

PROJECT ROMANIA

caring for children

CELEBRATIONS



CONGRATULATIONS

20th birthday for
PROJECT ROMANIA

Knighthood for our Patron
Sir Graham Watson

On 27th May - Project Romania celebrated its 20th birthday at a well attended Thanksgiving Service in St Mary's Church Chard. The new mayor of Chard Cllr Cathie Morrison was there plus 2 previous mayors who were involved with twinning in 2008. The service was taken by Revd Marilyn Tricker and Revd Tim Price. Worship, with the theme of *God's Faithfulness*, was beautifully led by the Sanctus singing group.

At the AGM following, we said goodbye to Revd Marilyn who retires from ministry this summer. The charity has so appreciated her wise guidance in the chair for the past three years, and wishes her well in her new 'adventure' for God. Revd Tim Price from St John's Tatworth was warmly welcomed as the new chairman. In 2009 his daughter Rachel was part of the 'holiday clubs' team. He will go to Seica Mare in September to see the work for himself.

More inside about the spring trip, the forthcoming autumn trip, some new children, new plans, new personnel and

NEW

COMMITMENT

2011 - SPRING and SUMMER

CONGRATULATIONS

to our Patron, Sir Graham Watson, for the Knighthood bestowed on him by Her Majesty the Queen in her Birthday honours list 2011;

Cllr Jill Shortland (in Seica Mare 2009 as Chard Mayor to seal the twinning), received an OBE for her many years of excellent council work.

Andy & Dawn Fletcher were presented with the Mayor of Chard's Outstanding Service Award for their 20 year long association with Project Romania



2011 TRIP - Andy and Dawn were actually in Seica Mare during April and May for 4 weeks. One big difference was immediately apparent - a much bigger divide between 'rich' and 'poor', which is very noticeable in rural communities. Families, who once managed well, now struggle to cope. The government made much of the 'global crisis', so teachers and Town Hall workers, including mayors, had to take a **25% wage cut**.

However, in Seica Mare a new Kindergarten has been built (the old one had become dangerous), and there are grants for 'tarmacking' roads by the end of 2011, but the villages still do not have running water or sewage.



21 families are currently supported by Project Romania, all of whom are very poor. This support means that teenagers can get to school in Sibiu, and they really appreciate a family here caring for them. Some want contact with 'their family' and gave an email address, which is a 'first'. The education standard is noticeably higher in sponsored families - they want to be 'worthy' of the help. Annual prizes & bursaries are financed through the charity and help encourage both youngsters and teachers.

BREAD4BUIA This programme is **HUGELY** appreciated by families in Buia and the Education Dept in Sibiu says - it is **vital**.

That's the **GOOD NEWS**

BUT there's **BAD NEWS** too

Project Romania sends £350.00 each month, but already has to cover a shortfall using General Funds. Even this amount no longer provides **1 loaf per child twice a week**, it only gives bread for 3 of the 4 weeks. SO the baker has to randomise his visits to make the deficit less painful

Regular monthly donations are URGENTLY needed to help this vital work continue in the autumn. 1 loaf costs 95p; some families have only £50 - £100 monthly

All the 'aid' programmes are reviewed bi-annually. The policy is to phase out aid as such. However, circumstances in Buia and Stenea are still dire with high unemployment, and consequently **children are hungry**

Pray that this will change as 'jobs become available for many families' through work at the Rainbow Centre, meanwhile, **COULD YOU GIVE £8.00 A MONTH TO ENSURE THAT A POOR CHILD IN BUIA TAKES SOME BREAD HOME ?**

SCHOOLS The 'official School visit' with the Director meant pleasantries over very strong coffee, and a tour of the schools, THEN a LONG list of "things needed"; in particular computers, as many were very old and no longer working. Nothing could be promised - but, they have **so much less** than British schools. Can schools/businesses here help with equipment, either from here or bought in Romania.



Can YOU help Project Romania to help them?

THE RAINBOW CENTRE OF HOPE - In May the Mayor and Florin met Alistair Ozanne & 2 young men from "Fundatia Lumina", a Romanian Christian Charity prepared to take over the practicalities of building cabins & facilities & running residential Christian camps and courses. The boys measured, worked out costs, and made great computer images of the completed site. **Lumina chairman, Ioan Gatej**, plans to bring very poor children to the Centre for holidays as soon as it's ready. He and the mayor have arranged the lease of the Centre to Lumina for 49 years to ensure the stability of the work. There are also people from other churches, who are interested in working in, and through, the Centre. This has all been such a wonderful answer to prayer for Project Romania, and for Alistair and the Lumina team. BUT - the cost of all the work will not be small -

£24,000

is needed to bring this vision to fruition. However the benefit to villagers of Buia through employment, and to the community at large will be **HUGE**

Please join in this exciting work by praying and helping with Fund Raising. (See back page for contact details)

Project Romania has spent 20 years **SHARING** the love of God by **CARING** for the poor and disadvantaged. The Centre is a venue for Camps and courses run by Christian staff.

An excellent charity in Saschiz showed how much help the Centre could bring to this impoverished village with over 90% unemployment by providing a venue for students to learn how to preserve their valuable and unique countryside - see

www.fundatia-adept.org & an EU initiative www.natura.org

Young Denisa (see over) demonstrated a real need for a place where disabled children & their carers can go for a break.

God has led this far and we look forward to His new provision.

3 cabins behind the Centre



Computer generated image



RAINBOW CENTRE OF HOPE



STOP PRESS NEWS direct from BUIA - JULY 2011

Onoriu, Ionuti and Tatu Ioan made a brilliant start, turning up at 0600. The central path to the top is almost dug out, though they have to deepen it a bit. The plan is to work 0600 to 1100 and 1800 to 2100 to avoid the **hottest** part of the day. It was **35C** in the shade during the afternoon. We think we will be able to finish all of the routine maintenance jobs in July. It's a stitch in time; both the fence and the cabins are in need of a couple of coats of varnish. Once the trenches for the paths are dug out we'll work out the cost of materials for laying cement - hopefully to be done in September and October before the Autumn visit?

pto

Ana Gatej, the priest's wife, is very keen to forge links with Seica, Buia and Jucu, especially with young people. Too late for this year, but we're working on a programme for next year. When Ioan and Ana visited, Florin explained our intentions, my involvement, our vision etc. and it was very well received. Ioan spoke at length about Fundatia Lumina and what it had done. We agreed that a copy of Lumina Statutes should be held at Seica Mare Town Hall. Mayor Nicolae is very happy and will complete the paperwork to lease the Centre to 'Asociatia Lumina'.

Now the momentum is under way in Buia, (I can see how happy the villagers are to see action) it's important to keep it up as it helps to make Romanians responsible for the work.

By the way, it's totally impossible to operate in Buia without transport so we need to get a vehicle. There are a good few vehicles online in the range 1600 to 1900 Euros.

The question is, how much money is available imminently i.e. by the start of September? Once we know we can move forward - it will be so great for everyone if the work can continue - we will all pray towards that end

ALISTAIR

Autumn Trip

In order to find out what the charity does, Revd Tim Price is taking an 8 day self-funded trip this autumn, with Peter and Liz Rosser, June Roberts, Brian Turner and Andy and Dawn F, Some new people and some old hands! They'll meet sponsored families; see the Bread4Buia programme in operation and the work at the Rainbow Centre. Alistair will be with them for the week. Please pray that the Lord will bless this trip and fill the team with great enthusiasm for His work.

HEALTH SEICA

Denisa
has such
sad eyes



Denisa is 8 years old, born with Spina Bifida, and paralysed from the waist down.

She needed orthopaedic boots to correct her 'foot-drop'. Money had been given in the UK for anyone in great distress, so it was left for the boots. This family has great faith and attends the local Pentecostal Church.

She also needed a new 'corset' and since the anniversary service this money has also been pledged - God is good and we give Him the praise. Nevertheless, this family would benefit from regular monthly support via the Family Programme, as would ...

little Alexandra, who is just 3 and has cerebral palsy. Her mum takes her 25 miles to Sibiu several times a week for remedial exercises, and the family have seen a difference. BUT, in order to get to Sibiu, mum has to **hitch hike** with her heavy little 'bundle'. She can't afford public transport.

And, there are many other young children needing to come into the **Family Sponsorship Programme** who would so appreciate love



and care from
a family
in the UK



Marius Vlad suffers from Cerebral Palsy and is cared for by his elderly mother. He's confined to a wheelchair, always cheerful despite his extreme physical problems and, he is extremely intelligent. He uses an old computer BUT has to manipulate the mouse and the keys with his upper lip and nose! He asked if anyone could find him an easier way. This is the one real joy he has.



Does anyone know a way to help him?

Below, centre, is another Marius who has Down's Syndrome; but he's had regular support for many years, so he can go to school and he's so happy...

To donate to the work please use inserted form, and for further information about anything in this newsletter, please contact the secretary at :- 18 Spicer Way Chard TA20 2JS

or visit www.projectromaniachard.org.uk



THANK YOU

One interesting 'side' of the UK programme is the collection of plastic milk bottle tops. So far **YOU** have recycled over **3.5 ton** and should reach **4 TON** by September 2011. Keep up the good work - it helps the general work of the charity and also the Environment, and has introduced some 'new friends' for the work in Romania. For details see the website or ring Dawn Fletcher, 01460 68617

