

Hands of Hope News January 2019



Happy New Year and Thank You

for supporting us
for reading this newsletter
for encouraging us with messages
for all the things you do that makes this work possible



IT Project - February 2019

Two companies on the Isle of Man have offered us a comprehensive range of computers and related equipment. With our contacts we have been able to partner them with a school in Dorohoi where we will be doing an installation project during the school half term. Three people from the Isle of Man will be donating their time to come and make sure this happens in an as professional a manner as possible. The school curriculum is demanding more use of online resources and although this is partly funded by national and local government it falls short of what is needed. This school is one we have had a long and good relationship with so we are confident it will be put to good use. It is essential that children are given the opportunity to reach their full potential and make the best effort possible to break out of the poverty trap.

Educational Support

At the Community Centre we continue to support children in the primary schools providing one to one support and school equipment where needed. Children from poorer families often have many extra pressures at home. They might be looking after younger siblings, getting water from the well or else not experiencing the right environment conducive to doing their homework. Where we have close

relationships with families we are in a position to encourage and set examples to try and make sure each child in our sphere of influence gets a better chance.



Left: School No.7 Alexandru Ioan Cuza



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Plans for the Year

Our charity site at Cobila continues to need maintenance and improvements. The community centre needs the plumbing system upgraded to include a water softener and the solar array needs a complete service. When better weather arrives we hope to improve the entrance to the houses with steps for the people and an improved access for motor traffic. The road alongside us has become very busy in recent years as more people have cars and many lorries now use the road which is a main route between Dorohoi and Suceava. Two of our houses need repairs to the exterior insulation before next winter. We built our first house in 2004 and the final one in 2010. They have seen many people living in them, some families have been in the houses for more than 12 years. For some it has been a shorter stay, but for them all it has been a time when we have been able to support and encourage them.



Donations

Chris and David will be driving out to Romania at the end of January and will have some space in the car. If you are able to donate any of the following much needed items it would be appreciated.

- ~ Ibuprofen (tablets or children's syrup)
- ~ Paracetamol (tablets or children's syrup)
- ~ Multi vitamins for children and adults.
- ~ Shampoo, tooth paste, tooth brushes, bars of soap, liquid soap.
- ~ Felt tips and crayons. (Please, not the budget items they are poor quality and do not last).
- ~ Geometry sets, simple colouring books, cartridge pens, school haversacks.
- ~ New socks and underwear for children aged 5-15.
- ~ Trainers and winter shoes/boots but only in these sizes Child 12, 13, Adult 1-9.



At this time we are not collecting any second hand clothes or items other than that are on this list.

It costs us around 50 pence for every kilo of aid that we transport to Romania, with rising costs we try not to bring out items that we do not need.

Funds

Our ongoing work costs money and we rely totally on the generosity of people like yourselves to be able to continue. Our presence on the ground here in Romania means we can oversee where each pound is spent and each life changed in some small way. As you come to the end of this newsletter please consider how you might be able to further support us

Some Typical Monthly Costs	
School bus fare	£9
Family grocery bag	£10
Family firewood	£60
Family income support	£25 - £50
Student university support	£50
Family Allowance is from £14 per child and is sometimes the only family income	

Donations towards the work are essential and regular monthly donations are particularly welcome as it helps us budget for the year ahead. Ask for bank details if you wish to set up a standing order or make a BACS payment. Cheques can be sent to "Hands of Hope", c/o C & R Baker, 14 Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BS or via the Pay Pal link on our web site www.handsofhope.org.im

