

Supporter Update 2026

Children in Distress

childrenindistress.org

Welcome to our latest update, sharing news of our work and impact in Romania and the UK. None of this would be possible without the extraordinary support of our volunteers, donors, supporters and partners. A huge big thank you for your unwavering commitment and belief in our work.

Building brighter futures for children, families and communities.

Casa Maria – our lasting legacy

Thanks to the kind support of our donors, Casa Maria in Romania continues to provide specialist residential care for 12 vulnerable children with severe disabilities and complex needs. The children benefit from personalised care, therapeutic support, educational activities and community visits designed to enhance their independence and wellbeing. New children joined the family during 2025.

We're very proud of the safe, nurturing and supportive environment the home provides – underpinned by our belief that every child deserves to belong.



Delivering love at Christmas

Our annual Shoebox Appeal is now in its 36th year spreading love, warmth and Christmas cheer to those who need it most in Romania. It's such a wonderful expression of kindness and solidary from people like you in the UK to those facing hardship thousands of miles away.

We delivered over 5,000 shoeboxes in 2025 to children, teenagers and older adults. Our 2026 appeal is now open and we warmly invite you to get involved by filling a shoebox and making a contribution towards costs. You can also donate to the appeal even if you can't fill a shoebox.

To participate, simply ring or email our team (contact details later) and we will talk you though how to get involved.



Celebrating our volunteers

Our work relies on the commitment, compassion and generosity of more than 40 volunteers of all ages who donate their time, skills and experience to our cause. Many of our volunteers support our two charity shops in Kirkbymoorside and Guisborough where we transform pre-loved items into vital funds. We all enjoyed a day trip to Whitby together recently to celebrate and thank them for their friendship and hundreds of hours of dedicated support.



Changing lives at home

We are using our skills and experience from Romania to help us transform even more young lives – including here in the UK.

We funded a youth development programme delivered by **Alexz Educational** in London. The project supported 15 young people aged 12–16, helping them to develop confidence, resilience and practical skills that will support their future educational and employment opportunities.

Our grant to the **Nicolae Iorga Sunday School** in Hull has inspired Romanian children growing up in the city to discover and cherish their language, culture and heritage. 30 children and families joined weekly sessions to develop bilingual skills, explore Romanian traditions and learn and celebrate their cultural heritage.

Young people in Hull also connected with their Romanian heritage through **Flavours of Home**. The programme provided a welcoming space where children could learn to cook traditional recipes, listen to stories from older members of the community and explore customs passed down through generations. The inspirational project brought together 30 children and 20 adults including parents, grandparents and community members.

Looking ahead – 2027

We will increase our impact across both the United Kingdom and Romania. Our UK grant-giving programme will continue, we will strengthen partnerships with community organisations and ensure our support reaches those who need it most. We remain firmly committed to Casa Maria and the children whose lives have been transformed through its work.



Find out more

You'll find more information about all our recent work, programmes and impact on our website, including our latest 2025 Annual Review. You can also sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletters from the front page of the site.
childrenindistress.org

Can you help us continue our work?

All donations, however small, help us to continue the fantastic work we've highlighted. It's simple and easy to donate. A single gift can make an instant impact and regular donations help safeguard our future, enabling us to plan for the longer term.

You can donate:

Online:
childrenindistress.org/donate

Phone:
01904 460066

Post:
Please send cheques to
Children in Distress,
Blake House, 18 Blake Street,
York, YO1 8QG

You can also contact us by email:
adminyork@
childrenindistress.org.uk

We hope you have enjoyed this update and we look forward to continuing our journey together.

Scottish Registered Charity Number: SC039383.