

# CHILDREN IN DISTRESS

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*To cure, sometimes; To help, often; To comfort, always.*







# Celebrating 30 years



## From 1989

### A crisis in care

In 1989, Romania's communist regime was swept from power by the Populist Revolution. The news media showed shocking images of children abandoned in orphanages and hospitals – images so horrific that many in the UK felt moved to take action.

One of these people was the Rev. Dr. John Walmsley from St. Laurence Church Barkingside in Essex. A true visionary and driving force, Dr Walmsley took part in the first aid convoys and had the idea of creating a charity.

The Association for Helping Children in Romania was the result of this idea. For the first few years its sole focus was children with HIV/AIDS – generally shunned by society.

In the years that followed, the centres and programmes expanded, setting new standards for children with neurological conditions, severe disability, and autism. With projects increasingly being initiated in Romania, the charity structure was changed to that of a foundation and was renamed:

**Fundația Copii în Dificultate**  
Children in Distress



## To 2019

### Helping the most vulnerable children in Romania

Today we care for children living with the most severe disabilities, whether the result of accident, infection, genetic and neurological disorders or autism. We continue to set new standards for respite, palliative and terminal care and multiple therapies, along with education, development and training programmes.

Our ongoing mission is:

*To cure, sometimes;  
To help, often;  
To comfort, always.*



## Setting new standards in care

St. Margaret's Hospice and Children's Centre – a beacon of best practice

Our residential unit in Bucharest offers life, hope and happiness to around 25 children with the most complex developmental, genetic and neurological conditions or disabilities. Most have a short life expectancy. The centre is renowned for its respite, palliative and end-of-life care, and has some of the best-trained and most experienced paediatric nurses in Romania.

Attached to St. Margaret's is a Child development Centre. It provides the best in onsite therapy services and delivering mobile services to local and regional communities.

Over the past 30 years, we have established several other centres. Some of these are now run by government bodies and/or other NGOs.

55,320 cognitive behaviour therapy sessions for children with neurological conditions

9,855 days of specialist care for children with HIV/AIDS



Extra-curricular activities for >1,800 children at risk of dropping out of school

Trips for >10,000 children with TSA and neurological conditions and for children from families facing social and economic problems



9,490 days of specialist care for children with neurological conditions

210,720 physiotherapy sessions for children with neurological conditions



**Love in a box**  
A defining and core campaign is the 'Love in a Box' shoebox appeal. Wrapped and filled with sweets, toys, clothes, toiletries and more, over 2 million of these gifts have brought smiles and joy to those in extreme poverty, the destitute or those in hospitals and institutions across Eastern Europe.

**Jeans4 Dreams**  
Our latest campaign in Romania has the support of celebrities, mainly from the worlds of sport and entertainment. Those involved include Simona Halep, Marcel Iure, tefan Bănică Jr., Zurli Band, Ivan Patzaichin and the cosmonaut Dumitru Prunariu.



518,400 ABA therapy sessions for children with TSA conditions

support for >250,000 children and family members in families facing social and economic problems

1,280 counseling sessions for parents of children at risk of dropping out of school

1,560 sensory integration therapy and occupational sessions for children with neurological conditions

**Student Work Experience and Training**  
We currently offer practical work experience to psychology, physiotherapy and social work students at three key universities. The aim is to improve the attitudes and expectations of the next generation of professional treatment and care givers.

Would you like to support us?



# Here are some of the children we care for at our hospices



**Alexandru (Rares)**

Alexandru comes from a family that never legally wed (cohabitation couple) and his parents are Roma. His Mom left the hospital immediately after birth, agreeing with the establishment of the special protective measure of emergency placement for the child. Alexandru (Rares as we like to call him), suffers from cerebral palsy, spastic diparesis, global psychological and motor developmental delay. The first two years of his life were spent in a foster family but due to his poor health he was taken over by the Children in Distress Foundation since November 2017.

Rares is a beautiful and inquisitive child. He is four years old. He always keen to learn something new. He interacts well with adults and children alike. He is passionate about playing with toy cars and other means of transportation. His dream is to be able to use the scooter just like his best chum Andrei does. Even if he is confined to his wheelchair, Rares never lost his desire to live life to the fullest, even if might seem difficult at times.



**Andrei Dragan**

Andrei was abandoned following his birth 11 years ago. Andrei suffers from several severe conditions: surgically stabilized congenital Hydrocephaly, spastic infant Cerebral palsy – tetraplegic type, Hypotrophy, failure to thrive, right Cryptorchidic condition, and after his birth, the doctors estimated only a couple of weeks of life expectancy in his case. Due to his severe health problems, Andrei's entire universe revolves around his bed located in ward no.2 It's hard to say what he prefers to eat, his favourite toys or games and what he likes to wear as he is not able to communicate and he never had the opportunity to engage with numerous peers like other children do. In the past he used to cry upon hearing an adult's voice or when his carers offered him a toy.

Nowadays, following several years of palliative care, love and tenderness, Andrei readily accepts a soothing voice that sings songs to him, a young man who soothes his soul, a therapist who helps him accept noises from

the surrounding environment, smells from nature and plush toys. Sometimes, we ask ourselves, us the people who would like to see him thrive "what are his dreams, what he would like for himself?" We don't know... all we know is that he has accepted us in his world, that small bed...he accepted us manoeuvring his feet so that he is able to kick a ball while he is sat in his usual position – lying in bed on his side. When a breeze is simulated around his body followed by fresh flowery smells with a hint of green grass, his faces becomes serene, he rewards us with his broad smiles and giggles. During such special moments we imagine that Andrei runs on a fragrant green hill, enjoying nature and kicking hard a fun soccer ball. And we will continue our mission...we will help him dream, explore nature's wonders, even there in his bed! If he never gave up until now neither will our team of big-hearted people. We will continue to provide him with the best of care and make sure they have access to a dignified life.



## Andrei Enciu

**A**ndrei is one of the 19 children found at our centre, who had spent the first years of his life in a hospital with white walls and surrounded by the colorful uniforms of the medical staff.

His parents abandoned him in the hospital due to his physical appearance and special care needs.

It has been 3 years since his arrival at CID Foundation, his second home and fami-

ly-like environment and the frail, frightened child, with sad eyes, who used to be afraid to move in his bed or smile, transformed into one of the happiest kids around.

Although his physical appearance might seem startling at first, and the curious eyes of passers by remain transfixed by his crooked teeth, Andrei is the child who laughs from the heart without the fear of being rejected.

Here, in our place we like to call home, Andrei picked up for the first time the word Mom, how to offer sincere hugs, and how to play with other kids, how to trust people around more.

With every passing day Andrei becomes more independent and able to lead an independent life.

In a world where image matters and physical appearance is primordial when other kids are present, Andrei offers us all a lesson about beauty that comes from inside and a child's endless serenity, traits we must learn to appreciate and seek more in other people.



## Beatrice

**B**eatrice is the adorable lass who gave us a lesson about strength and endurance! She spent her entire life in hospitals and centres and six years ago she finally arrived at CID's home.

Because of her health problems, Beatrice has to spend her entire life in a special bed with a custom-made mattress. She can barely stand in an oblique plane and is usually supported by special pillows. Moreover, she requires special feedings using the gastric stoma mounted in her stomach.

In order to breathe better and not choke with mucus, she has a tracheostoma mounted and requires frequent suction.

Beatrice needs specialized care and permanent monitoring.

Most often the presence of foreign people disturb her causing rapid breathing and visible discomfort. In time she manages to get used to unfamiliar faces and she accepts friendly handshakes.

Between short moans and tears in the corner of her eyes, sometimes, one can catch a glimpse of a faint smile.

Beatrice smiles less often and usually when familiar faces are around. Those people who talk kindly to her every day and take care of her with warmth, empathy and dedication usually receive smiles in return.



## Dumitru Andrei

**D**umitru is an adorable eight-year old. He suffers from a severe diagnosis: spastic tetraparesis, organic epilepsy, cortical eye shortness, severe psychological delay, stationary hydrocephaly, deglutition problems, surgically corrected congenital heart malformation. Sadly, he was abandoned upon birth and he has spent the first years of his life in a hospital undergoing several surgical interventions. As there was no proper maternity support worker available for Dumitru, he arrived at Children in Distress Foundation – Romania. It's been six years since his palliative care, love and tenderness routine has started at our Centre.

Although he is confined in his bed, and the only way to move around is using a wheelchair, Dumitru is a lively child who loves life. Unfortunately, he is not able to speak and express his wishes or fears, but he seeks the attention and warmth of people around him. Recently he went from nasal-gastric tube feedings to using a gastric stoma. Fortunately, he adapted well to this change. He enjoys getting to know people using his senses, he smiles broadly when people engage him and adores to listen to songs and stories.





**Cristiana**

Cristiana comes from a family that was not legally formed, with an unknown father, without frequent monitoring and medical exams during pregnancy.

Shortly after birth, the mother could not handle her rearing and specialized care due to financial shortcomings and improper living conditions, topped off by several medical problems manifested by Cristiana, who was diagnosed with unspecific Down Syndrome, severe mental delay, congenital hypotonia.

As the family was lacking necessary and specific conditions for adequate care at home, Cristiana was taken over by Children in Distress Foundation - Romania in July 2017.

Now, Cristiana is 6 years old, she is an energetic child with sudden mood changes: she goes from feeling swell and tranquil to agitation and anxiety.

However, when she is feeling fine, she enjoys being in the spotlight, receiving hugs, playing games and singing songs. She wants and manages to express in a non-verbal way her wish to play along the other children and adults from the ward, especially when she sees them having fun. She participates together with her peers in "1,2,3 START" games under adult supervision and guidance.

Cristiana enjoys hugs very much, even if they come from unfamiliar people; sadly, despite the efforts made by the centre's social workers made towards establishing a meaningful mother-daughter relationship, she still refuses to offer hugs to Cristiana.... but you can do it, good will people!



**Cristina**

Cristina is a good-natured child, with a low voice, who sits in a wheelchair, most often with her head bent, without disturbing a living soul. But sometimes she looks up and stares at you, she follows your moves... to see how you walk, how you get around...and suddenly, she can stop you in your tracks with a surprise question like "you've got shoes? And they have heels?" She is a shy, selective child, who finds it hard to interact with unfamiliar adults. She answers questions, most often through candid smiles, affectionate gestures, and following repeated encouragement, with a low tone, she manages to communicate verbally. She was born prema-

turely in a hospital located in Hungary weighing only 996 grams. The mother abandoned her in the hospital, as the child was diagnosed with hydrocephalus. The doctors performed a surgical intervention to mount a cannula needed for draining the cerebrospinal fluid. Cristina is about to celebrate her 8th anniversary, after her arrival at CID Foundation when she was just 1 year and 2 months old.

Now Cristina has grown up and has hopes, dreams...not too high, but modest ones...she would like to be able to use the swings in a park along the children who play around and laugh.... she would like to wear elegant clothes and fancy shoes.







## Laurentiu

**L** Laurentiu is a child who suffers from a severe neurological condition (Hydrocephaly, anencephaly), who comes from a Roma family and he was abandoned following birth according to their traditions.

He spent the first seven months of his life confined in a hospital bed in Bucharest.

After this period Laurentiu was taken in the care of Children in Distress Foundation.

Although our team tried on several occasions to establish a healthy relationship with the child's Mom, she collaborated with the Foundation for legal papers only and has refused to see the child or receive news about his well-being.

Just like other children in our care, Laurentiu is a revelation to us. Although a big part of his brain is missing, with a lot of perseverance, the child proved us all that he can still learn and do many spectacular things.

In time Laurentiu picked up several actions like grabbing objects using his hands,

uttering several words like “mamama” or “papapa” and playing with various musical toys.

Moreover, Laurentiu made progress and replaced bottle feedings with mashed foods enjoyed using a spoon.

During physiotherapy sessions he manages with a lot of effort to perform various moves and his progress has been stable.

Although Laurentiu did make significant progress, his illness brought him numerous challenges.

His epileptic seizures led to several hospital stays and undergoing surgical interventions, but he has managed to overcome all his medical problems.

Despite these difficult episodes, Laurentiu continues to be a fighter who never forgot to laugh and play with his beloved toys.



## Justin Andrei

**J**ustin is a darling boy aged just one year old. He is the youngest member of Saint Margaret's family. He arrived at the centre three months ago and is diagnosed with communicating hydrocephalus, lissencephaly, agenesis of the callus body, specific congenital malformation of the brain, a recipient of the disability certificate. Despite all his afflictions, Justin stubbornly and courageously carries on his fight for life ignoring his limited life expectancy.

Justin's parents tried in vain to raise their son along the rest of the family, but he was unable to gain very much needed weight, he went through extended crying and sleeping bouts and experienced frequent seizures. They gave their best for 10 months to cover the required care but Justin desperately needed specialized help. Thus, the couple made the decision they considered most beneficial for their child and brought it here at the Centre. Since his arrival, Justin started to eat better, to gain weight, he is calmer and rarely goes through seizures. He got used to the new environment. Fortunately, Justin's family visit him regularly, make inquiries about his health and bestow their love on him.



## Elena

**E**lena is an almost eight-year-old young lady. She is the fruit of a cohabitation relationship. She was in the care of her Mom until her nine-month anniversary. Since then she was placed in the care of her Maternal Gran, until Mom requested a special protective measure and placing the child in foster care. Until her arrival at Children in Distress Foundation, Elena used to live at another foster facility. It's been one and a half year since Elena became a part of our story. She was diagnosed with global developmental disorder, severe mental retardation, dysmorphic facies, mixed motor development delay.

When she arrived at our Centre Elena was not the sociable type. Step by step she has accommodated to the environment and to the place we like to call home. Now she has moments when she hugs and kisses the other kids or adults around her. She started to utter several words and she enjoys spending time playing with her favorite toys and sometimes her happiness is quite contagious.





**Ioan**

**I**oan..., Ioan...! That's how everybody calls me now and since I got this name, my life has changed. Perhaps you still don't get it why or maybe you are puzzled...

Allow me to explain... my name is Andrei, that's how my biological Mom registered my birth and she decided to establish a special protection measure immediately after my birth. She is a heroin addict and could not provide care and cover rearing costs.

But when I turned 5 months old (now I am 2) I was taken over by CID Foundation and at the same time I was gifted a Godmother being christened with this beautiful name. Thus, my life transformed into a beautiful

story filled with smiles! How can one not smile when one feels loved, cuddled, when one can go outside, surrounded by children who hug and caress you?

This is my new life, far away from the hospital bed and perfectly closed windows... among people who smile at me, who hug me with all their being, and who are worried about my health, taking into consideration that I was diagnosed with congenital syphilis and microcephaly. Thank you, nice people, for your kindness! I will continue to grow up... with your very much needed help!



**Marius Daniel  
(Bubu)**

**H**ello! My name is Marius Daniel, but everyone calls me Bubu. I love this nickname as it comes from people who shower me with their unconditional love and care. Soon I will turn four years old.

Since birth I was diagnosed with DiGeorge Syndrome, an unspecified developmental disorder and I received by disability certificate. During the first years of my life I was in the care of a maternal assistant, because my biological parents could not afford my rearing and medical care. When my maternal assistant passed away I was taken over by an emergency foster care centre. After all the necessary proceedings were completed, I arrived at Saint Marga-

ret's centre, my current home and place where I receive specialized care. It's been almost half a year since my arrival. I like it here very much and I feel like I am part of a big family and any trace of insecurity has vanished for good. I settled in nicely and got accustomed to the new environment.

I love to participate in the activities developed along the other children here. I am drawn to games that involve singing and movement, and during group activities, I like to cooperate with adults and peers alike. I still find it hard to share my toys with others, but all kids find it hard! I relate to both adults and children. I gladly accept hugs and caresses but there are times when I get withdrawn and exhibit self-aggressive behaviour. Luckily, the ladies who care about me help me get over these episodes. They are true guardian angels. My word! Because I do not know how to speak yet and I do not have the cognitive acquisitions specific to my age, I carry out activities with the specialists from the Centre to help me in this regard.







## Mihai

Just like the other kids found at our Centre, Mihai suffers from a severe neurological disease. He arrived at CID Foundation when he was around 1 year old, due to his condition and lack of experience, education and knowledge of his family members which included an underage Roma Mom and a young Roma father.

During his stay at the Foundation he used to be visited by his parents and grandparents. Sadly, in time, their visits ceased and phonecalls became nonexistent.

From the beginning Mihai was a child who could barely relax and needed hours of swinging and walking outdoors. In time, he got accustomed to his new home and people around him. Gradually, his crying subsided and his health remained stable.

Unfortunately, with a low imminity, advanced muscle paralysis, he had to fight with various lung conditions. Most of the time, the medical staff manage to protect him from catching pneumonia but his weak

body gives up and sometimes requires emergency hospitalization. Although he benefits from daily rehabilitation sessions, his progress is hindered by convulsive seizures and high degree of muscle rigidity.

Sometimes, when he hears gentle voices, he manages to stop during his seizures and it seems that he intently gazes at the person talking to him. His convulsive seizures are accompanied by crying and groaning. These are often consequences of the effort made during kinetherapy sessions, where the therapist strives to achieve even the slightest movement.

Due to the fact that Mihai finds swallowing extremely difficult and his breathing difficulties do not help the slightest, he had a gastric stoma mounted to ease his feedings.

We are delighted to see that year after year he becomes stronger, with frequent moments of being present and engages and sometimes, even with a smile on his face.

His favourite place is in the arms of the people who sing and encourage him to go on, because this is where he is right at home!



## Petre

Petre is a gorgeous five-year-old who sadly suffers from an unforgiving condition, namely Batten disease (lipofuscinosis with neuronal ceroids). It attacks the brain and central nervous system causing blindness, loss of motor functions, lack of speech and loss of cognitive abilities. Petre is found in this dire situation. He is immobilized in bed, has lost his sight and is not able to speak, he just sporadically pulls sounds. Life expectancy in these cases is very low, but we strive to provide Petre with the most enjoyable moments, as far as the diagnosis allows.

Petre was raised by his Mom, with the help of his Paternal Gran. Following his Mom's decision to work abroad, the child remained

in the care of Gran. She couldn't handle her grandson's difficult care. Thus, after the necessary steps were taken, Petre came to live and to be care for in our Centre. He has been here for almost a year. Even if the illness he suffers from limits and slowly isolates him from the surrounding world, the feelings of fear and loneliness that Petre can experience are usually alleviated by the tender loving care and attention and security benefits he receives at our Centre. Interactions with his peers and caregivers, the nurturing environment, the caresses and encouragement offered around the clock help him overcome more easily the challenges that he faces.







## Stefan

**S**tefan is the blonde kid who welcomes you every time with a broad smile and kind hello. When he was 2 years old, Stefan was brought to Saint Margaret's Centre after the emergency foster care placement measure was established as, since birth, an all too familiar life story started to take shape. The mother abandoned him, leaving him in the care of the child's father. The father kept him for a while at the paternal grandparents' house, but the aggressive and conflicting behavior towards the grandparents led to the decision to leave the child in the care of a close friend. After the authorities were notified and following the family's refusal to continue to take care of the child, Stefan was taken over by Children in Distress Foundation for care and medical

treatment per his needs.

In time and following specialized therapies, Stefan became more sociable, initiating social contacts especially with adults: when visitors pop by, the boy grabs them by the hand and invites them to take a seat and play together with his cars. He recently started to communicate using hand gestures and words.

He is attached to the care and maintenance staff at Saint Margaret's Centre and he formed his own family: his eyes sparkle with happiness, his face lights up when he gets together with the driver, shouting with endearing warmth "Daddy!!!", Granny is Mrs. Maria, the one who takes care of cleaning, and his Moms are the ladies who are part of the care and educational teams.

His mood swings are a character staple, but he usually calms down when he is left to his own devices, namely to play alone with his toy cars.



## Yzabela

**Y**zabela is a petite girl with big and playful eyes who, despite her Down Syndrome diagnosis, pleasantly surprises us with her progress.

Children in Distress Foundation has become her family since the tender age of 1.

She comes from a broken family, without financial possibilities associated with her health problems, the family decided to abandon the child in hospital.

Yzabela adores animals, music and stories.

Most of the time she prefers to play alone using musical toys, but she gladly accepts playing with other children, especially when songs and movement are involved.

She can hardly say a few words but works very hard to improve her acquisitions.

Yzabela usually surprises us by saying „mother”, „water” or „bye”.

Although she has not yet learned how to walk she uses the forerunner sans problems, crawling on her tummy or clinging to surrounding objects.

After of long learning curve, Yzabela is finally able to eat using a spoon and she overcame her heart problems that required cutting back physical effort.

In the past her bottle feedings were a great effort, far too much for her frail heart.

The most important fact is that Yzabela is stable from a health point and her joy can be read on her face.

You will be showered with hugs as this is her way of showing love and her crystalline laughter will fill your heart with happiness.





# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CENTRE

In addition to our hospices for terminally ill children, Children in Distress established St. Christopher's Centre, in the city of Curtea de Arges, an hour or so out of Bucharest. St. Christopher's is a day care facility which offers support and care to young people from the local community. These young people live in poverty and so face serious material challenges, along with difficult family situations. Often, the parents of these children are unable to cover basic needs like groceries, clothing or school supplies. Due to these economic hardships and the cost of education, many of the area youth drop out of school when family money runs short, then rejoin school when some sort of funding comes.

Over the years numerous young children's souls have climbed the steps at St. Christopher's Centre, seeking a place of security, care, group activities, self-esteem development. St. Christopher's has become a home for over 40 young people, a place where they can play sports, practice art crafts, have a meal, laugh and be with their friends. St. Christopher's gives them an escape from an environment where in the schools they see that other children do not worry about whether there will be dinner, whether father will be home.

It's hard to go to school without food in your belly, to face rejection from your peers when you are wearing the same clothes every day, not the cool clothes or shoes that fellow students wear. Yet we see how our young people every day clean their

same clothes which they wear every day to school, polish their shoes or boots to cover marks or try to cover up the fact that their shoes are basically worn down and need to be replaced.

These economic and family difficulties are a concern for Children in Distress. Especially, we want to help these young people stay in school, to keep them from dropping out because their families do not have the funds for schooling, cannot afford the school supplies or money to buy clothes that the other students will not ridicule. A big strain is to keep young people in school rather than be forced to go to work sooner than other, better off, children do.

With "Making Education a Reality" our young people at St. Christopher's Centre benefit from:

- educational support and tutoring in doing their homework in a warm and welcoming environment which features electricity, central heating, understanding and acceptance coming from specialized staff ready to provide appropriate information.
- therapies: speech and language, psychological and social counselling, play therapy, occupational therapy and art therapy.
- material support: food, school supplies, clothes, shoes.
- guidance and counselling for parents.

St. Christopher's has a special mission to give our young people a vision that they can have fulfilling, successful lives. It is a true gift to the young people we serve.



## Alexandru – a Youth of St. Christopher's

Alexandru is the eldest of five brothers (one with a severe disability) and two twin sisters. They live with their parents in a meagre two room home. In the cramped sleeping room, which barely fits two beds, sleep the parents and their seven children. Every day they do their best to make ends meet, to get enough food on the table and pay utility bills. The family's especial challenge is to find funds to care for their disabled son.

Alex comes to St. Christopher's for our programs with a good attitude, grateful he has a place where he can learn to be himself, be tutored in school work, and have play time with other kids playing football and the gym playground. He is a good-natured boy, with a laid-back and incredibly fun personality. He believes that he needs to care for his family, and he knows that school is the best option to change his life and future and that of his younger siblings. As he sees it, the best way to care for his family is to complete school and then work with his father as a day labourer in construction work. Alex has a different dream, to go to university and learn a profession. Children in Distress hopes to help Alex finish school and go to university.

Alex's story is just one of many in the St. Christopher family.



## Andreea and Loredana – St. Christopher Success Story

Our precious girls, Andreea and Loredana, the "fantastic two", arrived at St. Christopher's from a basketball competition, carrying their gold medals.

After many months of practice and training, hours spent learning new moves and game tactics with their coach, the two finally saw their dream come true and finished the basketball tournament and to top it all, they won first place.

A diploma to help them remember their achievement and a beautiful gold medal were their precious prizes.

We had the chance to congratulate them and to offer our support, a small gift to reward their hard work, fresh foods and fruits to take home and celebrate along their family members whom are currently struggling due to various hardships.

It seems like yesterday our two girls arrived at the Centre for the first time. They used to be shy, withdrawn, forlorn most of the time, not paying attention and not caring about any of the proposed activities. Our credo is to encourage all kids to choose a sport and practice it as it opens new doors and opportunities and our girls proved us right. With the help of their basketball practice they understood that it is in their power to learn, to become doers, to prove themselves they are the best, they can do it no matter what, they can overcome challenges and far from privileged background.

Congratulations Andreea and Loredana! We are incredibly proud and blessed to be able to experience such uplifting moments in your lives! You deserve the best, always!





## OUR ROYAL SPONSOR HRH PRINCESS MARIA OF ROMANIA

As of 2019, Children in Distress has a royal patron, HRH Princess Maria of Romania. Princess Maria has dived into our work, visiting our hospices several times, playing with the children, giving cuddles and sharing smiles. She also recently visited Curtea de Arges to see the “stay in school” projects of St. Christopher’s. Alongside all this, Princess Maria has attended fundraising events in Bucharest and London, and joined us in our 30th anniversary church service commemorations in Bucharest and London. We are grateful for the support of the Royal House of Romania through Princess Maria. Through Princess Maria, we have a noble symbol of gentleness and compassion, kindness and caring.



## A SUPPORTER – BRITISH AMBASSADOR NOBLE

His Excellency Andrew Noble, British Ambassador to Romania, has become interested in our work. Ambassador Noble visited the St. Margaret’s hospice last spring, interacting with the mobile children and cuddling and stroking the children confined to their beds. He also attended, with his wife Helen, and Princess Maria, a fundraiser Jeans4Dreams. Ambassador Noble has invited CID’s CEO, Valentina Zaharia, to several business and NGO events sponsored by the British embassy. We are grateful for Ambassador Noble’s interest and support, and we look forward to continuing our relationship.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



Mission group from Anglican/Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Munich

• **DONATE** Make a one-time donation or a general monthly donation. You also might choose a monthly sponsorship dedicated to one of the children featured in this magazine. The monthly donation to sponsor a child is: 64 Lei, 12 British Pounds, 13 EU Euros or 15 USD. For more information about making a donation or sponsoring a

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• Remember us in **YOUR WILL**. Leaving a legacy would be a great help. To discuss a legacy, please contact CEO Valentina Zaharia at [vali@cid.org.ro](mailto:vali@cid.org.ro)

Should you wish to receive our quarterly news magazine and other information (sent from time to time), please send your name, postal address, and email address to our office, [bucuresti@cid.org.ro](mailto:bucuresti@cid.org.ro). In providing this information we fulfill the new General Data Protection Regulation in that you give us consent to provide these materials to you. Your information will not be shared with any other entity or individual.



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There are many ways you can contribute to the work of Children in Distress.

- Most importantly, please **PRAY** for the children and young people, and the nurses and care-givers and staff in our various locations

- Plan a **MISSION TRIP** to visit our centers. You do not need to be a doctor or nurse to visit – our mission trips do not involve medical care. Rather, it is a ministry of presence, so the children feel they are loved and valued. So all you need to bring is love, compassion and interest. We promise your life will be spiritually and emotionally changed. We are able to accommodate mission groups from 5-20 persons. To discuss a parish or community mission trip, contact mission consultant The Rev Steven Smith, [smsteve819@gmail.com](mailto:smsteve819@gmail.com)

child, please contact CEO Valentina Zaharia at [vali@cid.org.ro](mailto:vali@cid.org.ro)

To make a donation, you may use your credit card, wire transfer, Pay Pal, or access the donation page on our website, [www.cid.org.ro/donate](http://www.cid.org.ro/donate) (Unfortunately, we cannot receive cheques as Romanian banks do not accept them.) Please find below our details for wire transfer.

# Thank you for your love and support!



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*To cure, sometimes; To help, often; To comfort, always.*