



The Romanian Crestin Trust Annual Newsletter 2019



This year saw 25 years of work, care and support for families and children in Romania. Yes it's 25 Years since John took his first steps in Romania and we celebrated in style with a concert held at the Holy Trinity Church Hall on 13th October. We were also fortunate enough to celebrate with a number of our supporters out in Romania as well whilst visiting this year but more of that inside.

Our Concert was a great success with some very talented young ladies giving their time and energy to help us support this landmark in the Trusts History



**Rachel Smith, Singing and
Playing Clarinet**



**Katie Raine singing and
playing guitar**



**Penny Phillips
singing show
songs**

And the fabulous Trackettes sing good old singalong tunes



A great time was had by all....



As well as introducing the girls John had a spot playing his Ukulele.



Visit to Barlad 2019

We set off to Barlad, Romania, at 5 in the morning on Monday 28th October arriving in Barlad at 9pm that evening. Our first visits the following day was a road trip to Husi to visit Mihaela Pricop



Mihaela is the young lady that John found in the orphanage some 20 years ago with bi-lateral cleft lip and palate problems. She has since been undergoing a phenomenal amount of treatment and operations to rectify this. As you can see from the picture this has been a huge success.

What has been more amazing is how Mihaela has dealt with this. She is studying hard at University to become a support teacher and is hoping to get into helping children and young adults who have had similar problems to her both physically and mentally.

The Crupa Family

This is Alesia who is the daughter of the Crupa family we support in Husi. She lives with her Mum and Dad in a flat also occupied by 6 other family members. Alesia is also undergoing treatment for a Cleft Palate.



After a short time of shyness I think she recognised Wendy from our previous visit and really enjoyed playing Paw Patrol with her. Though I think Wendy enjoyed it more!!!

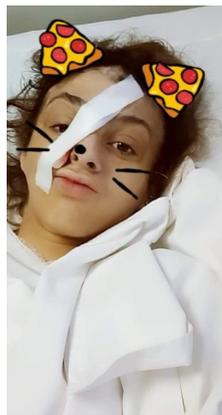
Felicia



On the way back to Barlad we took a small detour to visit a young lady that John met ten years ago at the orphanage in Barlad. Felicia was very badly burnt on her head, shoulders and back and was taken into care age 6. Finding a plastic surgeon proved difficult, but after three years one was found and arrangements made to take Felicia to the childrens hospital in Brasov. A very unfortunate turn of events saw Felicia's mother being released from prison, who absconded with Felicia! In 2018 our friend Doctor Tunaru recognised Felicia at a monastery where she was with her foster mother, who agreed to allow us to help Felicia. As you can imagine, this reunion was very special for both Felicia and John. However,

Felicia has many problems and we ask that all our friends and supporters pray for her.

At the end of November Felicia saw Professor Enescu at the Spital Grigore Alexandru in Bucharest, who performed operations on her face and under her arms. Felicia returned home to Popeni with her foster mother and is now awaiting further assessments and surgery which will be organised by our friend Doctor Tunaru.



The House of Roses

On Tuesday evening after our trips to Husi and Popeni we had an evening meal with Despina and the residents of the House of Roses. This was a fantastic evening as we enjoyed a sing song with all of them. Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen seemed to be a firm favourite and even Geta was playing 'Air Guitar' during Brian Mays solo. Such good fun was had by all.



David was able to visit the House of Roses during his trip to Barlad in August this year. He was able to procure a swing for the garden of the House of Roses which was built by the whole team.



Support for the families

On Wednesday we had the opportunity to meet with some of the people and families we support.



Rarinca Caramalu came to our hotel to see us and enjoyed a short journey in the Hotel lift to the 2nd floor. Rarinca is now 83 and has been very ill this past year so we were pleased that she was able to come and see us. Whilst we were chatting with her we asked if there was anything that she needed. She told us that she has a problem remembering to take her tablets as she has no clock and has no electrical items due to the cost of electricity. During the afternoon we had the time to do a little shopping and as you can see from the picture below we have now solved that problem for her.

This year we have been able to help Rarinca by paying for all her winter fuel, food throughout the year, much needed medication as well as a new fence around her very humble property. She is a very happy lady despite all her problems and we look forward to meeting with her each year. She did ask us to pass on her thanks to those that support and help her.



Wendy proudly holding the new purchase

Mrs Zanet and Daughter Oana Live in a Bedsit Apartment within this building



Their home consists of two rooms. The one you see where they live and sleep and a small kitchen area. There is no bathroom. Each landing has approximately 20 apartments and at the end of the dark and foreboding corridor is a communal bathroom / toilet. All the residents on the floor use this for washing and their necessary toilet. I leave it to your imagination as to how it looks and smells.



Oana has undergone a great amount of orthodontic work paid for by the Crestin Trust and we support this family with heating in the winter and other necessities throughout the year such as medication and food.



George Istrate and Family

This is George who has been referred to us by Adriana. He has already had one leg amputated and is now awaiting further procedures. We asked Oana to join us to interpret the notes that the doctors had given George. He has a number of issues concerning his heart and is very worried that should he have the operations he will not survive. However, Adriana is looking into whether George should have a second opinion and we await the outcome of this.



The 25 Year Anniversary continues

On Wednesday evening we invited our friends from The Myosotis Charity as well as friends in Romania who have supported us since John started going to Romania 25 Years ago. The evening commenced at 7.30 pm and a lovely meal was served and eaten by all 18 guests.



left to right are, Garofita, Juliana (standing) Lori-dana, Mihai, Claudia (standing) and Elena – from Myosotis except Elena .

Left to right are Mihaela, Adriana - President of Inima Reginei, Tanta, Nicu and Emil .



George and Lucia, who was matron of the Leaganul de copii (orphanage) where John and others worked for many years.



Mihai gave a lovely speech congratulating John on the years of work that has been done by the Crestin Trust and presented him with a certificate.



John responded by thanking everyone for their support over the years and was very taken aback by it all. His speech was totally in Romanian.

Then we got to eat cake!!!!



Thursday and Friday

In the morning Wendy and Jean met with Adriana in the hope of going to see some of the other people we support in the area.

Sonia Argentina

Unfortunately we were unable to visit Sonia this year. Adriana told us about her. Alina (her daughter) and her husband live in Vaslui - 50 kilometres from Barlad. Alina is not able to do more – just comes and pays the bills. Alina was at the railway station, when we got there, having driven specially to Barlad to see us. She said her mother goes shopping, does the house work and cooking but is a very introvert and doesn't like company.



Jenita Hutanu

Adriana said that Jenita is now between 60 and 70 years old. Unfortunately we were unable to visit Jenita as she was unwell. However, Adriana informed us that she has health problems, heart and cirrhosis, which means that she can no longer do the part time job of cleaning stairs and hallways in the apartment block which gave a little extra cash.

On Thursday morning the two Johns visited Casa Esme and later the House of Roses. It was good to see that Casa Esme is now flourishing with some 50 children attending daily. This year has seen 6 of those special needs children returning to general education which is a feather in the cap for this small but significant establishment.

We then met up with Jean and Wendy at the House of Roses for our final few hours before leaving by train back to Bucharest.

We enjoyed a sing song and some games with them all before wending our way and look forward to seeing them again next year.



Everyone enjoyed singing Heads Shoulders Knees and Toes and playing and Dominoes.



On arriving at Bucharest train station we were met by Alin Vasilescu whose Mother and Father are Gigi and Miana . They very kindly look after us whilst we are in Bucharest. The Vasilescu Family are also one of the families that we support .



Delia has been quadriplegic since early childhood and is now 30 years old. She receives weekly visits from Julia, her physiotherapist which helps her breathing and digestion. This is paid for by the Crestin Trust.

Well that's it for another year and we sincerely hope you have enjoyed this snapshot of our annual visit to Barlad and area. However, please remember that without your continued support we would not be able to achieve any of this so it is with immense thanks not only from the Trustees, John, Wendy, Jean, David and John but also from the people who are able to survive because of your generosity.

We hope you all have a very Happy Christmas



On behalf of our trustees and all the folk we have the privilege to work with in Romania thank you for your continued interest, encouragement and support and wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Wendy, Jean, David, John and John

This programme is very kindly printed by Richard Poyntz,
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