



Registered Charity No. 1056671

Providing an Opportunity for Change in Romania

Our Vision

Our ultimate wish is that each individual in Barlad will have access to information, benefit from their individual rights, take responsibility for their own lives and family, profit from adequate free education and medical care.

Our Mission

We aim to deliver social, educational and medical care to the neediest of Barlad and surrounding areas and support people with special needs. on the basis of Christian and moral values, we educate the young generation to take responsibility and be proactive in the local community.

Our Projects

- * **Casa Esme**
Day Centre for children with special needs
- * **House of Roses**
Home for disabled young adults
- * **Young Volunteers Centre**



As it is today

Twenty one years ago in May this year I made my first visit to Romania and now it is twenty years since the registration of the Myosotis Trust with the Charity Commission. So many people, events, joys and sorrows during this time; the past is the past and the future awaits us. So, what is that to be for Myosotis? I am sure different people will have varying opinions as to whether it should continue or not and the way to proceed.

As the founder of the charity, I would like to know that the work so many people have contributed to and been involved in will continue into the future as a source within Romania that will endeavour to provide support to needy people who require the assistance of our projects. The projects should very definitely be wanted and valued by the Romanian community who must take eventual responsibility for their continuation.

In the UK we have a long history of "good works" and one of my earliest memories related to charity is my Dr Barnardo little house savings box, which once a year was collected and then returned by an elderly League supporter. A record of my annual savings was recorded on the back of the box and I proudly wore my Barnardo League supporter's badge.

Sadly in Romania the Communist period eradicated the concept of charity as the State provided everything a citizen needed. Oh! what a deception that still is felt today by many but sadly leaving a mind-set that doesn't as yet see the necessity of caring for those in need and unhappily the Church in Romania does not appear to lead by example.

As a result it seems to me that in the coming years we need to continue raising funds in the UK to enable the projects that the Trustees agree to support to continue whilst every effort is made in Romania to raise funding and ground- root support. This is happening at present with the Romanian NGO receiving about 1/3rd of the running costs from the State through contracts, beneficiaries' allowances and a

system rather like “gift –aid” where 2% of an employee’s tax can be nominated to an NGO. What does not happen is public/personal donations except in very rare situations.

Our position here in Barlad at the moment is shaky with the resignation of two staff, one who is seeking higher wages and two going on maternity leave; no summer camp and the partial closure of the Health Centre. The government has taken over family planning and the supply of breast prosthesis which sounds great; no need for us, as it should be. BUT, upon my arrival not long ago I was told of family planning supplies running out and apparently available only to women who can afford to purchase them from a chemist! We are still providing a limited breast prosthesis service, mainly to our previous clients.

Our income in the UK has dropped by about £5000 during the year ended 31st March 2016. We recently received a one-off donation from a family trust of £15k which is an enormous help in establishing a healthier bank balance. Our attitude towards fund-raising has always been a non aggressive approach, respecting the public’s right not to have pressure put on them to donate. The charity accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 show that nothing was used from the income for fund-raising or administration costs. Thus the donations made went entirely to the work of running the projects in Romania. The Trustees have themselves covered administrative costs and Gowers accountants provide free accounting services.

I believe that in the future the work that we have already done in developing good quality premises to run the projects and training, needs to be replaced by a grant-making mechanism which will allow the Romanian NGO Asociatia Myosotis Romania to take on the responsibility for developing further and maintaining the projects to reflect the changing needs of the society it serves.

In this way the Myosotis Trust can choose the work it wishes to see continue by supportive annual grants, allowing the Romanian NGO to create any new projects it may wish to introduce, accepting its responsibility to ensure self-funding. If the income of the Myosotis Trust were to be sufficient there would be an opportunity for it to provide appropriate “financial gifts” to help support new projects created within Romania but not for on-going funding.

In Romania I act as President of the NGO and my focus has to be on the development of methods that will raise funds from the local community and possible sponsorship from companies. It is paramount that the Romanian NGO reaches a position whereby it can finance the projects that have been introduced by the Myosotis Trust as long as they are relevant. I plan to retire from this position in 2020 when the President should be Romanian.

There will always be funding needs that require extra capital, such as Casa Esme’s need of a new roof and the purchase of the property known as The House of Roses from its current owners; £65k. In Romania a strategic plan has been written leading to 2020 and within it are the wishes to develop a Day Centre for young people who have finished the program at Casa Esme and have no other supportive resources. Also a small work shop to make saleable items by disabled people, probably our own young adults who are our beneficiaries, as well as a designated Young Volunteer’s centre for meetings, training and camps.

These are the expressed wishes of the Romanian NGO and whether or not the Trustees in the UK would wish to support any aspect of these projects is unknown to me at this time. This will mean that if any of these new projects are to be implemented the continuing responsibility will lie within the Romanian NGO.



I believe it is necessary to achieve a regular anticipated income through direct debits/standing orders that allows the trustees to be more confident in committing its financial support to the projects it wishes to support. In the past various fund-raising events took place and some still do but this has become more difficult to sustain. From the very early years of Myosotis’ life there have been some stalwarts who have given on a regular basis and this has been why the charity has always met its commitments.

I have observed that our donations have not matched the increases in wages, commodities and general cost of living in Romania that allows our exceptional staff to maintain the benefits they previously experienced from employment by the NGO. Not only the staff but also the general running costs of the projects has increased at a level exceeding financial donations the Myosotis Trust receives in the UK.

There have been many occasions over the years when funds have been very low but not in such a continuing trend as now. For the charity to finish the goal of creating a self-supporting Romanian NGO it is now essential to enlist new supporters prepared to give on a regular basis that may be small amounts but added to others will enable us to fulfil the objective.

I ask you all to consider this commitment which, if your circumstances change can always be cancelled, if you are not already making regular donations, monthly, quarterly, or annually, to start doing so now. I really do not like asking for this help but seeing the on-going needs in Romania I have to try and fulfil the task I set out to do twenty one years ago.





I want to express my gratitude to every person who has supported the work of the Myosotis Trust by making financial donations and donations of many other kinds of valuable goods. Every supportive action has created a benefit for someone in Romania and made the work of the trust successful.

Carol R. Daniel

Founder: the Myosotis Trust
28th October 2016

A walk around Barlad

It's November and although cool, the sun is shining and there are still some yellow leaves on the trees. I have just been for a walk around the area closest to the flat that I stay in near the market place. It is about 10am and the area is quite busy; I suspect some people buying for the weekend.

I started my shopping in Lidl, one of three stores run by the same company in Barlad; the next being Berlin. I feel that the coming of these Stores was an education for most Romanians. When they first opened you had to leave your shopping bag in a specific area and only after purchasing your goods could you return to your bag. Trolleys were a problem as people were not prepared to put 50 Bani in the slot; it's common place now after about 4 years.

Every few months there is a promotion of food items from other EU countries, Spain, Greece, Italy etc and I think this has been an education in itself. The stores also sell non food products at realistic prices e.g. Garden equipment, cooking utensils, clothing and I notice that people are quick to get there on the day of the week when new items are expected. In this week's magazine are advertised; Halogen heaters for 89.00 lei, a nice hairdryer for 74.99 lei and a cosmetic mirror for 29.99 lei.

A packet of cooked ham is 12.49 lei, a kg of frozen carrots, brussel sprouts, and cauliflower or spinach is 5.99lei. 1kg of chicken breast are 12.58lei. 1kg of long grained rice is 2.99 lei and baked beans in tomato sauce on special offer at 1.49 instead of 2.09 lei. The shops are very nicely arranged, clean, light and very fast check-out service. I think there must be a bonus for the cashier who can process the items quickest as there is no time to put them in your basket before the money is demanded and the next customer is being processed!

From there it was a walk around the market and now you can see the stalls selling lots of imported fruit and veg along side local produce. Here the prices are still cheap and you are even given a plastic bag for your produce, once an unimaginable luxury. On a Sunday you can buy chickens, doves, rabbits, budgies and this week some lovely little black piglets; honey, beeswax religious candles, plants and flowers.

Then on to a shop selling electrical goods, lots of different washing machines, fridges and freezers and even wallpaper can be ordered manufactured in Germany. Not many years ago these items would have only been in a dream and of course probably 70% of the population can only dream about such possessions.

There are lots of dental clinics, all private and recently a health clinic has opened again private. There are lots of different banks and the streets have flower containers supplied by the Town Hall. So, on the surface things look mainly like any other EU country. But, just go a few miles outside the town and a very different picture emerges. Houses made of mud, schools with no water or indoor sanitation. No rubbish collections and water coming from wells.



After twenty years of Myosotis activity it is necessary to examine whether our projects are still needed and that money donated within the UK is being spent wisely. Firstly it is essential to encourage funding from within Romania itself and the Romanian sister charity Asociatia Myosotis does receive money for Casa Esme, the school we run for children with disabilities. Currently that meets about a third of the costs and with changes in legislation we hope that this may increase next year.

The House of Roses received about £3000 this year from the government as well as some disability pensions for the youngsters but next year we will not receive the £3000 because when inspected the report said we needed three toilets and not the two we have as well as suggesting each individual have their own bedroom. We have six residents and until we acquire a larger property we cannot meet these requirements.





Future Plans

Based on the current community needs in Barlad, using our experience and dedication, we would like to develop new projects with the support of the local community, sponsors and supporters:

- A new home for disabled
- Sheltered Workshop for people with special needs
- Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Summer Camp and Training Facility



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The Young Volunteers about 35 of them participate in our various projects and are an enormous help. Yesterday we were in the town handing out flowers and sweets as a measure to "Make Barlad Smile" and raise awareness of our work. It was wonderful to see old ladies absolutely delighted to carry away a small rose. This year we have the first volunteers to undertake the bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and shortly will start the silver. Due to lack of money and the loss of our camp site there was no summer camp which was a huge disappointment for volunteers and children.

The Health Centre is currently running at almost zero productivity as we cannot continue to run our women's services other than breast prosthesis as we can no longer afford to pay the gynaecologist who worked for us after being unable to receive payments from the Insurance House due to legislative changes. I hope to be able to employ a person to undertake research so that I am in a position to check whether or not the State is now providing the same level of services we did. I am afraid there is no capacity within the existing staff to do this as we have recently lost two members of staff and two are having babies. We are concerned that as we are now paying less than the State pays in wages we may lose some more of our well trained team.

This week as been a celebration of 20 years of Myosotis in Barlad and there have been events each day with good press and TV coverage. We are all hoping that in time people will start supporting our work with financial donations so that there is not dependence on money being raised within the UK.

So, I see many changes in Romania and mostly they are good but as all over the world the poor remain poor whilst the rich seem to get richer. Raising awareness and providing an Opportunity for Change has been our goal as a charity as well as supporting the poor and sick and this work is still needed today.



I believe Myosotis stands out in Romania as an honest, high quality provider of services to the neediest and we continue to deliver Love in Action.

Thank you all so much for your support.

4.85 Lei currently is worth a £1. Before Brexit it was nearer 6.05Lei.

Carol R. Daniel

Founder the Myosotis Trust
Barlad November 2016



"CASA ESME"
Day Center
FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

