

Providing and Opportunity for Change in Romania

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myosotis
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MYOSOTIS NEWSLETTER



CASA ESME

OPPORTUNITY
CHANGE



HOUSE OF ROSES



HEALTH
CENTRE



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MYOSOTIS CONTINUES ITS STORY

It is a considerable time since the last Myosotis Newsletter in 2019. The Covid Pandemic has caused a great loss of life and disruption, but The Myosotis Trust and Asociatia Myosotis Romania have continued providing support to many in need in Romania.

A HOME FOR LIFE

The vision of the founder of Myosotis Trust to enable disabled people to live a normal life in a family environment.

LETTER FROM THE PATRON

Fr. Simon Evans reflecting on the 25 years of activity as Spiritual Patron of our Charity

A DREAM HOLIDAY

The House of Roses Family were invited to spend a six nights holiday at a seaside resort.

VOLUNTEERING AT CASA ESME

A local actress is giving her time, energy and skills to help educating disabled children.



LOVE IN ACTION

YOUNG
VOLUNTEERS

MYOSOTIS CONTINUES ITS PROJECTS

It is a considerable time since the last Myosotis Newsletter in 2019. The Covid Pandemic has caused a great loss of life and disruption, but The Myosotis Trust and Asociatia Myosotis Romania have continued providing support to many in need in Romania.

The people who support Myosotis by regular giving have enabled this to happen and I thank you all.

In the UK we are finding prices increasing for food and energy and in Romania it is the same. As always, the poorest in society are those who are most challenged. It is essential Myosotis continues its work and without fund-raising events our project's continuation depends on individual's who donate money and show their *Love In Action*.

I returned to Romania to be with the Romanian Team to further our work in June and spent a month there.



CAROL R. DANIEL
*President and Founder of
Myosotis*



Since our last newsletter one of the NGO's former trustees, Neville Ward died from cancer. He made numerous road trips to Romania taking donated items to Barlad. He also undertook work projects while there, particularly at Casa Esme installing our play equipment in the garden and erecting our bathroom cubicles. Neville was a wonderful friend to all the Myosotis Family. We have dedicated the play equipment at Casa Esme to his memory as he, joined by other trustees, have organised the purchase, transport and set up. His wife Jane continues to support the charity.



GOOD BYE TO JANET AND PETER WASTALL

After many years as Trustees of the charity Janet and Peter resigned as Trustees in June this year. They have both made many trips to Romania often driving both our old lorry and minibus. Peter has also been the treasurer of Myosotis since Angela Evans retired from that role.

Their many friends in Romania send them their best wishes and still hope to see them in the future. A number of their journeys made by road were with Neville Ward who we wrote about in this newsletter.

*Thank you both Janet and Peter
for your many years of
brilliant service!*





AMR has continued its projects throughout this dreadful Covid Pandemic with the exception of The Young Volunteers.

The staff who have been most affected are those working at the House of Roses who had to stay in the House for two week periods followed by two weeks in their own homes. There is no specific staff room in the house so not an ideal situation. I am very thankful that the staff met this challenge that faced them. All the Family have remained well during the most difficult times and are vaccinated. Unfortunately, at the beginning of February all the youngsters and one member of staff tested positive for Covid infection but made a quick recovery.

Casa Esme had some periods of closure as would be expected with children from many families attending. However, the children were given work activities to do at home. While the children were absent, the staff took the opportunity to thoroughly clean and disinfect all the materials and premises.

The Health Centre continued its Women's services and the Centre de Permanence also continued out of hours service.

The Young Volunteers project has been relaunched as a complete new intake of volunteers have joined. In many ways it will start with a new program as it will be an opportunity to examine what has been the best from the many years the project has run.

I returned from Romania as Covid was just felt in Italy and was unable to return. Mihai and I have Skyped weekly and he and the other Romanian Directors Loredana and Monica, have shown their ability to run the Romanian Association independently.

The Myosotis Trust has continued its funding without further reductions although our UK income has decreased by 10,000 pounds. Thankfully Romanian funding has increased from the local Barlad Council.

A HOME FOR LIFE: "CAROL'S VISION" BUT PROBABLY TOO AMBITIOUS



On 12th of March 2009 Linda Barnes of Romanian Appeal Killearn England (RAKE) wrote to me telling of the need to hand the project that housed disabled youngsters that RAKE had owned over to the State. "The only way forward I can come up with is to ask you if the Myosotis Trust would like to take on another project?"

These words lead to a momentous decision being made by the Myosotis Trustees to do that, and so after a period of time five of the young people who had been cared for by RAKE at their home Casa Linda, in Husi moved into the care of Myosotis.

Linda and her husband Mike Barnes paid for a home that was suitable to accommodate the young people and leased it rent-free to Myosotis. From that time on RAKE has contributed financially to the costs of the project. The lease ceases in 10 months time.

It had been my intention to build a home for some of the original children Myosotis had supported from the psychiatric hospital in Barlad and those who we had worked with at our school Casa Esme. As time passed, I became aware of the many Government requirements for such a home that were daunting and prohibitive in cost.

Now after all this time had passed and many discussions with Government officials and the Local Council, agreement was reached for a suitable piece of land to be leased to AMR to build a purpose designed home that can be a home for up to ten residents for the rest of their lives. True to Romanian style having been passed by the Council the authority to use the land has now been canceled and instead will be used for "high cost" private housing.

Working with an architect Oana Codru based in Iasi, numerous meetings took place and now there are plans that would appear to meet all the requirements that Government regulations requires in a home for disabled living. Thinking about the future of Myosotis in its total dimension I consider that in creating a new home for our "family", other aspects of Myosotis life needed to be considered for the future.

If financially possible by creating a second upper floor, accommodation for guests and volunteers could be created. Also a meeting area possibly for the Young Volunteers. The "Family" enjoy visitors and I feel that a number of them could be involved as "hosts" carrying out various duties associated with having guests as within a normal family life.

So far I haven't mentioned money / cost of the project build as this is very difficult. I had been given an estimated cost but since leaving the EU, Covid and the Ukrainian war that seems to have doubled from 250k to 490k. This large amount may be unrealistic to raise and the project too ambitious. I am attaching a picture of the possible finished look of the internal ground floor plan. My intention will be to prepare a detailed paper covering all aspects of the project once Barlad Council offer us other land to build upon that meets our needs and both NGOs accept the projects. Probably if it weren't for one man who has given me great motivation I would have given up on the project many months ago.



Malcom McIntyre-Ure worked as a volunteer at our shop Cariad in Machynlleth and he was loved by many. During lock-down Malcom would phone me in the evenings and we had many conversations. I had previously shown him a model of the first house design and he was very impressed by it and the vision I had for the future. Very sadly Malcom became ill and spoke to me about his wish to leave his home to the charity towards the cost of the project. I encouraged him not to make any rapid decision but he was insistent and much to his friends sadness died on 7th of July 2020, leaving in his will his home to The Myosotis Trust.

Subsequently the property was sold for £220,000 pounds and also his collection of cameras. £220,000 has been received so far and is ring fenced in the Myosotis bank account. Whether new plans will be required for a smaller building only housing the "family" is yet to be decided. Over the previous years money has also been donated by various people and an additional £10,000 is held ring fenced.

MALCOM MCINTYRE-URE

I felt Malcom needed to be included in our newsletter.



"Malcolm McIntyre-Ure was born in Slough on 13 March 1932 and moved to Marlow Bottom with his mother, brother, sister and lodger in 1938. Their first home was a wooden bungalow 'Cambera' at the end of the Valley.

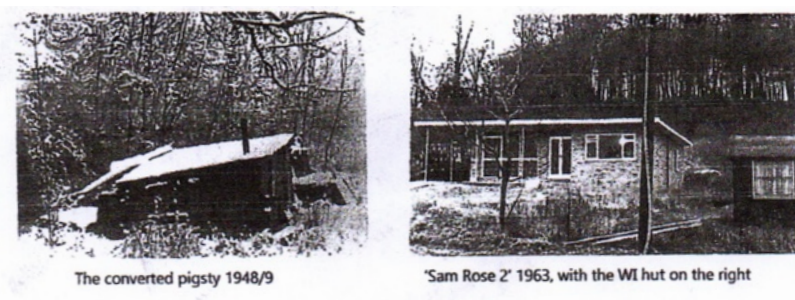
Less than a year later they moved to 'Woodlands', a wooden bungalow on brick piles, situated beyond Whitehill Cottage'.

Malcolm recalls: "In 1949, my mother allowed the then former lodger to sell our home and moved with me into one of the pigsties [on the bungalow's farmed smallholding]. My elder sister went into a hostel and my brother into posh digs [in Marlow] with an inside toilet and bathroom."

To his relief, at Christmas 1950 Malcolm was conscripted into the Army Catering Corps, where he remained until 1952. Upon his return he moved into 'Sam Rose', a 7ft x17ft wooden construction built between the wars by Sam and Rose Richardson and located at what is now 75 Marlow Bottom. At the time Malcolm's sister was renting the property, which had a 20-foot frontage, extending back to Hunts Wood, connected to electricity but without a water supply. In 1956 Malcolm purchased it for £100.

A gifted and resourceful photographer, Malcolm worked for several local and national newspapers and magazines. Of particular importance for Marlow Bottom residents is the fact that, over almost 30 years, Malcolm recorded the minutiae of Valley life on thousands of photographs, many of which feature in this exhibition.

In late 1962 'Sam Rose' was demolished and replaced in 1963 by 'Sam Rose 2', a modern single-storey brick-built bungalow constructed on the same site by builder Geoff Redgrave, father of rower Sir Steve Redgrave. Years later Malcolm sold the property at 75 Marlow Bottom to a BBC employee, who added the present-day second story. Malcolm moved to a new, Geoff Redgrave-built chalet bungalow at 7 New Road, but was obliged to sell it on health grounds. From there he moved first to Deeds Grove, High Wycombe, then, via Aynhoe, Northants and Winslow, Bucks, eventually to his present home in Wales at Llanbrynmair, Powys. "



This item is copied from an article found in Malcom's home after his death and I believe accompanied an exhibition of photographs showing life in Marlow Bottom.

A TREE FOR HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

This Walnut tree has been planted at the House of Roses to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee by the residents



PRINCE CHARLES VISITS SIOP CARIAD

On 5th of July 2019 HRH Prince Charles visited Machynlleth and Siop Cariad. He has a particular interest in Romania and has created a Foundation there supporting heritage preservation, agriculture and sustainable development of Romania. He spent time talking to me and looking at the Romanian items that were for sale. He thanked me for what Myosotis had done in Romania for the people there. Desmond and I were highly honored to meet him and his interest in the work of Myosotis was an inspiration to continue our projects. Sadly due to Covid and the loss of our volunteers the shop has now closed.

CAROL R. DANIEL



KIT-AID



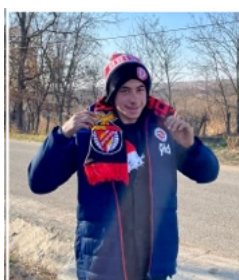
Kit-Aid is a charity set up in 1998 by Derrick Williams MBE following a trip to Tanzania, where he chanced to meet a young lad wearing a ragged Liverpool Football Club Shirt and on his return to England, Derrick, seeing a great and deserving need by poor folk for help and assistance in undeveloped countries, contacted football clubs in the UK for any surpluses of unused football kits and similar items for which they would have no further use. The response from clubs, wishing to help, was overwhelmingly generous. Resulting from this, and with the co-operation of many football clubs throughout the UK, Kit-Aid, has recycled many thousands of kits throughout the world, distributing them to underprivileged children and adults. Thanks to the tireless efforts, dedication and endeavours of Kit-Aid, through Derrick and his supporters, his organisation has brought immeasurable delight and pleasure, to children and adults throughout the world with kits and warm clothing.

The Myosotis Trust is extremely grateful to Kit-Aid and Derrick for the truly wonderful donations which Kit-Aid has given to us – amounting, over the years, to several lorry loads of boxes of all kinds of football kits and warm coats and hats, which have been distributed to schools and poor villages within and around the Barlad area in Eastern Romania. To their great delight and pleasure, schools there now have football teams with full kits from UK Clubs, and local children, and adults too, have warm winter coats and hats.

We are extremely grateful, and express our deep appreciation, to Kit-Aid and Derrick for their wonderful support of donations to the Trust over many years.

Here are some photos, which we hope you will enjoy, with our very special thanks to Derrick's Kit-Aid.

Peter and Janet Wastall



CASA ESME DAY CENTRE ON THE PANDEMIC

Casa Esme Day Centre for Disabled Children remains a unique service in Barlad being the only service to provide free of charge therapeutic activities holding a 5 years license issued by the Ministry of Work.

At Casa Esme 50 disabled children work with a social worker, a speech therapist, a psychologist and two specialised teachers. We also have a house keeper – whose work is so important in this period when all we touch must be kept viruses free. The last two years were two unique years at Casa Esme, with many challenges and a series of situations that required flexibility in approaching the services, creativity, and lot of work doubled by the conscientiousness sustained by the intrinsic motivation of each employee to do their job in the best possible way. Meanwhile our speech therapist quit the job and we managed to find another one who stayed with us for a year; two specialized teacher started working with us, but then they quit; at the end of February our social worker went to work for The Child Protection Department, who pays higher salaries and we are scouting, hoping to find a replacement. Staffing proved to be very challenging at this time. One of the first effects of the pandemic was to close all educational services, both private services and those provided by state. At Casa Esme, the employees were technically unemployed for two and a half months by legislation. But as soon as the first relaxations of the spreading the viruses prevent measures appeared, we were ready to start working with disabled children. From 1st of July 2020 our beneficiaries came to the program every day of the week. A set of measures to prevent the viruses spreading in Casa Esme was established and we have strictly followed it, so that, in the 2 years since the pandemic has begun, no one has been infected in Casa Esme. We were here for them, every day, in a period when all the therapeutic services for disabled children provided by the state were closed down. Only in January 2022 The Child Protection Department has informed his beneficiaries that they re-start to provide therapeutic services for disabled children. During all this period the Young Volunteers Project has been stopped, but at Casa Esme we were happy to have two senior volunteers, who helped us a lot, doing a good job in working and interacting with children.



LOREDANA DOBRIN
*Psychologist,
Director Services for Disabled*



A big plus achieved in this period is represented by the activities we performed with the parents and for them. The vision of Casa Esme day center specialists regarding the improvement and optimisation of the services we offer has in its center the understanding of the family context in which the child develops. The real challenge is to get an understanding of this context deep enough to understand particular behaviour for the child on one side and the resources to be activated in the family for sustain better child development on the other side. In order to do that, some changes happened in the way we manage our relationship with the families.

We work with four groups of children, according with their level of achievements. Each group has a case manager – one member of our team. Every family is encouraged to stay in touch with her case manager in order to facilitate the communication between them and our team and this is not interfering with the relationship the families has with the other member of the team. More than that, in particular cases, when the case manager sees a situation that requires the competences of another member of staff, he will recommend to that family to address that member. For instance, the case manager will encourage the family to have a meeting with our speech therapist in order to obtain a better understanding of what they need to do to encourage language development of their child or he can recommend to parents to meet our psychologist in order to get a better understanding of children behaviour problems.

In 2021 we have meet parents in workshops on topics aimed to strengthen the relationship between children and their parents. A lot of discussions and applications were concerned on language and the ability to play:

- we have a presentation of the intensive interaction therapy – how to stimulate communication in children with very severe form of disability; practical tips for parents
- the difference between language and communication skills,
- the role that the child's relationship with the parent plays in the development of communication skills
- practical methods have been indicated with which the parent can stimulate the child's communication in interaction with him.



In June we discussed with parents about the role that games play in child's development and in July and August we had workshops with parents on the topics of the role of the game in the child's development and the therapeutic valences that the game has in his life (with a focus on developing the ability to interact with the environment and with peers). We made applications aimed to develop parent's perspective on how, through appropriate games, they can qualitatively enrich their relationship with the child, helping him, at the same time, to enrich his general capacity for relate with others. Every time parents' feedback was a strong one. They expressed their desire to participate in more such activities, recognising the practical value of the information received – on the one hand – and the value that the interaction with parents with disabled children has in the context created by this type of sessions – on the other hand.

Sometimes we had mothers that end up in tears, being very touched by the insights provided by our activity. A mother has confessed to the group the fact that that was the best day of her life, because maybe for the very first time in her life she really played. She explained that as a child her life was very hard; she has no memories with her playing and, for sure, her parents didn't play with her. Another mother said that she is in a quite same story. We consider those confessions a big strength of this activity as they inform us about the parents need to be involved in such activities and about the fact that, by the way we put this activity, we create a safe environment for them. Another strength of this activity is the fact that all the parents involved (including foster parents and the older ones) allowed themselves to play as children and to be free in what they express through words and movements.

The most popular activity last year happens in September when we invited the families of every child we work with to join us in the woods, for a picnic. A sensorial tent was installed among the trees, lots of balloons for the welcome message and an area of relaxation – those were the first set up we had made for this activity. But the day was completed by various games, a treasure hunt and a workshop for crafts with materials collected from the woods. We want to make families picnic a tradition at Casa Esme and in June we had another one.



We look with optimism to what we have to do in 2022, knowing that all we have done in the previous years has put us in the direction we want to move forward. We need to continue what we already started and we already prove to ourselves that we are able to do it. The challenge is to maintain the team of employees together, with a good level of motivation for their work. In order to keep our existing staff and replace those who have left we desperately need to increase wages or offer bonus payments. If you can support this need it will help keep our service into the future.



VOLUNTEERING AT CASA ESME



DUMITRIANA
Actress

One and a half years ago I got covid. I was isolated for 17 days because the fear of transmitting this virus to others was too great. It wasn't a serious form but it was enough to make me feel not bad ... but very bad. In the first phase I complained of pity and then slowly, slowly I realised that I would be better off if I enjoyed the period when I can freely think about what I am, what I do... to do an introspection. I later realised that there are many useless things I

do, that my way of thinking is far too selfish, and that if my life were to end at that point... I actually didn't do anything useful for the society. I have long wanted to volunteer, but I have never seen this as a priority. That is until January 2021. Yes, volunteering is a necessity. Each of us can help more than we think. Not material, maybe, not through all sorts of pompous things... but there are people / children, to whom our mere presence simply makes them feel better.

After the isolation period, I was interested in where I could volunteer and I had to choose between an old people's home and a house where these little children with disabilities come for therapy. Probably because of my childhood, probably because I wanted to meet such children ... I don't know exactly why I chose it, but my heart told me that I had to choose the family at Casa Esme. My first few hours there seemed so hard that I didn't know if I could handle it. Until the children got used to me, until I got used to the situation, everything that happens there ... it lasted. Not very much, because from the beginning I realised that if I learn what I have to do, my place can be there. The whole team received me warmly and gave me the support I needed to adjust. I met the family I needed. I have met the children I felt close to my heart, I have entered an environment in which my soul feels free, loved and I find the peace I need. The little ones are wonderful, and I think and I have said many times that what the employees do there is a titanic job. I work a few hours a week and maybe even allow myself to be absent. But the staff there are on duty every day and always focused on what the children need.

I'm glad that such a big thing happens in such a small town. It's not about the financial part, it's about the warmth and love given to the children (hard to

understand maybe for some people), who need it so much. Now, after almost a year of collaboration, I wonder why I was afraid... and why so many people turn away from these children. They need us and unfortunately we don't understand and we don't know how much love they can offer us just by offering them our simple presence, many times ... but especially if we see them (in the true sense of the word) and offer them attention and support. I'm sorry that everything that's going on there isn't so promoted, that a lot of people don't know and may not understand that they need us.

Ever since I volunteered, I've heard so many stories and lived so many wonderful moments with the team there, with the kids, and I can't compare the feeling with someone living outside that environment. It is a win-win for me and I hope that my contribution will be commensurate and that it will be the same for them.

When we think of children with disabilities, our mind puts up a barrier. And if you don't know them and don't get in touch with such a child at least once, you can't realise that they are actually just like us. They have such a pure soul (maybe much purer than many of us "normal" people), they have an incredibly great appetite, they have an incredible desire to communicate, even if they do it in their own way (and many of them they can only make a few sounds from which you have to distinguish what they want to convey), and above all they want to be received and want to learn to be (normally) part of this society. Casa Esme gives them the attention and the support they need to adapt. And I've seen amazing changes in these kids since I was there, which I thought was hard to come by at first. But, through hard work and dedication, these children can be helped. I believe very strongly in my team, I believe that better things will happen and I am already thinking about how I could contribute more to make that environment more and more beneficial for the children.

Bârlad (and not only this small town) must promote such activities, such spaces where miracles can look us in the eye, where kindness and compassion are more important than money and beauty.

Thank you Casa Esme for welcoming me into your family and for giving me the confidence and peace my soul needed. I hope to be useful to you for a long time to come and that our collaboration will never end.



A DREAM HOLIDAY FOR THE HOUSE OF ROSES FAMILY

Last summer our disabled youngsters were thrilled to be invited to enjoy a 6 nights holiday at a four star resort on the Black Sea Coast. Phoenicia Holiday Resort have been very generous to offer us an “all inclusive” dream holiday.

After a very difficult period with lots of restrictions and more than a year since the pandemic started, last summer restrictions became more relaxed and people started enjoying vacations. It was time for a holiday in the House of Roses Family and all the youngsters expressed desire to go to the seaside. Ionica has never been to the seaside, Geta, Irma, Ionut and George went 6 years ago and wanted to go again. Rake charity, who is also a funding partner for the project, kindly offered to make a donation towards a weekend holiday. In a circle of friends I kept hearing about this splendid resort on the Black Sea Coast a few miles out of Constanta, in a very posh area. When I looked it up online I had a shock: indeed it was a dream resort with lots of facilities and very entertaining activities throughout the day but all this came with a price tag that we could never afford! While thinking about it... I have decided to write to the owner of the resort - Muhammad Murad - a very successful business man who initially came from Liban to Romania to study medicine. He was also one of the investor dragon in the Romanian version of the Dragon's Den Show. In the email I put some information about the work of Myosotis and more details about the House of Roses including a couple of photos with the family, together with a request for a discount to allow us to be able to have a holiday for the youngsters at House of Roses. After a few weeks, I got a phone call from Phoenicia Holiday Resort to be told that the Murad family is very happy to host us and offer a free 6 nights holiday for our family and that we will be contacted by management for further arrangements. A few days later I found out that the generosity of the owner's family and his management team went beyond our expectations to have booked for us two premium flats in the resort with “all inclusive” service! We were all amazed to have such a wonderful opportunity! The sponsorship from Rake came in very handy to be able get everyone ready for the seaside and we went the weekend before to a shopping centre to get all the proper beach items. Also transport costs were covered from that.

After half a day journey we arrived to the resort, all very enthusiastic to get to the beach. Everything was ready for us, the staff was very welcoming and friendly. It was all planned to details: a parking space reserved for us and in the flats there were fruits, cakes and drinks waiting together with a personalised welcome note from the Management Team. Everything was super - as you would expect in a four stars resort and the youngsters were so impressed! The restaurant was nice and there was a lot of choice for the food and whatever you would choose to eat it was nicely prepared and very tasty. Every day we felt privileged to be in contact with one of the managers who was very kind to make sure everything is fine with our stay and she was also giving us tips on the daily activities program and what not to miss. Hearing about our invitation at the resort from their welcoming page, a sailor in Constanta made contact to invite us on his boat - Koralia - to sail at sea. He was very generous to collect us from the resort in his minibus at give us a lift to the harbour. It was a wonderful experience to sail at sea and a first for the youngsters. The captain was very nice to the youngsters and and we all had a great time!

Before we left, we met with the manager to pass on a big thank you for all the Wonderful time that we had and the youngsters offered them a certificate of excellence which now sits in the awards cabinet in the reception.

The holiday was nothing less than a dream holiday, beyond our imagination and when we got to the end of it it became a very sad day.

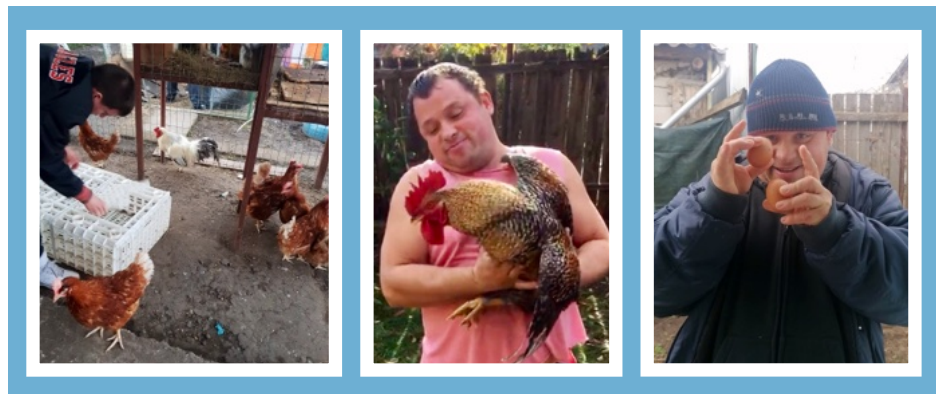


Some even cried giving their farewell. We tied a very nice friendship with the Manager that we met with everyday and since we were in contact a number of times as she kindly organised last year's Christmas wonderful gifts for the youngsters.

Being in the Constanta area, we could have not started our return journey before making a stop to the Dolphinarium to watch their live show.

The trip back home was very quiet and everyone was thinking over the dream holiday spent at the seaside.

HOUSE OF ROSES EGGS BUSINESS



At the end of March this year we were in need of new hens as our live stock was getting low, we had only 2 left. Elena our social career, who at the time was working part time at the House of Roses knew someone that had a chicken farm and managed to get donated 12 hens for us.

We were very surprised to realise that after the accommodation period, our hens were producing around 4-5 eggs a day, and sometimes even 8 eggs a day. Shortly, we found ourselves with the fridge full of eggs, a lot more than we needed for our own consumption at the House of Roses. We decided to sell some of it and the staff was very receptive to buy some. We had a business meeting and each youngster had a role to play in this adventure: Geta was in charge of feeding the chicken, Ionut was doing the cleaning, George was collecting the eggs, registered each pickup and marked the eggs according to each week it was collected, Ionica was packing it and delivered it to the buyer if needed and Irma was keeping the books of the eggs sold and the money raised, as well as the expenses for food bought. Every one was very enthusiastic about it. Straight away in the first month we sold quite a lot as we had some stock and Easter was approaching. As customers we had the staff at House of Roses and Casa Esme, some of the volunteers and friends of the House of Roses. Since April our hens made 634 eggs and 288 were sold. We were selling an egg with 1 leu = 20p.

Starting October, we stopped selling as the production decreased and we were collecting only one or two eggs which was just covering our consumption. As the cold season kicked in the hens stopped laying, our rooster got ill and passed away and we used some of the money to get a new one. George was upset when the old one passed away and wasn't pleased with the new one as although it was very beautiful, it wasn't singing in the morning and he asked Gheorghita: "what kind of rooster is this that it doesn't sing in the morning??" Well, it only took about a couple of weeks until rooster started singing very loud and very early in the morning and was waking up George now! At about 5 am! But he loves it!

Sadly, in December last year our hens developed chicken flu and quite rapidly each day we were finding one lifeless and the vet indicated that treatment is expensive and not always efficient. Only 3 hens and the rooster managed to pass that period, but then died. We now have new hens and hope to restart our business.

All in all, looking at the finances, the business was not productive having spent 320 lei this year on the chicken food BUT it was a wonderful exercise and everyone enjoyed and was happy to playing a part in it. It gave so much satisfaction to everyone at the House of Roses, including the clients who had nice fresh BIO eggs.

Mihai Popa

LIDLA



Some years ago Carol adopted a tiny puppy she encountered in the car park of Lidl Shop in Barlad. "Lidla" now lives at the House of Roses and seems to enjoy life there. Even her recent bath given by one of the Young Volunteers when visiting the house.

ONE OF “THE FAMILY” - IONICA THE GARDNER



Starting spring last year Ionica told us that he is looking for a job. We asked him what is his best skill and what he would like to do as a job. He said that for some time he was cutting the lawn in the House of Roses Garden and he could do that. We offered him a part time position within the charity to look after our gardens at Casa Esme and House of Roses. He was very pleased with this, having all the tools needed and making some money. The hair dressers next to the Health Centre saw him and asked to do their lawn as well as they will pay him. After a while the lawn mower broke having been quite old and heavily used so we sent it to service with very little chances of being repaired. Meanwhile, without us knowing, he visited a near by shop on his own and purchased with his own savings a super electric lawn mower which was on a good deal but still very expensive: £240! I found out about it when he asked me to go with him to collect it. I was both upset that he spent his own money on a lawn mower but also proud of him when he told me that the reason for his purchase was that he wants to continue work, he is aware that the charity's funds are tight and well planned and buying a new lawn mower seemed not possible. To

justify his action he said to me that I should not worry, he will cover the expense in time after making more new clients for his work. And he was right! He started cutting lawn for a new neighbour behind the Health Centre. As winter set in and the season was over he started planing for his gardening maintenance business. Carol offered to help him financially to get proper working equipment both clothing and tools. The new season has started and he now has 5 clients as well as our premises so he might do very well this year. Would you like to help support Ionica's efforts towards employment? If so, contact Carol by email or phone.

Ionica's ability to go on his own to places in the town has developed over the last two years. He wants to have independent but supported living in the future if possible at the new home.

Mihai Popa

TOM CAT

“Tom” has adopted Carol and has received free treatment from our local vet near the Health Centre. He was sitting across the road from Carol's flat when he decided to make his introduction to her.

Apparently we have since been told, he was involved in a car accident last winter. He still has an open wound on his face, which with daily care from the vet has improved.

I've had a cat flap put into my back porch door and Mihai has agreed to feed him when I return home. There seem to be other cats visiting too!

So, if Tom wants to stay he now has a home. The amazing coincidence is that when The Deputy Mayor visited the flat recently she saw Tom and was over joyed showing Carol photos on her phone she had taken earlier in the year when she saw him on the pavement outside her house at the other end of the town. One of her neighbours had taken him to the vet for an operation following the car accident.



HEALTH CENTRE

Our Health Centre runs in partnership with the Town Hall of Barlad. In the morning we run the Family Planning Clinic and in the afternoon until next morning there is an Out of Hours Clinic - services offered with a doctor and a nurse. During the pandemic the Family Planning Clinic has been suspended for a few months and that caused a drop in the number of patients. We are relaunching our services as well as introducing new services for walk in patients such as blood pressure checks, glucose tests for free in partnership with the Social Care Department in Barlad. With The Regional Institute of Oncology in Iasi, we have been part of a national program of screening for cervix cancer. In the last year there have been two sessions and almost 450 ladies participated. The tests results have been sent directly to the patient.



YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

In May this year we had a new group of volunteers joining our team. 20 youngsters from the local high-schools signed up to become a Myosotis Volunteer. After the pandemic we had to restart the program from new. They have started helping at Casa Esme, House of Roses and Sunday School. We are also planning a ten days camp this summer and we are delighted to have Roy Porteous participating who will deliver certified First-Aid training as well as Security training and team building activities. The camp will have two parts: the first will be a training session for the volunteers and the second we will host the children from Casa Esme.



OPPORTUNITY CHANGE

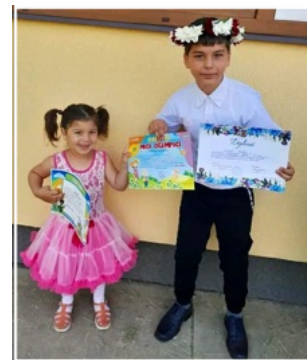
One of the first families who were included in our Opportunity Change program was Denisa Marangoci. Known to Carol as a young girl who attended the Saturday morning club in her apartment. Denisa had grown up in Placement Centre (orphanage) not because she had no family but her mother had died.

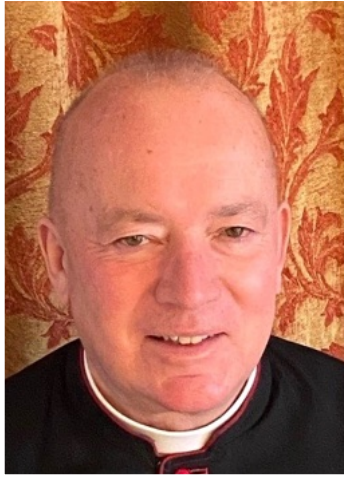
Later Denisa who lived in the Town's ghetto worked as a cleaner at The Health Centre. Later she and her partner Mitica were given a basic rural house built by Myosotis in the nearby village of Baltateni. Subsequently, Denisa has had three children and the eldest Costel won a place at the Sportive School in Vaslui to play handball and then football

Denisa has received financial support from Maureen Tinsey to improve her accommodation over the years and a small additional monthly allowance. Lately Janet and Peter Wastall have contributed to the costs of Costel's attendance at the Sports Collage paying for his monthly accommodation and food as well as buying him a tablet amongst other things. Costel has made good progress with his football but now needs to produce better academic results. He will try-out for local Football teams in the winter.

Denisa has just bought herself a new "soba" (fireplace / cooker) with money made from picking cherries and Myosotis covered the transport costs.

Denisa is a good mother who has a partner who drinks heavily and spends most of the money he earns on alcohol. Her two other children, Costel who is doing very well at school and will go to the seaside for a few days holiday sponsored by the Mayor of his village. Oana is a pretty bright child and we will continue helping them to improve their lives.





FR. SIMON EVANS

*Spiritual Patron of
The Myosotis Trust*

LETTER FROM THE PATRON

A happy coincidence..

The launch of the Myosotis Trust in the Spring of 1996 coincided with my arrival as the new Vicar of St Martin's, Ruislip. Through an existing and longstanding friendship, I'd already developed an interest in Romania, so I was delighted when Carol Daniel invited me to be Spiritual Patron of the new charity. I was also keen at that early stage of my time in Ruislip, to encourage the people of St Martin's Church to look beyond themselves, so giving active and tangible support to this charity, founded by one of its own congregation, seemed to me to be a God-given opportunity.

How has it gone?...

The achievement of the Myosotis Association, supported from Britain by the Myosotis Trust since its inception just over 26 years ago, has been astonishing: the rescuing of children, abandoned in a semi-derelict psychiatric hospital and the provision of proper beds for the adult patients there; the establishment of the *Centrul de Sanatate*, a health centre specialising in the provision of care for women otherwise unavailable in Barlad as well as care for the poorest in an already extremely deprived part of Romania; the establishment of the *Young Volunteers* group who run scouting and guiding groups for children, initially especially for those with HIV

and a Sunday School, now attached to one of the parish churches; the rehousing of families from the gypsy ghetto to a nearby village through a programme called *Opportunity Change*; the opening of *Casa Esme*, a day centre for children with physical and learning disabilities; the opening of the *House of Roses*, a home for adults with learning difficulties; the provision of basic equipment to schools in local villages...as well as countless acts of kindness and help to individual people and families.

Admired and appreciated...

The friendship and support of the last-but-one Bishop of Husi and of the current bishop, as well as the small community of nuns at the Monastery of the Transfiguration at Husi and of some of the local Orthodox clergy has also been a support and an encouragement. The former Bishop of London, who takes a keen interest in the Orthodox Christian world has also given encouragement to the work of the charity. He has continued in his retirement, to follow its progress. The Mayor and town council of Barlad recently made Carol a Freeman of Barlad. The Mayor spoke at the ceremony in the Town Hall of the high esteem in which the charity and its work have come to be held, as well as of his appreciation for all that Carol has brought to the local community. The work of the Myosotis Association has come to be widely admired and held up as a model of excellence not only in Barlad itself, but further afield in Romania.

A privilege to be involved...

For me, it has been an inspiration to see the lives of so many people transformed by the work of the Myosotis Association. As anyone who is involved in charitable work knows, this type of involvement is not a one-way street. The lives of those from Ruislip and elsewhere in Britain who have in any way come into contact with the work of the Myosotis Trust have also experienced transformation and have been inspired by the dedication and aspiration, especially of the young people of Barlad, as well as by the generosity and hospitality of Romanian people in general. Becoming involved in the work of the charity has felt to me rather like being adopted into a family which is both Romanian and British and which draws the best out of its members.

Looking to the future...

I am delighted that St Martin's, Ruislip has faithfully continued its financial support for the work of the Myosotis Trust alongside other churches, groups and individuals. The need for support continues as ever. As we look to continue the development of our work through the construction of a new and enlarged *House of Roses* with greater capacity and expanded facilities, we are seeking new sources of income. One idea, as life returns to normal after two years of the pandemic, might be to approach the congregations of Romanian churches in London and further afield. Regular or one-off donations from other churches, organisations, groups and individuals will also be of tremendous significance and can together, make a huge difference to the continuation of a truly inspirational project. Any ideas concerning funding from readers of this newsletter will be welcomed.

I, for one, feel privileged to have been associated with the Myosotis Trust during my 25 years as Vicar of St. Martin's, Ruislip. I intend, now that I have recently retired, to continue to give it all the support I can.

Fr. Simon Evans

CHANGING ATTITUDES

I can see many changes in Barlad in the way people behave over the years I have been visiting. In 1995 no one looked at your face, everything seemed dark and shops were empty. The streets were full of dogs; some alone and some in packs.

Now in Barlad the streets with EU funding are being asphalted and pavements paved. Flower displays grown at the Town Halls Greenhouses have brightened the streets.

People can be seen walking their pet dogs, on leashes and "Tom" is often petted by people when he is sitting on the pavement.

When I go to shops for food people often involve me in conversation about items they are looking at and often don't realise I'm not a Romanian. This would not have happened in the early years after Comunism. The town is having water pipes and sewage installed in most streets again thanks to the EU funding.

Some years ago the vet would not have offered free treatment for "Tom" and I see this as a sign of a greater openness to the rest of Europe.

I chose to work here because I saw the horrid efect Communism had on the people lead by the Dictator Ceausescu. There are still dictators in the world and as we see in Ukraine the effects are dreadful. Many Ukrainians have used the border with Moldova to cross into Romania. Most want to move further west but some are staying here in the homes of friends or good wishers.

Asociatia Myosotis Romania has offered support to the Town Hall to assist where possible.

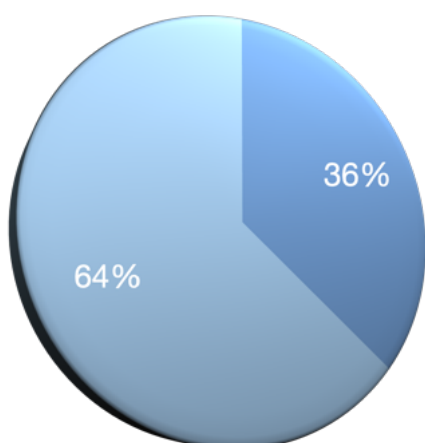
Myosotis provides an opportunity for change and we can see this is happening as time passes with and without our help. For some of the poorest it is only with our help.

Carol R. Daniel

A. M. R. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

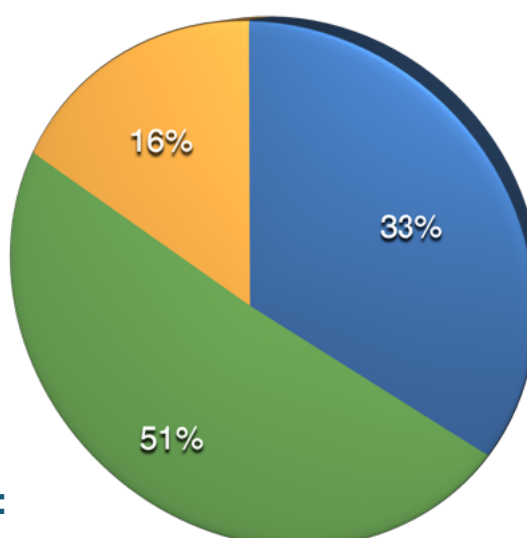
INCOME IN 2021

- UK Funds in 2021: £52.200
- RO Funds in 2021: £91.262



SOURCE OF INCOME IN ROMANIA

- State Budget
- Local Budget
- Fundraising



COST / BENEFICIARY estimated for 2022:

Casa Esme:	£121
House of Roses:	£1.110

RECIPE: ROMANIAN „SALATĂ DE BOEUF”

Salată de Boeuf (Beef Salad) is a traditional Romanian dish, generally served during all festive and special occasions.

It is a combination of finely chopped beef (or sometimes chicken or turkey breast) and root vegetables, folded in mayonnaise and finished with pickled vegetables garnishes in various creative designs. It can be made vegetarian, too.

The dish is usually made up in large quantities for the whole party on occasions such as Christmas or New Year's Eve. It is eaten as a starter.

Slight differences exist in quantities and these vary according to taste.

INGREDIENTS:

- * Beef / chicken or turkey breast
- * pickled gherkins & pickled peppers
- * green peas, carrots, potatoes
- * parsley leaves
- * mayonnaise

Wash the meat and put it to boil in a large bowl. We remove the foam constantly and when the meat is cooked will be removed and water is added in the remaining soup and the potatoes are boiled, followed by the peas and carrots. While the meat and vegetables are cooking, cut the pickled gherkins and peppers into cubes and let them drain in a colander. When the vegetables are cooked, take them out and leave them to cool, then cut them into small cubes as well as the meat. Everything is put in a big bowl and mixed by hand and the mayonnaise is added.



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Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisations selected by customers.

How Does Amazon Smile Work?

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So please choose The Myosotis Trust as your charity

Further information: <https://org.amazon.co.uk/>



Head Office

Myosotis
11 Tyr Common
Gilwern
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 0BB

Tel: 01873 832 802

E-mail: carolrdaniel@icloud.com



Head Office

Str. Stefan cel Mare Nr. 6
Bl. B1-3, Sc. B, Ap. 21
Barlad
Vaslui
Romania
731005

Tel: +40 235 421 955

E-mail: office@asociatiamyosotis.ro

www.myosotistrust.org

Web site managed by Alex and Ian Brown.