

Project Romania Newsletter July 2007

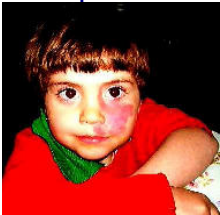
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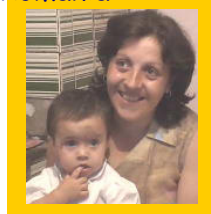
In 2006 Anca's mum asked for help. How could one say no when the need was so obvious. Anca would face discrimination at school and at work, however bright she was. Her parents had heard that Project Romania

'cares about children'.

After Anca's very successful operation, Florin Benghea, Project Manager, was asked to help Maria too... but that is costly.



Maria must go to Bucharest for 12 monthly laser treatments ... at £100 each.



Is this little girl less deserving? NO

"General Funds" pay at the moment but if some of **YOU** took this little girl into your heart and sponsored her treatment for the 12 months

**10 people sending £10 per month and she would have a chance of
A NORMAL LIFE**

FOCUS

ON NEED

For Ioana a normal life is far less of a certainty. This frail little 12 year old had surgery for a brain tumour in January. Florin has asked us for sponsorship for her chemo-therapy.

So it's down to "General Funds" - or, someone reading this ... could **you** sponsor her?



GRAHAM WATSON MEP - PATRON PROJECT ROMANIA

It's that time of year - when Project Romania helps the schools

of Communa Seica Mare to buy prizes, and, for some years, have awarded bursaries to the 10 best pupils in the top class to help with the cost of further education in the city schools. For the past 2 years these have been financed by the firm Pyrabalisk, who gave a big donation in January 2006. Village children only get schooling until they are 14 and many cannot get work after this. However, if they are sponsored to lodge in the city of Sibiu there is opportunity for 'further education', leading to 'Baccalaureate' at 18 yrs for academic pupils and a professional qualification for more practical youngsters. Many children have been sponsored to finish their education and obtain jobs.



Water tank in hills at Buia

In Spring Project Romania gave £500

for 60 families in Buia to have spring water from the hills piped to their yards. The scheme is working well, and the Rainbow Centre benefits from this water too, thanks to the Project Manager.

However, in 2007, many people have said "Surely Romania no longer needs help". Sadly, access to the European Union, far from bringing Utopia, has actually caused hardship in rural areas. This is mainly due to mismanagement at local government level. One sad story is that of our baker, Dan Petri. He had provided the bread for the children of Buia, the small remote village on the edge of the commune. He was told that he would have to cease trading on January 1st as 'his equipment was not up to EU standards'. When Graham Watson heard about it he said that this was not so - as long as the equipment is cleanable

Dan Petri giving out bread



which it is) Dan could have continued. The contract was given to the other local baker in order to continue the programme Bread4Buia. Graham is looking into this, and other matters. The trustees are very grateful; he is a very busy man.



There was a **Times article** re EU accession, 'Last Rites for Rustic Romania' www.timesonline.com/europe - put Matau in the search box for 'The village that time forgot'. It's very relevant to Seica Mare too. Also, a **John Craven BBC Country File** programme about Romania, in which he considered the country to be very suitable for organic farming as it has been pesticide free for many years.

Thus, when in April Florin Benghea was asked to help Buia villagers to sell milk to make "organic" cheese for an Ecological Society sponsored by the Mayor of Sibiu, Klaus Johannis, it seemed good to investigate the possibility. In June Stephen Zenda, Bill Love, and Dawn Fletcher visited and were impressed with the very fine poly tunnels for cultivation of organic vegetables, set up by an enterprising man who had spent some years in Italy. They also looked at harvesting local honey using marketing expertise from 'Bees Abroad', an international charity. Catalin Tarnu, who is 18, and his friends harvested 5 tons of honey last year and had to feed most of it to



pigs - for want of a market. **This will change... ..**
the whole ethos of charity work is changing. These new ideas are very exciting. Instead of just feeding children of destitute families, how much better to give their parents employment and self-respect, and let them provide for their own families. But it needs TIME and EU FUNDING. So, watch this space, and see where God will lead Project Romania next.

Until then we will continue to support the poor and disadvantaged in this small community, in whatever way necessary.

- All money for Health Seica and Bread4Buia pays for regular medication, finances some operations and gives bread to hungry children
- All money for families is sent to those families

It is impossible to over emphasise how happy people are, knowing that someone cares, and feeling God's love reaching out to them. None more than Bianca - who, at 15, is still losing her hearing rapidly and yet always has a smile. We long to be able to help with the very expensive digital aids she requires.



Bianca with her little sister

The Rainbow Centre is a place of joy



for the children of Buia, with computers for the older children. Others also benefit, including the sick, as the doctor uses the facilities there each week.

BUT

what of the future ?

Can we use the Centre to enable villagers to produce Eco products, help their own children, and escape from the poverty trap ?
 Can the Centre be used to give very poor city children a holiday in the country at Summer Camp?



All this costs money. So please - continue to support the children of Romania. We'll stay for as long as it takes.

Will you accept the challenge and stay with us?

If you would like further information, or wish to give to the work of Project Romania by Gift Aid or sponsorship, please contact : -

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or visit the website : www.projectromaniachard.org