



## Stitching RCHF News update May 2016

Providing equal opportunities for every child

Despite not being in touch for a while Stichting Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation is in fact as busy as ever in our projects that help both children in education and families with real needs in Romania. Sadly as we are out in the field working daily the office work often is left behind until free time arrives, but we are not upset about this as our work helps many and must come first. Office work we do catch upon and we hope you agree with us and enjoy this update.

### **We support tradition and culture!**

For many years now in our voluntary work in Romania we have supported the educational, cultural and traditional domains especially in Ciocanesti Commune in the Suhard mountain range of Bucovina. Tradition is passed from one generation to the next and Romanian children learn about their culture and traditions at a very early age. Below is a young lad whose family we know and who has attended our summer camps in previous years. He lives in Ciocanesti with his Mother and Father who both work hard on their land, plus in the mountains in order to provide for their Son. Here you can see him in his traditional hand made costume painting traditional eggs in Ciocanesti, many of which can be seen at the museum in the village.



He attends the local village school having passed up from kindergarten were he enjoyed the Timmie range of easy learning books and cards and now is moving ahead in his education, plus enjoys sports, football in particular!

In Ciocanesti RCHF is well known as we have for many years developed good relations with the Mayors office, local councilors as well as at the kindergarten and school and with many locals too. We support and attend many events in this village and others within Bucovina too including at Vama, Dolhasca and Marginea in particular.



## Hardship can be overcome with help and support.

Many families who live especially in the northeastern rural areas work hard in a subsistence type of farming to earn enough to provide just the basics, whilst others work on their own large plots of land raising animals and growing fruits and vegetables for often to help the family food chain. In the last years development in agriculture, which was decimated after the 1989 revolution, is slowly starting to appear. Small new combinations of collective farms with private owners who have gained EU support grants has enabled them to purchase modern machinery and start producing foods that can be sold on the open markets. This allows a man who has agricultural experience to find a job and as such even if temporary or short-term seasonal work does bring a salary into the family and help them provide for their children.

We applaud these initiatives as they help the Country, local community and families within and help ease poverty. It's a start and though a long way to go in my opinion a good start. Too many families live without work from day to day still, but if these initiatives continue they can only help raise standards higher. In the photo above is Romanesti village, which is in Botosani County and on the eastern border of Romania with the Republic of Moldova. I pass this village many times on my way to Suceava or Dorohoi town which is also in Botosani County and its typical of many villages where time has stood still for far too many years. There is a frontier Police office and this does provide a few local jobs and a few new shops, but the rest is open land with only local agriculture to support the people and not enough. We hope that new initiatives will start here soon too so that families can enjoy a better standard of living.

## Continued St RCHF support for Tuberculosis sufferers.

With the highest statistics in all of Europe for people infected with tuberculosis RCHF continues to support this important public health domain and has for many years collaborated with the University Pulmonary Disease Hospital of Iasi. We also continue to advocate for a project to be implemented and funded that will see a large reduction in the number of people infected with this air borne disease in Romania each year. Tuberculosis is curable if caught on time, but many people simply still today do not recognize the basic symptoms and arrive far too late to a medic. Our work in this important domain continues.

## **Timmie mouse products are helping 1000,s of children learn easier**



Weekly in school term St RCHF for the past 2 years has helped the work of Miriam Charmant who produces the fabulous Timmie mouse range of early learning aids for children. Hundreds of kindergartens, plus many schools now use these exceptionally well-designed Romanian language textbooks in their early learning years. The range includes even a easy learning Geography book so that young children can learn about their Country and Europe alike, plus there is a superb Story book to aid reading and even early learning card packs, plus other products all of which carry the mouse theme!

Later this year Miriam will have more new products including a new car easy learning set to add to the basic range of learning aids. Her endless hours of unseen hard work is helping so many a child in Romania especially in Suceava and Botosani Counties and it's a pleasure for us to deliver these products to educational establishments and make basic teacher training sessions as well. This job we do weekly in term time throughout the year.





## Crossing the boundary!

This old iron bridge more than just crosses the River Siret as also is the point at which depending of which way you are traveling you either enter Botosani County and leave Suceava County in northeast Romania!

The bridge is cobbled, as were all roads 25-30 years ago when there were few cars in Romania in communist times. It can be slippery when in the winter is covered in ice and snow also, but we cross weekly in the course of our work journeys and have had no problems so far praise the Lord.

## Dorohoi disaster 6 years on!

In the early summer months in July 2010 the small market town of Dorohoi in the far north east corner of Romania was stuck by a wall of water which came in the night after heavy rains. The water when a riverbank burst smashed through all in its path claiming some human lives and destroying homes, which were simply washed away, plus local infrastructure including rail bridge damaged and roads washed away too. RCHF was quickly on hand and helping families who had lost everything they owned including their homes and literally only had the wet clothes they stood up in that night in the pouring rain.

This was a huge blow to a town already suffering from probably the highest unemployment rate in the north of Romania as factory after factory closed in past years leaving the majority of families living in a precarious situation. Within a 10day period thanks to friends in Hungary we were able to bring in and deliver 2 huge lorries of vital aid including fresh clean drinking water, food aid, replacement mattresses and bedding, plus clothes and furniture to help those who had lost it.

Furthermore as winter approached we sought accommodation and thank Father Muha of the Christian Orthodox Church in Dorohoi for his support in housing many a family left homeless, plus with others still homeless and a freeing winter fast approaching we thanks to sponsors were able to purchase Himalayan quality mountain tents that were thermal inside, plus 100 water and snow resistant and wind resistant also. Families with no alternative offer of accommodation were housed in these freely donated tents through

the winter of 2010 and until the autumn of 2011 when replacement houses in Dumbrava Rosie estate were completed to a point of being habitable by a family.



Above one of the many dwellings destroyed in the Dorohoi disaster and also a couple of pensioners who benefited from our RCHF tent accommodation at that time after their dwelling was destroyed. Today we still support social families in Dorohoi both via RCHF funds and Wings of Angels as there are many families still without means to manage all the family bills our help including with food aid helps families better manage their situation.

We also again thanks to a donation from The Netherlands have in recent years been able to implement a self help project were families are given freely donated vegetable seeds, which they then plant and grow, plus tender themselves. This helps the family help itself with good results shown at harvest time in recent years.

**We thank all who support Stichting RCHF and the valuable work we undertake in Romania. Without your kindness and generosity we simply could not achieve as much as we do in the service of helping others with far greater needs than ours.**

**If you would like to join in and help us with a donation of any kind either aid or funding please contact us directly by email at [stichting\\_rchf@yahoo.com](mailto:stichting_rchf@yahoo.com)**

