

St RCHF final report 2021

2021 was a difficult year all throughout the World because of the Sars Covid 2 pandemic in which 5,479,804 people lost their lives being even more deaths than the previous year.

For St RCHF too it was a trying time with the closure of schools and Kindergartens for long periods within the last year as well as a lack of competent online education for children. This was caused by the failure to train teaching staff how to conduct online classes as well as the failure of resolving for the second year in succession in finding a way to teach children in areas where there is no Internet or where children live in families too poor to afford Internet charges and a suitable device being a tablet or laptop for their children to try learn online with. This mainly affected rural children as in urban areas they have Internet and most children have mobile phones, tablets or home computers, though again not all!

The mainstream of our work is with the most deprived of society including in the education of children and yes the closure of education establishments for periods did affect our work, but we managed to overcome many times by offering the wonderful Timmie learning tools for children including many early learning books online in this difficult period. Teachers were happy to receive the online lessons, but again the effect sadly was not 100% because of a lack of teacher training as mentioned above in making online classes, however many did do a good job as the Timmie material is so easy to follow and this was a huge advantage for teachers and children alike who could continue even online with the Timmie books that they are used to using in class weekly, but in a virtual class when in lockdown.

There are always ways to get around problems and within St RCHF we at all times adhere to the public health instructions and advice specially in the Pandemic time, but for instance when schools re opened and no visitors were allowed we arranged to meet teachers at the school gates and from there donated timmie manuals and explained the Timmie latest information, thus children could still learn via this now well proven method which is far above the standards of education offered in Romanian by the state for young children and guarantees the child a better start in their early years.

At other times within the year we were able to enter classes and help children face to face with Timmie learning of course with face masks on and hands washed at all times.

The fact that Suceava County is now well covered with almost every school and kinder with Timmie products for several years and showing success with children in class allowed us to look at other areas where there are many rural kids in poverty who need an opportunity to learn and what better way than via Timmie products. Our concentration in 2021 was therefore in Botosani County where many kinders and schools became acquainted with Timmie books and learning cards as well as some in Iasi County also. Within these north eastern rural villages are hard pockets of poverty and a lack of modern education that every child needs no matter how poor if they are to have a chance to go forward in life after their education years end. Far too many a child leaves school even before the end of their education years and with no qualifications is doomed to a life of low paid hard work in villages resulting in ongoing hardship and poverty that destroys families. A good mark in class and a school diploma though can lead to a high school and possibility of a qualification even at local level as say a farm mechanic, local tradesman as a plumber or builder and for girls care

workers, seamstress, shop or supermarket employment at village level and all far better than being an unskilled unqualified worker offered low paid work on a aş and when required basis!

St RCHF has for many years helped children în rural villages în education and now is a young woman we also helped în school along with her class from a village în the mountains who has just gained a masterat at Iasi University în Law and is a credit to her Mum and Dad, both manual workers în the village who scrimped and saved to get their daughter în real possibility în life ahead aş she is now able with the law masterat to become a lawyer în Romania. She learned with Timmie too some years ago în the village school and came to our RCHF summer camps în the years before the pandemic!



În the photographs above are seen just some of thousands of children în 2021 who benefited from education with Timmie products produced by Miriam Charmant în Helmond, The Netherlands and all transported to Romania for children to use and study în class and learn with!!



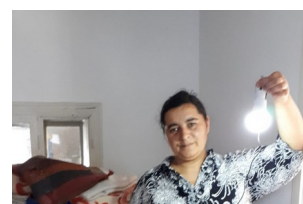
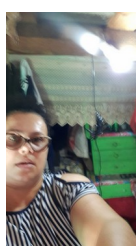
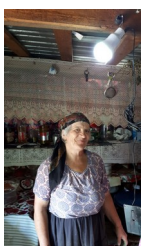
În the Summer of 2021 also 2 more pallets of Timmie educational books arrived în Romania to further help children with new learning materials including for 2022 thus adding to the already vast range of timmie educational materials

Help for the old and infirm people in rural villages

Within Romania social support for infirm and old aged people is extremely low by any standards. For many years now St RCHF has been supported in valuable projects and 2 of those we ran again in 2021 included a project that really helps one person who cannot walk easily, often old or infirm and sometimes bedbound most of the day to use the toilet. This is a project that has been so well received as it removes the hardship and fright of a rural person who is unable to walk even with sticks to get to the pit toilet at the bottom of the garden. With the support of Give EUR-hope we are able to purchase in bulk portable toilets that can be used easily in the home and they are hygienic, easy to clean and safe to use as they are about the same size as a flush toilet. I can say that in every case when we have donated to a needy person in the last year a portable toilet they have been overjoyed and thankful as the dangers of a fall outside in the garden specially in bad winter weather have been removed! In 2022 this project will continue as so many have needs of these portable toilets.



In our second ongoing project again with GEH sponsorship we continued to provide families that have no mains electricity with solar light packs. These solar kits are ideal for families that also have no funds to pay electricity charges as the solar light means there are no bills to pay for light used! Each solar kit gives when charged daily via light outside and even better in sunshine a minimum of 8 – 10 hours of light per bulb per night and is sufficient for the average family, plus allows children to do school home-work in real light. Most important is that this project removes the danger of in-house candle use which often results in accidents and fire within the family home.



Unfortunately and again because of the Sars Covid 2 pandemic St RCHF was unable to provide 3 summer camps in the Suceava Mountains for needy children. The request was refused on public health grounds. We hope that in 2022 the situation will improve and we can then again offer children who have no hope of even 1 day away from home a camping holiday at no cost to either them or their parents.

We had a stand in project hoped to offer 3 groups of children a nice meal complete with a fresh fruit dessert, plus a day out and activities like sports for children and did manage to make for the first 2 groups, but with a sharp rise in the Covid pandemic infections again in late summer in Romania we were unable to make this event for the third group, however have funds in hand to make this year as soon as health regulations permit.



Children who participated were from Saucinita and Vaculesti villages in Botosani County. They all enjoyed their freely donated meal as well as a trip to the beautiful Gorovei Monastery and on return some ball activities on the sports field of each village.

Heating supplies for the most deserving to alleviate the effects of the cold season

Even before the rising utility prices that have left many a family or pensioner unable to afford winter heating bills St RCHF has via the support of MF Care in the Netherlands with substantial funding been able to supply wood heating bricks to the neediest of people we know to allow them to have heat and feel the warmth instead of shivering with cold in their small rural dwellings. A pallet of 1,000 wood bricks which are also ecologic and give out more heat than wood logs. In 2021 in the early part of the year the pallet of wood bricks cost 227 Euro, but by the late fall of 2021 the price had risen to 275 Euro, however thanks to our sponsors and support of council workmen we are able to continue to provide this vital support to the poorest of people so that they can be warm at home!



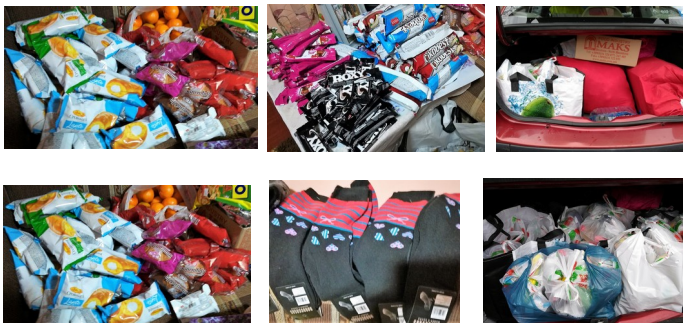
Christmas is for children



Each year St RCHF makes a special effort to reach the children who are without hope at Christmas. Christmas present that many take for granted will be there Christmas morning, but in northeast Romania are families who struggle even to find the next meal for their children let alone Christmas presents and many go without.

We find out where are the neediest children and bring them Christmas joy each year this year with again superb support from ST RCHF and also some support from Castle Craig in Scotland which allowed us to reach many a child who deserved to have Christmas joy.

Also in early December St RCHF sponsored again small gifts for children for St Nicholas day which is a special day in Romania where all children receive small gifts and fresh fruit!



We also do not forget that many pensioners who live alone see no one at Christmas and again each year with this last Christmas included we visit them with Christmas joy and also a new warm hat and pair of winter socks, plus fresh fruit and biscuits.

Being seen at night saves lives

În Romania the majority of rural dwellers often travel by horse and cart and those who own such are regarded as being valuable people among the locals. Valuable because they do many manual jobs like taking rubbish to the arranged rubbish tip, taking children to school, the sick to the medical center which might even be some km away in the next village, removing furniture and of course for work in the agricultural domain.

Often the horse and cart can be seen on a main road and this is unavoidable because many villages cross main road areas and even in those that do not there are points where vehicles travel thus always a danger of an accident when coming upon a slow moving horse and cart in a vehicle travelling much faster. Even at 30km per hour one will completely destroy into pieces a horse cart if a vehicle hits same and the causes of severe life threatening injuries and even death to occupants on the cart are all too often grave to state the least. Horses too are killed in such accidents or put down by vets if they arrive.

Within St RCHF some years ago we found a way to make a horse and cart be seen easier at night and in bad weather when is poor visibility with a clever designed 3M highly reflective plate that is fixed onto the rear of the horse cart as most accidents happen when a vehicle hits a cart from the rear after failing to see the horse and cart in front in time. In 2021 we continued to provide these reflective life saving devices free in Botosani County to horse and cart owners who were fully appreciative of this idea.

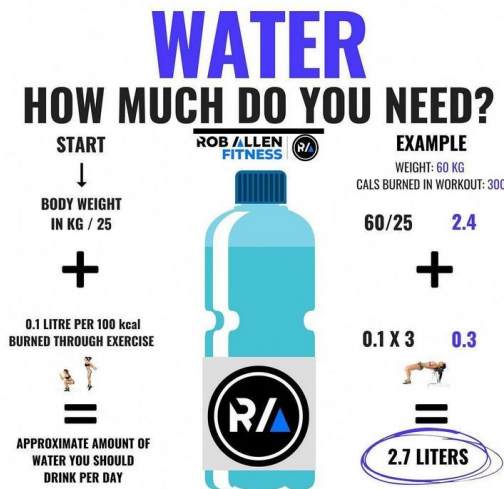


Food is a man's engine!

As the saying goes 'food and water' is what makes us go rather like oil and petrol for a vehicle, without either and we stop in our tracks! For the human being life cannot go on without nourishment and a balanced diet, illness appears because of a lack of energy and lack of nutrients that our bodies need as our bodies weaken over time without proper food and water. Water is a huge part of the make up of the human body in fact 60% on average of the human body is water and this can be lost easily by excessive work, heat when is above average temperatures outside and by sweating quite apart from water lost in kidney filtration within our bodies. It is therefore vital to human health to drink clean water at least 2 to 3 liters per day.

Food should be fat free and rich in vegetables and fresh fruit that contain all of the vitamins we need to stay strong and healthy, but all of this comes at a price far too many cannot afford today and

aş a result the health of those who are without a decent balance of food and who do not drink water sufficient is over time affected and illness appears.



În Romania which is the poorest Country în Europe despite there being a good supply of basic food of which most is imported including white meat (chicken) from Countries like Poland and the US at the expense of the home market its a simple fact that few can afford a balanced diet. În rural villages where the majority are senior citizens or shall we say over 40s life has passed them by and there is no longer local work apart from occasional day work în the season on the land that is very low paid and not enough to sustain a family. There are also homeless people who have no funds apart from what maybe a kind soul passing will give and again not enough to have a balanced diet.

The stupidity is that a bottle of beer is less expensive than a bottle of water and alcoholism is also another problem în the villages and among the homeless sadly. There are many reasons for this of course and each case is different.

We help very needy families each month with top up food aid so that they can have what to put on the table for their children aş în Romania far too many children go to bed hungry and far too many go to school on only a slice of dry bread, not exactly what the young childs brain needs to start the day of learning with!

We know these families we help and access each case and review periodic and we also give freely food aid to Church run centers for the homeless în Suceava and Botosani Counties. These centers provide a place of sanctuary for the homeless and are the only ones who offer this kind of help apart from a few council run centers, but with far lower standards. They merit our support aş we are all God's children and can all fall far to easily by the wayside în the current enviroment în our World.



One of many families we help who live on the edge and merit our support. The father has only day work and is not enough to support all food expenses and other living cost, but the children are always kept clean and attend kindergarten and village school and are happy children who we know well and they are doing well overall despite their basic living conditions because of the love their parents place în them all aş a united family.

The vegetable basket!

În 2021 again thanks to a kind dutch donation of seeds of Vreken's Zaden, we were able to organize families in rural villages who have no work and plenty of spare time to become active for their own benefit. This is named the 'Grow your own' project and has enjoyed mixed success over many years now. This year again 14 families participated and with encouragement started to see a good crop of vegetables growing in their gardens from the freely donated seeds distributed by St RCHF.



Unfortunately severe weather in mid summer including a typhoon destroyed almost all of the crops in 9 of the families gardens and this was only part of the typhoon damage with trees uprooted, house roofing blown away and followed by severe flooding. There was a good result however in 5 families who's area of abode was outside of the storms that caused sheer havoc and for them was a good harvest of crops including onions, tomatoes, lettuce, green and white beans and courgettes.

Lets look in the year ahead and see if we can find ways to help when severe weather affects garden crops at village family level as maybe there is a way to help protect and save crops.

A replacement vehicle for St RCHF in Romania

For many years St RCHF had an Opel Agila 2001 model and it did extremely good service since carrying aid and people ill when required after being purchased in 2012, but in the last year it became unreliable and far too costly on repair bills. Thanks to Miriam and Jeroen Charmant I was able to purchase a very good Renault symbol with a 1400 cc engine and from a person known and respected, not simply via an unknown seller as in Romania are many who are not genuine car sellers. The car has a full technical inspection and a full service and drives very well even in icy conditions. Being a French manufactured car as it has the dash layout different in that the wipers and lights are on the opposite side to the German Opel we had before, plus the gear shift is set in a different sequence however after a few weeks I have the feel of the car and now after months of driving I am delighted with its performance to date.



Above is the vehicle outside the high school at Stefanesti in Botosani County

Sars Covid 2 is it to be the end of the pandemic în 2022

With over 2 years of the Sars Covid 2 pandemic and millions of lives lost there is a sign that the latest variant Omicron may be the end of the pandemic. Note I say the end of the pandemic, but not the end of Sars Covid 2 illness as this in all of its variants will stay with us for many years to come, but at a reduced rate of infection among the populations.

Omicron is highly contagious and easily passed via cross infection from an infected to a non infected person, but is not so dangerous as other variants including Delta which causes many deaths. Omicron affects the upper respiratory tract, nose, throat, eyes and far less extent the lungs making it less dangerous, but can become an extreme life threat to those who suffer other ailments including heart disease, thrombosis, pneumonia, enlarged kidneys, diabetes and to ones who suffer from HIV as well as TB, but for the rest of us will be like an extra severe case of flu illness.

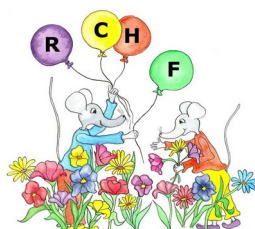
St RCHF with Brian Douglas has worked in the medical domain many years now including at the pulmonary disease hospital in Iasi city which has been over run with covid cases as well as in public health and our input in the last 2 years within the pandemic is well appreciated by medics all over Romania and as far away as in the Ukraine where we know medics who also like us fight to save lives in this pandemic. We also speak at medical conferences and have for many years been associated with tuberculosis reduction hand on in hospitals as well as TB education in Romania.

We all pray that this year will be less deaths and more understanding among the public at large who seem to think they know better than medics who are fighting to save lives every day in very difficult circumstances in Romanian hospitals that are old and unfit for the modern era of treatment and life saving.

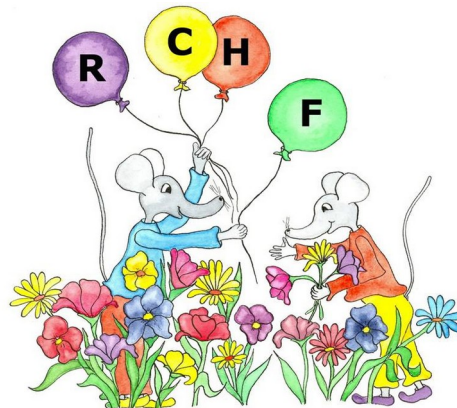
Brian Douglas of St RCHF is also the administrator of the Romanian support Covid group which includes medics and nurses from not only all over Romania, but from abroad as well.



In 2021 we also were able to donate pulse oxymeters to the Bivolari medical cabinet of Dr Moldovan as well as books so that the infirm ones in this hospital could read a good book whilst in their stay in hospital rather than stay in the bed all day unoccupied.



Our combined thanks go to all who have supported in 2021 including family Miriam and Jeroen Charmant, Wings of Angels NL, MF Care with Remko in Holland, Give Eur Hope and all others who supported with aid or donations.



We look forward to a New Year filled with better times and peace and happiness and we in St RCHF will continue to help children in their learning via Timmie product as well as helping families with extreme needs, the homeless and the old and sick people.!!