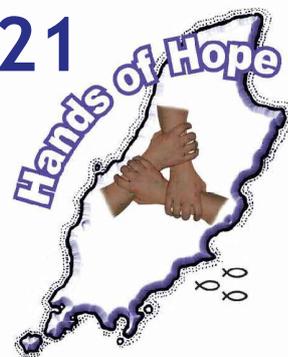


# Hands of Hope News October 2021

## 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



## Back to Romania

Ruth and Chris were able to travel back to Romania for three months this summer. A vital visit to support the work of the charity but also to renew their Romanian "right of residence" permits, completed as a post Brexit requirement. They had not been able to visit for 9 months, their most prolonged absence since their first visit to Romania in April 2003.

## Activities and Family News

Through the summer, various activities were possible in the community centre with children coming in for one to one help with school work. We also had group activities for some of the children from the local houses. We distributed clothes, shoes and school supplies to the children ready for their return to school in September. We also donated second-hand laptops to several children.

Ruth and Chris visited some of the families in other villages. A local mayor took us to meet a new family; a lady and her children living in a tiny 2 roomed house. Still, 18 years after the first visit, we see families living in one-roomed homes in poor repair and with no electricity or running water. To help them is complicated as often they do not personally own the dwelling but are living there on an ad hoc rental agreement



## Infrastructure

Despite EU membership, many towns and villages in our area are underfunded and suffer a skilled worker drain. Many villages do not have mains water supply or sewage systems. The poorer families cannot afford to sink wells and instead draw water from public village wells. The water in some of these wells is often high in nitrates and effluent, making them unsuitable for consumption or even cooking.

We were able to renew collaboration contracts with two of the local mayors in the villages where we work. In our village, Cobila, the mayor hopes to have piped water and sewage systems within the next 5 years.

## Work at Cobila

It has been a busy season refurbishing some of the houses we manage. As some families move on, we can refresh and update the house ready for the next occupant.

Land at Cobila: We started preparing for the tree planting program this Autumn. Cutting grass, donated to local families, and marking the fence boundaries. We hope to purchase the trees in a few weeks and oversee the planting when we return later this year.

Plans for the future - we still have our charity 5-year plan firmly in focus, and we are searching for contractors and working out how best to make it all work in the current situation.



## Covid

Ruth and Chris - With all the changes caused by the Covid requirements, the summer has been one of catch-up with our house build. We managed to complete the outside insulation ready for the winter weather, and the framework for the cladding is nearly finished. We have an ample supply of firewood awaiting our return in November.

Though covid vaccinations are freely available in Romania, there has been much mistrust; only 34% of the population are fully vaccinated. As winter approaches, the delta variant spreads; some villages and towns are in lockdown, and many children have online schooling. Many hospitals are full to capacity.

Thank you for your support and prayers over the past months. Chris and Ruth have the privilege of being in Romania and see first-hand the difference that your help makes. As the pandemic settles, we pray that guest teams will soon visit and help with the work.

## Donations

Regular monthly donations are particularly welcome as it helps us budget for the year ahead.

Your generous donations keep the wheels turning in Romania and make a very real difference to peoples lives.

Bank details if you wish to set up a standing order or make a BACS payment are:

**Hands of Hope    Account no: 12629251    Sort Code: 55 91 00**

Cheques can be sent to "Hands of Hope",  
c/o C & R Baker, 14 Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BS or  
donations can be made via the  
Pay Pal link on our web site

[www.handsofhope.org.im](http://www.handsofhope.org.im)

