

The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation

Autumn/Winter 2012 Newsletter



After a reasonable autumn warm and dry spell the weather changed dramatically in mid October bringing early sub zero temperatures and a mountain of snow to North East Romania.

Main roads were overnight closed because of deep snow and high winds which hampers any attempts at snow clearing by the authorities. In rural areas far even worse as soil and dirt roads simply became over 1 meter deep in snow and impassable except by horse and cart. In some villages the sick and those pregnant were brought by horse and cart in terrible sub zero temperatures to main roads where ambulances awaited as were unable to get into these villages.

Think ice beneath snow also causes major problems with many suffering broken limbs after a sudden fall.

In the photograph on the right one can see the terrible conditions we faced trying to get to visit our social families in Dorohoi who we support weekly with essential aid including top up food supplies.

Above one can see an old woman and her grown up Son walking home to their village in Iasi County many kilometers away in the distance with their bag of shopping on a sledge behind them. Temperatures often well below minus 30c also caused many schools to be closed and filled Hospitals quickly with pensioners who suffer along with those homeless from the extreme cold.



St Nicholas Day is a special day for Romanian Children.

Within the spirit of the St Nicholas (known as 'Mos Nicolae' in Romania) children are departed with small gifts after Church on the St Nicholas day in early December.

Each year we make a special effort to purchase from our donated funds small gifts that both bring joy and benefit the all the children in the most deprived families who without our support would get no St Nicholas day gift and would feel left out.

This year we purchased fresh fruit as all children gain vital vitamin intake from oranges and bananas, plus some fresh biscuits and chocolate treats. In this action alone over 80 children were brought St Nicholas day joy after arriving home with their parents from Church.



We value within RCHF children who make a real effort at school and support many especially from the families without means. In the Photograph on the right one can see students at the 'Sendriceni' high school in the food hygiene laboratory were Adriana Gradinariu from Dorohoi is sponsored via a wonderful monthly donation via 'Wings of Angels' study fund and this has made a huge difference also to her brother who is at school in Dorohoi including via bus fares and school requisites and clothing for school. We also sponsor a student in Iasi monthly who has done so well despite being from a family with low means that in the autumn term he started Iasi University Al Cuza and like all the other children we support is doing well in studies.



RCHF 2012 gains a replacement vehicle.

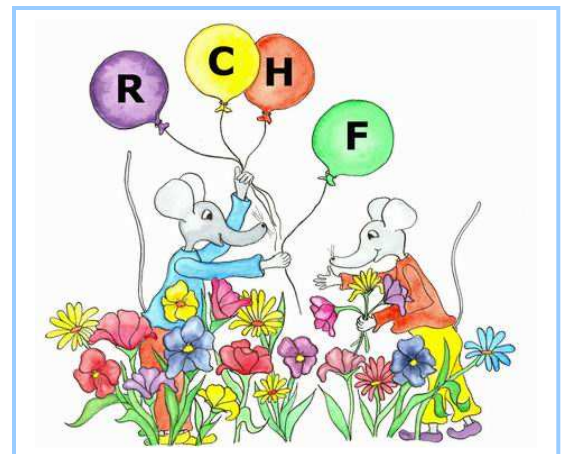


The very nature of our Christian Humanitarian voluntary work involves a great deal of travelling yearly often to the far away villages that are only served by travelling on dirt roads, but were the most needy families reside often in hard poverty through no fault of their own.

Since 2008 we had a very good Romania 'Dacia' car which not only carried large amounts of aid but transported the sick to Hospitals and also allowed RCHF staff to visit and help the poorest of families in the north east counties of Romania stretching from its borders with the Republic of Moldova and the Ukraine alike in what is a vast area of the country. Sadly the old car became unsafe and thanks to a wonderful donation we now have an Opel 'Agila' multi volume model which has driven really well this winter.

This new car will we know give very good service over the years ahead and will help ongoing to deliver vital aid and supplies to the needy as well as many other jobs including ferrying the sick for medical help on occasion. This winter alone it has delivered hundreds of Christmas presents to children and food Christmas aid to very needy families despite the extreme driving conditions in North East Romania.

The rear seats fold completely flat to allow a huge mono-volume area to carry supplies and is ideal as our RCHF aid car.



Christmas joy and happiness for children 2012 December

At Christmas we always appeal for support as in North East Romania, which is the poorest of all Romanian regions there are hundreds of children who would not have any Christmas present if it were not for our support and also Christmas food to place on the dinner table also, as hard unseen poverty deprives these families of this opportunity year after year.

We are grateful to both UK and German and Dutch sponsors who again stepped in with gifts and funds for vital food aid and Christmas treat funds that again allowed us to bring joy and happiness to the neediest of children.



We again thank The Inspectorate of Police in Suceava County for their support that assured that every Christmas present was delivered directly to the hand of the neediest of children with a special thank you to Romanian Police Inspector Ionut Epureanu for his outstanding support of RCHF voluntary work in Suceava County.



This year we were able to deliver Christmas joy to children in children's homes in Suceava County as well as in needy families and in both Dorohoi in Botosani County and Iasi also so great was your support and we thank all who donated for bringing about this Christmas joy to these children and their families with food supplies.



RCHF Christmas aid being delivered a selection of photographs!

INSPIR 2012 International Pulmonary Disease Conference



Above Dr Cristian Cojucaru Hospital of Peumology Iasi.
Above Right Prof Enrico Clini of Italy.
Right Brian Douglas representing RCHF.

10 Years ago Prof Dr Traian Mihaescu of the University Pulmonary Disease Hospital Iasi masterminded and via his foresight to raise awareness of Pulmonary infection and Disease designed and produced an international medical conference in Iasi City North East Romania. Now 10 years later in the fall of 2012 again the INSPIR international conference was held again in Iasi and having attuned for many years RCHF can truly say that this conference has grown in statue each year with many international leading medical physicians attending yearly from the UK, Italy, France, Serbia, Republic of Moldova, Germany, The Netherland along with other countries also.

The conference covers all aspects of Pulmonary disease including BOPC, Asthma, pulmonary cancer and Tuberculosis and includes workshops as well as question and answer sessions, group gatherings and of course the conference presentations and speeches.

RCHF having collaborated directly with Prof Dr Traian Mihaescu and the University Pulmonary Disease Hospital of Iasi in the domain of Tuberculosis prevention and raising public health awareness amongst rural communities for many years again was invited to attend this prestigious conference were Brian Douglas gave a PowerPoint aided presentation of the work of RCHF as an NGO and included the important Hygiene children's book so brilliantly animated by Dutch Artist Miriam Charmant. This year RCHF guests included Freddie Michel from London who volunteered for us in the summer months before leaving for home in the autumn months.

Raising Standards for families with children

In the dwelling on the left you can see a new front door and 3 windows that have enclosed the front area of this family dwelling in Dumbarava Rosie estate in Dorohoi.

This was one of several home improvements we made to the homes of the neediest families and was again paid by RCHF monthly donations, plus the installation was applied of the door and windows without labour costs. The family now has a warmer house because of the enclosed frontal area of the house and larger porch enclosed that is used as a storage area.



2 Photographs.

Open fresh meat seller in Iasi City and right a snow plough on attempting to clear the road to Suceava



In 2013 RCHF will continue to address poverty within North East Romania especially amongst families with children and senior citizens living alone.

NEW FOR 2013

IS AN EXCITING PROJECT TO ADDRESS THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF BOTH PRE SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THOSE IN THE FIRST CLASS OF MAINSTREAM- SCHOOL.

There are far too many children who simply do not gain the required basics in pre school education in Romania and after consultation with Miriam Charmant we have decided to address this with a new series of animated easy to understand educational basics which all children by age 5 years should know. Miriam's new Timmy Mouse educational materials will benefit many a child in 2013 and give them a real chance to go forward in main-stream education with a clear knowledge of the basics.

RCHF will continue to work in the Public Health education domain in 2013 and will continue to support a moral society, free of drugs and alcohol addiction via our projects of education of young people.

We sincerely thank all our sponsors who helped in a large way in 2012 bring real changes to all those we help who are in real need in a country with no social back up.

Our next RCHF newsletter will appear in March 2013.