

## Christmas Gift Box Distribution, 2018:

We were able to distribute some 1,600 boxes in time for Christmas; this was substantially less than last year and required some management of expectations. Around two-thirds of the boxes were given to our registered families with the rest being shared between the various schools, churches and other institutions with which we have links.

The boxes were once again of an excellent quality and our thanks go to those who gave so generously and to those who prepared them for transport.



## The Romanian Aid Foundation and Asociația Neemia Review of 2018



The Romanian Aid Foundation (RoAF) operates from two main areas; in south and west Wales and in Surrey & West Sussex. We also receive significant support from individuals and organisations in other parts of the UK. The charity's principal activities are the collection, preparation and transport of humanitarian aid for distribution to needy people in the far northeastern corner of Romania.

The work in the UK is undertaken exclusively by volunteers who give of their time and, often, underwrite their expenses personally. Essential supporting activities include fund raising, accounting, liaison with donors and prayer support. There is plenty to be done and more volunteers are always welcome!

During the past year the RoAF teams have sent over 76 tons of donated aid items to Romania. This aid had a local value equivalent to some £81,000. In addition to the general aid and designated support for specific people with particular needs, RoAF supporters have sponsored several special projects including a children's summer camp and the construction of a home for young people who have grown up in the orphanage system. However, as individuals, our packing and warehousing teams are getting older; we are grateful to those who have joined us this year but there are still opportunities for others to become involved.

As a Christian charity, we thank God for the way in which the past year has unfolded; we have continued to receive generous quantities of items to send to Romania and we place the uncertainties of the new year into His hands.



**The Romanian Aid Foundation and Asociația Neemia**

289 Court Lodge Road, Horley, Surrey, RH6 8RG, UK.

Strada Spiru Haret Nr.9, Dorohoi, Botosani, Romania

**The Romanian Aid Foundation and Asociația Neemia**

Working with Romanian people to bring help to the needy,

Hope through the Christian message and co-operation through joint ventures

UK Registered Charity 1060828



## Achievements in Romania

RoAF works closely with its Romanian partner charity, Asociatia Umanitara Neemia (AN), which acts as its principal agent in the distribution of aid in the Dorohoi area of north-eastern Romania. AN operates year round using the local knowledge of its Romanian staff to distribute aid where it is most effective.

Asociatia Neemia received 7 lorry-loads of aid items from RoAF during 2018 plus several donations of goods-in-kind from other sources. Clothing, food and other items to the value of approximately £85,000 were given to some 1,260 individuals, families or institutions asking for help. 320 households received goods for the first time whilst 210 previously-registered households did not ask for material help this year. The total number of registered beneficiaries now stands at 4,126.

In accordance with the charity's constitution, goods up to 15% of the value of the available stock can be transferred to our shop. The sale of these goods funds all AN's usual activities, including warehousing, vehicle costs and staff salaries. Certain types of item such as hand-knits, sportswear, gift boxes and school equipment are not sold but are donated directly. The same applies to any item whose donor has specified direct donation. The shop raised sufficient income to cover AN's operating costs plus an additional 20% which was given as cash donations to needy households, to help with rent, fuel bills, school stationery, medical costs and other emergencies; during 2018 AN made some 14 cash donations per month.

Casa Neemia is our vision to provide accommodation for some young people who have been raised in the orphanage system. Construction was substantially completed earlier in 2018 and the house is now fully occupied. As expected, management of the residents is almost as great a challenge as organising the construction.

In addition to the distribution of aid from RoAF, Asociatia Neemia co-operates with other charities and local organisations, sharing local knowledge and providing facilities and staff for special projects and joint ventures. In accordance with our Christian ethos, we have Christian literature available for those who request it and we help many local churches with their activities. However we make no demand on our beneficiaries with respect to religious beliefs or church attendance.

**Snapshots from 2018:** 12 photos that give an insight into the range of activities that Asociatia Neemia has undertaken during the past year.



Winter weather in **January** means that many people need to stay indoors. This is a good time to catch up with some knitting using wool, needles and knitted squares for blankets which have been sent by our supporters.

**February** is often the most severe month of the winter. Those in the rural areas who have not been able to make adequate provision can find life very difficult and many ask for help.



**March** brought a colder snap with up to five inches of snow. Nevertheless, the work must go on and mucking out the cows is (slightly) less onerous in an AN-supplied warm jacket.

We had previously reported on the difficulties of a village school caretaker who had to walk between his various responsibilities. In **April** he received a surprise donation of a bicycle which has made his life a lot easier.



In **May** we received the final approval for the completion of Casa Neemia. There is still a lot of finishing and equipping the house but the residents are now there officially.

At the end of **June** 40 children enjoyed a holiday at a camp in the mountains. For some this is their only experience of being away from home. RoAF sponsored the cost of the holiday whilst AN provided transport and materials.



During **July** the polytunnel at Casa Neemia produced abundant quantities of tomatoes, peppers and aubergines. After feeding the residents the surplus was given to local families.

In **August** we forwarded some items destined for a charity in Moldova. Since our inception we have looked for opportunities to help other charities by using the facilities with which we have been blessed.



In **September** we received additional stocks of oil, rice, flour and other groceries. This food is distributed to households as required during the winter months.

During **October** we passed on some new exercise books to a village kindergarten. We are able to donate stationery, toys and materials to other kindergartens and schools throughout the year, as stocks permit.



In **November** we received two lorry-loads of diverse items, including a piano for a village church. As usual there were many hands willing to brave the weather and make light work of the unloading.

A major activity during **December** is the distribution of Christmas gift boxes, to registered families, kindergartens, churches and other similar organisations. More details overleaf

