



Romanian Appeal Killearn England

Charity Reg 1055378

December 2020

2020 didn't turn out to be the year any of us expected! Dominated by Covid 19 our Casa Trandafirilor family and the staff have all abided by the strict government guidelines (similar to the UK) and kept well. We hope you did too. Romania is currently seeing increasing numbers of cases but has had lower numbers than Europe in general. The Vaslui region where Casa Trandafirilor is located has not been too badly affected.

Following government rules for residential homes during the first lockdown the staff had to work in pairs and live in Casa Trandafirilor for 2 weeks and then go home and isolate for 2 weeks. Very harsh! But feedback from everyone is that there were positives to come from this as everyone drew closer together.

It was a challenge to keep busy and avoid boredom. The young people understood the reasons behind the restrictions and adapted well. They could only go out to walk the dog and no doubt she appreciated the longer walks! The youngsters were busy in the garden and planted so many seeds they were overrun with tomatoes—but they enjoyed their home grown produce for several weeks.



For most of the summer the student volunteers were unable to be involved and their input was hugely missed as they are full of energy, enthusiasm and new ideas. But Myosotis were able to offer a summer job to an ex volunteer and her involvement was welcomed. Elena (who previously worked in the home) was also employed part time

to take on some administrative tasks and to spend individual time with the youngsters. George really benefitted and enjoyed going running with her. His behaviour continues to be challenging at times and this was a way to use up some energy.

We haven't been able to visit this year but we can see from photos that, apart from Geta and Ionica, everyone has gained weight. The park has had some gym equipment installed and once it was allowed they all enjoyed various activities to get active and have fun.



Myosotis were unable to hold a summer camp this year but the Casa Trandafirilor family enjoyed some days out. Elena took Irma and Geta on a day trip to Iasi (the capital city of the area) and a



highlight for everyone was a visit to a monastery where they were treated to lunch with the Abbott.

There have been some staff changes. One lady, Tita, has retired but continues to cover shifts when needed. In her place is a former volunteer who has graduated from university. It is great that she wanted to come back and work fulltime. An added bonus is that the state will pay her salary for the first year, a government incentive to encourage employers to take on young graduates.

Following discussions with our major sponsors we have had to think seriously about the long term future of Casa Trandafirilor. One charity has warned us they will have to make a smaller donation next year and the other has decided to withdraw their monthly support in 2 years time. They cannot fund us indefinitely and feel that 10 years is a reasonable time for Myosotis to have attempted to achieve their stated goals.

When Linda and Mike bought the house it was to provide a temporary home for some of the Casa Linda residents until Myosotis could accommodate them in the larger community housing project being planned. The home was to be managed and funded by Myosotis with support from RAKE. Although we didn't expect it to be needed for this length of time we signed a 10 year lease for them to use the house. Casa Trandafirilor has now been open for 8 years and frustratingly we have seen no progress in the development of this larger project although we understand it is still "the dream."



In an effort to move things forward we are setting this 10 year period as the goal for RAKE to stop funding core costs and we hope this will encourage Myosotis to focus on and secure the future for this "family." We know this isn't easy. They are aware that RAKE can only continue to provide core funding for the next 2 years. In addition we have offered to pay the salary for a manager for 2 years (we have been promised some funding towards this). Their role would be to assist Mihai, director of Asociatia Myosotis (AMR) to access funds from within Romania and to develop the project.

Mihai fully supports the idea of a manager but is doubtful anyone suitable will be found. Linda wrote a job description early in the year but Covid delayed things. The job was advertised in the autumn but sadly Mihai was right and none of the 5 people interviewed were suitable. This was a big disappointment but they will try again next year.

On a positive note this year AMR were able to source a substantial monthly sum from the town hall and this will continue next year. This additional funding has yet to filter down to what RAKE is paying each month as we continue to contribute heavily to AMR's administration costs. But it gives hope to the possibility of future funding coming from within Romania.

All our decisions are made out of necessity and with what we believe to be in the best interests of the young people. With costs, especially salaries, rising rapidly realistically we will not be able to fund the project forever. Our aim would be to continue to support AMR but by funding things not necessarily provided by the state eg. staff training, hearing aids, glasses, holidays etc. Of course we don't really know how things will pan out and our plans may well change!

All the staff have proven their commitment to the family over this difficult year and we appreciate the dedicated care they provide.

Our special thanks to The Crestin Trust for their invaluable support. We hope you all stay safe and that 2021 will see some normality return to life.

Wishing You a very Happy Christmas + New Year.

Romanian Appeal Killearn England

21 Woodhouse Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 5NA

01273 420803 rake@rake.org.uk

www.rake.org.uk

**MULTUMIM
WE THANK YOU**

