Supporters Tour &
Annual Service of Thanksgiving
30th Anniversary
Within days of the Romanian Revolution news of which gripped the world, just before the celebration of Christmas 1989, Dr John Walmsley, the then vicar of St Laurence Barkingside felt inspired to gather humanitarian aid to help the people and particularly the infants and children of Romania. Convoys of aid led to the setup of Romanian Childrens Aid, by hosts of dedicated volunteers, nurses and carers, the building of the first hospice dedicated to infants and children with HIV or living with AIDS and ultimately led to the creation of Children in Distress.

With its mission “To cure, sometimes; To help, often; To comfort, always” Children in Distress today cares for thousands of children in its hospices, child development centres, school for children with autism and their associated community based services and social welfare programmes.

The work of the charity is made possible in the main only with the help and support of thousands of donors throughout the UK and Ireland and a host of volunteers, who share their commitment expertise and ability to improve the child development, educational, physiotherapy and professional training opportunities the charity offers. They also make possible the ever improving palliative, respite end of life care services that form the basis of the charity mission of care.

With the thirtieth anniversary of the charity’s foundation fast approaching the Trustees have agreed to the request of our Romanian staff and supporters that a joint celebration of all that has been achieved would be the most fitting way to celebrate thirty years of commitment and care.

All the members of our family of support, child sponsors, long-term and new supporters and above all those volunteers who made our work possible from the very beginning are invited to consider joining our Anniversary Celebrations.

Should you decide to join our celebrations, you will receive a traditional Romanian welcome. You will dine in one of the city’s favourite restaurants and drive to see the work carried out each of the charity’s projects.

Our celebration will include the opportunity to meet old friends and to create new friendships, see Romania and experience the warmth and hospitality of its people.
Programme for annual thanksgiving Romanian tour
30th of September - 6th of October

30th of September Day 1:
Guests arrival - transfer from Otopeni airport to Bucharest - Fagaras.

1st of October Day 2:
Visit the Fortress of Fagaras and the Sambata de Sus Monastery.
Stay overnight at Albota Guesthouse.

2nd of October Day 3:
Fagaras - Cluj. There will be a small city tour in Cluj. Then it goes to Turda Salt Mine and returns to Alba Iulia. Stay overnight in Alba.

3rd of October Day 4:
Alba Iulia - Sarmizecetusa Regia - Alba
The first part of the day goes to Sarmizecetusa Regia, after which they return to Alba and visit Alba Iulia Fortress.

4th of October Day 5:
Return to Bucharest, on the Alba - Sibiu - Transfagarasean to Curtea de Arges - Pitesti (visit St. Christopher and St. Andrew) - Bucharest.

5th of October Day 6:
Visit St. Margarets Childrens Centre (morning)
13.00pm Thanksgiving service at the Anglican Church in Bucharest
20.00pm Gala Dinner - 30th Anniversary

6th of October Day 7:
Guest departure - transfer from the hotel to the airport.
In 1948, Fagaras Fortress was taken over by the communists and functioned as a political prison until it was turned into a museum. Built in 1310 on the site of a former 12th century wooden fortress (burned by the Tartars in 1241), Fagaras was enlarged between the 15th and 17th centuries and was considered one of the strongest fortifications in Transylvania. The fortress was surrounded by a deep moat which, in times of war or social unrest, could easily be filled with water from a nearby mountain brook. A bridge over the moat provided the only access point. The fortress boasts three floors and five towers.
Throughout the years, Fagaras Fortress functioned mainly as a residence for various princes and their families. Transylvanian Prince Gabriel Bethlen (1613 - 1629), strongly influenced by the Italian Renaissance, brought architects and glassmakers from Italy who rebuilt the fortress, bestowing elegance and beauty to the construction. During the rule of Georg Rákóczi (1630-1649), the castle’s fortifications were doubled and the moat was enlarged. Ráckózi had the bastions bridged and covered, the moat paved with stones, the bridge and the casemates repaired and a guardhouse built.

Records show that the interior must have been luxurious in the 17th century; unfortunately, little of its former grandeur has been preserved. The castle was deprived of its decorations and fancy furniture when it was turned into a military garrison in the 18th century.

Today, the beautifully preserved fortress houses the Fagaras County Museum, displaying Roman artifacts, a collection of medieval weapons and traditional folk crafts. The museum also hosts a beautiful collection of icons painted on glass.
Sâmbâta de Sus Monastery, Romanian: (Mănăstirea Sâmbâta de Sus) is a Romanian Orthodox monastery in Sâmbâta de Sus, Brașov County, in the Transylvania region of Romania. Dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God, it is also known as the Brâncoveanu Monastery (Mănăstirea Brâncoveanu).
Albota Guesthouse

In an idyllic location in the Fagaras Mountains, between Sibiu and Braşov, Complex Pastravaria Albota offers horse riding, biking, fishing, archery and cycling options. A sauna, a seasonal pool, table tennis, sport fields and quad bikes are also available on site.

The rustic style en-suite rooms feature free WiFi, TV with satellite channels, bathroom and views of the Câldarea Arpâşelului mountain area.

The restaurant on site serves fresh products and regional specialities. A bakery, a butcher and a trout pond can be found in the Complex Pastravaria Albota.

Many activities are offered on location and on request, bike tours to the Fagaras Mountains, karaoke evenings and a campfire can be organized. The complex also has farm animals, a playground for children, table tennis, gym, sauna, a hot tub and a small outdoor pool. Four conference rooms can be used.

Sibiu is 31.1 miles from the complex. The next bus stop and shops are 5 miles away.
Cluj-Napoca commonly known as Cluj, is the fourth most populous city in Romania, and the seat of Cluj County in the northwestern part of the country. Geographically it is roughly equidistant from Bucharest (324 kilometres (201 miles), Budapest (351 km (218 mi) and Belgrade (322 km (200 mi). Located in the Someșul Mic River valley, the city is considered the unofficial capital to the historical province of Transylvania. From 1790 to 1848 and from 1861 to 1867, it was the official capital of the Grand Principality of Transylvania.

Cluj-Napoca
TuTurda Salt Mine – A real museum of salt mining in Transylvania

The deposit of salt formations from the Transilvanian plateau took place in middle Bandenian-Wielician. The absolute age attributed to the salt deposits from Transylvania is 13.6-13.4 million years. The salt sedimentation took place in isolated marine basins, in a warm and wet climate, with vague tendencies towards dryness, on grounds of an active subsidence. The subsequent tectonic evolution of the basin determined the formation of long folds N-S orientated, lying in the West and respectively, East of Transylvanian Plateau, on the axis of which the salt is concentrated in diamond-shaped seeds. The salt deposit of Turda belongs to the western front which developed from Maramures, in the North, up to Sibiu in the South. To the same front belong the deposits at Ocna Dej, Sic, Cojocna, Valea Florilor and Ocna Mures. Lying in the north-eastern part of the town the deposit covers an area of about 45 square kilometers while the average thickness of the layer of salt is around 250 meters. In the axial area of the fold average salt thickness frequently goes to over 1200 meters. The salt from Turda is a monomineral rock, consisting of mineral halide (NaCl) whose proportion surpasses 99%. The insoluble elements, mainly formed of CaSo4 do not surpass 0.7%. The geologic reserve supply is of 37,750 million tons. The terrigene formations at the surface are between 0.5 m and 20 -25 m thick. The salt coming to surface as a consequence of the erosion of the sterile rocks by Valea Florilor (Flower Valley) and Valea Sarata (Salty Valley) at the deposit’s surface made it know from very old times.
Alba Iulia
Alba Iulia is the seat of Alba County in the west-central part of Romania. Located on the Mureș River in the historical region of Transylvania, it has a population of 63,536 (as of 2011). Since the High Middle Ages, the city has been the seat of Transylvania’s Roman Catholic diocese. Between 1541 and 1690 it was the capital of the Eastern Hungarian Kingdom and the latter Principality of Transylvania. At one point it also was a center of Eastern Orthodox Metropolitan of Transylvania with suffragan to Vad diocese. Alba Iulia is historically important for Romanians, Hungarians, and Transylvanian Saxons. In December 2018, Alba Iulia was officially declared *Capital of the Great Union of Romania*.

Sarmizecetusa

Sarmizegetusa Regia, also Sarmisegetusa, Sarmisegethusa, Sarmisegethuza, was the capital and the most important military, religious and political centre of the Dacians prior to the wars with the Roman Empire. Erected on top of a 1200 m high mountain, the fortress, comprising six citadels, was the core of a strategic defensive system in the Orăștie Mountains (in present-day Romania).
Sarmizegetusa Regia should not be confused with Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, the Roman capital of Dacia built by Roman Emperor Trajan some 40 km away, which was not the Dacian capital. Sarmizegetusa Ulpia was discovered earlier, was known already in the early 1900s, and was initially mistaken for the Dacian capital, a confusion which led to incorrect conclusions being made regarding the military history and organization of the Dacians.

Sarmizegetusa Regia
The Transfâgârâșan (trans over, across] + Fâgâraș) or DN7C is a paved mountain road crossing the southern section of the Carpathian Mountains of Romania. It has national-road ranking and is the second-highest paved road in the country after the Transalpina. It starts near the village of Bascov, near Pitești, and stretches 90 kilometres (56 mi) to the crossroad between the DN1 and Sibiu, between the highest peaks in the country, Moldoveanu and Negoiu. The road, built in the early 1970s as a strategic military route, connects the historic regions of Transylvania and Wallachia.
Total cost for this year’s
Supporters Tour is £550 per person

This includes:

• Flights
• Pick up from airport
• Accommodation
• Food
• All itinerary activities

We think you will agree that this is fabulous value for money.

Please join us and make our 30th anniversary something truly special.

For more information:
call: 0141 559 5690 or
Email: admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk
or visit the website on:
www.childrenindistress.org
Dont forget you will get a chance to meet all the children in person.

The children who we care for and YOU support.

We cant wait to see the delight on their faces when they get to meet the sponsors & donors of those who have put so much love into their lives.

Valentina Zaharia

Tour Leader

Vali will be your tour leader and will introduce you to many of the unique tastes, sounds and architectural wonders that are Romania.

Or Vali, as she is better known to us!!
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