

The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation

Summer news 2011



In June Brian Douglas was invited to visit and stay at the leading Dutch NGO working in drug rehabilitation whilst on a visit to a meeting at the European Parliament and this provided Brian via RCHF with a possibility to learn about drug rehabilitation of addicted persons. The invitation came from Remko Jorritsma who runs a NGO in Wemeldinge on the Dutch coast and via his center known as de Vrijheid which rehabilitates those from many areas of the World who wish to be clear of their addiction.. Brian jumped at the opportunity as RCHF in Romania works in prevention of drug abuse by educating young people and parents alike and this was a golden opportunity to see how rehab works to eradicate the problems of those addicted to drugs who are asking for help to clean their lives up . Brian was impressed at the huge success of the de Vrijheid center which teaches on a Christian basis the correct way forward in life that helps with success one who is addicted to narcotics to overcome their addiction and lead a new drug free life. Adding that in Romania a rehab center for addicted persons is just a dream in present times. Whilst over in Belgium Brian also had meetings with long time friend Roelie and Arun who is Indian born and both work to stop international child trafficking all over the World via their NGO ACT.. Also Brian met again his friend Tom of DW TV in Germany and other friends too, thus his trip to The Netherlands and Belgium .was a success overall with new information gained in many domains that can be applied also to the work of RCHF in Romania in the future.



Legal Highs European Parliament Conference



It was important for RCHF who are EURAD affiliates to be at the conference debate in Brussels at The European Parliament in June as these so called easy drugs known as ethnobotanic substances in Romania have caused havoc amongst young people in every City and town since their introduction into the Country in 2008. RCHF promotes a drug free society and sustains that all forms of narcotics are dangerous to public health. There are no safe or easy drugs is the strong message given out by RCHF Worldwide in its advocacy campaigns and teachings of young people.

After the conference debate Brian met the Romanian member of the European Parliament Mrs Ioana Antonescu who along with her Polish colleague tabled the conference. Also in evidence at the conference where the RCHF educational brochures used in Romania in conferences and young peoples interactive workshops.



In Romania our anti drug education continues

Two more recent conferences and workshops after the Dorohoi anti drug conference shows the commitment of RCHF members to educate young people about the real dangers posed by narcotics to public health. There are simply no winners who take drugs without medical authorization and the person all too easily becomes addicted and the life ruined with sickness and eventually a premature death. Many addicts die in agony and without support as they lose all their friends and are too addicted to even hold a steady job, thus many also turn to crime to fuel their need for funds for further doses of narcotics. In Countries like Romania where there is little help available and no rehabilitation clinics it is vital to educate young people about the serious dangers drug abuse poses. Today many call for a legalization of narcotics but this would not stop the high rates of addiction, lives destroyed, families likewise destroyed or overdose deaths of all types of drugs that kill people almost daily in Europe including Romania.

2 years ago when in the Serbian Capital Belgrade Brian Douglas was shocked at the scenes he witnessed whilst out with Serbian anti drug workers late in the evenings on the streets of the Serbian capital. Young people living in cellars, others living in derelict buildings all high on drugs and syringes scattered on the ground. Here was people of all ages including women with their children and it's the same today in many European Countries. What future has a child that sees its parents injecting narcotics then seeing them get high and out of control? Sadly many of these children will if we don't help via education at an early age themselves see what their parents do and will simply follow suit, so further innocent lives will be lost in a vicious circle. The circle can and must be broken and the way forward we see in RCHF is to educate youngsters about the dangers of drugs so they have the knowledge and wisdom to simply refuse to become a user in their lives. Friends who offer narcotics of any type at a party or disco for instance are not real friends and in such a case one needs to choose another set of friends who live a healthy lifestyle and still enjoy the disco or party! Parents also need to learn about drug abuse and we know that no parent wants to admit they have doubts about their child on the drug issue, but if it appears they must be able to face the reality and know where to get the vital help and support required before it's too late. Romania in recent years has become a drug consumer Country and now has thousands of addicted users hence the anti drug work of RCHF in an effort to stop further lives wasted via prevention education in the RCHF projects.



RCHF anti drug workshops for students in Iasi and Botosani Counties 2011

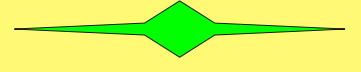
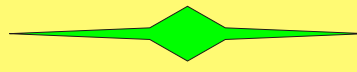
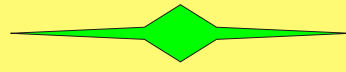
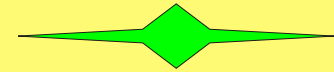
Prevention is safer & better than cure!



Drug abuse compromises life

Summer schools in Suceava County

Alex Hall a UK student living in Spain joined with RCHF in charitable voluntary actions this summer giving great help at Suceava Sports high school and at Ciocanesti summer school where he arranged games and taught children English and Spanish in his time with them. This was warmly welcomed by the sports high school director and the director of Ciocanesti school. Brian Douglas also attended to help Alex in Suceava and at the Ciocanesti summer school. For the students in Romania the long summer holidays often means staying at home because of financial restraints specially the child in the rural area, thus the Ciocanesti summer school helped fill this gap and the many hours of planning put in by the school director paid off with children being occupied and happy in their free time. They all made friends with Alex who in turn showered them with kindness and help in their organized activities daily. As well as helping at the summer schools in Suceava Alex also saw at first hand the valuable work of RCHF in a rural Iasi village and the ongoing work in Dorohoi with refugees still who have not replacement dwellings after their dwellings were washed away in last years floods. Alex also helped deliver aid to many children in these visits and saw himself the real situation that these families live in.



On the final day of Ciocanesti summer school children, teachers and RCHF volunteers spent a wonderful day at a traditional sheep farm high up in the Suhard mountains where they were treated to both natural food and enjoyed the clean air.



RCHF also supported the national no smoking day in Iasi

This years event was held in the Copou park where public health doctors and nurses gave free advice and breath tests to the public and advised on the dangers of tobacco consumption, plus illnesses associated with the same. RCHF volunteer attendance again shows that NGOs have a part to play in public health issues that affect the lives of the population on serious health issues.

We continue to help the most needy first

RCHF has now for over a year applied all of its efforts to helping the victims of the flooding that hit the Botosani County town of Dorohoi and surrounding areas last year. We continue to give our full support in Dorohoi because there are many families who have not in the last year been given a replacement dwelling as these are not finished yet. For many families the life will never be the same again - they lost their home and all personal items in the flooding. Most have no jobs as Dorohoi is a depressed area in recent years with the closure of the brick factory, glass factory and many other enterprises that have failed and closed also, thus unemployment is a high rate quite apart from the many pensioners who also lost all in the flooding of 2010 and remain unable to manage on their small pensions. In the last year we have via our partners and supporters delivered many tons of essential aid to the refugees in Dorohoi and now deliver essential top up aid including food aid and fresh fruit purchases from RCHF funds. We have families still living in tents and others in shacks and broken dwellings unfit for habitation in real terms and we will continue as is our priority to continue with all the support we can muster for the Dorhoi flood victims.



Antwerp Soup Kitchen



Whilst in Belgium Brian Douglas spent a day in the City of Antwerp helping at a soup kitchen for those in need run by De vrijheld NGO. The soup kitchen in one of Antwerp Cities central busy squares provides hot soup, bread and a drink of tea for free to anyone in need and is frequented by the many homeless people including those addicted to drugs. Everyone thinks and hears about poverty in Eastern Europe, but few appreciate that this is a huge problem now all over Europe with so many homeless people who are unable to manage daily.

We can all fall nowadays all too easily on hard times that force us to a lower level in life and poverty is not a crime, but a fact that many fail to understand until it affects them. In RCHF we face poverty and work with families that show a real interest in improving their lives and thus raising their standards. We do not simply give handouts and walk away as this only serves an immediate need, but work to help a family that really wants to lift itself to a higher level with their and our support .

Our next news update will appear in September

Thank you for your support