



St RCHF latest news update July 2021

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Education and support of the poorest of souls is the mainstay of our voluntary work

To undertake humanitarian work one must be willing to offer support to the neediest of the population and needs do vary.

One need that St RCHF addressed many years ago was a need for a higher standard of Pre School education and the huge talent of Miriam Charmant here came to play with what is now a huge success for many thousands of children in Romania.

Lets look back to 2010 when in a meeting here in Romania with both Miriam and Jeroen Charmant who had had a trip to meet me from their home in The Netherlands we discussed a new design for a business card for the charity that I could use to present St RCHF on meeting officials and other people to present our charity. Jeroen showed me a picture of a mouse that his Wife had produced and this I accepted as was different and a great design logo so in effect at that point Timmie mouse as we know know was born. Jeroens wife lady Miriam is both a former school teacher and an extremely good artist and we produced together a basic Hygiene booklet for children. This was very different from the old style basics of Romanian public health material that was too complicated for children to understand and I might add for many adults as well. The Timmie basic Hygiene book contained easy to read and understand text along with basic visuals in the form of artwork inserted into each page with what had now become not only timmie mouse but a timmie mouse family with all having a place in learning about basic hygiene that readers could follow and enjoy.

The essence of the word enjoy here becomes apparent when you read and enjoy a book and can feel a part of the same and Miriam expertly accomplished this in the basic Hygiene book and all other books that have been produced since!

Now all these years later and St RCHF has a full range of Timmie educational books for children as well as learning cards. These include reading and story books, Look and learn books, Geography books, maths books, basics in alphabet and easy text books and more besides to date with a new book due to arrive anytime soon to be distributed to kindergartens and schools in Northeast Romania to further help the youngest child to gain that vital knowledge that they require in the first years of education as well as helping bring forward to level the children who lag behind in class for various reasons.

For me is an honor and an absolute pleasure to visit education establishments and donate timmie products each week in term time and I am lucky as I meet as speak and also take classes on occasion with the timmie products so beautifully produced by Miriam with the superb support of her husband Jeroen too. As a direct result of their implication now in northeast Romania in Suceava County all kindergartens and many schools now have timmie products as well as many in Botosani and Iasi Counties and in special in the poorest of rural areas where children can only learn for a better future than their parents had if they have the correct and most up to date learning tools as with Timmie range of products!

Easy learning with attractive manuals is the key to keeping a child's attention in class!



Offering voluntary support to the neediest of the population.

În St RCHF we voluntarily for many years have offered support to the hardest hit families as well as people living alone and children in care within the Romanian population in northeast Romania.

Romanian is the poorest Country in Europe today with the northeast Counties where we work being the poorest. The South and west of Romania has benefited from various projects and investments over several years and as a result there has been a change in lifestyle for many families, but not all by far. However in the northeast bordered by the non EU countries of the Ukraine and Republic of Moldova the old ideas from years gone by remain the same plus a lack of investment has seen these Counties in real terms now poorer than even 10 years ago. Corruption has also played a part in this as well as in all poor counties one can find many wealthy ones who live in absolute luxury and no one ever asks where their wealth came from in such a poor country where the majority like in the huge rural villages still live like 70 years ago taking water from street wells and roads that are still beaten earth ones for instance!



Rural poverty is massive in northeast Romania, yet in the communist times all these families had paid work in the huge agricultural combines and farms that produced the nation's wealth at that time. To give an example in one village in Iasi county in the late 1980's there was over 12,000 pigs in the agricultural complex that employed all of the village males and many women as well. Now today the young ones have left often unqualified to try find some work in other countries as in the village nothing remains, only old rusted farm buildings after the new governments one after the other after communism ended failed to invest in agriculture, relying on imports instead at huge prices compared to the Romanian salary that the majority cannot afford in these villages. Left behind are the old ones now with pitiful pensions that they struggle hard to survive on and grandchildren who they look after best they can whilst their parents try their luck abroad for a job that will pay them enough funds to send some home and try improve living standards with either repairs or a new dwelling space and they miss the best years of their children's lives undertaking this work abroad as in their home country there is often only seasonal very low paid work and poverty awaiting still today.



With financial donations from our friend Remko in the Netherlands we were able to deliver free of charge heating wood blocks to many families who had no funds for heating their homes with their small soba fires in the January, February and March and a part of April.

St RCHF support for those who are old or infirm with walking difficulties.

Many times I hold my breathe when on occasion foreign visitors are shown around villages and I hear them say for instance "O see over there at that nice quaint cottage". They do not realize often the hardship of those who live in what they call that nice quaint cottage as do not know the life standards or style of the rural people, possibly because they think have the same standards as rural people in their own Country.

Maybe they see the water well in the street, but of course do not realise that each family no matter what the weather with have to go with buckets and withdraw up to 20 and often more than that number of buckets of water a day for household use! There are families without mains electricity who simply either cannot afford as are so poor or live in an area where is no supply of mains electricity.

These families we help with Solar Light packs with funds donated by Give Euro Hope and we continue with this ongoing project to help raise standards and stop the danger of fire from candles that if left unattended can cause a rural dwelling to be burnt to the ground and lives lost also.

Another project we have that helps the older person who can't walk easily as well as the infirm disabled people in villages along with those who have very poor conditions and young children is a portable toilet which we donate freely. In these dwellings with the portable toilet the residents no longer have to struggle special in the nighttime to the pit toilet at the bottom of the garden.



These portable toilets save hardship and make life that little bit easier for those who have needs because of difficulty in walking.. Photo right shows boxes of portable toilets in the RCHF car on delivery days to rural villagers.



Road safety is also applicable to rural people who in the main still use horses and carts to travel around and for work use also. We provide free of charge reflector plates that mount on the back of the carts thus allowing visibility at night and when in poor conditions in winter days so that other road users can see in good time the horse and cart and avoid a tragedy!

The above are just some of the ongoing projects of St RCHF in Romania and we thank you for your support and will bring you more news in the weeks ahead!