## Stichting Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation

Latest news and updates 2017



In December 2016 as well as providing food aid to families without means in the Christmas month we also again this year were able thanks to the sheer kindness of our sponsors to prepare and deliver over 70 Christmas gift boxes to children in rural areas of Suceava and Botosani Counties. In many of these villages we brought Christmas joy to children living in small dwellings without running water or electricity.

Brian Douglas again assisted by Police officers dressed in his Father Christmas suit to add to the children's joy of a visit from Father Christmas!

## Timmie products made learning easier throughout the year for children



Throughout 2016 and continuing into the first 3 months of 2017 Brian Douglas weekly continued to deliver packs of Timmie mouse animated books and learning cards to children in kindergartens and schools within both Suceava and Botosani Counties. Helping children to learn specially in the rural villages were education is at a far lower standard than in cities and towns is essential to each child's future. These Timmie products are free of all charges and are designed by Miriam Charmant at her studio in the Netherlands, translated into the Romanian language and delivered to Brian Douglas in Romania yearly with the sole purpose of aiding children's early learning and communication skills. There are rural kindergartens and schools that have not received new manuals and so are behind in teaching methods and the up to date freely donated Timmie range of products gives each child an opportunity to learn with not only new manuals and learning cards, but also is a huge benefit to teaching staff also. With well over 10,000 manuals and cards also placed in kindergartens and schools and ongoing weekly again this year we can say that children now are getting a real chance in educational terms even in the poorest of areas in northeast Romania. Brian enjoys the voluntary work and helps in class with children and keep interest at high level.

The latest news is that this year we will also start with second language teaching with 2 Timmie books that Brian will receive shortly so that he can start free English classes for children too. A second language like English which is an international language is an added bonus for children to learn and is free to learn, plus can in their future lives help them in employment as many foreign companies in Romania look for English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language nowadays.



Children love to learn and within Stichting RCHF with the Timmie range we provide the best opportunity!

## Stichting RCHF Gala award

In December 2016 Brian Douglas of St RCHF was presented with a Gala Award by The Romanian monitorul group for his humanitarian voluntary work over many years in Romania at a special Gala event with over 400 guests. Brian accepted the award on behalf of Stichting RCHF and thanked publicly the all who have supported over all the years, plus thanked Suceava Police Inspectorate with whom St RCHF collaborates on child crime prevention subjects for their healthy support of the work of St RCHF.

# New for 2017; Helping hand for the homeless and vulnerable.

For many years we have each month supported families who are marginalized with top up food aid, clothing, support of needy children with school requisites and school transport fares. This continues each month with families who are social cases that need help to go forward in life and cannot manage on their very low incomes to cover all expenses. The support is humanitarian and free to all who we help specially the families we support in Dorohoi since 2010 who suffered and lost their homes in severe flooding in the small town in Botosani County of Romania. This vital support helps keep families together and functioning as a family unit.



### We now are looking to provide a hand of help also to homeless people who live rough.

The idea we are working on is to provide hot soup and sandwiches to those we find living rough without a roof over their heads. This is not an easy project, but will start in March and will be assessed weekly to see were we can improve, what costs are as may rise, but we do not know until we are started and above all to eventually gain the trust of the ones we help to a point were we can get them to a Church run center for the homeless. Many refuse to attend despite being able to have a bed and shower there for instance, but we can help if the trust can be gained and will bring better possibilities to the homeless. In today's modern society we can all loose out in life and even loose the roof over our heads, thus our project will be to offer not only food that the homeless require in their stomachs, but to guide and educate to get them off the streets also.

## Grow your own and help your family project.

After a long hard winter with sub zero conditions and ice and snow that falls in eastern Europe each year we are now thankfully waking up to slightly warmer days and spring is in the air again!



In Romania Brian Douglas has already received a large donation of vegetable seeds from Helmond province in The Netherlands were we have a very kind sponsor who again this year has donated free of any charge these seeds which include onions, spring onions, lettuce, peas, beans, tomatoes and many other vegetable seeds thus in total all a housewife needs to place a meal on the family table! As in previous years families who are out of work, with little income will again be taking part in this project that sees a family help itself and reap the rewards in free vegetables on the family table at harvest. They prepare the ground in their gardens, plant and nurse the seeds and water when required as they grow into plants and later in the year have small harvest for their family. Families chosen are ones who cannot afford most of these vegetables and benefit from their own work in raising same, thus providing self satisfaction, which is important when esteem is low as is in any marginalized family.

## **Children's free camping Holidays 2017**



Since 2010 we have been able to provide children in need with a free holiday at our organized summer camps and are very happy to state that this year again we will be providing even more children with a free weeks holiday. Already in the last period Brian Douglas has spoken to the Mayor of Ciocanesti village in the suhard mountains of Suceava and has approval to run 2 summer camps for children on the Ciocanesti site free of any rental charges. Brian has also spoken to Fr Muha at Dorohoi cathedral and again this year St RCHF will have many needy Dorohoi children at summer camp in Suceava County at Ciocanesti. Likewise Brian has arranged a summer camp for children at Ciocanesti School in the summer and this will probably be at a new location in Moldovita were Brian is negotiating the site. This leaves another Ciocanesti site camp to arrange and at the moment children from Liteni village are being considered for this camp.



Easter treats for children 2017

In April in the week of Easter we will be delivering Easter treats to children in families without means in Suceava and Botosani County along with extra food supplies to their parents where required so that all can have an Easter filled with joy!

We have also in the last week delivered small gifts to children as in Romania the 1<sup>st</sup> of March is celebrated with a small gift to announce the arrival of Spring to children and they have special events in schools on these days also.

# Tuberculosis remains a major health problem in Romania.



In this photograph is the pulmonary disease hospital of Iasi city in Romania that receives amongst many sick people those suffering from Tuberculosis. Romania continues to have the highest TB infected people in Europe today and Brian Douglas with St RCHF has for many years as a registered member of The World Health Organization STOP TB department continues to offer support in this important domain, plus advocates strongly on the subject of both Tuberculosis and COPD alike.

We also support the Iasi public health prevention team for many years in their activities amongst the population in educating the public on serious threats to illness.

## We thank you for your support of our humanitarian work that is voluntary and will update with a new newsletter in 2 months time.