



The Romanian Aid Foundation

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UK Registered Charity No. 1060828

Working with Romanian people, to bring Help to the needy, Hope through the Christian message and Co-operation through joint ventures

Home from the Orphanage

I have just completed my 81st trip to Romania - about 60 of them to Dorohoi near the Ukraine border - with a lorry-load of humanitarian aid for the needy people there

Why did we start coming to Romania?

Our first trip was in 1992 just after the revolution when the media reported the catastrophic conditions in the orphanages. Our contact in Dorohoi was Pastor Dumitru Condrea who introduced us to the dreadful plight of these poor children, most of them very young, often two in a cot, unloved, uncared-for, dirty, and sad. The smell of urine would make your eyes run. Memories I will never forget.

What has changed over these 23 years?

Things are still very tough there; unemployment is over 50% with little support for people with no jobs. The cost of many essentials is very similar to the UK, whilst incomes are not. On the positive side, there are not so many orphans and the arrangements for their accommodation have improved. Charities like Asociatia Neemia in Dorohoi do a remarkable job caring for families and institutions alike, but this is only possible with the continued support from you, and the goodness of God.

What has happened to those children?

As I mentioned, our first ventures here were with the orphanages and the children suffering in them. Those babies and young children are now in their twenties or thirties. They had to leave those institutions at 18, and had nowhere to live, very little education, no job prospects, and none of the life skills that would help them overcome these difficulties. There is no government support unless they are registered with a disability and even then it is very little. Over the years AN has done its best to help these young people, trying to find them somewhere to live and some food to eat.

What are we doing about it?

A vision has been kick-started by a generous donation, to build a home - not an institution - for 10 of these young men. A piece of land has been purchased, plans submitted and a well dug. Our object is to provide a single room, shower and toilet facilities for each resident, plus a dining room and general living room. Heating and hot water will be by solar and a wood burning boiler. The land is sufficient to give the residents the opportunity to grow their own fruit and vegetables and be self-sufficient to some degree, thus giving them a self-worth which they have never experienced. We now need your support BIG TIME to continue and complete this project.

Help!

So please help us to help them. The project is underway with site work already started but the quicker we can make progress then the sooner these young men can have a permanent and safe roof over their heads and feel part of a community as they have never felt before. We trust that by these few scrambled words you will see the bigger picture and feel prompted to support this very worthwhile project both prayerfully and financially.

Richard Burgess

RoAF Founder and west Wales representative