



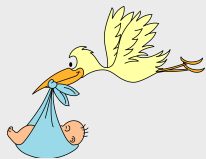
Providing an Opportunity for Change in Romania

New members of the Myosotis Family



On the 7th of December last year our Financial Manager, Monica, gave birth to Mihnea. Congratulations to mother and father.

Also on 23rd of February, Mirela Hogas who works as a Specialised Teacher at Casa Esme, gave birth to Anisia. Congratulations to Mirela and Cosmin.



Staff Leaving

Alex Rotaru who was the Acting Manager of the House of Roses left to work at the Town Hall at the end of April. Alex had been a young volunteer and had long worked with the young volunteers before moving to the House of Roses where he worked for 4 years

Also Carmen Vidru who has been with Myosotis for 16 years has left to work for the Royal Family in Dubai.

Lacramioara Leonte who was one of the Young Volunteers and then worked with Myosotis whilst training as a nurse has left us and is also expecting a baby.

Daniela Susanu, a recent employee from the House of Roses also left.

We wish them well.



Letter from Carol

The newsletter that I wrote last year wasn't distributed so now I am making that one and this available. From one newsletter to the next, some nine months; so much has changed.

In December 2016 we were informed that the allowance for school Casa Esme paid by the Government would increase by £3.050 to £17.050. The team here were so excited and then in early January we received news that the Government were in fact not going to pay us anything! It would seem that as there had been a change in Government the budget required for these payments had not been agreed by the new Government. The new Government thus changed the points awarded to the various NGO's applying for funds and our points were reduced and so we no longer received enough to obtain the allowance. No prior warning; no planning and 7 staff and 52 children still to continue in a service whose budget was reduced by £14.000 before the increase that never was delivered. What would happen? Could the money to enable the school to continue be found or did the NGO have to consider closure?

Mihai Popa, the Romanian Charity Managing Director had a meeting at the local Town Hall and also informed the local TV and Press of the problem. The Mayor and Town Hall made a decision to try and help us. Firstly they had to create a new Committee to act under law 34/1998, the same one we had previously applied for under the Central Government. The committee evaluated our application, visited Casa Esme and approved a payment to run from April to December 2017 to cover the gap in funding. This was the first time in 20 years of Myosotis history that the Town Hall in Barlad had "supported" Myosotis in a meaningful way.

At the same time, without my knowledge, a small but significant NGO in the UK, Crestin, under the input of David Conway, one of its Trustees, who had previously visited Casa Esme, agreed to also finance Casa

Esme until December 2017 with the same amount. A complete and unexpected surprise and a huge encouragement. Looking into the basis of the way the points are awarded to gain a grant for the school there is no consideration for a deprivation factor. This seems to me to be a very important missing part as high deprivation has such a huge impact upon health, span of life and the wellbeing of a community. Vaslui County, which Barlad is in, has a high deprivation factor.

Most of the NGO's receiving the Government allowance appear to be in a low deprivation area like Bucharest. I hope that before the next submission is made in October for the 2018 allowance which we will apply for, we can send a letter supporting the belief that a factor for deprivation should be included in the points award system.

The total annual running cost of Casa Esme School is £ 34.000.

So my thanks from all the trustees and staff to Barlad Town Hall and Crestin NGO for their magnificent support.

Carol R. Daniel

Founder: the Myosotis Trust
8th August 2017

Follow On

The parents of the children attending Casa Esme when told of the grant's loss raised a magnificent £ 1.256 towards the running costs. Something that could not be sustained as many of the families are poor. However, following a previous decision made in the November Myosotis Publicity Week, they have formed a Parent's Association and held their first fundraising event in June at the Public Gardens. Selling cakes, lemonade, painting children's faces, playing games, etc. they raised £600 and further plans are in progress to make and sell pancakes at the Annual Fair at the end of this month. It is wonderful to see them taking steps to support the NGO's work. For the recent summer camp they also contributed food items and other necessities. Thank you Parents and Families!



Summer Camp

Everybody was very excited about this year's Summer Camp after not holding one last year as the camp site we usually use was not available and also financially we couldn't afford running the camp. However, this year we had a three weeks camp where three groups of poor children, disabled children and adults participated. In total 52 children attended and 39 volunteers made it all happen. Until this year I haven't realised that not holding a camp one year brings so many challenges like most of the volunteers have never been involved in the Myosotis Camp and never went camping before. The children had a wonderful time participating in games, workshops, sports activities, singing around the camp fire, walking through the woods but also helping with jobs in the camp.

A big well done to all the staff and volunteers involved! Thank you for offering such an amazing experience to our special children.



Orchyd / Ruislip

Over the last years Orchyd, an NGO providing holidays for disabled children based in Ruislip, has hosted two volunteers or staff each year to participate in the holiday for experience. This year two young volunteers, Teodora Popa and Elena Pancu left on 2nd of August for a two weeks stay. Teodora was made The Young Volunteer of The Year at this year's camp and will go to Bucharest to University to study foreign languages – French and German. Orchyd helped sponsor the Summer Camp with a grant of £1.500.

Thank you!



Speech Therapist's Return Visit



Sue Marcus and Gordon Miles visited Romania at the end of April for two weeks. Sue had previously visited Casa Esme the previous year and introduced Intensive Interaction Therapy to the staff at Casa Esme. This had proved a great success and it was easy to see that certain children with quite severe communication difficulties responded well.

On this visit Sue was able to carry out training for the staff and this is to form a basis for further training events for volunteers and parents. Sue's visits have given an extra dimension to the work undertaken at Casa Esme and shown an additional skill which will be most valuable in helping the children. Sue hopes to raise sufficient funds for Loredana to attend the National Conference of Intensive Interaction Therapists in the UK next year.

Gordon Miles, Sue's partner is a professional artist and he came with Sue to visit the Monasteries of Northern Romania. He hopes to produce some paintings that can be used to benefit the work of the Myosotis Trust. Sue and Gordon live in the Dovey Valley near me.

Thank you for coming to us and taking such an interest in our work.

Elissa's visit in February

Elissa Flatters has visited Barlad on a number of occasions and has involved The Rotary Club of Stamford St. Martin's in providing support for our work. Elissa's experience has enabled her to provide advice for the staff at Casa Esme and has shown different ways of working to bring best practice to Casa Esme.

In 2015 the Rotary Club of Stamford St. Martin's provided a green house and lots of tools and equipment for the House of Roses. This year I could see the increase in vegetables grown in the garden for the family. Also, while visiting the House of Roses Home, the Rotary members decided to purchase a larger fridge and a freezer to store food in better conditions.

Thank you Elissa and the Rotary Club of Stamford St. Martin's.



Knitting for Romania

At home in Wales there is a small army of ladies knitting items for us. Last winter we introduced a Hot Water Bottle Project so that elderly and needy people could collect a hot water bottle and cover from the Health Center. Heating is very expensive here as prices for gas and electricity rival those of the UK.

The young Volunteers were at the Health Center and gave out the bottles accompanied with instructions on safety. Hot water bottles are not normally available here. It was a successful program.

Many beautiful items are also knitted and are for sale at Siop Cariad in Machynlleth; this enables us to raise money towards the cost of transporting other items to Romania.

A particular Thank You to Aberystwyth Knit and Natter, Llanidloes Knitting Group, Cemmaes Craft Group and ALL the ladies who have made items for us.



Siop Cariad

The shop is run in Machynlleth to raise money for the charity. It is not the normal charity shop as it sells "bought - in" items as well as donated goods BUT all profits go to the work of Myosotis.

Recently our volunteer numbers have increased as Pam and Beryl have joined Des, Nick, Ceri and Hilda.

Without our volunteers the shop would not make any profit to support the work of the charity so a big Thank You to them and also those who donate items for sale.

Siop "Cariad" - 2 Penrallt Street, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8AJ. Tel: 01654 703 555

WHERE ARE ALL THE DOGS?

The nights are generally accompanied by the barking of dogs; those who are travelling in packs and then the odd loners, but not this summer. I've been told that there is a German charity who is catching them and where possible re-homing them in Germany. They have established a Centre on the outskirts of Barlad and I hope to visit when I next return. I must say this appears a good thing as before so many dogs were on the streets hungry and often ill.

FUND RAISING

Can you hold an event to raise funds for Myosotis?

No matter how small everything counts.

Savings boxes are available for your coins from Siop Cariad or Carol. Why not use them for Lent in your Church?

If you wish to make a donation please send to Carol Daniel or phone and I can send you a gift aid form.

CONTACT



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As I See the Future

In order to remain financially viable I question whether it is at the cost of providing "hands-on" support we have as a charity always given. From the early days when I lived on my own in a flat, people came to my door for food and help. Now although we respond to the need of the clients we have known for many years, we are no longer open to new calls for help. This is a grave concern to me as I believe there are desperate people who have no where to turn to in a crises and in order to cover the running costs of the NGO with contracts from the government, the face of our charity has changed. I want to be there for the urgent situation when a person needs help which will not be covered by state support.

In looking at the services outlined in our strategy I feel that the Citizens Advice Advocacy Service is very important and can be there to offer immediate small scale support. It is my intention to work towards this goal and I would hope in 2018 to see this new initiative start at what we now call the Health Center but it will be renamed the Myosotis Center. It will be necessary to employ a social worker who will have up to date knowledge of legislation and local services.

I will try to enlist the support of a local priest who will be prepared to endorse our service and hopefully the town hall too.

St. Martin's Church Ruislip

Following a visit made last year by people from St. Martin's to Romania, which included a visit to Myosotis Projects the Church increased its monthly giving to the work of the charity This is a life saver and the support has been given since the early days of The Myosotis Trust.

Other Churches have also donated including Markyate Baptist Church and the Church of the Ascension, Wembley Park.

What better way can the Christian Community show its Love in Action and its support for the sick and poor of a community far from its immediate doors whilst serving its own local parish. So often people have said to me "charity begins at home" and my response is "but it doesn't end there". *Thank you all.*

The Parish Church of St. John Baptist Cirencester

Whilst temporary living in Cirencester with my eldest granddaughter I introduced Myosotis to the Church shop and some items made in Romania, such as our crochet crosses, wooden crosses and spoons have been stocked and successfully sold. Many thanks to those who have supported this new initiative. If your Church Shop would like to stock items made by Myosotis beneficiaries please contact Carol.

The House of Roses

Our family of 6 remain happy at the House of Roses and I am exploring their futures. It may be possible for a few to live with support in an independent environment such as a flat. Ionica desperately wants a job to earn money and having received training in cooking while in school in Husi, we are exploring whether he can take on responsibility for planning, purchasing and cooking the meals at THR with initial support from Garofita.

Irma is also capable of doing many house hold duties and currently has main responsibility for the laundry.

I remain constantly aware of the need to find a permanent home for "the family" so that Linda and Mike Barnes may have the house they lease to us rent-free back. If we wish to qualify for state allowance as a home for disabled, any premises will need to meet strict regulations set up by the government thus a purpose built house will be necessary. Cost in region of £150,000.