

The Romanian Crestin Trust



Newsletter



December 2025

Welcome to our annual newsletter which highlights our visit to Barlad in November, by our trustees John Raine who is our project co-ordinator for Casa Esme and John Amos who is our project co-ordinator for the House of Roses.

Unfortunately our trustees, Wendy Norris and Jean Hall who are the co-ordinators of the Adopt a Family project were not able to travel this year and so the mantle was passed on!

Again, owing to our busy lifestyles we only had one week, starting out early morning Monday 10th November and returning late on Friday evening, but our visit was full of blessings in many guises, which hopefully we will be able to share with you in this newsletter.

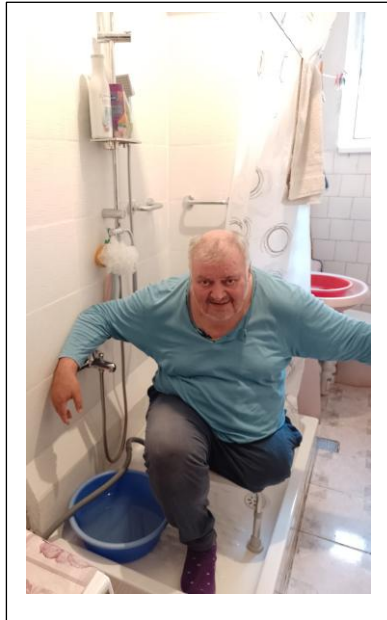
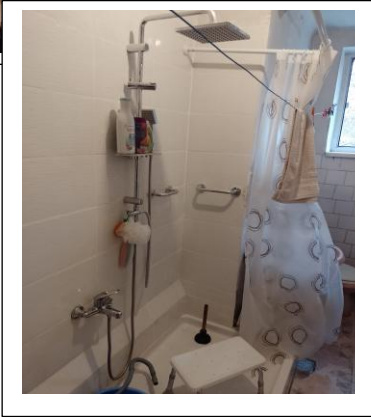
Adopt a Family Project

After a very long day travelling on Monday, we were up early to meet our old friend Nicu Bogatiou, for breakfast on Tuesday morning, to discuss our itinerary for visiting the three families that we support.

As usual, we have already sent individual reports to the wonderful supporters of this project.

Last year our newsletter featured a lovely lady called Jenita Hutanu, and she was our first port of call for this visit, and am pleased to announce that despite her many health issues and physical challenges in life, she welcomed us again into her humble home.

This year we would like to re-visit the Istrate family and our old friend Maria Zanet, whom we have been supporting for many years.



Earlier in the year, Nicu replaced the old bath with a shower unit, which George, with only one leg, and his wife Lucia are very pleased with and gave us a demonstration!

Despite George's multiple health issues, which now include Diabetes, Prostate and Heart problems, he remains extremely positive minded and thankful.

Our old friend Maria lives alone in a small one room apartment in the 'run down' area of the town. Maria's room is adorned with various photographs and icons of the Orthodox church, and a photograph of her son Bogdan, who is a priest in a monastery in the countryside has pride of place

Maria has multiple health issues, which now include Myopia, but like the cancer that she was diagnosed with some 16 years ago, she resolutely refuses any medical intervention!



Casa Esme

Our visit to Casa Esme continues to be one of the highlights of our annual trip to Barlad. The school for mentally and physically handicapped children is primarily funded by Myosotis UK and local government grants, and a small amount of financial assistance from the Crestin Trust.

From inception the goal has been to help youngsters back into main line education, and the scope of their work has expanded to working with the parents, providing them with counselling and encouraging them to become actively involved.

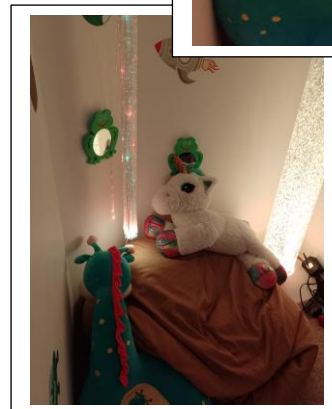
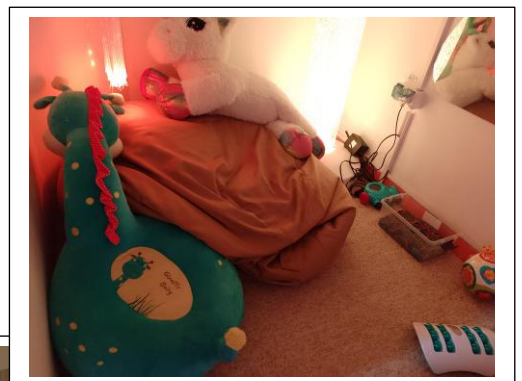


Last year, we were able to finance the purchase of specialist equipment from OMFAL, which arrived in time for Christmas – as you can see from the photographs taken during the year, the equipment is being well used!

Our visit this year coincided with the Annual Assessment, where the whole team meet to discuss the past years activities and share ideas to improve the scope of their invaluable work. John and I were privileged to join one such session, where the subject of “Sensory Diet” was on the agenda.

In 2016 Orchyd UK, a charity based in Ruislip, donated the “Sensory Room” which as you can see provides a small, quiet, compact and safe space for the child to interact with various pieces of equipment, lights etc.

Loredana explained that they wished to extend their work in “Sensory Diet”, but were struggling to find an appropriate course in Romania. Using his IT skills, John (Raine) searched the internet and discovered that there are a number of ‘on-line’ courses available in the UK, at very reasonable prices!



We look forward to hearing more in the future, as we do about the EU funding which Myosotis Romania are currently applying for which will help them develop the great work they are doing.

House of Roses

Our five young people, Geta, Irma, Ionica, George and Ionut are a reminder of that awful legacy which is known as the "Ceacescu Regime" and every year at this time of year we remember the sacrifice made by many on Remembrance Sunday, with the words '**Lest we forget**' ...

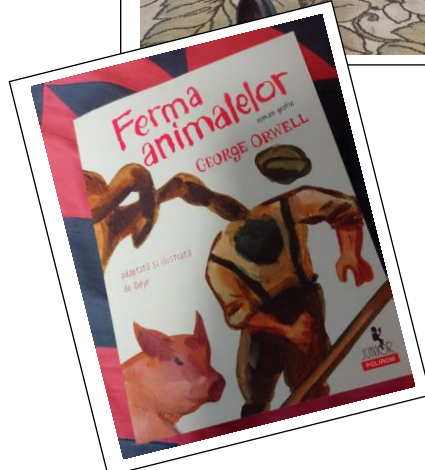
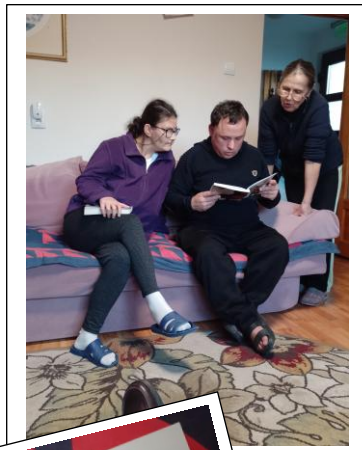
Thanks to our friend Linda, who knew and worked with our youngsters when they were young, I have a number of photographs, which serve as a reminder of their childhood, and underlines the importance of our work, in giving them a warm, safe and loving place to live....



Earlier in the year, we were able to treat our youngsters to a seaside holiday in Constanta, which is on the Black Sea coast.

Our regular supporters received a special 'Summer holiday' newsletter, and our youngsters enjoyed sharing their memories during our visit this year.

During our short visit I try to spend as much time as possible with our family and thanks to a friend in Bucharest, was able to purchase the book "Animal Farm" by George Orwell, which as you can see created a lot of interest...



Mihaela has the gift of making the story come to life...

Conclusion

It remains an impossible task for us to convey the pleasure and blessings that are bestowed upon us during our short visits to see old friends and make new ones.

Above all, we wish to thank you, our supporters for your continued love and generosity, which helps us make a huge difference to ordinary and extraordinary people's lives.

Please feel free to share and circulate this newsletter with your friends and colleagues and if anyone is interested in joining our band of supporters, then please contact:

Adopt a Family – Wendy Norris on 07902600158

Casa Esme – John Raine on 07919992941

House of Roses – John Amos on 07963701327

or for general enquiries you can email John at johnamos233@gmail.com

The Romanian Crestin Trust would like to wish you a very happy Christmas time and a healthy and prosperous 2026



Romanian Crestin Trust
Registered Charity No.1062964

LOVE IN ACTION

