

Trustees

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Romanian Children's Homes

Care, support and education for abandoned children in Romania

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Newsletter 2010

Dear Friends

As another year draws towards its end it is time once again to write to our friends, loyal, and new supporters. This year, due to semi retirement, Joan and I were able to spend two months in Romania. We have never had the opportunity to stay this long and as life was less hectic we were able to get a greater feel for life in Romania and to meet more local people and gain a greater understanding of their needs.

School summer holidays are long in Romania. The children finish school in the middle of June and do not return until mid September. Many children who live in the cities and big towns, and whose parents work, often come to stay in the villages with their grandparents. The first week after our arrival we became involved in working in the children's clubs in three different villages, we had great fun particularly playing rounders with the children and taking them on long walks. In Mihaileni we took the children through the famous sandstone gorge. It was quite an adventure scrambling over the rocks and fallen trees. The weather was quite dry and we only had 4 wet days in two months.

Later we were joined by three ladies, one of whom was my niece, this was their first visit to Romania and we were able to arrange trips into the forest on a *Cal si caruta*- (horse and cart) As shown in the photographs they spent a lot of time with the children play games and colouring and painting as well as seeing some of the sights.



There have been a few changes at the home. We have a new boy called Alain, he is 8 years old. He was very quiet at first but we soon realised he will be an interesting addition, with his own challenges, but the love and security offered at the home will, I am sure, bring him through.

The other children continue to do well. Calin is less influenced by Cati as he learns to stand up for himself. Cati has become quite a "little girl" her interests are princesses, Disney cartoons and dressing up. Costel is a lovely young man and as you can see from the photo is now taller than Nelu and continues to talk of becoming an English teacher. We came away with a long list of requests from the children, one of which was skateboards; however the only smooth level ground in the village is the road so I think they will have something else!



Christi , who is now 19 has stopped working at the farm, he is working for a builder and has left the home and is often working in Bucharest. This has led us to reconsider the farm and the amount of Nelu's time taken to run it, we have been unable to find full time support and so with some regret we are seeking to sell the farm.

Some of you may remember Peter, one of our first children. Peter returned home to live with his mother, but Nelu has always kept in touch and while we were there Peter came to stay for a holiday. He is a happy, healthy, well behaved boy.

Another person you may also remember is Jonica who worked at the farm after leaving an orphanage and for whom we paid for an eye operation. He is also working for a local builder and it was good to see him again.

Christmas Evening

We have our usual Candlelight Carol Service at the Minster, Ilminster on the 18th December at 7.30pm. As usual the wonderful Stanchester Quire will be presenting a programme entitled "A Country Christmas" including traditional songs, carols and stories. This will be followed by punch and mince pies. If you are local we would love to see you there. Tickets only £5.00.

Thank you all for your support through out the year and may I wish you a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year

Yours sincerely

Ian Sherwood

Chairman



Costel, Nelu, Carmen
Lidia, Alain, Robert, Calin & Catalina