Showing Love to Children living with Family difficulties

# Newsletter February 2009

**Dear Friends** **Edition 1**

Welcome to the first edition of the Smiles 100 Love Club Newsletter.
We are so thankful for your support and participation in the work of Smiles. **Club 100** supports very important projects, some may be less familiar to you than others, but all are impacting the lives of many in the Name of Christ.
We hope you enjoy this update and will contact us with any questions. Please share the work with others and request more Newsletters if you need them.







## Special Feature: Cihei Children's Centre

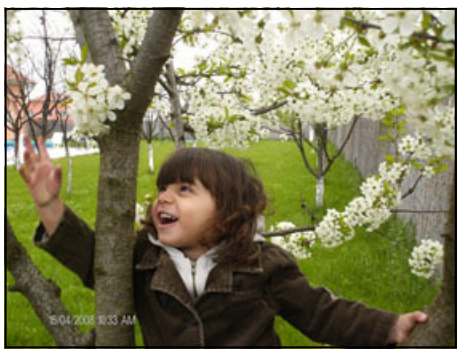
**Johana Rostas** is 3 years old and she has been at our Cihei Children's Centre since she was 3 months old. Her life history is not the happiest one. Although she was a healthy and cute child from the start, she was abandoned in hospital since birth, with no concern for her wellbeing. The reason? Hard to believe - **simply the fact that she is a girl and her mother wanted a boy**—so little Johana wasn't received in her family.

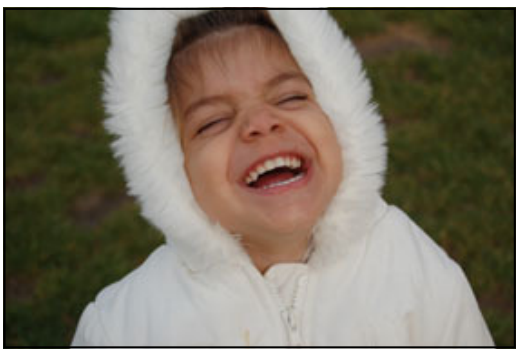
However, because of the **Cihei Children Centre**, Johana has grown up with other children and staff involved here in a family environment where she receives love, affection, stimulation and care. Looking back we can see the progress and we can say with confidence that she is a smart, lovely and very happy child. Johanna is stealing the hearts of anyone who comes to Cihei Children's Centre with her unique charm and smile. But all these things have taken time, a lot of patience and support. The first success in her life was when she learnt to walk for the first time. She did this when she was 10 months old. Since then she has a great confidence in herself and she explores everything that is around her. She has gradually learnt to overcome the "fear" of new people visiting the Centre.

Now? There is no holding back, each time the door is opened, she becomes very curious and ready to smile in order to get the attention and the enjoyment of them. More than that she likes to be in the centre of attention, to attract the attention and receive praise. She does not stand back when the other children that are older than her are involved in certain activities for their age group. She is always joining in wanting to reach the same level, sit at the same table with them and doesn't leave until she receives the same tasks as other children. **She loves singing, dancing, colouring, playing. She is full of life and energy!**

If we had to look back on the progress that she made since last year, we will stop at the fact that **Johana** became a loving and protective girl towards children, began to talk and to use new phrases. She talks about things that happened to her and also how she came out of critical situations. For this she uses her intelligence and creativity wanting to be convincing! ***Georgi Opreanu, Director of Cihei Children's Centre***







# Club Project Updates:

## 1. Cihei Children's Centre:

As the main feature demonstrates, the Centre is impacting the lives of children in a very special way. More children could benefit from the facility but more staff would be needed and for this we need more sponsors to the 100 Club.

## 2. Gepiu Community Project:



We are currently establishing a ministry team at Gepiu for the benefit and development of the daily programmes. It is crucial to have the right people as those who are part of our project need security, consistency and love.

## 3. Emergency Housing Unit:



Rarely any available space at the Unit such is the demand and need for the Love and Provision provided through the EHU. This week a mother and child came to us having been forced into prostitution and then beaten when insufficient funds were taken home. Last year a prostitute came to us for help and is now doing well in a restructured and safe life style.

## 4. Bratca State Hospital:



The State Hospital continues to need and appreciate our support in many areas of their operational expenses. Food, Clothing, Maintenance and even Salary support all mean the special love and care needed for the patients can continue because of our Love and Concern for them.

## 5. Housing Project:



As we face the winter we are aware that come the spring, many of our residential houses, currently housing otherwise Homeless families, will need maintenance and repair work on them. We have people who were rescued from living on the Streets, from Cow Sheds, from Heating Pipes of apartment blocks. Support is needed now to prepare for a busy spring and summer of house repairs.

## 6. Salard Gypsy Community:



To the tremendous relief of two families living in Salard, December we were able to deliver the first two Emergency converted Containers to house parents and children living in dangerous conditions that no human should have to endure. Christmas and this New Year is certainly very happy for them. We want to complete 3 more containers as urgently as possible.

# Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the families and especially the children impacted every day by these projects.
2. Pray for the staff who serve and care for them that they can show Jesus and His Love in all they do.
3. Pray for guidance in leadership appointments for Gepiu. That we will have people who care more for the Community, the children and the elderly, the sick and the poor.
4. Pray for the residents of our Emergency Housing Unit. Traumatised by the ugliness of this world, that they can find Love, Peace and Security—not just in Smiles, but in Jesus.
5. Pray for the continued provision of Houses for the Homeless and that we will have the resources to repair and maintain to the minimum standards we'd expect for our home.
6. Pray for the people in Salard still waiting for a safer place to live. That we will soon be able to convert more Containers and provide these people the basic need of a home.

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