



### Introduction

Welcome to our annual newsletter which highlights our visit to Barlad in November 2022 by our trustees, Wendy, John, John and also Vic, who is a supporter of the House of Roses project.

It has been three years since we were last able to visit and we have welcomed this opportunity and looked forward to it immensely.

Despite Covid, our friends in Barlad have kept busy and we hope to once again give you an insight into the three main projects that you help us to support and share a few of the many blessings with you.

We hope you enjoy this short but informative newsletter and wish to express our gratitude to all of you who support our work in Romania.



# The Adopt a Family Project

The adopt a family project is overseen by two Trustees, Wendy and Jean. Unfortunately Jean was unable to travel with us this year but has still been actively involved in the decisions made whilst we were in Barlad

### The Istrate family.

Oana our translator and Wendy visited the family who live in a block of flats on the first floor. We were amazed to hear that in spite of having an amputated left leg( below the knee) he goes out almost daily in his wheel chair. This involves his wife taking his wheelchair down 2 flights of stone stairs(there is no lift) after which Mr Istrate goes down on



his bottom using his very strong arms to support him. He has a bed which is uncomfortable and causes him back trouble. We plan to have a better base installed and a new mattress to help these problems. They are a very stalwart couple and are very grateful for the money we are able to give them from their sponsors.



#### Oana and her mother Maria Zanet.

We are very grateful to have Oana to help us with visiting the families and for her excellent translation skills to enable us to communicate with them. It was great to meet up with her again after the 3 Covid years. We were not able to meet up with Maria as she is still anxious about covid and not keen to have visitors. She sent us her love and thanks to her sponsors.



Wendy with Oana

**Romanian Crestin Trust** 



Oana and Wendy met this elderly lady for a hot drink in a café in Barlad. She seemed quite well and very chatty but has some health problems. She lives on her own in a flat near Oana. Jenita is very appreciative of the money she receives from her sponsors.

#### Teodora Tabacaru.

Oana asked us if we could help the family of a friend of hers who is having problems. Wendy met Teodora for a chat with Oana . Teodora was on her way home from her school and had just been in to a charity shop to buy a pair of winter boots. She is a delightful young lady of 18, and works at weekends in a shop to help the family. They are a big family, with 4 children, and the father has had 3 heart attacks , has kidney problems and is on dialysis 3 times weekly so there is very little money coming in. The family live about 30K outside Barlad and have some animals that they struggle to support or give them an income. After discussion with the team we feel this is a family we should support and they are now part of the project.



# **Casa Esme**



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Loredana was explaining that they are hoping to work more closely with the parents from the beginning of the New Year. This is to help educate them in dealing with young children with disabilities, helping them to deal with bad behaviour.

Our visit to Casa Esme continues to be one of the highlights of our visit to Barlad..

Meeting with Loredana and her quiet enthusiasm for the work she does with the children is inspiring. As usual at this time of year they are beginning to wind down for Christmas and the annual assessments that must be







Vic on his first visit to Casa Esme was impressed to learn that they participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award

Myosotis have been fortunate to secure a donation from a wealthy business

man in Barlad. He has seen the work that has been so beneficial to the community, he offered to pay for a new roof and for the building to be rendered. He also project managed the work whilst it was carried out. I believe that we

explained that our donations to the Casa Esme project helped pay for the new Windows and doors during this refurbishment. It's with thanks to our supporters that we can help make this a more sustainable project within the town of Barlad





## **House of Roses**

Our five young people Geta, Irma, Ionica, George and Ionut are a legacy of the dreadful Ceaucescu regime, which as you know collapsed in 1990. The home is run by Myosotis Romania and supported by RAKE(Romanian Appeal Killearn England) and the Crestin Trust.



I was warned by our friend Linda (RAKE) who had visited a few weeks earlier, to expect a warm welcome from our youngsters – it took several minutes for them to calm down sufficiently to be able to communicate with us!





Everyone was in good health and extremely happy to see us

It was also lovely to meet up with Elena again ,who was able to visit with us at the House. However, Geta had something on her mind who, like me, has problems hearing. Some years ago, I was privileged to finance two new hearing aids for her, but was informed that one aid was broken and has been sent away to be repaired.



**Romanian Crestin Trust** 



Geta, like most children in State care, experienced a harsh regime, whereby any form of "negligence" would be severely punished, and Geta assumed that I would be very upset with her because the hearing aid was broken Thankfully I was able to console her and reassure her of our continued love for all of them – bless her!



Stimulation is an ongoing problem at the home and the youngsters love joining in what I loosely term as 'learning initiatives'



**Romanian Crestin Trust** 





A few years ago I was fortunate to learn a Romanian song called 'Isus Hristos e Domnul' which roughly translates into 'Jesus Christ is Lord' - there are four simple verses and a chorus of 'Alleliuia' which they all enjoyed learning and hope to perform for friends of ours from Bucharest later this month — I wish we had a video to share!!



# **Summer Camp**

After 2 years of not being able to hold the Summer Camp, due to COVID restrictions, Myosotis were once again able to get all the kids together with their volunteers to hold this annual event

In the above picture we can see
George and Ionica
from the House of
Roses untangling
the guy ropes for
some of the tents
and Left Irma helping with Dinner



**Romanian Crestin Trust** 



The children all come from the Barlad area and consist of children who are taught at Casa Esme, our group from the House of Roses as well as helpers and volunteers from the High School in Barlad. Many of the staff of Myosotis started as volunteers and are now working hard to make these children's lives much more fun as well as educational

Myosotis are always so grateful for our support of their Summer Camp and we have helped them purchase new Tents and other pieces of equipment to keep this project going



**Romanian Crestin Trust** 



We want to thank all our supporters for your continued support. Without you we wouldn't be able to make the difference to peoples' lives in this deprived and very poor area of Romania. We are always looking for more supporters although we are very much aware of rising costs in the UK.

However, if you or someone you know is interested in helping us please contact either Jean Hall or Wendy Norris on Tel: 07902600158 to help support a family in need, John Raine on Tel: 07919992941 to help support Casa Esme school for mentally and Physically disabled, or John Amos on Tel: 07963701327 to support the House of Roses project for mentally challenged youngsters from the deep rooted Romanian orphanage system. The trustees of Crestin Trust would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and

### Thank you



This Newsletter is very kindly printed by Richard Poyntz, Estate Agents, Canvey Island Essex.