

VISION

February 2019

Goodbye Alisdair!

Thank you for all
your years of hard
work and kindness.

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

Children
in Distress





Alisdair Barron Steps Down, Valentina Zaharia Steps in

In April of last year Alisdair expressed his wish to step down but was persuaded to stay on until the autumn in order to facilitate the appointment of a successor and smooth transition of responsibilities.

A plan involving Valentina Zaharia, existing Executive Director of CID Ro since 2007, was formulated. It was proposed that she would combine the roles of Executive Director CID Ro and CID in the UK. This would address the problem of the new appointee understanding the complexities of the operation in Romania and the United Kingdom and facilitate the coordination of operations between the organizations. Subsequently it has been agreed that she will devote 40% of her time to the UK with enhanced support from the office in Glasgow and a reduction in operational responsibilities in Romania.

Valentina is a graduate of the University of Bucharest in Sociology and has more recently obtained an MBA from the University of Sheffield. Prior to being recruited to Copii in Dificultate in 1999 she was a Social Worker involved with the Street Children of Bucharest.

Valentina has taken up the position of Executive Director for CID in the UK on 1st January 2019 and has received handover from Alisdair. She will devote the coming months to contacting

the existing supporter base in the UK with the aim of enhancing our fundraising activities. She has already formulated a longer term comprehensive Fundraising Plan for 2019.

To think of Children in Distress without Alisdair is to think of Morecombe without Wise: The two have been inextricably brought up together! Alisdair joined the charity at the time when Dr John Walmsley inspired so many of us some thirty years ago to support the cause.

Alisdair was so inspired by the wonderful work he saw being achieved by Children in Distress that he has since devoted a large chunk of his life in helping it to evolve and grow into the much respected organisation it is now.

Not long after joining Children in Distress he was appointed Chairman of the Trustees and then eventually the CEO.

In both roles he brought his management skills from industry and commerce and was instrumental in promoting the charity and its work far and wide.

Alisdair has always been enthusiastic and dedicated to the children we look after. He has fought tirelessly to promote a full understanding of palliative respite and end of life care, so much so that he was able to bring about some important changes in the way we looked after our children.

He has known them by name and been interested in their problems and difficulties and how we can best care for them.

Never did he or we think from those early days of creating a hospice for children with HIV that the charity would have grown into its present form.

All along the way Alisdair has been proactive in seeking opportunities to work with local and national Government officials in Romania, health agencies and others. He often faced many hurdles but was driven to seek the best deals he could get for the benefit of the children. Such was his leadership as CEO that “no mountain was too high to climb”, if it improved the quality of life and care for the children in our charge.

His work often required long hours of travelling and great stamina. Whilst he was responsible for managing the Glasgow office and staff, overseeing much of the publication for Vision, keeping an oversight of our shops, encouraging volunteers and supporters, promoting fund raising efforts he was often out and about telling our story to colleagues and business folk in Glasgow seeking their support.

Particularly good examples of Alisdair's connections was when CID had its Annual Ball in Glasgow raising some £100,000 each year. Of course all of us in Children in Distress were

absolutely thrilled when he was awarded an MBE in 2006 for his work with the charity: a worthy honour indeed reflecting his dedicated work over many years.

It remains for us Trustees, office staff, shop staff, volunteers and supporters to keep the torch of love and care alight for our children and to take on board something of the tenacity and dedication Alisdair has so ably invested.

We thank him most sincerely for all that he has done instrumental in bringing Children in Distress this point in its history and recently having secured “one of the greatest and most substantial bequests that Children in Distress has received” from Dr Michael Janson and his wife Varuni Roberts. He leaves “safe in the knowledge that Children in Distress is at last financially secure and in the safe hands of Valentina Zaharia” to whom he is passing on the mantle a hard act to follow! We wish him a very long and happy retirement.

Christopher Samuels. Harry Ward.

Vice Chair of Trustees. Chair of Trustees.

John, the newest of the Charity's Trustees

John Burns is one of the latest recruit to join the Charity's Trustees. Roy and Cath Wheeler, two well-known and long serving volunteers, who have been part of the Children in Distress family since its earliest days, introduced John to the work of the charity some years ago.

John's initial introduction was through the 'Love in a Box' Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2015 when he joined the team sorting and packing gift boxes donated from across the UK for shipment. Since then John has travelled to Romania, visiting the Charity's projects and assisting Roy, who still leads the Appeal's volunteers and masterminds the in-county distribution of the gift boxes donated as part of the Appeal. Last year John also led a small group of fellow church members, who had volunteered to help renovate and redecorate two of the houses on St Laurence's Cernavoda campus.

As John shares "These visits offered insights to the invaluable work, help and support delivered to some very deserving and wonderful children and young people. I am determined to offer all the assistance I can, be it that by driving the van in the UK collecting donations, fundraising, joining working groups or serving as a trustee. I trust that as a trustee I will bring commitment, experience and insight to promote and continue the valuable work of the Charity for years to come."

John has been happily married for thirty years to Jenny and they have three married children and five grandchildren. He and his wife live high on the North Yorkshire Moors, and both celebrated their 70th birthdays in the last year. Until the recession took its toll, John ran his own business and he was then involved with the Probation Service before joining a national organisation helping provide specially adapted independent living accommodation for those with special needs. He retired, some seven years ago, as that organisation's National Development Manager, responsible for commissioning new services across England.

Amongst other things, these days he and his wife are active in their local independent fellowship, where John chairs the Board of Trustees. For over sixty years, boy and man, John has been active in the Boy's Brigade and still attend BB camps and weekends away where he runs the cookhouse.



Act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood

It's January, so last month's excess of toys and gifts seems but a memory. Yet, for some well-behaved children, it seems there are still some pleasant surprises.

Claudia started receiving gifts on Saint Nicholas' Day, the December 6th, so as is tradition, she carefully polished her boots and made a wish. It seemed that Santa heard her prayers, as she has continued to receive beautiful gifts from our considerate local community, her care team, UK sponsors and even Santa. He remembered to and bring a sprinkling of good cheer to St Andrew's unconventional little family. In Claudia's case, gifts are always welcomed, seemingly there are never too much or too many, and she is always incredibly happy and feels blessed to be able to open each gift, or token of appreciation and care so fortunately for her presents did not stop.

Early in January, St Andrew's was privileged to welcome the President of the city's Kiwanis Club accompanied by a members who had dedicated their efforts and volunteering activities to support children in need. Kiwanis operates in 100 countries, boasts 8500 clubs, and the Kiwanis 'family' has over 600000 members. Members promote the idea of living in harmony and respecting one's freedom, favouring and encouraging through volunteering, personal development and supporting the idea

of service to others; cementing friendships by undertaking altruistic and humanitarian activities and services so building stronger and closer-knit communities. For more than a century, Kiwanis has created opportunities for children to be curious, safe and healthy, regardless of the community in which they live. 'When you give a child the chance to learn, experience, dream, grow, succeed and thrive, great things can happen'. Their Golden Rule being "act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood".

Claudia with was generously presented with a very much needed desktop computer with a snazzy keyboard and mouse for her room, which is just ideal for homework, school projects or when she needs to find out about her hobbies and interests which include fashion, dancing and music. Having an internet connection, Claudia was so excited that she immediately sat down and set to finding out more about her new and shiny "gift". Much moved, elated even, on behalf of everyone at St Andrew's, Claudia effusively thanked our generous visitor, for such a thoughtful gift and confessed, "It exceeded her dreams and was beyond all expectations and a total and beautiful surprise."



Anne Marie Martin

An experienced senior business executive, Anne-Marie Martin has worked in industry and the not-for-profit sector over many years, with deep knowledge and understanding of international business, trade and commerce.

Specialising in the strategic, commercial and operational levels of chambers of commerce, with expertise in developing substantial, well conceptualised and implemented projects. A successful track record in developing profile-raising initiatives and activities that have achieved continued positioning and associated branding of an organisation. Anne-Marie is a presenter, panel member and moderator at topical conferences and events. She has also been a visiting lecturer for university undergraduate and post-graduate programmes on PR and marketing related topics.

A Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute (FCMI), Anne-Marie was awarded the King Mihai I of Romania Medal for Loyalty for services in promoting business, social and cultural relations between Britain and Romania.

It's an honour and quite a pleasure to welcome Anne Marie as a Trustee of Children in Distress. We are sure that Anne Marie will have a significant contribution to CID's progress.



It was all go this Summer at St Margaret's

After nearly a year of seemingly unproductive discussion and debate, the Planning Department issued a construction permit and work began on 8th May.

It has been all go - both a challenge and an adventure - throughout this difficult summer as the major construction works were carried out, whilst the care teams safely provided hospice care for twenty-three child residents. Carefully selected contractors, working closely in tandem with the hospice care teams, have done a sterling job to overcome the challenges and address the difficulties.

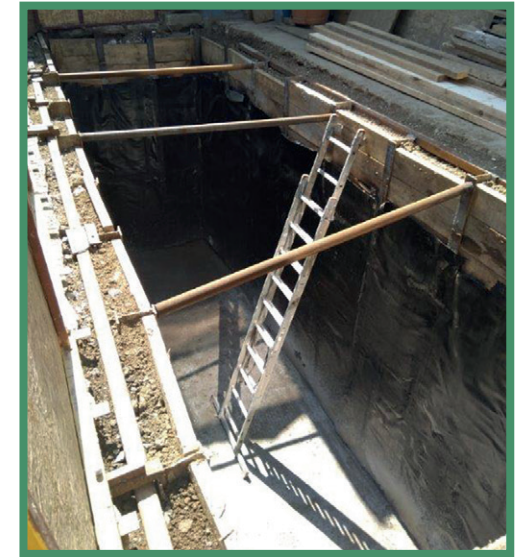
By 30th October, with funding from our UK supporters, the construction work was completed and the final installation well on its way. All the necessary electrical equipment is on site and full completion is only subject to the connection of the right pump unit, which is still subject to final specification and delivery. The sprinkler system on the other hand has a way to go as the planned control room, as originally envisaged, has been subject to critical design changes. The Consulting Engineer and the equipment suppliers are still debating the most technically suitable pump units



available within the agreed budget. However, the reserve tank is now connected to the City water main system.

This whole project was originally budgeted at £25,000. However, there have been a number of cost overruns, primarily because very few contractors were prepared to work on such a constricted site, with the stringent health and safety considerations essential to assure the necessary safe working conditions for labourers on site and the continuance of quality hospice care for the residents.

Time pressures have been a constant concern, as the construction permit and site access did not permit mechanical excavation, or for the drilling work, so everything had to be done manually. Unfortunately the contingency funds set aside have not covered all the unanticipated additional works discovered as necessary to allow the actual construction. For instance, gutters and rain water drains have had to be removed or relocated and considerable reinstatement work was necessary to recreate a usable outside space for the children. These unforeseen but essential construction costs over runs incurred an additional £6,500. However, this has been offset by local in-kind donations



of some £2,500. So, subject to the final decision on the pumps, fair winter weather and finances permitting all of the work will soon be complete. If the consulting Engineer has further problems with the final pump specification, this may be delayed until at the very latest March 2019. As result of the building warrant almost everything has been done by hard graft and by hand.

- > 55 cubic metres manual excavation and the transportation and loading of 80 cubic metres of earth and concrete debris from the excavation site to the container stationed in the street.
- > 30 x 200mm diameter holes, drilled manually to a depth of 5.5 metres.
- > 24 cubic metres reinforced concrete poured in ground, walls and ceiling.
- > 2,850kg of bent reinforcing steel.
- > 2.8 cubic metres of lean concrete.
- > 100sq. m of rubber/bituminous cardboard.
- > 90kg special additive mixed with the concrete & 80sq. metres. - 2 layers of special paint.



Knit Two, Purl Success

Children in Distress would like to celebrate and thank all CID's ever-generous and talented volunteers knitters for sending in all manner of carefully hand-knitted items to clothe and warm children across Romania.

Your amazing hand-knitted jackets, jumpers, gloves, hats and scarfs are all destined for infants and children in hospitals, hospices, orphanages or the poorest of homes. Everything is personally overseen by Executive Director, Valentina Zaharia and delivered by her distribution team. Vali knows from urgent appeals where the need is greatest.

Donations are welcome from across the UK, be they sent directly to the Glasgow office, collected and packed by CID UK's Local Ambassadors like Trish Witcomb (Notts. County), Morag McIlwraith (Galloway) and Irene Montgomerie (Ayrshire) or simply sent direct to Donations Development Manager (North), Caroline Wilkie at her Pickering home or via the Kirkbymoorside Thrift Shop. Be it knitted blankets, baby clothes, hand knits for kids or new clothing, pens, stationery, or medical

supplies: everything is carefully noted, manifested and packed for shipment. Dependent on the generosity of donors and the number of tightly packed boxes and ready to go, there are three or four major shipments a year. To help cut shipping costs, if there is any room on the 'Love in a Box' Christmas Shoebox Appeal transport, this too is packed to the roof with donations bound for the poorest and the most in need.

As a charity, CID UK gratefully receives all sorts of donated goods to "help make a better today for children who may have not tomorrow". Most of these donations will be sent directly to children in the direst poverty in Romania. However, if there is greater benefit, and with the donor's permission, sometimes donations may be sold here in the UK in the Charity's Thrift Shops or at special fundraising events.



Amongst many dedicated knitters, Angela Gowdy and Anne Rigg are both long-term supporters from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, who work together to send as many packages as possible packed with beautiful hand knits. Both also volunteer in their local charity shop that supports local Scottish charities; they enjoy knitting, especially knowing they are helping make a difference. Angela, who has happy memories of her last visit to CID's projects in Romania, reflects, "You are doing a great job! It gives me great pleasure knitting the garments and blankets. It would be nice just to know of their final destination! Such information might encourage a few more people to join CID's extended team of knitters."

Some of CID's supporters produce hand-knitted goods specifically for sale, using the proceeds to

help fund the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Groups like the Hunmanby Knitting Group and the ladies of the Newton and Wallacetown Church of Scotland, who regularly host coffee and craft mornings, making tens of thousands of kids happy by helping ship thousands of Shoebox Gift boxes.

All of us at CID UK thank those dedicated knitters, who helped to keep nearly twenty thousand kids warm and happy last winter. Thank you for your loyal support and helping us touch and change so many lives. If you wish to join our extend knitting circle **Caroline Wilkie** would love to hear from you on **07775 695 611** or you can email her at caroline.wilkie@childrenindistress.org.uk We can arrange promotional materials to help you publicise your fundraising events.



It was late November and they were off!

The race across Europe is on for the thousands of Christmas gift boxes gathered and packed in cartons by this year's volunteers, who formed the team who helped make real the Charity's 'Love in a Box' Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2018.

For weeks, the packing team beavered away in the warehouse space so generously provided by Preston's of Potto and they and Preston's ever-helpful forklift drivers gathered from 09.00 hours on Thursday 22nd November in anticipation of the arrival of the driver, cab and trailer unit this year provided by corporate logistics sponsor, Alyson Hayes Ltd. As it was, despite cramming the trailer to its limits, three pallets of donated goods still await a January shipment.

In a well-rehearsed exercise, which had been repeated time and time again over the last decade or more, the team swung into motion, intent on seeing the trailer safely stowed and carrying not only the donated gift boxes but box upon box of donated goods and

other gifts ready for distribution to hospitals, in the Charity's hospices, community and educational projects and through a host of partner and stakeholder programmes, to deserving families and senior citizens living in rural poverty.

One unique element of CID's 'Love in a Box' Appeal is the commitment that, despite the often dreadful winter weather and road conditions, each gift box will be in the hands of deserving families, a child or senior citizen, before Christmas. No gift box goes undelivered and many are delivered by hand to those who are housebound, disabled and living alone, who most need to know that someone cares at Christmas. Delivery can also be complicated by the national celebrations for St Andrew's Day, Romania's patron saint, which often is cause for an extended public holiday.

Octogenarian Roy Wheeler, the Charity's own Santa Claus and inspiration behind this volunteered appeal, shared with Charity's Chief Executive, Alisdair Barron and his soon to be successor, Valentina Zaharia, "We have had another superb response, when you consider the social and economic challenges that our supporters face. I am confident that we will bring a little happiness to even more kids this year than last, and I intend to be on hand to see at first hand the boxes distributed in schools and churches across Romania." Roy also went on to congratulate the collection team led by Trustee, John Burns, and the new volunteers who formed this year's warehouse team who, regardless of cold, wind and rain ensured that everything was packed and ready by the departure deadline.

Everyone involved also expressed their appreciation of the donors in schools, churches and homes up and down the UK and the Local Ambassadors and Collection Co-ordinators, who so generously co-ordinated local collections and readied the gift boxes for uplift and particularly the respective individuals from Preston's of Potto, Amey and Alyson Hayes Ltd., for their generous sponsorship, logistics support and help.



Alexandru's Himalayan Climb

Deserves Sponsorship & Support



Alexandru Tudose is a big hearted business man, who has built up an extensive construction company developing industrial units from nothing, he uses his wide sales experience and exceptionally social responsible to focus on a range of humanitarian and educational causes. He is also an inspirational business coach and motivational speaker intent on helping others.

CID's Himalaya Climb4Dreams aims to support the work of CID Ro. which in 2019 celebrates a 30 year mission of service and care "making a better today for children who may have no tomorrow" Today CID Ro has some 18,000 children in a variety of care projects. Alexandru is determined to help these kids and intends to ascend the 6119 metres of the Himalayas Lobuche East Peak, just to prove that ordinary people can achieve their dreams. He hopes to send the message, that there are children for whom even simplest things present an overwhelming challenge, but his is a call to action for those who would like to help those children, who deserve every encouragement and the best opportunity to be the best that they can be!

Alexandru sees himself as a normal, ordinary if reasonably energetic guy, but he knows that if there is a will, and dedicated support team around you, there is always a way, and anything is possible! Two years ago, he decided to expand his horizons and test his limits. So he trained for several months to scale all 5,895 metres of Mount Kilimanjaro. This spring, he will join a climbing party on their March 19 – April 6, expedition, to climb the 6,119 metres of the Himalayan Lobuche East Peak, the initial challenge for those who seek to conquer Everest.

Alexandru shared with Vision "I am lucky. I am healthy and if I have goal, a dream I find it within me to make it happen. The children in the care of Children in Distress Foundation also have dreams, but for them it is harder if no less a challenge to make it happen on their own. Therefore, I reach out to Vision readers to ask for a little financial help, together we can make a better world for them. I will climb the Lobuche Peak and I dedicate my challenge and energy to them. I invite you to join me in making a better today the beautiful wonderful kids of Children in Distress Foundation."

Himalayan expeditions are not solo challenges so from March 19 – April 6, this year with. Guide Sorin Fitu from Solaris Travels & Vertical Adventures, in the lead, Angela Deac, Remy Patulea, Traian Hasas, Razvan Căprița, Marius Cismaru, Lazăr Toma, Sorin Fitu, and Alexandru will be on the climb.

CID Ro weekly budget for a child in palliative, respite or end of life care is little more than £1,600, please help and donate on line at www.childrenindistress.org or call Tina on **0141 559 5690** to make a credit card donation.

Ayr Shoebox Appeal achieves a

'Scottish all time record'

The 'lassies' or more correctly the 'ladies' of Newton and Wallacetown Parish Church and partner parishes in Ayr and Troon have long been stalwart supporters of Children in Distress, both as prolific knitters and quilters and as champions of the Annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

Over years, nearly seven thousand infants, children or young adults have had cause to give thanks for the beautifully sets of hand knitted jumpers, cardigans, hats, gloves and scarves that keep them warm in winter.

Hundreds more families, patients and senior citizens have enjoyed the knitted, crocheted and patchwork quilts that have graced our hospices or given hope and relieved the boredom of life for those in drab wards and care rooms of hospices, hospitals and old folks and residential care units.

When it comes to Shoebox Appeal, everyone takes a different approach. Some open their doors as collection points but the Ayr lassies begin collecting as soon as the last box is uplifted and throughout the year buy bits and pieces to bring a little joy next time round. They finance this though coffee mornings and craft fairs and each freely gives of their time to scrounge hundreds of shoeboxes, cover them in festive paper and fill them with everything that a kid might want - treats, books, pencils, toys, warm woolly hats, scarves and gloves and the odd sweet.

Two decades ago, when this first began it was based within the Church Women's Guild. Today

the effort has reached out into the community, even to nearby Hansel Village where those living in sheltered care do their bit of those in need on the other side of Europe. The enormous effort, this year, was mastermind and co-ordinated by Marion Mulvanney and Cathy Rowan who, despite having family care commitments at home, still managed to achieve an all-time record box collection of 585 boxes, each brim full of love. This much appreciated record achievement has taken a deal of effort from everyone involved, so in January there will be period of reflection to see if and how their contribution to the work of the Charity might be continued. Our thanks goes to everyone who has contributed over the year and to the packers, stackers and the loaders who help the boxes on their way.



You are all record breakers to us and the children in Romania.



A few years ago, during a stopover and flight delay, retiring Chief Executive, Alisdair Barron, met and chatted to a charming Floridian couple, Mike (Dr Michael Janson) and his lovely wife, Varuni Roberts. Both were thrilled to hear of the work of Children in Distress. Scots American Varuni was particularly delighted that another Glasgow-based charity, albeit on a smaller and international basis, was like her much-admired Yorkhill Children's Hospital Trust in doing pioneering paediatric palliative, respite care and child development work. Varuni and Dr. Michael were also intrigued and energised to hear of the Charity's longstanding commitment and prime directive to spend donation and legacy income directly on the Charity's mission of care, rather than on marketing and back office administration.

Although they lost touch, this wonderful philanthropic couple remembered that brief

encounter and, in setting up the Florida-based Dr Michael Janson Revocable Trust, ensured that Children in Distress was named as one of the eight beneficiaries. Sadly, both Varuni and Michael died recently, and Alisdair has been contacted by the legal team administering Dr Janson's Trust. The Charity has been reliably informed that, for tax purposes, Dr Janson's estate was valued at \$5 million, although some funds were dispersed prior to his death. The Probate Attorney has shared, "The accountants involved hope to complete the accounting process by early January and it is anticipated that the eight named beneficiary charities will each receive some hundreds of thousands of dollars."

As he left for the last time on Christmas Eve, Alisdair shared, "I can only give thanks this Christmas for the kindness and generosity of Michael and Varuni. This is obviously one of the

greatest and most substantial bequests that Children in Distress has ever received." Alisdair is obviously thrilled that another of his 'brief encounters' resulted in such a generous legacy bequest, one that will secure the future of the Charity and the continuance of its mission of care for some years to come. "This is perhaps the greatest Christmas gift that I and the Charity's care teams will ever receive. I am thrilled that, after decades of helping to deliver wonderful things on a relative shoestring, I leave safe in the knowledge that Children in Distress is at last financially secure and safe in the hands of Valentina Zaharia. I am sure that it will remain so. As long as the new generation of trustees continues to be as prudent and as true to the Charity's prime long-term commitment as their predecessors, all will be well, and the future of Children in Distress will be assured.

The 'greatest' gift this Christmas



John is the youngest child in our hospice

For 30 years Children In Distress has cared for children just like John. We provide hospice care for children with life threatening conditions because of accident, infection and birth defects. Our specialised staff provide life-changing therapies and treatments for our children. This is made possible by your help and support.

Donate today and change a child's life like John's
John and all our children.



www.childrenindistress.org
0141 559 5690

Children In Distress,
Suite 30, 94 Duke St,
Glasgow G4 0UW

Registered Charity No: 1001327. Scottish Charity No SCO39383



Geoff Witcomb

Over the last twenty-five or so years, thousands upon thousands of children have benefited directly from the help and support, organised and co-ordinated by the Charity's Local Ambassadors based in Keyworth Nottinghamshire, Geoff and Trish Witcomb.

Be it successive "Love in a Box" Christmas Shoebox Appeals or collecting and packing box upon box of donated clothing and medical equipment sourced through contacts in Rotary or the Inner Wheel or by bringing joy manning the CID charity tombola stall at the Keyworth Show.

Sadly, a few years ago Geoff was diagnosed with prostate cancer, which went on to metastasize in his bones, he has bravely faced the treatments, successes and setback always

optimistic. Sadly, at the end of April 2018 this wonderful friend of the children cared for by CID quickly and peacefully passed away. For those of us who knew Geoff as a loving husband, parent, grandad, neighbour or a colleague and friend either in his career in the local County Constabulary, as a security consultant or as fellow volunteer with CID, this is a grievous loss.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Trish and their daughters Charlotte and Jane, and their respective families.

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Last goodbyes are always so difficult



The CID Ro's care team, hoped that 2018 would be a record year, one in which all the children in their hospices responded to the professional care lavished on them and that none succumbed to the challenges presented by their ill-health, general condition and or opportunistic infections.

Sadly, as the year neared its end, and just days before Christmas, little Michaela Maria finally responded to her last call and quietly slipped away. Michaela had arrived, tiny and frail, at the beginning of the year, however, although her prognosis was poor, as a little fighter she addressed each challenge as it come along. True, there were days of round the clock nursing care in St Margaret's small critical care unit, followed by faint glimmers of hope, when everyone involved thought she would make it. Sadly, faced with another serious chest infection with overwhelming complications Michaela was admitted to the children unit within the local Grigore Alexandrescu Hospital and her parents were urgently called. Her parents spent the last few hours making sure that Michaela had another hand to hold, whilst her St Margaret's nurse ensured she was comfortable and that she wanted for nothing.

Michaela's family, struggling financially were unable to contemplate or arrange her funeral rights, so her CID family stepped in to arrange the services so that she was laid to rest with dignity.

Her memorial service allowed her nurses and members of her care team to say their own sad farewells to a child, who had touched them so much and will be sorely missed.

Here in the UK, the CID UK team have also had to come to terms with the loss of old friends and loyal supporters. Each of whom, over many years, has helped deliver the charity's mission of care. There are many supporters, who have been called to rest over the last year, each having made, in their own way, a significant contribution to the work of the charity, its mission to care for disadvantaged children through caring, clothing, educating and rehabilitating them and giving them opportunity and the chance of a better tomorrow. Some like Pat Allen and Geoff Witcomb offering decades of personal service; others through years of child and charity sponsorship and support and by finally leaving a legacy gift, supporters like Peter Johnstone, Elizabeth Pennyfather, Joy Purser and George Shirley, each and every one much appreciated and sorely missed.

“Is this the new beginning in the best interest of the children?”

On Saint Nicholas' eve, as kids across Romania were waiting in expectation for St Nicholas seven very vulnerable and at risk kids were taken from St Margaret's to a unit run by of Bucharest Sector 2's Services for Children with Disabilities.

Their bags were packed and goodbyes said during the morning play sessions, as they played for one last time with their pals. Bravely biting back tears, Darius, Nicoleta, Cristina, Daniel, Ana Maria, Narcis and Alexa now known, as the 'Sector 2 Seven' waved, hugged and shared kisses with all those they had known as family during their entire stay at Saint Margaret's, nurses, support staff, supporters and friends, and were bundled into a van and driven to their new home and hopefully, new adventure. Several familiar faces went along for the ride, if only to make sure the process went smoothly and that they settled into their new accommodation. On arrival at the local authority centre, the sad seven were guided them to their new rooms. They got to choose their beds and enjoyed finding toys laid on each bed, little welcome gifts from their 'new' family, left to give them a little comfort during the night and help them settle in.

The centre's care team ensured Darius, Nico and Rebeca shared a room and the trio cheered and clapped as they will get to spend the next few years together. Daniel, Ana Maria, Narcis and Alexia settled in the room next door, still close to friends, so that they can remain a close knit group during the next few weeks and months which at present seem daunting to some of them. Familiarity, is crucial in helping them feel safe and secure in a strange new home.

Their Saint Margaret's care team joined them for lunch and after a long and eventful day, then helped tuck them in for a quick afternoon nap. Aside from the toys, the 'Sector 2 Seven' had another wonderful surprise on being reunited with their old pal, Florin, who was incredibly delighted to see some of his family from Saint Margaret's and to learn that they will be there for the foreseeable future. Florin immediately revisited his big brother

role and promised to look after his 'little brothers and sisters', especially after Saint Margaret's team left, with tearful goodbyes and warm loving hugs.

Everyone at Saint Margaret's is shaken by this unwelcomed change and the remaining kids sorely miss their friends. The 'Sector 2 Seven' have called Saint Margaret's home since infancy and the care team are core to their security and much loved and now much missed family. These kind-hearted souls are now bereft but continue to keep in touch with the staff in the local authority centre to make sure the kids settle in to the new routine. Senior Nurse Sister Casiana continues to visit them each day bringing news of their CID family and friends.

We can only hope that these lovely kids continue to thrive and settle as quickly as possible, making a few new friends to help and support them during the transition.



Alexandru Moroaca: feels always surrounded by good friends



Alexandru Moroaca, this year against expectations and medical predications, celebrated his 19th birthday; he is a genuinely nice young man, who seems to attract a host of kind-hearted supporters. Friends, who surround him with a strong network of help and support. Alexandru is fully aware of this and feels blessed to be surrounded by so many friends. Alexandru is a popular lad with an exceptionally nice nature, ever calm and accepting, he has a serene manner and his ever-optimistic smile can make one's day. He likes to be actively involved in all the activities on offer by Don Orione Association where he now lives. Alexandru is aware that he has a lot to learn so he is keen on school and is intent on getting good grades and a little recognition for his hard work.

The team of specialists in the Dialysis Department of the Renal Unit he attends, thrice weekly, monitor his health closely and like to explain to him all the changes that take place or alterations to his health resulting from his complex diagnosis. So Alexandru is under no illusion about his precarious his health and condition really is. He is well liked by the team so they feel duty bound to explain what is going to happen and how his medical condition and prognosis can be improved.

Alexandru feels exceptionally fortunate that he has friends from his time in the care of Children in Distress, who keep a friendly and watchful eye on him, especially since from time to time he needs a little extra help with his condition. These friends and supporters to take time to find out about his health and progress and if there is anything he needs. He is thankful that there are [people like. Marion Craddock, who likes to surprise him with practical and often very much needed gifts, She recently sent him a very much needed new pair of pyjamas and he was delighted to open her gift parcel and insisted that his CID Ro visitors sent his be wishes and thanks Mrs. C as he call her his best wishes.

Alexandru feels blessed to have such fantastic people take an interest in him and his welfare. He sends his sincere appreciation to Mrs. C, and his many friends who often make his dreams come true.

All of us at CID Ro would also like to thank our friends, supporter and child sponsors from across the UK for their devotion, kindness and support in remembering some 'great' children, far too many of whom strive to overcome medical challenges, which could overwhelm them were it not for those who reach out with help. Their every thought and gesture matters, no matter how small means more than they will ever know.



Different but together in a well-informed community Project

The DIFFERENT BUT TOGETHER IN A WELL-INFORMED COMMUNITY Project financed from the local budget of the Municipality of Bucharest through the budget of the General Direction of Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest took place during November 01 – December 15 and was aimed at informing and raising awareness among people of Bucharest about the difficulties faced by children and adults with disabilities so as to facilitate their susceptibility towards their rights and full-integration into community.

Direct beneficiaries: children and adults with various disabilities who live in Bucharest.

Indirect beneficiaries: 3,600 students from I-VIII grades from 18 community schools in Bucharest, 100 teachers, 3,600 parents of pupils participating in the information and awareness activities, 1,500 people involved in the education

and care of children with disabilities, 2,000 people in the local communities.

Through the proposed activities, the project contributes to raising public awareness, especially of school-aged children regarding the existence of children with disabilities and of the problems they face; helping students understand what a deficiency and specific needs mean without labelling; increasing acceptance and tolerance among students from local schools towards children with disabilities.

Several information and awareness materials on the issue of the disabled child were developed within the project, and information and awareness activities on the issue of children with disabilities were carried out in 18 schools in Bucharest, 3 schools in each sector.



Just a little thanks to a friend!

When you are young, life is and adventure and so it is for Claudia who has learned that treasuring people is the way to a fulfilled life.

Claudia, along some of her school chums decided to surprise their favourite primary school teacher. Although they graduated from the primary and said their goodbyes some six months ago, they still have treasured memories in their hearts, so the idea to visit their teacher and show her how much she meant to them. It is important to help children identify the people who make a difference in their lives and teach them how to show their appreciation and care because it teaches respect and help them grow as considerate human beings.

So on their teacher's birthday, the kids clubbed their pocket money and bought a delicious cake and a bunch of flowers to surprised her while she was teaching the next generation of children in their old classroom. There was lots of happiness, tears of joy and emotions on both sides, especially for Claudia, who was one of her teacher's protégés.

This was a kind and generous thing to do and it was gratifying to see Claudia participate and sacrifice all of her even pocket money to help buy her teacher's surprise birthday present. Safe to say she talked it all over with her carers. Claudia and her pals spent around an hour with their former teacher, talking about their future, whether they want to complete their education, pursue other dreams and had just a little fun reminiscing about primary school. It was, indeed, a fantastic day!



A dog will forever be a man's best friend, as we all know, but the young ones from Saint Margaret's centre are just beginning to find out how adorable, devoted, friendly, and fun such a cute-looking furry friend is. Ilinca, one of Children in Distress Foundation's volunteers made possible the meeting between the children found in our care and a bunch of adorable service dogs. Her friends from the Service Dogs Club – Association in Bucharest are currently developing the "Therapies and Activities assisted by animals" programme in Bucharest so they decided to visit the centre and help the children get familiar with dogs and how it feels to have a pet that can be your guide and best friend along the way.

After having been informed by our staff that something quite interesting is about to happen an avalanche of questions ensued as their curiosity was piqued by our surprise. The dogs arrived accompanied by their owners and took in the garden and surroundings, were taken inside in the space we prepared for the meeting, then took their places and waited for the children to come closer and greet them, for some being a first.



Feeling overwhelmed and shy at first, Andrei, Stefan, Darius, Cristina, Rebeca and Nicoleta entered the room where their special guests were already patiently waiting for them. Darius was incredibly outgoing and immediately made friends with Molly, an adorable female bull terrier, a very loving, well-behaved and tranquil specimen around children. We watched their interaction in awe as they seemed like very old pals getting together after a long time spent apart. Darius was taught how to pet, feed and how to ask Molly to perform tasks and with a lot of patience, the nice doggie did everything Darius asked of her.

Rebeca was feeling shy so she took her place behind her brother and intently watched the entire interaction and after a couple of moments, after she was invited to do so, she was able to hold Molly by her leash and to gently pet her.

Molly was not alone and she brought her dear friends, Ayla, a Golden retriever and Anzu, a gorgeous Akita Inu. Both dogs performed various tasks with a lot of patience and amazed us then the children could pet and show them their love as the dogs were very calm and used to children's chirpy ways.

It's all about our new four-legged friends!

Cristina and Nicoleta, just like two good friends, asked us to place them together so that they can feel more confident and ready to interact with their new furry friends. Nicoleta was first to touch Anzu's furry tail. Cristina didn't dare to come closer so she watched the entire show from afar but in the end, she did try to get closer and feel Anzu's fuzzy tail.

Stefan was delighted with the entire experience. He was extremely friendly and affectionate and hugged and petted each dog and gave them some nice treats the owners brought. He was delighted to be surrounded by his four-legged friends and to communicate in new and unexpected ways. Andrei took his example and was able to overcome his fears and get closer to Anzu.

At the end of the meeting, our newfound friends from Service Dogs Club promised to return at the centre so that the bond between the children and the dogs will get stronger and, in this way, the children will get the opportunity to learn new ways of communicating their love and expressing their feelings.

We would like to thank everyone for their participation, dedication, patience and devotion and for their wish to continue this extremely beneficial collaboration.



Saint Christopher's Goodyear Event 2018

Last day of school brought immense joy and happiness to Saint Christopher's children – Help, Hope & Hospice Association in Curtea de Arges.

All the joy felt by the children was not because school "was finally over" but because many surprises and fun filled activities made their day brighter and were something to remember.

Goodyear Team, deeply moved by these wonderful children's stories, wanted to spend this day in their company and managed to transform it into an unforgettable experience. Bright and early in the morning they got at the centre and prepared lots of surprises for the children yet to arrive. Together they organized a route made out of the wheel-chairs they brought and prepared the games and presents for the little ones.

During well-deserved breaks from all the games and contests organized during the day, the children quenched their thirst with delicious juices

and regained their strength after tasting pizza, a staple food for such energetic gatherings.

We drew on the asphalt, painted our faces transforming into princesses, butterflies, pirates, cats, tigers, we laughed and sang together.

Each child was gifted a backpack with all the needed school supplies for the next school year, an extremely important present for their hard-earning and financially challenged families. The children come from single-parent families or with major financial shortcomings and the present was very well received and it also included sweets, bed linens and sheets, footwear and clothes.

When the minivan arrived (sent by the school director where some of the children attend classes) to take some of them to their homes, the children



could barely say their goodbyes. They had to kiss farewell and hug everyone and the team promised to return soon and thanked the children for their lesson of endurance, kindness and happiness, and for feeling energized and happy in such great company during the day.

We believe that these children, who have many problems back home, who face numerous upsetting attitudes coming from community members and class mates, who had to overcome labels and heartless words, who lack care, affection and parental guidance, deserve a day like this for their hard work and efforts made during the school year to get great results, for their decent behaviour and great deeds, for their lack of unmotivated truancy, and for the beauty of their souls.



Christine offers a sad "adieux"

Christine Henderson a long-term volunteer and Trustee has resigned after nearly twenty years working for and with the Charity. Christine and her husband, Scotland's foremost surrealist artist, Frank Docherty, recently received their carte d' sojourn and Christine now accepts that fulfilling the role of trustee as she would wish will be increasingly difficult. In her resignation she wrote,

"As I am now permanently resident in France, it is not practical to continue. But I shall still look forward to receiving the magazine and will always be interested in hearing of the children's progress. I could not be prouder of what has been achieved over the years and I wish CID every success in the future."

Christine was for over a decade, the inspiration and empowering volunteer team leader and organiser, of the CID Charity Balls mounted in Glasgow, which helped raise one million pounds Sterling and in doing so immensely raised the profile of the charity. Her husband Frank, provided unique art works both for the designs of the ball posters, invitations, menus and place cards for each of the balls and gifted paintings which when auctioned, contributed greatly to the funds raised at each event.

As one of Scotland's foremost female lawyers Christine freely offered pro-bono legal advice and arranged corporate sponsorship from Brechin Tyndal Oatts, one of Scotland's premier legal firms. This provided invaluable legal guidance and professional fee donations to the value of many tens of thousands of pounds that the charity would otherwise never have been able to afford.

In his response Harry Ward Chair of Trustees wrote. *"I regret that I have been unable to get to know you better. Thank you for your many years of valuable service to Children in Distress. I hope that we can fill the vacancy which you leave adequately."*



Launching Jeans4Dreams in the UK

Children in Distress does wonderful things in Romania for so many children with special needs, most of them with life threatening condition.

Two years ago The Jeans4Dreams PR & Fundraising Campaign was developed on a “pro bono” basis by the well-known team of marketing professionals at DHM one of Romania’s Marketing organisations. Given its success this has been an important achievement for our CID Family. Raising awareness, involving new people, especially youngsters in promoting the need of help children with disabilities, identifying supporters who want to be part of the CID Family of Care, who are ready to contribute to the efforts to assure a better life, sometimes even the survival of the children in CID’s care, but also for other children with similar problems.

Romanian fundraising activities reached the original planned targets, however given the comparatively low take home pay of Romanian employees, and the unfriendly tax regulations which discourage companies from corporate donations, it has been impossible to raise significant donations when compared to the funds required to cover the relatively high cost of intensive palliative or end of life nursing care.

We still aim to change things for the better in Romania so CID will continue to promote our Jeans4Dreams campaign, to raise the Charity’s profile and to fight for basic funds badly needed by the children with special needs, children for whom sometimes even minimal financial support can make the difference between life and death.

Encouraged by the comparative success in Romania, it has been agreed that Jeans4Dreams should be shared with our old friends and supporters within the CID family of care and hopefully with new supporters amongst the great British public, in the UK. We urge you to welcome the Jeans4Dreams PR & Fundraising Campaign in Great Britain which was presented on <http://jeans4dreams.ro> site, <https://www.facebook.com/Jeans4Dreamsuk/> We would be very happy to have feedback and to know what you think about our idea and if you could help in any way.



Alyth Hughes



Alyth Hughes, CID's 'Consultant' physiotherapist, and Trustee and senior member of the boards of Copii in Dificultate and Positiv+ has tendered her resignation. Alyth has been battling back, as only she can, after two strokes and although much improved feels that she is never likely to regain the mobility required to fulfil the role she loves. Alyth also has concerns over the health and well-being of her octogenarian husband Dr John Hughes, long-term supporter and sometime Romanian Santa Claus.

Alyth was the inspiration for Fund-a-Physio Ely, and the spectacular work achieved by those involved in the St Nicholas Child Development and Multiple Therapy units in Romania. Through arranging many local funding events in Cambridgeshire, Alyth and her loyal supporters group, raised tens of thousands of pounds which funded consultancy services, professional insight conferences and practical therapy workshop training, which immensely raised the professional therapies profile of Copii in Dificultate.

All of those who know and admire Alyth, are well aware of her immense contribution to the work of the charity, and recognise her constant advocacy of in-house and peripatetic paediatric multiple therapy services. Readily acknowledging that she has inspired, nurtured and freely shared her professional skills with peers and equally freely

offered affection and care to the children and the staff who support them. Alyth has worked selflessly and unstintingly, neither seeking recognition nor reward, in fact more often than not, diverting praise to inspire and encourage other volunteers and staff to further improve the physical plight of children their care and to improve the standards of therapy services in general, across Romania.

Alyth, epitomises the ideal Trustee, neither seeking recognition nor constant reassurance for personal effort, but always thinking strategically and offering appropriate guidance and advice to those with operational responsibility. The boards, on which she was so influential, will undoubtedly be diminished by her absence and being unable to draw on her lifelong professional and decade's long trustee experience.

Retiring CEO, Alisdair Barron, wrote in response to her letter of resignation "It has been both privilege and a pleasure to have worked with you and to call you friend. Thank you for all we have achieved together, given your ongoing commitment, I am sure that you will look on with interest, as new trustees grapple with the issues facing the charity and its partner organisations. I trust that Valentina Zaharia, in her new role as Executive Director, can continue to count on your support."

Sara is the newest addition to our extended family of care one can find at Saint Andrew's Centre. She is a 4 months old wonder, a beautiful girl who is very much loved and spoiled by the staff and especially by her "older" sister Claudia.

The young one adapted quickly to her new home and she immediately became the star of the ward.

During her first days here at the centre we learned that Sara was not christened as she has spent the first months of her life in a hospital ward. Thus, Sara's christening became our next "project" on the agenda. The Godparents were selected among the parents' close circle of friends, two kind people who already know what it means to play an important role in a child's life, who will pray for their God-daughter every day and support her whenever possible along her way. Sara is one of the exceptions, a very-much loved and wanted daughter who has her parents by her side. The ceremony took place at the centre as her frail health did not allow us to transport her to the nearest Church for such a long procession. The warm and intimate atmosphere filled our hearts with joy and Sara had her parents and twin sibling close during the entire ceremony, her new and may we ad proud Godparents, the centre's Director, Mrs. Mariana Mandreanu and some of our staff of care. Sara's biggest fans, Claudia and Izabela were extremely excited to attend the ceremony and paid attention to all the details.

The christening was performed with two attending priests, close friends of our centre, who were delighted to be able to help such a beautiful and innocent soul, appreciated the family and close-knit group of beautiful people surrounding Sara with all their love and took care of all the Christian-Orthodox traditions.

Many years ahead, Sara Elena, may you live in peace and harmony and may you be blessed all the way!



The Christening of Banu Sara

Celebrating an important moment in one of our resident's life.



This years' Service of Thanksgiving - The Where? The When? & the Who?

For the last twenty-eight years, staff, supporters, trustees and volunteer have come together to give thanks for all that Children in Distress has achieved in the year gone by.



This year should be seen as a landmark year, since the thirtieth year of CID's mission of service and care is fast approaching. Normally by now the trustees would have agreed the date and venue for the Service of Thanksgiving. So far, St Mary Undercroft, the Chapel within the Palace of Westminster has been considered but sadly is no longer available. St Dunstan's in the West, in London's Fleet Street, where the St George's chapel houses a vibrant Romanian community of faith, has been looked at, but evidently that is not suitable, so at the time of writing, the search goes on. Without a venue there is no determined date to share at present and that in itself only complicates the ongoing search lead by the trustees' Vice Chair, Canon Chris Samuels who as usual seeks an inspirational preacher to lead our worship. As Chris has shared, "I can't invite a preacher of some standing as invited to do by Alisdair as I don't have a venue or date. Bishops get tied up so quickly". Given Chris's challenge and the proposed celebrations in Romania it is likely that like last year's very successful and well attended Service of Thanksgiving in Nottingham, this years' service may be held on one of the last few Saturdays in October.

Small is Beautiful

In recent weeks, the great British public has seen a veritable tsunami of negative press coverage directed primarily at Oxfam, Save the Children and now a number of other charities.

The Charity regulators have been scrambling to keep up. A recently published review of safeguarding practice among NGOs has ironically identified Oxfam as leading the way in terms of transparency and protecting women from exploitation.

Clearly the greater the transparency the greater the accountability, an accountability that will lead to better outcomes for all, but particularly helps to hold those in power to account. We have just to be grateful for a free and investigative press for shining a light on areas of poor practice and for exposing wrongdoing, hypocrisy and the abuses of power. Interestingly, although donors suggest a preference for small-bespoke charities, the vast number of donations still fall to these larger international organisations under the spotlight and in the news.

Unfortunately, if any these well known larger charities fail or in any way fall short of expectations and are vulnerable to public approbation and humiliation the resulting general mistrust impacts on all of those working in the Third Sector.

Corporate "commercial style" fundraising drives public expectations as to how charities should be organised or and their employees behave. The hard reality is that people deliver the work of charities and that charities operate in the same world as every other organisation and so are likely to experience the same challenges and problems, including fraud, sexual harassment and poor unacceptable behaviours. The challenges being that charities are often more focused of

mission delivery than in dealing with in country 'staff' issues and the exposure of behaviours that fall well short of expectations of best practice.

Charities neither deserves nor should expect leeway and allowances since many work with the most vulnerable children and young people and therefore should therefore be champions and proponents of excellent practices. They are deserving of criticism where they are not.

A decade ago, Children in Distress acknowledged that challenges could potentially exist and that work had to be done to put in place a raft of policies, practices and procedures to protect the vulnerable, children, staff and volunteers alike. In the case of Children in Distress, small is beautiful. We are fortunate, that we can closely manage and monitor staff, volunteers and even visitors for that matter. Simple record checks, criminal record checks, and Protection of Vulnerable Groups certification is mandatory. In Romania where there is no national certification system in place, police inspector reviews have become prerequisites for employment, however it is the subtler, dual supervision system, where no child is left alone with only one adult that is seen as most effective.

The Trustees have never been complacent at best or negligent at worst. They are committed to transparency, believing that harassment and abuse sexual or otherwise should never flourish in a conspiracy of silence, where victims may be seen, but never heard. The Charity's Safeguarding Officer, who is the Chief Executive, works hard to learn, review and revise all that we do to keep staff and the children we care for safe and secure. In our case, there are distinct advantages in being small and transparent in all that we do.

30th Anniversary Celebration S&V Tour -

First week in October 2019

Arising from a suggestion made by Dan Mihalache the Romanian Ambassador to the Court of St James during a recent meeting with trustees was that the charity celebrates its thirtieth anniversary with a Service of Thanksgiving in Bucharest, in association with a Supporter's & Volunteer's Tour and Gala Dinner. Since it is likely that few supporters or volunteers would wish to travel in the depth of winter to celebrate the actual anniversary in December and this year is also a year of elections in Romania, with all the political hurly-burly that will entail, Mr. Mihalache has therefore suggested that the 30th Anniversary Celebration should be brought forward and the associated S&V Tour 2019 should take place over the five day commencing Wednesday 2nd October. Vali is now actively planning an exciting tour of some of the most interesting and picturesque areas of Romania. The event will also include a dinner to celebrate all that CID has achieved over the years. Every effort will be made to ensure that the travel and accommodation and catering is tailored to the needs of the generation, who did so much to make real our commitment "to make a better today for children who may have no tomorrow".

If you wish details of this gala celebration and wish to be there to celebrate all we have achieved please email Tina at tina.connelly@childrenindistress.org.uk or simply give her call to discuss you needs on **0141 559 5690**.



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

- Nelson Mandela

The Children in Distress Foundation is consortium coordinator, in a partnership financed through SEE 2014-2020 grants. The project supports five rural schools located in socially and economically deprived areas across Arges County. Over eighty percent of the families living in Bughea de Sus, Bughea de Jos, Leresti, Merisani and Stefanesti are the rural poor, relying on social benefits, or employment in poorly paid seasonal agricultural work or on raising livestock for their precarious living.

Two of the schools involved are in isolated mountain areas with very limited transportation and have almost non-existent social activities for their students. Many have never travelled outside their local village community. Roma students involved face segregation being forced to take classes in separate institutions a number of kilometres from the commune elementary schools therefore they have integration issues when starting 5th grade alongside other students.

The project supports some two hundred students of whom the majority (120) are Roma and includes some seventy parents fifty of whom are of Roma heritage, it also involves some sixty teachers. The aim is to promote informal child focussed education and efficient social inclusion for minority students; to develop key-competencies and skills facilitating social inclusion for Roma pupils especially those from disadvantaged rural communities by encouraging communication skills and the necessary behaviours for social integration, through understanding and respect for cultural diversity and diverse social customs. The CID staff involved also provide awareness of the importance of education and deliver development and counselling services for Roma and non-Roma parents to help in improving their relationships

with school, and to establish healthy relationships within the family.

The aim is also to empower the teaching staff within the five partner schools with the application of student-centred teaching methodologies and techniques for a multicultural environment, thus enhancing behavioural education strategies that minimise discrimination, and maximise equality of opportunity and social inclusion. Training seminars are specific to teachers, however the students have a wider range of activity, building on local traditional values and a knowledge and understanding of local traditional Romanian and Roma crafts and culture. Enhancing the student's vision of Romanian culture and the wider world involves the children in exhibitions and fairs, area tours and visits to the theatre. The parental involvement seeks through socialisation techniques to enable cross cultural communication, individual personal development, social adaptation and promotes inclusion.

Children in Distress is showing the way by promoting change and allowing everyone involved to be the best that they can be.



Bogdan Gidoiu: now aged 22, has transferred to Bascovele Adult Care and Social Assistance Centre

On Friday 16th February, the team at St Andrew's bade a sad farewell to one of their longest and favourite residents, when Bogdan Gidoiu was transferred to the Arges Care and Support Centre for Youngsters and Adults managed by the General Department for Social Work and Child Protection. Bogdan now 22-years or age, with his complex diagnosis of spastic tetraplegia, ECI, and severe psychological delay, had out grown the services and facilities at St Andrew's and needs a range of species services beyond those offered to CID's extended family of care.

Saint Andrew's specializes in the care and support of 0-18-year-olds (and during the last year, only children both under 2 years of age were admitted to the centre, as they needed intensive and specialized care. The centre's social work team have been working hard behind the scenes to find the best solution for Bogdan and place him in a centre catering to adult needs and able to manage his complex condition. Bogdan's parents were involved in the transfer decision. His social worker and St Andrew's director and Bogdan's parents visited a number of centres and decided which best met his needs.

On February 16 February Bogdan his named carer, St Andrew's Director Mrs. Mariana Mandreanu, the centre lead social worker travelled to the Bascovele Care and Social Assistance Centre to help him settle in. Bogdan's Mum and Dad joined the team in helping him to his new home. St Andrew has sent along Bogdan's bed, as it is ideally suited to his needs. Bogdan now shares a room with other two similarly aged adults and is comfortably settling in. Everyone hopes he will be accepted and thrive during the next period of his life.

The St Andrew's team discussed Bogdan's medication and therapy regime and his care needs with the Bascovale's medical and care staff. Both the St Andrew's team members and Bogdan's parents left reassured and confident that he will receive the best of care and that he will soon integrate in his new group of friends. His parents emphasised that they intend to visit him more often to offer him extra support and The St Andrew's social worker will keep in touch with the adult centre's to keep a watchful eye on Bogdan's progress. Everyone hopes that everything will be fine in the end and that Bogdan will adapt to his new home.

General Data Protection Regulation May 2018



General Data Protection Regulation (or GDPR) is one of the most significant reviews of data protection legislation in history.

What is GDPR? The existing Data Protection Directive was introduced in 1995 – before widespread use of the internet changed our environment irrevocably. Designed to ensure that data legislation across the EU reflects the myriad of new ways that data is used, GDPR aims to enforce stronger data security amongst organisations, which handle personal data, and to enhance privacy rights of those individuals who entrust those organisations with their data, giving the individual more say over how their data is handled.

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- This information may include your name, address, email address, IP address. This is the only information we hold.
- We only use your information for the purpose you have requested.
- The Policy we have always operated is that we will not sell or share your information with third parties.
- We have never shared your information with third parties for marketing purposes.
- If you make a donation online or purchase a product from us, the card information you supply is not held by us, it is collected by our third party payment processors, who specialise in the secure online capture and processing of credit/debit card transactions.

We review our retention periods for personal information on a regular basis. We are legally required to hold some types of information to fulfil our statutory obligations (for example the collection of Gift Aid). We will hold your personal information on our systems for as long as is necessary for the relevant activity, or as long as is set out in any relevant contract you hold with us.

You have a choice about whether or not you wish to receive information from us. If you do not want to receive Vision or other communications from us about the work we do for children, then you can let us know and we will update our files. We will not contact you for marketing purposes by email, phone or text message.

The accuracy of your information is important to us. You can access and update your information or if you change email address, or any of the other information we hold is inaccurate or out of date, please email tina.connelly@childrenindistress.org.uk or by writing to Tina Connelly, Office Manager, Children in Distress, Ladywell Business Centre, Suite 30, 94 Duke Street, Glasgow, G4 0UW, you can telephone 0141 559 5690.

Data protection and privacy are included in all the charity's systems and processes and demonstrate that we value each individual's right for privacy and this is reflected in the way we respect and handle your data.

You have the right to ask for a copy of the information Children in Distress hold about you. Children in Distress are all about people, we believe that children matter because they are children, and that they matter to the last moment of their life. With your support we maximise their potential and help them live their lives to the full.

We don't count the days, we make the days count with your love and support ensuring that little patients always achieve their potential with therapies that provide and support their independence.

If you would wish further information on GDPR or data we hold, please visit our website.

