



The Myosotis Trust

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NEWSLETTER OF THE MYOSOTIS TRUST

CHRISTMAS 2011 EDITION

FREE

The Trust is an humanitarian charity founded to improve the physical, spiritual and mental health of the orphaned, the old, the young, the sick and the poor of Barlad in Eastern Romania.



How Long!

By Carol Daniel

Is it really 15 years since the Myosotis Trust was registered as a charity? It certainly is, and the "baby" is growing into a fine young teenager. But teenagers need lots of attention to bring them through these important years and just when the parent is looking for a break comes the time when effort, finances and lots of love is necessary to get through these difficult years before adulthood

and self-sufficiency (hold on; when does your child ever stop needing you?).

Recently I have received some emails from past Young Romanian Volunteers who have told me how much of an impact Myosotis has had on their lives in a positive, life enhancing way. They now have jobs; many far away from Barlad and consider that the experiences they had as Young Volunteers has made them more socially aware and wanting to give service to those less fortunate. This summer one such Y.V. who is training as a dentist checked all our children at Casa Esme's teeth and showed the parents the correct way to care for the teeth and provided them with dental charts to follow the progress of the often rotten teeth. She isn't in a position to provide treatment and we need to obtain this for our children but it marks another stage in the growth of Myosotis.

Another past Y.V., who works in Bucharest spent a few days on the summer camp and provided training for the current Y.V's on fund raising. Iulia Barbu, one of the original group who visited Taize when St Martin's helped fund the trip has participated in the Cardiff Half Marathon, and raised nearly £400 for Myosotis. At last I can see fruit growing on the tree we planted in poor soil and that has weathered many storms and has needed some pruning but if it is to reach its full potential and just when all the effort and cost seems too much I need to ask you to re-affirm your role as supporters of the charity.

The existing programmes are, in general running well, and The Health Centre is still trying to obtain a general practitioner, needed as much as ever when in today's current financial climate the poor are still not able to access health services. Casa Esme has a growing waiting list of children and we have extended our service to include an older age group above 11.

The 3 families in our Opportunity Change program are doing well and the baby whose mother was living in a ruin is now started secondary school in Barlad away from her village home because she is very bright and a town education may equip her for a better future.



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Of course this requires extra money. You see Myosotis continues its care long term. Also Denisa who has been in our program for about 14 years has given birth to a baby boy.

Just when our financial position is bleak due to the general economic climate the Myosotis Trustees after VERY careful deliberation agreed to help the Romanian Myosotis charity to help set up a home for a small number of more able young people who previously lived in a home run by an English charity that had to close down. What a huge commitment for all of us involved in this work. In reaching the decision to proceed with this project I reminded my fellow trustees of the Star Fish Story recounted one day at St Martin's by one of the Trustees and whilst we cannot change the world or indeed help many people, to do so for one is moving in the right direction.

So now it is time for me to contact as many of the old team of Young Volunteers and ask them to try and help me raise funds in Romania; modest as this may be. It is also time for me to ask people, who have so consistently supported this charity to, in very difficult times, embrace what I am trying to do. Let all the issues that cause disunity fade so that the bigger picture of God's work is carried out by all our hands as we act in the name of Jesus Christ.

The current Young Volunteers have returned from Taize where a group of 18 of them had as always an experience that will live with them forever. They were accompanied by a Romanian Orthodox Priest, who certainly had his values questioned. This group is part of a current 65+ committed young people who will play a very important part in the friendship and assistance to be provided to our residents when the home opens. The brothers at Taize are also speaking about the possibility of one of them visiting Barlad and our projects. The Myosotis Trust is not a thing of the past but very much of the here and now - and the future; with your help.

Carol R Daniel November 2011

How can you help?

We have needs at the Health Centre for Sanitary Pads, Zinc and Castor Oil Cream and Cleaning Products.

At Casa Esme we need Children's toothbrushes and toothpaste, Coloured Paper, Liquid Poster Paints, Play Dough, Detergent and Soap.

For the House of Roses we will need Detergent, Dettol Spray, Washing up Liquid, Window Cleaner, Spray Polish, Toilet Cleaner, Soap, Floor Cleaner, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste and Rubbish Sacks.

Goods can be taken to Shop Cariatad, Machynlleth, Wales or to Oak House, Oakway, Studham, Bedfordshire. LU6 2PE.

This year we were able to take more severely disabled children on the summer camp thanks to the training received at the Orchyd holiday in England in 2010. The children had a wonderful time and their parents couldn't believe how happy their children were to be away from home.



Mission From Markyate!

Markyate Baptist Church trip to Barlad last summer was full of love, joy, enthusiasm, growth and many fond memories. Having been to Barlad twice before with the Baptist Church, once with the youth group and the second with the men's group, one would suppose that the experience may become a little tedious or repetitive...well I can safely say that this last mission was the most exciting and rewarding yet! The youth team consisted of 10 young people and 3 leaders with the adult team holding strong with people in and out of the mission over the two weeks. The youth split into two teams, young men and women, with the women going to help in the children's holiday camp and the men staying in Barlad to redecorate Casa Esme for the first week.

Decorating each room in Casa Esme was full of laughs, a good old sing song and friendships being built with the adult team as we painted and ate together. The satisfaction and accomplishment we all felt after finishing the decorating, painting eight rooms in total was amazing! We all couldn't wait for the children to come back and see what we had done. The girls also had an amazing time, looking after the children who during term time attended Casa Esme. They had planned activities and games to play with the children and had the opportunity to go and see the monastery with the children, which was quite an experience as I was informed!

Throughout the mission, God was in the centre of everything we got up to, from the morning worship and devotion to the breakthrough Bible study sessions that the Romanian young volunteers came to and experience the love of Jesus through song and reflection. During the second week, the whole team actively participated in building and painting the fence at the Dobred's. The fence was received with great appreciation and love from the family. The highlight of the whole two week trip for me personally, has to be the reconnection with all the young volunteers and seeing them grow in their faith and the way that the English team became a blessing and more importantly, were blessed to have the opportunity to go out and serve but also to receive from the Romanian people.

By Timothy Withers



Here is our wonderful Management Team working in Barlad, without whose help the Myosotis Trust would not function as effectively as it does.

NOTHING IS EVER EASY

Really I know this is true but there is always a hope that now something in Romania that you try to do which will bring benefits to people will not be obstructed by those who have power. Sadly in trying to start the new home this has not been the case. I won't write all the problems down as it will take up too much room but in short, promises of cooperation by the person in charge of the young people, were all retracted. This meant that a different route has had to be followed and another property found as a home.

Mike and Linda Barnes who were part of the charity who started the home in Husi where the young people in need had previously lived have subsequently bought a small house in Barlad which they are leasing to Asociatia Myosotis on an indefinite basis until we can buy it from them or another location is found. They are funding improvements to the building which is in good general condition. Now the BIG problem is to get the young people living there as the Head of Child Protection is now suggesting they may not be able to come.

There are no replies to letters, he's unavailable for meetings and meanwhile we all wait in uncertainty as to when we can open up the home for the four young people who will start living there. But in the meantime furnishing the house and settling the care plan and those who will act as Assistants to the youngsters can be made.

I saw three of the youngsters when I was in Romania recently and they are very excited about the possibility of moving to the new home. There has been some talk about them being separated and moved to other placements and we will do as much as possible to prevent this. The best interests or rights of the individuals concerned are seemingly of little importance to those wielding power.

The new home will require additional funding to that we already require for our projects but I have trust that somehow this will be found. All the current problems must be overcome and in 2012 I hope to see the start of our first home which I want to be a teaching block towards the creation of a further home, if possible, for other young adults who are currently coming to our Day School, Casa Esme and who will need support in the future.

The home will be named; The House of Roses and will endeavour to allow those living there an opportunity to live as near a normal life as possible within a community setting.

P.S. Two of the young people have now been moved to other centres and thus separated. Another young person has died in the Camin; making 2 deaths from the original group and still silence from the 'top' man.

Carol R Daniel November 2011

ORCHYD HOLIDAY 2011

After hearing about the amazing experience that Lori and Alex had in Ruislip, me and Bogdan were very excited to participate this year at Orchyd Holiday. We knew that this trip will improve our experience/ work with disabled children, but, I also knew that for me it will be a great opportunity to learn new methods in working with children in wheel chairs.

So, our "adventure" started on 3rd of August when we met our "English family", the staff member and some of the volunteers. That day I found out that people have been organizing Orchyd Holiday for almost 30 years; it is like a "family tradition" because grand parents, parents and children are involved in organizing a special holiday for 20 disabled children each year. Every year other children are chosen to participate in this amazing holiday after a previous selection based on: letters of recommendation from schools, social background and severely disabled children that will never have the opportunity to take part at school camp.

I was very happy to meet Father Simon again as I heard that this year the Orchyd Holiday will be held in St. Martin's Church Hall. A very special day, with lots of emotions for me, was 4th of August, the day I met the children. A cocktail of emotions invaded the Church: joy, happiness, sadness and nostalgia, all this I could see on children, parents, staff members and volunteers faces while we accommodated the children in their new "house".

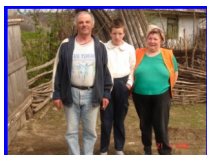
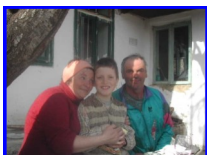
Each day I learned something new because the children were taken on outings to Paradise Wildlife Park, 2 days of camping activities at Mad Bess Woods (including overnight stay at campsite), Theatre from Blunder Bus, Swimming, Bowling, Longridge Outdoor Activity Centre, Shopping on Uxbridge street, Thames Valley Adventure Playground followed by a dancing and activity session at JAM 2000 where we celebrated Uzma's Birthday, Tube Train, visiting farm at the school where Orchyd was held in 2010, another day of swimming followed by an evening party. What I loved most in this holiday was that every child had the chance to choose: where they want to stay (in the wheel chair, in the sensory room, in their bed), if they need to be changed, what kind of juice they want, if they want more food or dessert, the clothes they wear each day, the toys they want, etc.

Another important fact is the opportunity that I had to meet, talk and share experiences and information with two teachers that work in a school with disabled children (the school where Orchyd holiday was held last year). All these experiences helped me understand better the needs of a school well equipped for disabled children in Romania.

By sending each year new people from Myosotis Trust in Romania to "Orchyd Holiday" gave me, Bogdan, Lori and Alex the opportunity to see at hand the work effort, the involvement and the need of sharing information, possible treatments, advanced techniques in working with disabled children, with people coming from different organizations, cultures and social status, all having in common the chance to work with disabled children, making them enjoy the experience of a real holiday where they can make new friends.

Thank you all for making this possible!

Love, Claudia Lacramioara Bulgaru



Ionica, hasn't he grown! 2003, 2006 & 2011



Miky taking much needed food supplies to Carmen and her family.

A Short Update on Current Issues concerning The Myosotis Trust

The House of Roses The house has now been bought by Mike and Linda Barnes. It is in good condition but is smaller than we would have liked. We had hoped to buy the house furnished but this was not possible, so we are currently exploring the idea to hire a 7.5 ton van to take out furniture. Mike and Linda are closing down their charity in Romania and will pass on any money made from the sale of a flat the charity owned to the Myosotis Romanian charity. Miky and the Management Team are working on the staffing arrangements so that 24 hour cover can be provided.

The Health Centre Currently, no doctor has been found suitable to work at The Centre. The supply of contraceptives have been stopped to us as contracts for Family Planning are now only being given to hospitals. This raises the question 'Do we need to continue with this service and all the additional costs this incurs if the service is now being provided by the local hospitals?' The Breast Clinic continues to flourish with a further supply of prostheses, bras and swimwear being taken out next year.

Casa Esme Here, all is going well and we are waiting to hear what level of funding we should receive for next year. The inspection went well, although we had to implement a few recommendations which have been done. We still have a waiting list of children and the group of three people who came over from Orchyd in England were impressed by the quality of service being provided. The green house and raised garden beds will come into their own next year and be a welcome addition. The Markyate team are planning an external repainting job next summer which will refresh the appearance.

Conference in Bucharest Loredana was recently invited by a Member of Parliament in Vaslui to attend a conference in Bucharest on autistic children and transport was provided. This suggests that Loredana is respected in her role and that is obviously good for Myosotis.

The Young Volunteers Currently we have about 50 Young Volunteers. I continue to be impressed by their dedication and effort. Iulia Barbu, who is a past volunteer and is currently living with me, along with Monica, is putting together a newsletter for past volunteers as we want to try and get them to support Myosotis now they are working. Cristina, another past volunteer, who has studied medicine and is now studying dentistry, has checked all the Casa Esme children's teeth and spoken to their parents. She is helping our children to receive treatment in Iasi to have dental extractions that are sadly necessary. Another past volunteer came to the camp and provided teaching on fund raising to the volunteers and stayed a few days. This is the way forward.

Opportunity Change One of the families we re-housed, Denisa has given birth to a little boy. Mother and baby are well. Mr. & Mrs. Dobrea now have two sons working abroad, so their situation has improved and Mr. Dobrea is receiving his pension. Carmen is working hard and Miruna has started school in Barlad. Miky and his Mother, Mrs. Poppa are her guardians. It is costing the Trust £100 a month to give her this opportunity.

Finances I think we may be down by as much as £20k in this financial year and the money we agree to sent to Romania next year will obviously reflect this situation.

Despite this grim position, I am delighted by the development and effort made by the Romania Team and I do feel they are doing their best to work effectively in every way. All of the Trustees and Beneficiaries thank all who have supported the charity through another year.

Carol Daniel 14th November 2011



If you would like to arrange for someone to come to your organisation to give a talk on the work of the charity please contact Carol on 01650 511942 for Wales. For speakers in England, please contact Maureen Tinsey on 01895 633928 to arrange a suitable date.