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Valid from Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Switch Issue No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Donate £ monthly from today **OR**

Donate £12.00 and sponsor a child today

Account Holders Name \_\_\_\_\_

My Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_ Starting Date \_\_\_\_\_

To the Manager - (Name and address of Bank)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Official use only. Please pay to the account of Children in Distress (Acc no 10101169) at The Royal Bank of Scotland, 10 Gordon Street, Glasgow G1 3PL (Sort code 83-07-06)

### Your personal details

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- To reduce the cost to Children in Distress, I do not require a receipt.
- I am a taxpayer and authorise CiD to reclaim the tax on my donations since 6 April 2000 and all future donations (unless I notify otherwise) as Gift Aid donations.
- Please send me more information on sponsoring a child.



Children in Distress, Suite 30 Ladywell Business Centre, 94 Duke Street, Glasgow G4 0UW Tel: (44) 0141 559 5690 Fax: (44) 0141 559 5694 E-mail: admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk [www.childrenindistress.org](http://www.childrenindistress.org)

Scottish Registered Charity Number: SC0 39383

# VISION

August 2019





“Volunteers and supporters are ordinary people with extraordinary hearts . They offer the gift of their time to teach, to listen, to help, to inspire, to build, to grow, to learn. They expect no pay, yet the value of their work knows no limit..... They've known the unexpected joy of a simple hug. They've planted tiny seeds of love in countless lives. Volunteers are ordinary people who reach out and take a hand and together make a difference that lasts a lifetime”

# 30

## Children in Distress – Honouring 30 Years of Service and Care

Children in Distress honours 30 years of caring for orphans, severely mentally and physically handicapped and often terminally ill children, and young people and children with HIV/AIDS, through several events in September and October. As we honour this work we remember the mission of CiD: to cure sometimes, to help often, to com-

fort always. This has been our motto for 30 years, and it continues as our goal today, 30 years into our journey of service and care.

CiD will celebrate our 30 years with celebrations and thanksgivings in London and Romania, and a commemorative van drive of goods from England to Bucharest.

## Anniversary Celebration and Thanksgiving in London



CiD hosts events 19-21 September in London. We will be joined by her HRH Princess Maria of Romania, the daughter of late King Michael of Romania. The Princess is the royal patron of CiD.

There are three celebrations planned in London:

**Celebration Reception:** A reception 19 September at Belgrave Square will feature a welcome by His Excellency Dan Mihaloche, Romanian Ambassador to the Court of St. James', speeches by Princess Maria and Valentina Zaharia, CEO of CiD, and musical offerings by sopranos Nely Miricioiu and Hanna-Liisa Kirchen, accompanied by David Gowland on piano. A reception follows.

**Thanksgiving Service:** 21 September

11.00, CiD will hold a service of Thanksgiving at the Romanian Orthodox parish of St. George the Martyr, held in St. Dunstan's in the West Church, 186a Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HR. The service will be led by Father Constantin Popescu. The service will follow the Orthodox tradition, including an Orthodox choir. The service will be followed by a light buffet lunch, and music. Everyone is invited to attend the Thanksgiving service and buffet. We hope you will join Princess Maria and other supporters for this special day.

**Luncheon:** Later in the afternoon of 21 September, CiD will host a lunch for Princess Maria, Ambassador Mihaloche, other officials, CiD's board and key supporters.





## Anniversary Celebration and Thanksgiving in Romania

**Thanksgiving Tour:** Once again CID offers the annual Thanksgiving tour in Romania; the tour is a way to get to know our supporters and celebrate them by showing them special places in Romania as well as the CID hospices and afterschool center. The tour this year is 30 September-6 October. We will visit the Fortress of Fagaras, Sambata de Sus Monastery, Cluj, Alba Julia, Transfagarasean Road (reputedly one of the most beautiful travels in the world), St. Christopher's afterschool center in Curtea de Arges, St. Andrew's hospice in Pitesti and St. Margaret's hospice in Bucharest. 42 supporters have signed up, from England, Scotland, Germany and Romania.

**Thanksgiving Service:** The highlights of the Thanksgiving tour will happen October

5. We begin the day with a Thanksgiving service, 13.00, at the Anglican Church of the Resurrection in Bucharest. The service will follow the Anglican tradition. The Rt Rev Mark D. W. Edington, Bishop of the Anglican/Episcopal Churches in Europe, is scheduled to preside, and the Rev Steven Smith, an Anglican/Episcopal priest in Bucharest, will preach. October 5 is Eddie Errington's birthday (see the following article about Eddie's commitment to CID), and the service will include a special prayer in memory of, and thanks for, Eddie. Every one is invited to the service.

**Gala Dinner:** The other highlight October 5 is a gala dinner at the Capital Plaza Hotel. The supporters depart for home October 6.



## September Drive Out in Eddie Errington's Memory

We are today 30 years later since Rev Dr John Walmsley, CID's founder, organized the first convoys with goods to come to Romania. Rev Dr Walmsley acted in response to the horrific news that the world learned about undressed, hungry and dirty children who had been kept in Romanian orphanages during the Ceauscu dictatorship, many of whom had HIV/AIDS and other debilitating conditions.

We plan to recreate the first mercy mission convoys in memory of Eddie Errington, who participated in the first convoy of trucks that left the UK in 1989/1990. We hope also to raise funds through the reenactment of the first convoys for CID's ongoing ministry to children in difficulty and need.

Eddie was a true unsung hero, loyal until the end to "his children". In his later years, Eddie also collected many Christmas shoe boxes for transport to Romania. Eddie never sought praise or adoration. His reward was the smiles and love of the children and people of Romania.

John Burns and Bryn Code, two of our sup-

porters from England (John is also a Board Trustee) will drive a van of winter goods, departing the UK in late September and arriving in Bucharest in early October to coincide with CID's 30th anniversary celebrations. John and Bryn have been ably supported by Roy Wheeler, who has arranged transport at friendly prices, just as he has done for years in moving Christmas shoe boxes from the UK to Romania.

It would be fantastic if you would be able to support us in this venture in memory of Eddie. We are looking for donors to cover the cost of the fuel, ferries and expenses of the van, which is estimated to be £2,800. We also seek sponsors to contribute £1 a mile, in order to raise funds for CID's ongoing ministry. The entire journey is 5,000 miles. To donate, please contact Tina Connelly, 0141 559 5690, or [admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk](mailto:admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk).

You can follow the van journey at our Website, Children in Distress, "September Drive Out in Eddie Errington's memory".



# Visits by HRH Princess Maria of Romania



be Schoolmates" 29 May 2019. The project is in five schools from socio-economically disadvantaged communities in Bughea de Sus, Bughea de Jos, Leresti, Merisani and Stefanesti. Through "Let's be Schoolmates", CiD and the local schools offer extracurricular activities during school time in the hope that children will stay in school and feel they are socially included. We are honored and greatly appreciate the support of the Royal House of Romania through HRH Princess Maria!



HRH Princess Maria of Romania made two visits to CiD programs in May 2019.

Princess Maria visited the Children in Distress hospice May 13, 2019 in Bucharest.

This was the second visit by the princess to the hospice. HRH again met the children and staff at the hospice. Princess Maria spent almost two hours at the hospice; she played and talked with and cuddled the children. She also learned of CiD's latest activities from Valentina Zaharia, CEO.

Princess Maria also visited schools in Arges County connected to the CiD program "Let's

# British Ambassador Noble Visits St. Margaret's



Anne-Marie Martin, Ambassador Andrew Noble, Valentina Zaharia, Maria Popo, Harry Word

His Excellency Andrew Noble, British Ambassador to Romania, visited St. Margaret's 16 April 2019. The Ambassador toured the hospice with Valentina Zaharia, CEO, Harry Ward, CiD UK Chair, Anne-Marie Martin and Maria Popo, Board Trustees, and Agata Stefan, CiD staff. Mr Noble met nursing and social worker staff and met with the ambulant children and touched and calmed the children restricted to their beds. A reception

of coffee and cake followed, during which the Ambassador talked with staff and asked engaged questions. Ambassador Noble's interest and concern were inspiring. The Ambassador expressed his positive impression of St. Margaret's and said he would like to foster a relationship. (Ambassador Noble later that night attended the Stars4Dreams event, with his wife Helen. See the following article.)



# #STARS4DREAMS



All winter of 2019 we were making intense preparations for the Stars4Dreams concert to be held 16 April. The concert was one of the ways in which we celebrated 30 years of Children in Distress's existence, those many years when CID provided care and protection to children with incurable diseases.

The event was honoured by the presence of HRH Princess Maria of Romania, His Excellency Andrew Noble, the Ambassador of Great Britain to Romania and his wife Helen, and representatives of the Children in Distress Foundation: Harry Word, chairman, CID UK and his wife Sue, Anne-Marie Martin, Board Trustee, Roy Wheeler, honorary

Trustee, Maria Popa, Trustee, Tina Connelly, Glasgow operations manager, Rev Steven Smith, Anglican priest in Bucharest. They all sat in the royal box of the theatre.

CID put on a whole concert, during which empathy and unity were seen and felt. We lived intensely all the emotions together with the wonderful artists who gave us unforgettable moments. Inna, Irina Rimes and Nicoleta Nucă created a spectacular show with their hits. They were joined by Ava, Alesia Tofan, Tony Weissbuch, ballerina Mariuca Iordache, teenage theater band Victory of Art and percussionists from Balasa. It was a wonderful combination of music, theater and ballet in a day when thousands of people showed us that they support us.

An important attraction in the concert was the Aleea Blugilor, the alley of celebrity jeans alley, where we showed jeans donated by 30 personalities: Simona Halep, Marcel Iures, Dumitru Prunariu, Ivan Patzaichin, Stefan Banica Jr., Laura Stoica and many other wonderful people.

Those present showed a great interest in our exhibit of photographs in which the children at St. Margaret's were shown, smiling, hugging, enjoying life. We also had an exhibit of photos of volunteers.

We are thankful for those who joined the concert, especially Princess Maria and Ambassador Noble, and the several thousand who came out to support CID.





# Legacy of Michael Janson



## “Love in a Box” Letters to Father Christmas

The children of Slobozia have written Father Christmas, hoping that he will this December once again bring shoes box gifts for them.

Here are a few of the letters -

From Andrei: *Dear Santa, thank you very much that you didn't forget me even if I have made mistakes sometimes. I was so happy for the presents. I like the most pens and pencils and the toys. I'm waiting for you to visit this year. I love you.*

From Patricia: *Dear Father Christmas, thank you very much for the presents, toiletries, sweets, colour crayons, toys. I'm promising you that I will be a good girl as I have been until now. I am waiting for you with much impatience to come this year. With love.*

From Viorel: *Dear Father Christmas, my name is Viorel. Please bring me a tractor. I promise that I will be a good boy, and every evening I will say my prayers. I am a boy, and I am eight years old.*

From Vanesa: *My name is Vanesa, and I am in the first grade. I would like you to bring me a doll, clothes and sweets. I love you, and I am waiting for you.*

From Andrei: *Dear Santa, I've been very good. I listen to my parents. I wish good health and many toys. I would like also gloves for my training. I love you.*

From Vlad: *Dear Santa, I've been a good boy, and I would like a car toy and I would wish a lot of health.*

For nearly 30 years Father Christmas, in cooperation with CiD, has distributed Christmas gifts in shoe boxes to the children of Romania, in Slobozia and many other locations, who are needy or in orphanages, hospices or hospitals. Last year Father Christmas and CiD distributed approximately 7,000 shoe boxes, thanks to the generous donations of many individuals, churches and schools. We ask that you and your church or school continue our “Love in a Box” tradition by contributing gift shoe boxes. We appreciate your support in this endeavor of bringing some joy to the children of Romania.

The items that we seek are:



Gifts	Notebook
Sweets (Not chocolate)	Pens/pencils
Sock/flannel	Geometry sets
Toothbrush/toothpaste	Felt pens
Brush/comb	Colour books/crayons
Toiletries	Puzzle/ball/yoyo
Gloves/scarf/hats	toy cars
Hair slides	Balloons
Small toys	Christmas Card
Small teddy bears	



Undated photo of Dr Michael and Mrs Varuni Janson

Dr Michael Janson continues to heal and care even beyond death. CiD has received a generous legacy of £380,000 from the estate of Dr Janson. Dr Janson also left legacies to other children's charities registered in the UK. Dr Janson's gift gives CiD financial stability at a very needed time. Dr Janson came to know of CiD when he and his wife Varuni met Alisdair Barron, former CEO of CiD UK, on an airplane flight. To honor Dr Janson, a room at St. Margaret's hospice will be named for him, and CiD plans to de-

velop a program specifying a program for children in his name. Although Dr Janson has passed away, his gift means that others will live. Thank you, Dr Janson! Legacies are an important funding tool for CiD, please consider whether you might leave a legacy too. To discuss your will and legacy plans, please contact Ms Tina Connelly, [tina.connelly@childrenindistress.org.uk](mailto:tina.connelly@childrenindistress.org.uk), 0044 (0) 141 559 5690.



# An Interview with Trustee Anne-Marie Martin

Trustee Anne-Marie Martin recently was interviewed by the London School of Business & Finance. We quote:



“ Anne-Marie Martin currently holds the position of Director of Global Business Networks at the British Chambers of Commerce. Here she speaks to the London School of Business & Finance about the importance of achieving greater gender balance in the workplace and the fundamentals of being a successful director.

What makes Anne-Marie stand out as a business person is her global outlook. As a first generation migrant from Romania, Anne-Marie feels connected to her country of origin and has moulded her career to be based not only in the UK, but also abroad in Central and Eastern Europe. Notably, she worked for an extensive period of time as the CEO of the British Romanian Chamber of Commerce, a role which helps to strengthen the business relationship between Romania and the UK. Her view is that we live in a glo-

balised world and it is important to understand the nuances of how each country conducts business.

As well as emphasizing that business people should develop an understanding of how different business cultures operate, Anne-Marie also advocates placing more women in senior manager roles. Despite being on the verge of a technological revolution, the issue of gender inequality in the workplace is still a high ranking priority for many businesses. Anne-Marie states if we are still discussing the issue, 'we haven't got it right'. Therefore, in order to achieve a greater balance, she believes governments need to bring in legislation. She sees this as the way to drive change and argues that in addition, businesses themselves should work together to create an environment in which this change can take place.

During her career, Anne-Marie has undertaken several directorships evidencing that she knows what it takes to be successful in a senior position. The skills she highlights as being paramount to success are excellent communication, the ability to thinking strategically and commerciality. She again focusses on the importance of having a global outlook stating that social and cultural understanding between countries is “imperative”.

The discussion concludes with some thoughts about what the future of the business world looks like. Anne-Marie highlights there are already fintech solutions in place to assist businesses in making them more efficient and managing risk. However, the world is fast-paced and always changing. Therefore, it is important that we continuously educate ourselves.”



## Roxana joins St. Margaret's



My name is Roxana-Andrea Stavar, and I am 27 years old. I studied Social Assistance and Theology at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology of the University of Bucharest. I obtained my master's degree in these fields in June of this year. I chose to study in these areas in order to help people who are in distress. I like to work especially with children. In the past, I worked as a kindergarten teacher for one year. I have been working at Children in Distress for about two months as a junior social worker. I am already very impressed with these children, with their power to smile despite the problems they face. I also am very impressed with the dedication and care given by the St. Margaret's staff. What do I want to do here? I want to help these children to learn different things in an attractive way, and I want to bring as many smiles on their faces as possible.



## Marathon Fundraiser



Foto: Dan Spataru

CiD looks for volunteers to run in the Raiffeisen Bank Bucharest International Marathon, the largest running event in Romania. It is this year October 12-13, and it will be the second time CiD participates. Dan Spataru, a supporter of CiD, will lead a group from CiD who can run or walk at least part of the marathon. We hope to take some children from St. Margaret's to join us for a lap or two. Our hope is to raise funds from the marathon to support CiD's work. We ask that you support this effort by pledging to

give an amount per kilometer for a runner or for the children who will walk a part of the course. The amount you pledge is of your own choosing.

Dan Spataru encourages as many people to enjoy health, promote movement and fight for the little ones from the CiD house. One of the projects we hope to fund through the marathon is continued physio-therapy. Through this therapy the children are able to maintain body muscle and reduce their hypertonic behaviour.

**If you would like to run for CiD or pledge to support to a runner or the children who will walk, please contact Lorena Toropoc at [toropoc.lorena@cid.org.ro](mailto:toropoc.lorena@cid.org.ro).**

## News St. Christopher's : Goodyear sponsors outdoor fun



A group of big-hearted people, the Goodyear team, was once again by the side of St. Christopher's children in offering them unforgettable experiences they would not otherwise have. To reward the children from St. Christopher's for completing yet another school year, for their hard-work and dedication, Goodyear gave them a day of fun, outdoorsy activities and practicing high-adrenaline sports. The children have been wanting to spend a day at an amusement park since forever and we were incredibly happy to see their dreams come true before our very own eyes.

Together we travelled to a wonderful location, a forest that looked like an enchanted space similar to the ones we used to read about at bedtime. The tall green trees seemed to touch the infinite blue skies and the linden trees in bloom lifted our spirits with their incredibly fragrant flowers. The children gathered around, clapped, cheered

and hugged each-other and started to tell stories about their graduation ceremonies, their diplomas and good grades, their last day in school and exciting summer break plans.

Next, they embarked on a fantastic adventure, right after the instructors explained all the safety features of their gear. Then, the children had fun using the ziplines seeing the green forest from above and the endless canopies. With each ride they became more confident and in the end, everyone was deemed an expert at having zipline rides.

After a well-deserved break to recharge the batteries, the children played around some more. We played all our childhood games; the teams were competitive and fair play was the order of the day. We sang, laughed and had lots of fun. It was a memorable experience, and we are grateful to Goodyear for giving this gift to our children.







**News St. Christopher's: Andreea and Loredana bring back gold medals!**

Our precious girls, Andreea and Loredana, the "fantastic two", arrived at St. Christopher's from a basketball competition, carrying their gold medals and great news of the fun they had at the tournament. Their eyes were sparkling with joy while warm embraces, and hugs of joy were shared left and right. 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 and we had the chance to congratulate them and to offer our support, give them 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.

Andreea and Loredana kept us entertained with their energetic stories about the game, the team, the wonderful public that cheered, clapped and encouraged them to be the best.

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. 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. 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!

# News St. Margaret's: Celebrating International Children's Day

Happiness was the order of the day on 1 June 2019. We celebrated International Children's Day at St. Margaret's, and we had a fantastic time together.

This special day was packed-full of surprises for our young ones. A group of volunteers installed a new playground for the children. The playground includes a slide, a swing and a basketball hoop. Andrei from St. Margaret's participated in the entire installation process and, helping the adults mount the pieces together. Rares had the pleasure



of using a slide for the first time in his life. Cristina started clapping when she realized this is how one should feel when at the playground. It was a day of firsts for our children and we could not be more thankful to our supporters for making this day possible.





## News St. Andrew's: Claudia and Nelus spend a wonderful afternoon together

## News St. Margaret's: Dog therapy - a Pilot Project



St. Margaret's began a pilot project with the Animal Therapy Association in June. The Association is a long-time friend of CiD. Together we launched "Therapist with tail".

This project aims to support the development and recovery of children with serious neurological disorders through the use of dog therapy. Week by week, two teams formed by the therapists visit St. Margaret's. Each session is individual and is carried out through the collaboration between the therapist, child, dog, and cotherapist (puppy coach).

The project aims to permanently increase the in-

terest of the children for their surrounding world and their own person.

This is a trial project, which we hope to continue. We are sure it will be successful. We hope that as many children as possible will benefit from this opportunity!



In the first week of June we welcomed an impromptu visit from our old chum, Nica Nelus, former beneficiary of CiD's services and once upon a time a member of our extended family of care.

Claudia, who lives with us, brought Nelus back to St. Andrew's for a visit. Claudia rode her pink scooter, and Nelus had his beautiful bike with him. Dana, the physiotherapist, sat on a bench and watched the children play.

Claudia is a very popular young lady, and

everyone enjoys her company. Nelus is like family to her, a brother and confidante. Regarding her rehabilitation, Claudia is doing well and she had lots of fun on her favourite "toy", the pink scooter. She is happy she can trust her own powers, after some hard moments and surgeries. Every day brings something new and we feel incredibly blessed to be able to witness her becoming. Way to go Claudia, keep up the good work!





## EVERESTING

### A Bike Ride Fundraiser

**"Friendship is for ever!";**

This was again proved to us by the two friends of Children in Distress. In August Cristian Ghilt and Sebastian Laurentiu Ghioca set out to cycle Mount Olympus to benefit CID. .

EVERESTING is one of the most challenging cycling feats in the world.

The concept is very simple: the cyclist choose a hill or a mountain anywhere in the world and cycle it to reach the height of 8,848 m, the height equivalent to Mount Everest.

Cristi and Sebastian accepted this challenge, and set out to raise the amount of 4,000 lei for the children of the Children in Distress. Cristi and Sebastian sent the following message: "In this world there are people who have not had our luck! We have never run away from challenges, on the contrary, we have even sought them out! Beyond this challenge of endurance, children abandoned by their parents, suffering from serious neurological diseases, find relief in the CID Foundation house.

It takes so little to be able to make someone happy!"

We are so thankful for the efforts of Cristi and Sebastian.

## CiD's Little Helpers



### Fundraising of Lesleyann Connelly and CiD's Little Helpers



Lesleyann works in CiD's Glasgow office in administration and fundraising. She recently formed a group of 15 young adults who volunteer to support and raise funds for CiD. The group is named "CiD's Little Helpers". After consulting with an officer in health and safety, exploring children protection issues and appointing a children protection officer, and setting up a Facebook page, CiD's little helpers held its first fun(d)raising event 2 July at a local parish. Children and

their families from the local community attended the "Fun Day". There was a DJ, the local police allowed the children to sit in the police car and explore the equipment. Display tables were set up so people could learn more about CiD. The event raised £410 for CiD. Many thanks to Lesleyann and CiD's Little Helpers. It is wonderful to have your support. Welcome to the CiD family.





## Our Unsung Heroes

**Derek and Bernadette have sponsored five children and met in person two of them and are so excited to meet their present child in October.**

It is with great pleasure that as part of our "unsung heroes" features to introduce you all to Derek and Bernadette Hodge. Many of our Vision readers will know Derek and Bernadette as they are long term supporters (around 28 years) and regular attendees of our annual services. Derek recalls being initially inspired by our charity by Rev Dr John Walmsley after he visited his local church St. John's to preach and inform the congregation about our work and had "the whole Church almost in tears". Since then Derek supported by the community of Ashton-under-Lyne has raised around £100,000 - from various fundraising exploits.

Derek has been a key part of our Shoebox campaign since it began. Derek acts as our unofficial "Western collection point co-or-

inator" and his whole neighbour warmly greet us when it comes to collection day. Derek always goes the extra mile (both literally and metaphorically) for Children in Distress and tries his hardest to ensure he collects as much as physically possible in his local area to make our pick up a one stop full to the capacity stop! Derek has the gift of the gab and it is a highlight of our Shoebox campaign hearing Derek's tales from his various destinations and how he continues to spread our charities mission... he made a collection from a church many miles away and made it into the local press when they'd come to do an interview about something else!

We've collected wheelchairs from Derek, school clothes, gifts for stalls and numerous aid items to be sent across to Romania. Derek is a prolific bargain hunter and as someone from Yorkshire writing this that is a huge compliment! Derek always shares his top tips on how to get various bargains and we as a charity benefit greatly from his generosity both in spirit, time and money.

Much praise and thanks to you Derek and Bernadette.

# 'THREE POLAR BOYS FROM CHESTER' PREPARE TO DRIVE OFF TO 'THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN'



Canon Chris Samuels, our Vice Chair of Trustees, Andrew Clouting, a retired GP, and Alistair Jones, a Solicitor, will embark from Chester, England, at the beginning of October to participate in the Boom Banger Rally to The Arctic Circle. Their aim is

to raise £10,000 for the emergency roof repairs and installation of new fire safety systems at St. Margaret's Hospice in Bucharest. They have bought an old Volvo Classic banger which they hope they can cajole and coax along the way and get them safely through France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and eventually Norway. A large part of the challenge will be to get over the Norwegian mountains to Trondheim and Bodo before the snows! The choice of a Volvo for the adventure was a canny move should any parts be required on the journey! 35 other bangers are joining them

The team are seeking help through generous donations for their marathon fund-raising challenge and ask if you can give to their appeal.

St. Margaret's Hospice is a very special place indeed, which really does offer a better today to incurably ill children who may have no tomorrow. Its funding achieves wonderful things for the children but the budget for its work does not stretch to untoward expenditures such as roof repairs and installation of new fire safety.

Any reader who would like to respond to this appeal can donate to the trio's Land of the Midnight Sun Boom Banger Challenge online at their sponsorship page, ([www.JustGiving.com](http://www.JustGiving.com)) or send a cheque made payable to Children in Distress to Children in Distress, Unit 30, Ladywell Business Centre, 94 Duke Street Glasgow, Scotland, G4 0UW.