



Light for Children Autumn 2015

UK Registered Charity Number 1120680

As we approach the end of 2015, it is our privilege to be able to update you on the work of *Light for Children* in Dorohoi, in northeast Romania.

In September, an orphanage in Botosani closed and thirty teenage boys were moved to the state run apartments in Dorohoi. There are now 23 apartments, which accommodate 150 children and young people in the town. These youngsters have free access to schooling and the government provide their basic stationary, but there are no funds for certain **text books**, which are essential, particularly for the primary aged children. We have recently paid for their books for the current academic year, at a total cost of £350.



Medical support continues to be a priority for us. We now have twenty five children and young people who wear glasses and so need their eyesight to be checked regularly and their glasses repaired or replaced as required. We also pay for medication and dental work for the children, as well as speech therapy for four boys with particular problems. This summer, we were delighted for one of our teenage boys, who having waited many years, was finally able to be fitted with a prosthetic arm. The government covered seventy percent of the cost of the arm, whilst we paid the remaining £350, as well as £180 in expenses for the teenager to make two separate trips to a hospital in Targu Mures, which is over 300km from Dorohoi.

Throughout the year, I have continued to visit a number of young people in hospital, who are either HIV+ and/or have TB. As well as taking them food, toiletries and medication, it has been important to offer them **friendship and emotional support**, as they are very much aware that they are battling life threatening illnesses. We also currently have an eleven year old girl with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, whom we have been able to help on a number of occasions, not least of which when the hospital where she is being treated in Iasi didn't have a chemotherapy drug that she needed. We were able to pay for the drug to be purchased in the Republic of Moldova and transported in refrigerated conditions to her home, just outside Dorohoi.

For a number of years, we have been very grateful to receive boxes of **clothing, toiletries and basic medication from England**, which we have distributed to children living in both state care and local families. For several reasons, linked to transport difficulties, time constraints and the increased availability of items locally, we have recently decided to stop sending boxes to Romania. We do, however, still have enough stock here to keep us going for another six months. Thank you to everyone who has dedicated their time and energy to this area of our work.



We continue to support a number of young adults who have left the state care system and are now **living independently in our local community**. Although some of these young people are now independent financially, they still need constant support to be able to administer their money, attend hospital appointments and apply for the disability benefits that they are entitled to. We are delighted that two of the young men who left school just over twelve months ago are now in full-time work and are very settled in their rented accommodation.

Throughout the year, we have continued to support two young ladies who are now in their third year at university. In September, we were able to help two **exceptional local students** with some of their expenses as they began the first year of their university studies in Iasi.



For a number of years, we have known a young mother and her two sons, who are now 11 and 8 years old. Having been homeless in the past and forced to sleep in the park, this young family have been very grateful for the modest, rented accommodation that we have been able to provide for them since 2009. For ten consecutive years, the young mother has applied for council housing and just a few months ago, was handed the keys to a brand **new little house on the edge of Dorohoi**.

As a charity, we are in the process of furnishing and generally preparing the house for this young family. As soon as the property has gas and electricity, they will be able to move in. For the first time in their lives, they will have central heating, an indoor bathroom and a kitchen! Both of the boys do very well at school and so desks and chairs are waiting for them in their new bedroom! We have already invested over £1000 in this little house and still have a number of expenses to cover but we are determined to give this young family every opportunity to make a brighter future for themselves.



Throughout 2015, we have cared for **an eight year old boy** from the state run apartments each weekend, endeavouring to help him with his reading and writing and to offer him a variety of different experiences in a family environment. During the summer, he thoroughly enjoyed learning to ride a scooter, had the opportunity to attend a camp in the mountains, swam for the first time in an indoor swimming pool and learned to navigate a boat! Scooby Doo, Paddington Bear and Buzz Lightyear have become household names!

The **church music** group continues to thrive and we are delighted that the children and young people have been invited to play in other local churches on a number of occasions. "Abide with me" and "Nearer my God to thee" are just two of the hymns that we have added to our repertoire this year and we look forward to preparing a Christmas program over the coming weeks.



We would like to take this opportunity to **thank you very much for your continued support during 2015**, without which none of this would have been possible.

Helen and Costel Cosman

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