

The Hamby Foundation

Registered charity no; 1106407

Supporting Romanian children, old people and families in need

Director; Mr C. D. Hamby
Treasurer; Mrs T. Hamby

Tel; 01226 241510

*Hawthorn House,
20, Water Royd Drive,
Dodworth,
Barnsley,
South Yorkshire, S75 3QX*

Hello everyone,

I am very conscious of how busy we all are at this time of year, and so I am not writing a long newsletter. I just wanted to bring you up to date and thank you for your support throughout last year.

We are still supporting PRR, the street children's home, and Heart to Heart the old peoples centre. The needs at both these projects are growing. Often it is hard to make ends meet. As things get tough economically for all of us, so donations become fewer. Romania itself is suffering in the economic downturn, so consequently more children and old people are on the streets and the need for aid is escalating.

PRR, Project Romania Rescue has taken in four more children in the last month alone, one boy only six years old. We give these children a home - safety, warmth, food and love. The warm clothing and winter footwear we were able to send out in summer is now being distributed to the homeless and poorest families. Thanks to a donation from Barnsley Rotary, PRR have been able to repair their mini-buses. These have been invaluable since Barnsley Rotary purchased them 10 years ago.

At Heart to Heart, things are difficult too. With inflation rampant and donations falling, we are increasingly struggling but are still able to feed 50 people three times a week. We are able to pay the heating and food costs, and even pay rents on apartments to keep people off the streets.

The economic crisis has led to most wages in Romania being reduced between 25% and 50%. This in a country where a weekly wage was only around £30 to start with, and food and heating cost the same as here.

When I was in Romania in September, I heard the Government announce they were stopping paying for any for any ongoing long-term illness care.

Put simply, this means that anyone who needs medicine such as blood pressure tablets right through to dialysis or cancer care will have to pay for it themselves or do without. Hundreds of people are now dying because they have no means to pay for treatment. We are supporting folk wherever we can, but the task is simply enormous. It is heart breaking and seems so wrong. This is happening in Europe, in 2010.

We are aiming to organize another lorry in spring. We would like to major on foodstuff. I hope we can get donations of food from companies. We will have room for clothing etc, but if anyone has any contact with anyone who could provide food or medicines etc, please let me know.

The last few weeks in England have been hard for all of us due to the snow and ice. The biting cold has taken our breath away, but we all return to warm homes with full fridges. Imagine living outdoors in conditions like that, with nothing to eat. Imagine being a boy or girl of 7 or 10 years old, or an old person with no home or warm clothes or shoes. And believe me, it is far colder and harsher in Romania than anything we have experienced here. Last year, you will remember, the sea was frozen over!

These are the people we are helping. I cannot express how much you have helped people, and saved lives. As I wrote at the beginning, this is a busy time of year and I have already taken too much of your time, but please spare a thought for those with nothing. We continue to give hope!

Thank you for everything you have done in the past year. Thanks to all our hardworking loyal volunteers in the charity shop, and to all who have donated money, clothing or bric-a-brac. We appreciate all of it.

As always I thank you on behalf of those we help. I am so proud and thankful, and humbled by the faith you put in us. I thank you for all the prayers and all the encouragement and support. We won't let you down.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year,

God bless,

Chris

Christmas 2010

The Hamby Foundation exists to help the poorest and at risk children and old people of Romania