

The Hamby Foundation

Hawthorn House
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December 14th 2015

Dear all,

Christmas is nearly upon us, and in Romania too people are preparing to celebrate the season of goodwill. We in the west are so blessed to have such an abundance of gifts and food, and most of us have warm comfortable houses and loving families who care for us.

We continue to help the poorest in Europe – the ones who fall through the cracks of society; the poor, the abandoned, the neglected and the abused. We remember the forgotten children and poorest lonely old people.

I last visited Constanta in August, and saw how the funds we raise and send continue to help children and old folk.

We support PRR (Project Romanian Rescue) who are still doing great work feeding, clothing and housing rescued street children. We visited the children's home at Kogalniceanu where girls and boys are taught trades such as carpentry to bee-keeping. This summer 15 laying hens were bought, and these now provide fresh eggs. Goats are kept for milk, and the land around the orphanage is farmed. All the children have chores, but all enjoy them. To see children living in a safe and loving environment is a joy. Many were rescued from the streets, or were living in the sewers. I've known children as young as four years old saved from hunger and cold, and the threat of danger and abuse. Without exception these kids grow up to be the most amazing hard working and loving young people. Some kids won't leave the streets, so we have to go to them. We take food and blankets, shoes and warm clothing. It is challenging hard work on the streets, and yet it is rewarding to befriend the children. Most have heart rending stories and they need a hug and someone to show that they love and care for them. We have the honour to do that, and I'm proud I've been able to be 'hands on' over the years and make many good friends.

We also support Open Heart, a project helping families and old people. The work is very varied, so let me give just two recent examples. A widowed young woman called Anca, who has a child of three and a baby was homeless through no fault of her own, and in such despair she tried to take her own life. Her existence had been a catalogue of misery. We found a small flat for her and paid the rent for six months. We helped her with food and clothes for the children. Now she has a little job cleaning an apartment block, and is supporting herself. Her life has turned around. We have helped 45 people of all ages finish their schooling, when lack of suitable warm clothes and shoes, books and materials were denying them a chance. Large charities cannot always get to problems like this. Small problems maybe, but huge obstacles to the ones affected. We have many stories such as this. We never know where the call will come next. Only this week we've been able to pay for a vital operation for a lady.

Many thanks to all our hardworking loyal volunteers in the charity shop. Without you we wouldn't be able to help half as many folk. Thank you. And thanks to all who donate money, clothing or bric-a-brac. Our charity shop is busy and continues to raise funds. We appreciate you giving us any items we can sell.

As always I thank you on behalf of those we help who you will never meet. I am so very 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, and we make every penny go a long way. We have no costs or wages so money adds up quickly, but the needs are great.

Thank you for remembering those who have winter but no Christmas.

We wish you and all our many friends and supporters a Happy Christmas, and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Warm regards and every kind thought,

Love,

Chris