

# SMILESreport

Winter 2008



### 1 Corinthians 13 (N.I.V.)

Within this well known and important scripture, the Apostle Paul says,

**“If I give all I possess to the poor .... But have not love, I gain nothing.”**

He goes on to say, **“Love is Patient, Love is Kind .... It always Protects, always Trusts, always Hopes, always Perseveres.”** Apostle Paul concludes, **“Now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is Love.”**

Within The Smiles Foundation, for many years now and with the help of thousands of people, we have endeavored to allow our faith in God to bring the hope only God can give to those in need and for them to discover the Greatest Love of All through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Since 1997, the Smiles Club and subsequently The Smiles Foundation has held these truths close to our hearts and minds in serving the people of Romania. These people still face enormous humanitarian needs in Education, Medical Care, Housing and Employment. Through the years of establishing many projects within these areas of need, our ministry was to always show the people that when they responded to the **LOVE** of God, expressed through His Son and His people, they would find true and lasting **HOPE**, creating the path to **FAITH** in God and a transformed life.

This is our objective and we are thankful to thousands of people across America and the United Kingdom who share the vision and partner with us daily in prayer and financial support to see the Dream become Reality.

This scripture has inspired us recently to create a major restructure of our support programs and we hope you will enjoy seeing the changes explained through the following pages and you'll be able to join us in **Transforming Lives through the Faith, Hope and Love of the Gospel.**

If you are already a sponsor through one or more of our projects, thank you for all your support to date and we trust you can continue as a member of our new Support Clubs. If that is not possible, don't worry, continue your support as you are and be assured your love and support for that family or child will continue to make a significant difference in their daily life.

We are living with great uncertainties in this world. The recent crisis in governments, banks and financial markets and the fear of recession, help us to understand why the poor and vulnerable get forgotten as the pressures of the modern world take over everyone's thoughts.

Naturally, it concerns us at Smiles how the financial turmoil will affect the people we care for: Certainly not by a drop in investment values or a dip in house prices. But possibly by people's withdrawal or inability to support the great work God is doing day by day for His people in Romania. That would make a difference and that concerns us all in Smiles and we ask for your prayers over the coming months in regard to our levels of support.

Once again, as He has done before, God is reminding us that we are to be concerned with building His Kingdom – not our own kingdom, which will fall and loose value and one day – return to dust. His Kingdom will not and so we believe now is the time to invest in His Kingdom and ensure His commands of caring for Widows and Orphans – Loving Our Neighbor and, - “Doing unto the least of these ... as if for Him”, are taken seriously.

**Our prayer is, that as we rejoice in all that is happening within Smiles, you will remain committed to the work and ensure we can finish what we have started in the firm belief it is what God Called us to do.**



Children Care



Elderly Care



Family Care

[www.thesmilesfoundation.org](http://www.thesmilesfoundation.org)



*Showing Love to Children living with Family difficulties*

**Within the new Smiles 100 Love Club, the projects provide for more than 100 children. Details are below of how each project shares God's Love with the children and their families. We'd like to see the number grow if we have enough Love to share around!**

**Cihei Children's Center**

This project is designed to help families overcome the difficulties that often cause children to be abandoned, neglected or abused. Our experience is that rarely do these situations arise due to a lack of love. So many other problems and pressures are facing parents that sometimes 'situations get out of control'. Smiles is there to help support the family and provide a safe, warm and loving environment for the child, whether short or long term, until solutions are found for the future.



**Cihei Children's Center**

**Gepiu Community Project**

This project is reaching out to the community on a daily basis. A poor community with no high school and virtually no employment prospects which has a history of children dropping out of school before completing High School. Unable to get to the city or cover the cost of school supplies limited those who wanted to finish their education. Illiterate parents and poor housing conditions added further difficulties for children to learn. Gepiu project provides educational support, hot meals and hygiene programs and a lot of love to ensure the children can have Hope for the future. The elderly are cared for through visitations and community luncheons. They and the children have access to the Gepiu mini-bus for transport to School, Church and the Center:



**Bratca**

**Emergency Housing Unit**

EHU was established from a serious need within our Family Care project. People in financial difficulty often faced eviction, or lived in dreadful conditions, even in cow sheds or on the streets. They need help to re-establish their lives and overcome the trauma of homelessness. Our EHU provides the opportunity for temporary shelter in a loving, caring facility until a permanent solution is secured. The EHU also provides safety and shelter for many mothers and children suffering from domestic abuse. Smiles work very closely with the Child Protection Agency and State Social Services to provide the care and support families in this situation need.



**Salard House**

**Bratca State Hospital**

The Bratca State Hospital for Severe Psychiatric and Physical Disabilities has been a special place for Smiles to support since 2002. During extreme financial difficulties of the Romanian State, food and heating budgets were suspended and Smiles stepped in to help. In addition to financial and practical support for the 25 patients who have been abandoned due to their mental and physical condition – Smiles is their only visitor bringing love, joy and happiness to the patients regularly through-out the year.

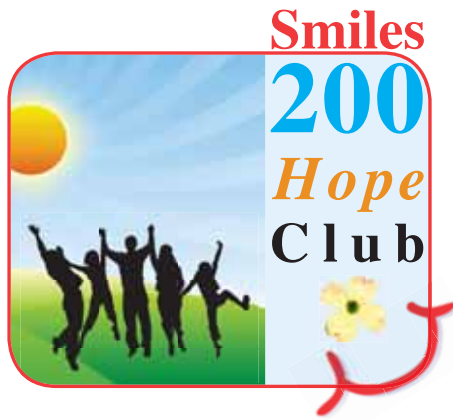
**Housing Project**

Over the years, many individuals, families and Churches have sponsored through Smiles, residential properties for the homeless. Smiles now manages 30 such properties and the maintenance or renovation of the properties is a huge challenge on a constant basis. Here, you can help provide a house for the homeless or help to keep it in good order to serve the needs of the families for many more years to come.

**Salard Gypsy Community**

Our introduction to the Salard Gypsy Community was through a family tragedy of losing their home through a fire which also claimed the life of their 5 year old daughter. Smiles built a new home in 6 weeks and was instantly made aware of significant needs within the community for further housing and a special love for people who were forgotten and neglected by society.

**SHOW LOVE**



Within the new **Smiles 200 Hope Club**, the projects reach more than 200 families. Too many of these families have lost HOPE in the future as their poverty deepens and the way through seems impossible. The HOPE is that 'Jesus came to give Life and Life more abundant'. Our opportunity is to share that HOPE with a family in need through various projects, such as Family Care, Medical, Sack of Smiles, Elderly Care, Homeless and Crisis Care. Some are already established, and others are planned as support enables more families to be included.

*Giving Hope to Families living in poverty*

**Family Care Project**

Established in 2001, this project began as a simple support program, delivering food packages to the poor to help with family care. From simply helping one or two families, the project grew to 200 families receiving help with food packages and professional social assistance along with significant help from sponsors who provide practical hope for a better tomorrow.

**Medical Care**

In 2002 as an extension to our Family Care project, we introduced Medical Care and have employed two doctors for much of the time. When the first doctor left after 5+ years, we decided to replace her with a Family Nurse who is also qualified and experienced in Family & Child Counselling. There are many needs from chronic and acute illnesses and the support our medical staff provide with your help is always appreciated and often life-saving.

**Sack of Smiles**

Launched in 2004, SOS has been a wonderful campaign at Christmas time – bringing thousands of special Christmas filled sacks to children who would otherwise, have nothing at this special time of year. All the contents are purchased locally which both helps the local economy and ensures consistency of content and quality. Sacks are filled according to age for boys or girls with gifts such as clothing, hygiene items, toy, sweets and school supplies. We even do a sack for babies. **Make someone Smile at Christmas time.**



Family Care

**Elderly Care**

Whilst our Family Care project provides limited support for the elderly, Smiles desires to see significant provision to care for the elderly in the future. Two strategic proposals are awaiting support to launch. Initially, we'll provide a Day Care facility in Tileagd for 10-12 elderly that will provide food, nursing care, social assistance and social activity. As soon as possible, Smiles wants to begin the purpose built residential Nursing Home in Cihei. This plans to be a 30 bed facility for the elderly to live their later years safely, comfortably and with dignity. A situation not currently available to many.

**Homeless**

Many Romanian families live daily without running water, electricity or warmth in their homes. Many face eviction onto the streets as the economic pressures mount that they have no hope to overcome. By sponsoring a residential house through Smiles, you can provide a life-line of hope to a homeless family. Through believing people care and seeing some hope of a brighter future, families begin to make the long climb back to family stability.

**Crisis Care**

A new aspect to our Family Care project will be to serve the need of those facing a crisis in the family. Coping with disability of a child in a State that does little to recognise the needs of the child or the family. Coping with teenage pregnancies where young mothers-to-be have no where to turn and often believe abortion to be the only option. Smiles want to provide an alternative.

Coping on the streets – the young, the old – without family, home or support. Smiles want to be there to offer Hope in so many 'hopeless' situations.



Elderly Care

**G I V E H O P E**



*Sharing the Faith and Making Disciples*

### The Tileagd Community Complex

Every aspect of the Tileagd Community Complex is critical to the local people. For The Smiles Foundation, the three departments of the Complex are fundamental to fulfil God's plan and purpose for His people.

**Education – to develop the MIND / Medical – to ensure a healthy BODY / Spiritual – to feed the SOUL**

After 5 years in the planning and 3 years in construction – The Dream became Reality and the Complex stands as a great testimony to God's Miraculous Power. Now our strongest desire is to see **'Transformed Lives'**.

### The Tileagd (Gara) Gypsy Community

From a 'chance' encounter with a young boy begging on the streets of Oradea (Romania) in 2001 has come the life-changing opportunity for an entire Gypsy Community through support, firstly in essential humanitarian aid and then with a strategy for infrastructure development through education and employment. That 'chance' encounter in 2001 has led to some mighty changes in Tileagd which by focusing on Medical, Education, Social and Spiritual development – is changing the future of an entire community for the good.

### The Tileagd Community School

Smiles opened the first school building in September 2003, having converted the former Pentecostal Church and fully renovated it to good standards. 68 children attended the first day – all from the Gypsy community who had never attended school before. The facility was full on day one, so immediately plans were instigated for a larger school that could be a place of excellence in education. Now, fully approved and accredited by the Romanian Ministry of Education – more than 100 children, integrated from Gypsy and Romanian homes, attend school every day and love the experience and opportunity to learn. The School gymnasium also provides the facility for our Sports project to operate, including the highly successful Wheelchair Tennis program.

### The Tileagd Children's Center – Nursery & Kindergarten

Discovering the difficulties that face Gypsy children when attending school encouraged Smiles to open the Nursery just 12 months after the school in September 2004. Majority of the children couldn't speak Romanian, instead all spoke the Rromi language which the school staff couldn't speak! Nursery education was needed to prepare the children for school and now more than 60 children aged 3-6 attend daily, enjoying as the main school does, breakfast and lunch each day plus a full hygiene program of baths or showers.

### The Medical Clinic

Working with extremely poor communities always presents an extra measure of Medical problems. Having begun our medical support simply through the Family Care project, building the Complex gave the opportunity for a bigger vision. In addition to a doctor visiting families, now we could provide full professional facilities of a clinic for GP, Dental and Optometry services. Every child in our school and nursery, every family in our Family Care project has access to the Medical facilities and as budget allows, the services can be extended to the wider community.

Within the new **Smiles 400 Faith Club**, the projects are all brought together under the 'miraculous' vision of the Tileagd Community Complex.

A two million dollar investment providing **School, Kindergarten, Medical Clinic for GP, Dentist and Optometrist and Church with Pastor and outreach programs year round.** The ministry was established in 2001 through meeting the Tileagd (Gara) Gypsy community and still to this day, the Community is at the heart of the work in Tileagd.



Tileagd Community Complex



Tileagd Community School

### The Tileagd Community Church

With all the tremendous work Smiles does through its projects, opening the Tileagd Community Church brought the greatest emotion and joy. The Gospel teaches us to 'Care for widows and orphans'... 'to Love our neighbour' ... 'to do unto the least of these ...' The Gospel also teaches to 'Go and make Disciples ... teaching them to obey everything He as commanded.' Finally, The Smiles Foundation was in a position to fulfil the Great Commission.

**S H A R E F A I T H**

### Why the Change?

As The Smiles Foundation enters its 12th year of ministry to the poor, it has experienced tremendous growth in both people served, projects managed and finance to distribute.

Eighteen different, yet very important projects have been divided between the 3 new Clubs. Our aim by bringing 6 projects under the banner of each new Club is to make support easier for you and administration easier for us. In Romania, a member of our Operational Management team will be taking personal responsibility for each Club and they will in turn have the overall support and experience of our Chief Executive to guide the development of this new structure. Our hope is to see these changes providing a better support for those we serve in Romania and better communication to our donors around the world.

As the projects have grown so significantly, systems need to change to handle the growth as well as prepare for even more growth in the future.

### What Do I Do?

We hope you will choose which Club project you wish to support and complete the 'support form' that is enclosed or available on the website or through the office. If you are already a monthly supporter for one of the projects, you will be receiving a letter about the specific changes that will affect you. Basically, we'll be asking you to support less a specific 'family or child' and instead see your support as for all the projects within the Club. You'll still be able to have special interest in a family or child, but our communication with you will be more of the 'bigger picture' of all 6 projects within the Club.

### How Will I Receive News?

This new initiative will dramatically improve communication. Every 6 months – each Club will be producing a News Sheet which will be mailed to supporters. It will also be available on line. The News Sheet will feature information on various aspects of the Club projects and prepared as follows:

**Smiles 100 Love Club will be published February and August**  
**Smiles 200 Hope Club will be published April and October**  
**Smiles 400 Faith Club will be published June and December**

### Are Costs Changing?

Some changes are required. For example, the Family Care project has been at \$30 a month sponsorship since it started in 2001. The cost of food and support to the family has increased significantly since then. We propose to therefore suggest a minimum support for **Club 200** of \$40 a month. **Club 100** will be \$30 and **Club 400** will be \$65

People who already support several families do not need, unless able, to increase support by \$10 for every family. Instead, the total amount supported each month will go to **Club 200** to meet the needs of all the projects included.

### Anything Else New?

**YES** – as a sincere 'Thank You' gift from Smiles, every supporter of the new Clubs will receive a 1% discount per month (1% for each \$30 to Club 100, \$40 to Club 200 or \$65 to Club 400) against a Smiles Mission Trip to be taken anytime in the next 5 years. Discounts can be accumulated, and at any time, the total discount can be exchanged against a Mission trip. You can even use your discount as a gift to someone else. For example – support a Club for 12 months and take a 12% discount from a future Mission Trip – it's as simple as that! Discounts will be accounted for by Smiles and a Confirmation Voucher will be sent each year. We want to encourage as many as possible to come to Romania and see the work first hand. It's an experience that can Change your Life!



Gepiu Lunches



Emergency Housing Unit



SOS



Church



Mission Center

[www.thesmilesfoundation.org](http://www.thesmilesfoundation.org)

With such a major restructuring of our Project Support, we needed to take the space of this Smiles Report to explain the details. We are excited about the opportunity this new process will provide for us to do even more in the future for the poor and needy people living in Romania.

### Website

We do have so much other fantastic news but with so much, we'd need another 6 pages to report it all. We therefore suggest you check the web-site which is extensively updated monthly and provides all the news and information you could want on the work of The Smiles Foundation. If you register your e-mail address on the 'Home Page' you'll be automatically informed each month, when the site is updated.

Because the web-site is the best means to keep you up to date on news and developments, this will be the last 'Smiles Report' in this format that we have been producing twice a year for the past 5 years. We plan from 2009 to be sending the Club News Sheet twice a year to members and once a year, a Smiles Annual Report to donors.

All will be available on the web-site, but if you do not wish to receive the conventional mailings to your door, please write or e-mail us with your details requesting deletion from the mailing list. Please be assured, your e-mail or regular mailing address is never given to another source by Smiles. Your information is safe with us.

### Mission Trips to Romania

One piece of news we do want to share with you and encourage you to think about, is making a Mission Trip to Romania.

In 2008, nearly 600 people from America and the United Kingdom visited the Smiles Mission Center and had an experience that truly 'Changed their Life'. Many people fear the conditions of a Mission trip, or the organizing of it with so many potential problems. That's what The Smiles Foundation specializes in. We've been organizing trips for thousands of people. Individuals, Church Groups, Youth Groups and from the moment you arrive in Budapest airport to start your trip, Smiles takes care of every aspect until you are back at the airport 7 or 14 days later. You will also be staying in safe quality accommodation at our own Mission Center. It's a great experience you will not regret making the investment in. **Guaranteed!**



Smiles Mission Center



#### Mission Opportunities for 2009 include:

- Regular Mission Trips scheduled April – December / Choice of 10 separate trips**
- Church Challenge Trips for a team of 10 or more scheduled by mutual arrangement.**
- Educational Challenge – Teaching Profession Only – May 23rd – 28th**
- Full details available on the web-site**

### Come to Serve .... Return to Share!

#### And finally...

To make a note of your important dates and to support Smiles Projects, order your copy of the **Smiles Calendar**. Every project featured, 100 + colour pictures, a beautiful calendar. **A great gift!** Telephone or e-mail now to order. \$15 inc p & p.

**We are so thankful for your interest in the Smiles Foundation. God Bless you and Thank You for all you do.**

**In Christ**

**The Smiles Foundation Team**



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