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# Romanian Children's Homes

Care, support and education for abandoned children in Romania

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## November Newsletter 2011

Dear Friends

As another year draws to a close and before the hectic Christmas schedules begin I wanted to write a few lines to keep you updated on the home in Romania.

We visited during July and early August of this year, every year the visit is different and new people are met. The need of these people is very evident. One family in particular came to our attention. A lady in the village, with 3 girls, lost her husband in a tragic industrial accident; he fell into a vat of acid and died 3 days later. Shortly after this she was made redundant from her job. The family had bought some land with a shack on it with the intention of building a home. When he died only the bricks were purchased. As you know, Nelu and his brothers are in the building trade. We all got together to help this unfortunate lady and commence the building of the house, laying the foundations and starting the walls before we left. The work continued after our return with a friend on Nelu's purchasing the wood for the roof.



As for the children, Alain continues to improve and settle into the family. Catalina and Calin are progressing at school although they are behind children of their own age. Calin has beautiful handwriting but will need some speech therapy. Catalina speaks English and is good at maths. Costel continues to do well at school and came top of his year. He started a new school this term, I visited the school in the summer and the rooms are very basic and in need of painting but hopefully he will do well there.



We also met Stefan and Stefannia, now 6 years old, you may remember they were adopted a couple of years ago, unfortunately it did not work out for them and they went back into care. Despite many attempts by Nelu and Carmen to bring them back to the home, the Child Protection Office would not permit it. We believe this is because they want Casa Joany to take babies in, they regularly request this but

Nelu and Carmen feel they are past the time of being able to give the care and energy required by newborns. We fully support them in this. The Child Protection Office continue with their petty checks and tests. Christi commented that he was “glad to be free of them” now that he is over 18.

As always the weather provided something to report. This year the thunderstorms produced huge hailstones and we had to cover the windscreens of our vehicles to prevent them from breaking.

When we first arrived we spent time helping at a children’s camp. I became the local transport and picked up children and luggage to take them halfway up a mountain with winding roads and sharp bends. Later I found myself doing a similar thing for a ladies’ retreat, not knowing where I was going or having a map

While we are in Romania we like to take the children on some trips out. At their request we took them to the salt mines at Pride, 90 miles away. Personally I could not see the appeal but it’s believed to have health benefits from the salty air.

We also went to the mud pits at Ocna, the message of the dangers of sunburn has not reached these people and most were sunburnt. Of course there was the trip to MacDonalds! Sibiu now has a KFC and the children have requested to go there next year.

We have for a long time battled with problems of waste water disposal and have awaited the input of a mains sewer. Despite having trenches dug a few years ago the work ground to a halt as finances ran out. However I am pleased to report that the home is now connected. Chrisit (who is renting a small house in the village) helped to dig the connecting trench.

In order to reduce heating bills we have insulated the walls of Casa Joany. The walls are solid walls so we were unable to use cavity wall insulation so we are insulating from the outside with polystyrene and render. We are replacing the guttering and also purchased new curtains, duvets and new clothes for the children.

Last year due to weather conditions we had to cancel our Christmas concert, hopefully this year the weather will be kinder and we can all enjoy the songs of the Stanchester Quire.

The programme called “Wassail Wassail” takes place Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at The Minster, Ilminster at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £6.00 available by phone on 01460 54952.

As a charity we have seen the effects of the economic climate this year. Romanian Children’s Homes is staffed entirely by volunteers in order to make every penny count. We would like to thank you for the support you have given and hope your generosity will continue in support of the poor and fatherless in Romania in the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Ian Sherwood  
Chairman