

LIGHT FOR CHILDREN

January 2021



**A review of the work
carried out by
Light for Children
in and around Dorohoi,
during 2020.**

Dorohoi, in north east Romania



Introduction

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Romania remains in a national state of alert.
- Following the first lockdown in March 2020, restrictions were relaxed somewhat during the summer months and the schools did open very briefly in September.
- However, since the second wave of the virus hit us in October, all schools, theatres, cinemas and play areas have remained closed.
- Masks and social distancing remain obligatory in all public places.
- Schools are operating exclusively online, with children being required to connect to their lessons via Zoom for 4-6 hours a day.

Apartment children



- At the start of the lockdown in March 2020, the children living in the state run apartments in Dorohoi didn't go outside at all for two months.
- Everything was done to make their time indoors as bearable as possible.
- At Easter we provided board games, craft items and table tennis bats for some of the apartments as well as kits to build and use small indoor greenhouses.



- When the time came for the children to go outside in the middle of May, they were only allowed to mix with the other children in their apartment.
- All in all, the children coped amazingly well and have certainly learned to make the most of the little things.
- Daily trips to open green areas on the outskirts of Dorohoi became the norm during the summer months and a lot of effort went into celebrating special events, such as birthdays.



Medical/ Covid-19

- Despite all the restrictions we have still been able to support the children by paying for any medication, dental work, optician appointments, glasses, school books and other items that they have needed.
- The children and staff in the state run apartments have been tested for Covid-19 regularly and we have been asked numerous times to provide gloves and protective clothing for the nurse doing the testing.
- Until September, all the children and staff had been safe and well but since then, tens of children and their carers have tested positive. Some have required hospital treatment, whilst others have been treated “at home”, in the apartments. We have funded prescribed medication for all of the children who have tested positive and have recently provided a nebulizer for a teenage boy who was particularly poorly.
- **Thankfully, everyone has recovered well.**

Christmas 2020

- For Christmas, we weren't able to invite the children to church or to enjoy a meal in the town this year but we did prepare small gifts of fruit, juice and chocolate for each of them, which we delivered to the doors of their apartments.



Occupational therapy centre for young adults in Botosani

- For many years we have had a connection with a centre for young adults with learning difficulties in Botosani, where a number of the children from the state run apartments in Dorohoi have moved at the age of 18.
- The centre is home to approximately 30 young adults, most of whom have part-time paid employment in the town.
- In their spare time, they are encouraged to develop craft and gardening skills, amongst other things.



- During the summer of 2020, we were very grateful to receive a donation from **Alba Aid** in **Scotland**, specifically for the centre. The money was used to buy garden furniture, enabling the young adults to enjoy spending time together outdoors.



Summer activities with the recorder group

- At the start of the lockdown in March 2020, we had to stop rehearsing with the church orchestra.
- During the school summer holiday, from mid June until mid September, I met with the six youngest members of the orchestra once a week, to rehearse outdoors.



- As well as rehearsing songs for an hour each week, over the summer we read the book of Matthew, played games, did craft activities and generally enjoyed spending time together outdoors.



Christian sixth form

- We have continued to support a young man from a remarkable local foster family, who attends a Christian sixth form in Targu Mures, in Romania.
- The school is bilingual and encourages him to develop a range of musical and leadership skills, as well as promoting work based learning.
- Each month, we help him to pay his school fees, but in order to generate his own spending money, he has continued to develop an ironing business at the school. As demand for his work has grown, he has had to “employ” other young people to help share his workload.
- For much of the year, he has continued to attend school but has had to stay within the school community, without coming home during term time.



Thank you!

- **Thank you so much for all your support during 2020, not to mention the extra concern that you have shown during the coronavirus pandemic.**

