



Myosotis
QR Code

the Myosotis trust

Charity No. 1056671



NEWSLETTER OF THE MYOSOTIS TRUST

WINTER 2012 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.



Enjoying a meal together, Irma, Geta, Iount and Razvan, our new residents at The House of Roses.

What is 'Myosotis'?

Myosotis is the botanical name for the forget-me-not flower. When the Trust's Director first visited Romania, everyone in the hospitals and orphanages asked her not to forget them.

Therefore as our logo we use the Myosotis flower so that *none* of us forgets.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We now have the ability to receive donations from people using their mobile phones by texting a code and amount and we receive the funds.

Our code is MYOS11.

This should be texted to 70070.

For example if you wished to donate £10.00, you would text MYOS11 £10 and send it to 70070.

You can also GiftAid it. Thank you

THE OPENING OF THE HOUSE OF ROSES

By Carol Daniel

This year the House of Roses opened and now has four residents who are in their early 20s, 2 young ladies and 2 young men. They are supported by a house father and mother who work on rotating shifts. On Sundays one of the management team provides cover in a voluntary capacity. The house is really nice and we also have four chickens and a dog. As everyone settles into their new home we hope to continue life training skills and I have every hope that the "family" will lead happy and full lives. Rake the charity who we are working with for this project has provided all the necessary funding to run this home with Linda and Mike Barnes making available the property. In the coming months we will be applying to the State for funding which will help towards the running costs.

We have a number of other young adults who also need a home and our thoughts have to be on how to achieve this; whether to build a larger home to accommodate about 12 people or acquire more, smaller houses. Ideally we want accommodation for staff/volunteers too. The joy these young people give out is proof of how remarkable they are.

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THE MYOSOTIS TRUST

Text **MYOS11** £2 / £5 / £10 to 70070 to donate now

e.g. MYOS11 £10

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THE OPENING OF THE HOUSE OF ROSES

Last week URB the largest factory in our area which is also a world leader in the manufacture of ball bearings sponsored a Gala evening in aid of Casa Esme which received coverage on National TV. It is hoped that enough money will have been raised to employ 2 more staff at the school that will allow us to bring in more children from our waiting list. Currently we are educating 51 children and the State is only covering a third of the running costs which means the charity provides about £2,000 a month to cover the short fall. However, today we have been told that our application for funding for next year has been agreed with an increase and we hope that half of the costs will be covered. Everyone who visits our school is impressed by the standard of care and opportunities given to the children. The breast prosthesis fitting service being run from the Health Centre is a great success with woman travelling long distances to benefit from our facility. This year 124 ladies have received prostheses and bras without being charged, some ladies have made financial donations for the service. In total, 418 ladies have been seen. Next June, Lesley and Val our specialist trainers will return for a week to carry out further training and fitting. I think we may be the only place where ladies can get properly fitted prostheses free of charge in Romania. This is thanks to Val, Lesley, Luton & Dunstable hospital and various bra & prostheses suppliers.

We have recently been awarded a contract to undertake cervical cytology screening which compliments our existing women's gynaecology and family planning clinics. The hunt for a general practitioner to work at the Health Centre continues.

The Young Volunteers again ran a successful summer camp raising funds to cover its costs and taking a larger number of disabled children than before. This year they were again joined by a group from Markyate Baptist church who also painted the outside

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Carol presenting a Myosotis medal to Mr. Tuyun, Financial Director at URB in Barlad, Romania.

of Casa Esme. The Orchyd charity who runs holidays for disabled children and held in Ruislip again invited a member of staff and a volunteer, covering all expenses. This has been the third invitation and it has provided valuable experience that has enabled us to include more severely disabled children on our holiday camp. The shop in Machynlleth continues to keep its head above water in an effort to raise some funds for the charity. Please look out for its website which will be launched in January to take orders for a number of items that we sell. The website address for the shop will be: myosotiscrafts.co.uk. A number of ladies still knit items for us and they remain most welcome. To those of you who have continued supporting the work of the charity thank you from all of those in Romania.

Carol R Daniel

26th November 2012



Disabled children suitable to go to school. To be or not to be?

In Romania, integrating disabled children in schools is an acute issue. A few years ago there were special schools for disabled children, boarding schools, which separated children from their family but allowing them to spend time with their parents only on holidays (even 7 year olds), but a large number of these schools were closed down.

The new law regarding education in Romania (which was approved in early 2011) protects disabled children's right to education and create the theoretical context to integrate disabled children in mainstream. Moreover, the law has special specifications concerning the fact that schools have to provide specialized teachers for disabled children and curriculum adapted to the disabled child's individual characteristics.

The situation looks nice on paper, but the reality is a shock. In the current economic crisis, Ministry of Education says it has no money to hire teachers to work with disabled children. Thus disabled children remain outside the education system and nobody responds before the law for that.

Moreover, new legal provisions regarding the disabled children's inclusion in mainstream are not known among disabled children's families and nor among teachers working in mainstream.

These were the considerations which led Casa Esme's staff members to engage themselves in a complex process whose aim is to help the process of disabled children inclusion in mainstream. The first step that we've done in this regard was to prepare an informative material on the rights of disabled persons including an overview of the new legal provisions regarding school integration of disabled children. The material was distributed to disabled children's families and also in the public and private local institutions whose activities involve disabled persons.

A second step was taken when we organized a meeting between parents of children who attend our Day Centre activities, a senator from the Romanian Parliament and the deputy mayor from Barlad. This activity was attended by the representatives of our local media, so activity was visible throughout the entire county. The Senator who took part in the discussion was surprised that Barlad is the only city in the county with no school for disabled children sustained by the state. The only alternative that the Romanian state provides for disabled children concerning their education is to go in mainstream. But here, however, there are lots of problems: teachers refuse to work with disabled children, claiming that they don't have the necessary professional training; Children with normal development reject or marginalize colleagues with disabilities, and they often are aggressive with them, just because they seem to be different; School Inspectorate Vaslui County does not provide the necessary human resources for integrating disabled children. Although the law requires that disabled students to have the support of a specialized teacher, in the current economic crisis, the School Inspectorate undertakes no experts on these posts.



Children with normal development singing together in Casa Esme.

After this meeting, "Casa Esme" organized an activity on the topic of disabled children's inclusion in mainstream. This activity was attended by representatives of all local stakeholders in the disabled children educational including: Directors of schools in Barlad, teachers from mainstream, the only teacher specialised in working with disabled children employed in Barlad by the state, speech therapists operating in mainstream schools, school counsellors who are working in mainstream schools in Barlad, parents of disabled children with disabilities, parents of children with normal development, representatives of local NGOs whose activity is related directly to disabled children, psychologists and social workers.

We discussed, for about 4 hours, multiple aspects concerning disabled children's school inclusion.

For those who attended this activity, the discussions increased awareness concerning the obstacles that disabled children must face when they want to go to school: lack of specialists, mainstream teachers have no professional training to work with disabled children. At this point, the existing training options for teachers in mainstream do not provide the necessary skills and knowledge for working with disabled children. This is one of the most important reasons behind the rejection attitude concerning the idea of including disabled children in mainstream; in mainstream there is no appropriate educational materials for working with disabled children; the groups of students in the mainstream classroom are oversized; reluctance of children with normal development and their families against the disabled children's presence in the classroom; communication gaps between experts in the mainstream system; the measures taken by the Ministry of Education in Romania for promoting the school inclusion of disabled children are seen as inconsistent.

One of the conclusions drawn at the end of the activity required public schools to work with local NGOs to improve people's attitudes towards disabled persons in the community.

Teachers attending the activity said at the moment, when a teacher accepts to work with a disabled child in his group of children with normal development, the biggest challenge is actually to work not with the children, but with parents of children with normal development. This approach request from the teachers causes emotional,



Children from mainstream visiting children at Casa Esme Day Centre.





myosotis
ROMANIA

CENTRUL de SĂNĂTATE

Centrul de Sănătate Myosotis

CLINICĂ DE PLANIFICARE FAMILIALĂ

Centrul de Sănătate Myosotis este un proiect al Asociației Myosotis România, care a fost înființat în anul 2003 ca centru medico-social pentru persoane defavorizate. Centrul își propune să ajute la îmbunătățirea stării de sănătate a acestora, prin programe de educație pentru sănătate, consiliere în sănătatea reproducției, servicii de planing familial și distribuire gratuită de contraceptive. În ultimii doi ani, Centrul de Sănătate Myosotis a distribuit, gratuit, proteze mamare și le-a consiliat pe femeile care au suferit o mastectomie.

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bl. B1-3, sc. 2, Bărlad, județul
Vaslui; 0235.42.19.55
www.asociatiamyosotis.ro

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Investigații și consultații de specialitate în obstetrică-ginecologie, crioterapie, planificare familială, distribuție gratuită de proteze mamare și grup de suport, campanii de promovare a sănătății, educație pentru sănătate în școli. Cabinetul are în dotare un aparat de crioterapie, fiind singurul dispozitiv de acest gen din județul Vaslui.

HARGHITA HUNEDOARA IALOMITA IASI ILFOV MARAMURO

GHIDUL NATIONAL AL CLINICILOR SI SPITALEROR 237

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We currently need soap, shampoo, play-doh, pencils, paper, pens, rubbers, exercise books, dressings, cotton wool pleats and bandages.

If you are able to donate any of the above, please contact us.

THANK YOU!

All the parents of disabled children who have attended this activity have expressed the desire to send their child to a school in town, no matter if it's a mainstream school or a special one.

Over the entire year, in response to these needs, Casa Esme has organized activities that allowed students with normal development from the local school to visit our Day Centre and enjoy the activities with disabled children. Besides the fact that these activities have enriched the life experience of all participants, they have contributed to:

1. improve the visitors' attitude toward disabled children;
2. increase visitors' interest toward the disabled children's problems;
3. increase the visibility of our Day Centre activity.

Also, from 2010 we have a special group of children: it is our disabled children who are going to school with children with normal development. We are working with them in order to help them to cope with the tasks at school. Throughout the year we have participated, at the invitation of local television in t.v. shows whose aim is to optimize in our local community the general attitude towards people with disabilities. As a result of all these activities, 28 of the children who come to Casa Esme also go to school with children with normal development. Yes, it is true! They are facing a lot of problems, but, at least for them we have done the very first step: they are accepted in a school for children with normal development!

Anyway, the most important thing is the fact that Casa Esme is the only institution, not only in our town, but in our county, that offers free, long term educational services to disabled children. This is one of the reasons which makes Casa Esme so necessary in Bărlad! Casa Esme is their voice in a country where everyone seems deaf to the disabled children's needs and, primarily, to the fact that disabled people are around us. Simply the fact that we have in our town a Day Centre for disabled children is something that reminds people that disabled people live near us. Entirely, our activity is lead by the idea that we have the mission to promote good changes in the disabled people's quality of life.

Loredana DOBRIN
Psychologist at the Casa Esme
Day Centre



HEALTH CENTER

Someone said that to support a person in difficulty is very important, but when you lend a hand in a difficult situation, it is even more important, and this is what Myosotis Romania Association makes ... and will continue to do, to open a door when all others are closed!

The Health Center is a project of the Association Myosotis Romania and was founded in 2003, the medical-social center for disadvantaged people, for people with disabilities, preparing the younger generation for a better, more beautiful Romania. Today, the aim is to improve the health of people in difficulty (in financial and social terms), contributing actively to support healthcare, through health education programs, counselling in reproductive health and family planning services and free distribution of contraceptives. Myosotis Romania Association, through obstetrics gynaecology clinic, offers free specialized gynaecological consultations and treatment to patients who come from disadvantaged environments, not having a monthly income, and for those who prove payment of social insurance by submitting a referral from the G.P.

Starting in 2011, the clinic has efficient medical equipment, has a device cryotherapy (freezing therapy), being the only one in Vaslui area. This year, we signed a contract with the hospital for a national project for early detection of cervical cancer. Under this program all the ladies over 25 years can receive free Babes Pap test. Normally this test is very expensive and many patients cannot afford it! Thus we can reduce the number of deaths due to this problem. The statistic shows that every 10 minutes, in Romania a woman dies, diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Through the Family planning Program we provide advice to couples who want to adopt a contraceptive method, thus, having held meetings, informing them about the benefits of family planning. They are helped to choose the contraceptive method that suits their needs, through the provision of information materials, booklets, leaflets, and specialist medical advice after being seen by our doctor. Every month we distribute free contraception to couples who are unable to get a contraceptive method prescribed by their doctor. Until the autumn of 2011, contraceptives came from the Ministry of health. Then, the Clinic had to procure for itself the contraceptives needed monthly for the patients.

A much needed project, a great success, began in the summer of 2010 at the Myosotis Health Center: free distribution of breast prostheses. This project continues today, having the same success! It started by the initiative of two medical professionals from United Kingdom, Lesley and Val. This project began with training from the specialists for our nurses at the health center and a huge stock of breast prostheses sent from the UK.

Through this program, women from all over the country, who had had a mastectomy came to receive free breast prostheses, and from 2010 until the end of this year we had offered an impressive number of almost 500 breast prostheses plus bras and other accessories. In Romania it is very difficult to get a breast prosthesis as it is very expensive and the state doesn't provide it free being an esthetic prosthesis which ladies can live without. Myosotis Romania Association is the only Center in the country, which provides this service free of charge, taking into account the huge costs that would be involved to purchase such an accessory. We are proud to be included in the National Health Clinics' Guide, printed this year by one of the biggest press companies in Romania. The guide just came out and there is a wonderful description of our services.

We are glad and we feel very lucky to be able to offer medical support to our community and this would not be possible without people with a big heart, who care about the poor and people in need! Thank you for your support!

Written by Lacramioara Chirila, Trainee Nurse.