg sugar 2 kg rice 2 ltr oil 1 can beans
1kg noodles 250g dried soup 200g cocoa 500g margarine
3 kg washing powder, 1 bottle shampoo, 2 Toilet soaps and 3 candles.

To do this, put the following in an envelope :

- ⇒ £15.50 - cheques should be made out to "Romania Care"
- ⇒ A Christmas card (optional) - the Romanian for Merry Christmas is *Craciun Fericit*
- ⇒ If you are a UK tax payer, you may wish to include a gift aid declaration. That way £15.50 becomes nearly £20 at no extra cost to yourself!

Then send the envelope to Romania Care to arrive before Monday 5th November.

Romania may now be part of the EU, but for many ordinary Romanians things are still getting harder!

Regrettably the price of the food parcels has had to increase this year. This is due to the fact that Romania is now in the EU, so VAT has to be charged on both contents and transport, and so called "custom free" (and therefore cheaper) rice and sugar cannot be used.

Posters and forms can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the office.

Returning to Romania after 9 years

In 1998 when I was 16 years old I went to Romania with my sister with Mid Herts Romania Relief now known as Romania Care. We were quite a big group of about 20 helpers - half the group helped with the holiday club whilst the rest helped with the extension to Fintinele hospital.

My main memory from then was how grateful the children were for the smallest thing. Also there were two 10 year old boys who had taught themselves English from sky television, who helped us with translating. Many families did not have running water but had television. I was helping with the holiday club and after we had finished we helped the rest of the team by painting the hospital walls.

I decided after receiving the newsletter for 9 years that I would like to return, so this summer I joined the team. I was initially surprised at how few people were on the team. There were seven people each week but nine different people in total. We ran holiday clubs in two very different areas. The first week was in Suceava where the children were from fairly affluent families by Romania standards. There were only about 60 children in comparison to the 400 children who had come in Fintinele. The children were very grateful for our presence, but I did not feel I had made as much of a difference as before. The second week however was in Solca, where the children were under privileged. Not all families had the luxuries we take for granted each and every day - for example running water. The club was held in the woods and the children appreciated all that we did for them. After the holiday club we visited various monasteries and places of interest in the area.

We visited Casa Victor the nursing home that the charity built. I found walking around the nursing home and meeting the residents an overwhelming experience. I was proud to be representing the charity knowing how grateful the residents were for everything the charity had done. They kept thanking us for visiting them and were very happy to see us.

I feel going back to Romania, now that I am older, I appreciated the experience more. I found it very rewarding and look forward to returning next summer.

Octavia Lord

Casa Victor

30 months after its opening in April 2005, Casa Victor is thriving.

The home is now full with a waiting list.

Following the insulation improvements, the home is now warm and welcoming throughout the year.

The operating costs of the home have been found in Romania for more than a year now.

In order to help with funding, the Romanian staff team lead by Mrs Munteanu have on their own initiative, and without financial support from us :

- increased the capacity by converting some of the storage space on the top floor into rooms for more able residents. The home can now accommodate 30 people.
- Built a small farm to produce food for the home. It has sheep, pigs, chickens and hopefully soon a cow. Some of the land has been cultivated to grow vegetables too.

Most months 2 or more people have benefited from respite care. We have continued to fund this, but the money allocated to doing this has now run out, so we are looking for new respite care sponsors. Just £40 funds a week of respite care. Could you help with this? - it would be good to enable 24 people to have 2 week of respite care next year. That means we need :

- 48 people to sponsor £40
- Or 24 people to sponsor £80
- Or 12 people to sponsor £160
- Or 6 people to sponsor £320
- Or 1 person or group to sponsor £1920

Please give this your consideration. It makes a huge impact on a family or individual carer to have a rest from long term caring knowing that their loved one is being well cared for in good conditions - they are unlikely to get this anywhere else, and most cannot afford to pay! Thank you.