



# Light for Children Autumn 2017

UK Registered Charity Number 1120680

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the work of *Light for Children* in Dorohoi, northeast Romania. Once again, we are very grateful for your support, which has enabled us to make a significant difference to the lives of hundreds of children and young people over the last twelve months.



Providing **educational opportunities** has continued to be a priority. For the children living in state care, we have again funded the purchase of school text books and extra tuition, wherever available. We have continued to support a family with six children, three of whom are studying at university. This academic year, we have committed to supporting a talented member of the children's orchestra who has been brought up in foster care and now has the opportunity to study at a Christian residential school, where he will be able to develop both his academic and musical gifts.

We have continued to fund and often make arrangements for the **medication, medical care, dental work, eye tests, glasses and speech therapy** needed by the 130+ children living in state run care in Dorohoi. New children regularly come into the care system, often as a result of poverty and neglect at home. For two such children, a seven year old boy and a teenage girl, we have recently purchased glasses, which were desperately needed. Both children were overwhelmed by the difference the glasses have made to them and are now able to embrace the opportunities that are available to them at school!



We currently support two girls who are being treated for **leukaemia**; a five year old girl from the care system and a thirteen year old girl from a local village. The girls have become friends and their parents/carers are a great support to each other. We help both girls on a monthly basis, covering the cost of their medication, travel to and from hospital, extra food and personal hygiene items.



Over recent months, we have helped a baby who was born with craniofacial anomalies and as such, has struggled to feed and develop. We are funding a **specialised milk powder** which has been prescribed for him. He needs to be able to gain enough weight to be strong enough to cope with surgery and was unable to tolerate the standard milk powder available from the local authorities. His mother, who grew up in state care, is determined to care for her son and is very grateful for the support that she is receiving.

At the beginning of October, two of our **young adults** with special needs moved into "**Casa Neemia**". This amazing facility has been built by another charity in Dorohoi to accommodate young people who were brought up in the care system, offering them safe and comfortable living conditions, along with the opportunity to live in a community where they will be supported and encouraged to become as independent as possible. Each young person has his/her own en-suite room and access to communal rooms. We remain committed to supporting these young adults as they settle in and will work closely with those responsible for the running of "**Casa Neemia**" in the future.



Another of our young men, who left the care system three years ago and needed a considerable amount of support as he adjusted to living independently, has now moved to another part of the country to work in a factory where car parts are assembled. Initially very anxious to move away from “home” and embrace a new way of life, he has now been working at the factory for twelve months and is feeling settled.

During the summer months, we supported as many **holiday activities** as possible and enjoyed seeing the children from the apartments taking part in organised sports and craft programmes. We were also able to contribute towards the cost of taking 100 of the apartment children on a short break to the mountains. Other day trips included visits to local museums and parks.



The **children’s orchestra** was formed five years ago and now has a repertoire of over 50 songs. With descant, alto and tenor recorders, as well as violins and a clarinet, we have recently enjoyed being able to learn songs such as “Be Still, for the presence of the Lord” and “Grace Alone”, in four voices. Within the orchestra, strong friendships have formed and opportunities have arisen for us to invest in the children and teenagers in a number of ways.



Given that Dorohoi has such a significant Jewish history, I challenged these young people to each read two of the following books during the summer holidays: “The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas”, “The Diary of Anne Frank”, “The Boy on the Wooden Box”, “The Book Thief” and “The Librarian of Auschwitz”. Initially surprised and non committal, they returned to rehearsals several weeks later, enthused and inspired by what they had read and keen to read more!

In September, we organised a day trip to the mountains for these children, visiting the birthplace and museum of Ciprian Porumbescu (a Romanian composer), before enjoying a chairlift ride and picnic in stunning scenery.



We have continued to look after a **ten year old boy** at weekends and in school holidays. In June, we were delighted to bring him to England for a holiday. He enjoyed flying for the first time and was relieved to not have to use the parachute that he discovered underneath his seat! On arrival in Luton he thanked the pilot and was invited into the cockpit. He enjoyed spending time at home with my Mom and Dad and taking trips out to Beacon Park, Lichfield Cathedral, Fradley Junction, Wolseley wildlife centre, Burntwood swimming baths and London. He loved travelling by train to Euston and was delighted to realise his dream of riding on the top deck of a London bus and in a black taxi! He was overwhelmed to see Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the London Eye and Tower Bridge but happiest of all in the shade of St James’ Park, where he enjoyed photographing squirrels and a rat!!



During the year, we were pleased to welcome **visitors** to Dorohoi, including Wendy and Dave Barnsley, Sylvia and Andrew Hetherington and a team from “Project Hope”, Glasgow.

**Thank you for your continued support**, which has made all of the above mentioned projects possible. A special mention to members of Reigate Baptist Church in Surrey and “Project Hope” in Glasgow, who have recently committed to supporting our work.

*Helen and Costel Cosman.*