



Sunshine Foundation Romania

Annual report 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2013

In 2013, Sunshine Foundation Romania has continued to support the children in our two homes and the young adults in our supported living apartments in Brasov County, Romania, some of whom have special needs.



The economic situation in Romania has still not improved which in turn continues to adversely affect the staffing levels of our homes in Harman, Casa Sfanta Patrick (CSP).

In collaboration with the Romanian authorities, we continue to financially support the employment of a house mother for CSP and a p/t support worker to bring stability, routine and continuity of care to the children in CSP.

The Sunshine Children

The children continue to attend school. All of our children appreciate and love the time spent at school particularly since they were not entitled to education or health care until coming into our care. They are very proud of their own development which is evident when we visit and they show us their work books.

Four children in CSP have severe physical disabilities and two are wheelchair users. This year we provided a new hoist to CSP in order to comply with good manual handling practices. Training was provided to all staff in the use of the hoist.



We also sent out a special wheelchair for Lily, as she had completely outgrown the other one. She looked a lot more comfortable in her new chair when we visited.

The older children and young adults need additional one to one guidance and so a psychologist is providing counselling support to help with their emotional well being. The psychologist has also been working with some of our older children to help them through the transition from childhood to adulthood.

The children in our Casa Sfanta Maria home in Brasov are all doing very well. In the summer, we were able to take them on public transport up to the ski resort. A great day out, but also an opportunity to develop independent travel skills so that when



they're older it will not be a daunting task to take a bus.

Supported living

Our young adults who live in our supported living apartments – Casa Irlanda – in Harman are thriving and fully enjoying semi independent living. They take it in turns to do their own cooking and cleaning, with everyone playing their part, regardless of ability.



They are an example to all that, despite the awful neglect and abuse they suffered in the orphanage, the right conditions can turn someones life around and give them a life that is fulfilled and productive. We are rightly proud of them. Each has developed and matured in the care of Sunshine from the time they entered Casa Sfanta Maria as young children.

Supported employment

Our second hand shop, which we opened in Harman last year, is proving to be a tremendous success. The purpose of the shop is to provide supported employment for our young adults but it is also providing a vital income stream to support the project costs in Harman.

While some of our young adults work in the shop, Adriana and Irena, are working in other employment – Adriana continues to work full time in the local pizzeria which she loves and Irena has been learning to work in the local hotel.



We are continuously working to identify suitable employment opportunities for our young adults - we aim for the shop to be the training environment that gives our young adults the skills and

confidence to move into employment outside of the supported employment environment.

Our shop is an important training environment, income generator and community interchange point between our young adults and the local community. It will prove to be ever important as each year more of our young adults will be finishing school and in need of vocational skills to obtain employment. We aim to expand our vocational training programme with the provision of a garden centre enterprise in the coming year.



Danuta and Nina, who work in the shop, have successfully completed accredited training from the Romanian authorities in addition to the training they undertook last year.

Developments

All of the renovation work, including the plastering, has now been finished and the shop looks as good outside as it does inside.

While the shop has proved to be a success, we quickly realised that it was a little on the small side and so it has been necessary to expand into the adjacent sleeping accommodation which was used by visiting volunteers that came out to work in the summer.

Wooden cabins have now been built at the bottom of the Harman site which double up as both volunteer accommodation and as vital sorting space for the shop merchandise.



Many different groups of volunteers have been involved in a variety of jobs on both our sites. Thanks to everyone from STAR, SAR and Beragh that helped to make our site in Harman a very colourful Sunshine yellow!

Families

We continue to support our young adults who have been successfully reunited with their families. Danny and Vasile are extremely happy to be living with their families but their families are quite poor and so we continue to provide them with food parcels and work with other charities to help them with improving their living conditions.

Co-ordinating the work in Romania

A special word of thanks to our co-ordinator Viorel Mares who works tirelessly to ensure that the charitable work of Sunshine Foundation Romania is maintained, continued and developed.



Fundraising

Sincere thanks to all of our donors, both anonymous and those we know about, for their continued support to Sunshine Foundation Romania. Many thanks also to all of the volunteers, local charities, sports clubs, churches, schools and businesses which helped to make the following fundraising activities a success:

- Story telling fundraising event, Coalisland
- Jumble Sale, Beragh
- Bag pack in M&S, Ballymena (September)
- NICVA staff and friends relay team, Belfast marathon
- Name the Doll, Rita (Richill)
- Bag pack in B&M, Ballymena (December)
- Various fundraisers, St Patrick's High School, Ballymena





Support in Romania

Sunshine Foundation Romania's work is also greatly supported by other charities working in Brasov County in Romania. Special thanks to the continued financial support of School Aid Romania including St Patrick's College, Maghera; Methodist College, Belfast; Cookstown High School and St Patrick's College, Armagh.

Many thanks also to STAR, Ana and Bert from Belgium for their continued generosity and support and to the fundraising support group in Beragh.

Volunteers

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have given up their time to carry out DIY work and/or work directly with our children and young adults in Romania.



Time with the children is so special....they look forward to seeing you, spending time with you and when you're gone they remember the lovely time they enjoyed with you. On behalf of all our children and young adults – Multumesc!



Financial scrutiny

Many thanks to Enda McLernon for carrying out the independent examination of the annual accounts. His continued support and advice is very much appreciated.

Special thanks also to Nodlaig Keenan who continues to support and guide us with maintaining our finances and collates and submits our giftaid claims to HMRC.

Charity Trustees

Marie Williams (Chair), Maire O'Loan (Secretary), Aodh O'Loan
Mary Duffy (Treasurer), Denise Copeland.

If you would like to help SFR, there are several ways to do this:

Volunteer – hold a fundraising activity to raise money for SFR or volunteer to work with our children and young adults in Harman.

Standing Order - Make a regular donation through a Standing Order. Just complete a form at your bank with your account number and sort code and SFR's account number and sort code details. These are listed on our website.

Text Message - Donations can be made in the following amounts; £1, £2, £3, £4, £5, £10. To donate all you have to do is text SFRM00 (followed by the amount) to 70070. If you are a taxpayer, you can make your donation go further through Gift Aid by simply replying to a text.

On Line -You can donate through our [new online system](#) called MyDonate. Payments are made securely and go direct to SFR. To make an online donation visit our website.

If you would like more information on our charitable work please visit our website www.sunshine-foundation.com or email info@sunshine-foundation.com or contact any of our Trustees listed in our SFR Committee webpage.