

# THE HAMBY FOUNDATION

Registered charity no; 1106407

[www.hambys.org.uk](http://www.hambys.org.uk)

*Supporting Romanian children, old people and families in need*

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Hello – I hope you and those you love are well.

Believe it or not, it is a year since we last sent you a newsletter. I am very conscious of how many charities write – all worthy and in need - but in these hard times I want to be sensitive and not bother anybody; but I know you want to be kept informed.

Our little charity is still doing well; in fact we send more money out to Romania than ever before. This is just as well as the needs are growing, and more children and old people really need our help. Our charity shop is very busy and continues to raise funds. We appreciate you giving us any items we can sell.

The lorry that we sent out was a huge success. I am delighted to tell you that last winter we had no deaths due to cold or hunger in any of our projects – and this was due to your help. It was a very cold and savage winter in Romania, and many people we support are living rough or in unheated flats or cellars.

Thank you to all of you who gave items, and helped with packing the goods and loading the lorry. We sent a huge amount of clothing, shoes, food, and medicine and this has continued to bless people all year. It has proved impossible to organize another aid lorry this year – and after much soul searching we

feel such a huge undertaking has to be a bi-annual affair - so watch this space and lets plan for Autumn 2013. Soon be here!

This year, Project Romanian Rescue (PRR) the children's charity we work alongside has rescued more children from living on the streets and given them a safe home. We are working with PRR to help extend their food programme for street kids. I have experienced myself many times how dangerous and unsafe it is to go out on the streets and these workers need our prayers as well as practical support. They show love to kids living in filthy conditions. In August PRR celebrated 15 years since they were founded, and all the children and young people who have been helped returned for a party. It is a joy to see them become valued members of society – loving mums, devoted dads, teachers, nurses, and skilled workers. If not for our help – your help – they would have been a lost generation; in every way.

At Heart to Heart, the old peoples outreach and feeding programme, we are now helping to support more old people than ever before. More old folk now have little or no pension and as things grow tougher their needs increase. Many are quite literally starving. We now feed more than fifty needy people who have no other source of help. They depend on us.

Recently, a lady became quite cross with me and asked why these people don't help themselves? They must be lazy – spongers just out to tap us for all they can get. Maybe some of us share these thoughts at times. But all I can answer is this.

Who does a lonely crippled old woman turn to, alone and with no income or family to help? The old man we helped, evicted through no fault of his own, forced to beg after a lifetime of hard work. And the little girl, four years old, found abandoned on a railway station in winter with no food or warm clothing.

Who helps them – the people who fall through the cracks?

We do. You do.

A small charity like ours, with no running costs can target specific needs quickly and very efficiently. The child who gets a good school place, but can't go as he has no shoes. The old man who needs a bicycle in order to do a little work and help himself: the child that needs an urgent operation. The old woman who needs just a few pounds extra to help her stay in her basic flat. I cannot tell you the number of times I have answered a phone call like this. 'Chris, the need is desperate!' 'Ok, the money is on it's way by bank transfer– you'll have it in an hour!'

The beauty of our little charity is that 100% of the aid – your gifts and donations – get through, and we target the most needy in the most effective way.

As many of you know, this year has been a very busy year for me personally, and I would like to thank Tracey, Gabi, our families and all the charity shop workers humbly and from the bottom of my heart for all their help. On top of everything we all have to do – we are all busy - running a charity and volunteering is always time-consuming and exhausting – but so worth it!

I am very proud that together we are continuing to achieve something that is truly worthwhile and will enhance, enrich and in many cases save lives.

Thank you for the trust you that continue to place in us. We won't let you down

And finally, as I always write at the end of every newsletter,  
"From those you have helped who you will never meet,  
Thank you!"  
God bless

*Chris Hamby*

# *A very big P.S*

As you have read above, far the largest part of our income is through our charity shop in Rotherham. I cannot adequately express my thanks and appreciation to the ladies who run the shop. They work tirelessly and cheerfully, volunteering their time, devoting themselves to raising money for our projects.

It is no exaggeration to say that without them we could not do a quarter of what we achieve. They are, in every sense, lifesavers.

If you or anyone you know could help in the shop to cover just a few hours a week, half a day, or even commit to helping one day a month it would relieve the pressure on our workers and it would be a tremendous help.

Maybe you know someone who would enjoy the chance to work in the shop? Nobody is asking for a long-term commitment – just to cover holiday times or to give the volunteers a break would be a wonderful and much appreciated help.

Many thanks,

Chris

