Newsletter October 2011

Dear Friends **Edition 6**

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Smiles 200 Hope Club Newsletter. We are very thankful for your support to the work of the Smiles 200 Hope Club which covers 5 different projects all impacting the lives of families in Romania. We hope this report will be informative for you and if you have any questions or would like further copies, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Giving Hope to Families living in poverty

One of our major supermarkets in England has the marketing catchphrase of… "Every little Helps!" ……

But what can you do when that "little" is missing?
What if it just isn't there? Beyond Reach … What do you do?

In Romania, there is very little spare for Families to do a little extra at Christmas time. We all know how important it is to be able to do a little extra at this special time of year, whether a small gift for the children or a little additional food on the table.

For too many in Romania, the desire to do that little extra is a pressure they can not bear and as the Christmas season is getting closer and closer, so the pressure mounts and families begin looking to the Smiles Foundation for help.

Another year has almost gone! And no doubt we are all starting to prepare for our own Special time this Christmas. We will begin spending money on gifts, clothes, food and all sorts of things!

But can we spare a thought for those people that can't afford to buy anything? What about the children whose parents can't buy them even a sweet? What about the elderly that do not have anybody opening their door to say hi and give them a hug? Lots of questions can be asked, but more important than that, is to find answers!

If you are asking yourself, 'How can I make a difference this Christmas?' We can help you by suggesting some ideas.

- You can make a child very happy by giving ANY AMOUNT towards sponsoring an **S.O.S Gift**.
  To support a full sack you can donate £30/$50…but to make a smile you can start donating from £5/$10 upwards.
- You can make an elderly person living alone very happy by sharing a £10/$15 gift that enables Smiles to deliver a special **Basket of Food** that is guaranteed to get a Smile from someone who is just thankful that someone else cares.
- You can make a homeless person very happy by donating £15/$25 to help us provide "special **Christmas Food Parcels**" to those living on the streets this Christmas.
- You can make a whole family happy by donating £20/$30 to sponsor a bag of **Christmas Food**. Many struggle every week to put food on the table, so to make Christmas truly special, needs a little extra from someone special. Could that be you?

The Smiles Foundation has been providing answers for many years to the problems and stresses Romanian families face. Since 2004, Smiles have provided thousands of Christmas gifts to thousands of families and children throughout Bihor county in NW Romania.

For Christmas 2011, our 8th year of running the programme, we want to make more Gifts than ever, especially during these difficult economic times which are hurting so many people in Romania.

Yes, things are difficult for us too, but will we be buying any gifts for family and friends this Christmas? Will we be buying any extra food for our table on Christmas Day, and throughout the holiday?

If we are, then things are not as difficult for us as they are for those in Romania.

They need your help and the **Smiles Christmas Corner** is the best way to make a difference – to change the World this Christmas … for someone.

Check the Website, or Call the office now to share the Joy of Christmas with someone who needs your love.

Thank you for making a difference.

The Smiles Foundation











"During the mission trip of **December 2004** I had the great privilege of being involved in the preparation and distribution of the **Sacks of Smiles**. I well remember all the items for each sack being laid out in marked boxes in a specific order in the warehouse at Cihei. **There were hats and scarves, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo, toys, colouring pencils and books and cakes and sweets, sufficient to fill each sack full.** All the items had been purchased in Romania in order to help the local economy and the sack, red for girls and blue for boys, doubled as a back pack. Those on the mission trip excitedly and yet carefully chose the items and placed them in each named sack. Having gathered the Sacks of Smiles for each family and the food package, we left with a Social Worker to visit each family.



The **14th December 2004** was cold and wet and we loaded the van with supplies for four families. The first, was a family with four children, they were shy and needed encouragement to open their **Sack of Smiles**. The next visit was to a gypsy family with four children, three boys and a girl. They enjoyed looking into the sacks and taking out each item one by one. For the next family, mum, dad and nine children, Christmas had come early as the children became excited and enjoyed putting on the hats and scarves.



I remember a four year old girl digging deep into her sack and taking out a bar of chocolate and excitedly exclaiming '**look mummy**', in Romanian of course but I understood!

And so throughout the mission trip we visited families, one person even dressed up as Father Christmas …..! One of my favourite visits was to a family in Marghita. We drove down a muddy dirt track to a block of three buildings. In the far building, in a very small house, lived a family of four, mum and dad and two girls. We gave the girls their sacks and they took out each item. **When Anna-Christina found the doll, her eyes became bigger and bigger and her smile was the biggest I'd ever seen, a picture never to be forgotten!**

I will never forget the smiles that the **Sacks of Smiles** brought and continue to bring, to children who have so very little, if anything, at Christmas. This was achieved by many people contributing to the £30/$50 for each Sack …… it's not too late to contribute to this year's Sack of Smiles project. One thing, for sure, the Teams are looking forward to giving out the '**Sacks of Smiles'** this December and we hope we can count on your contribution to make this **Christmas special for a Child!**

If you are not convinced, perhaps looking at the video on the Sack of Smiles web site page, will help! Happy Christmas!"

David Lee

Development Associate for England, Southern Counties

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for support for the Christmas projects of Sacks of Smiles and Food Packages, and for the families and children who will receive them, that they will know of the Love of Christ this Christmas.
2. Pray for the many new families asking for our help. Many as a result of the Financial Crisis which has put them in very difficult situations.
3. Pray for more Sponsors for regular monthly support that enables us to plan and budget the support for more families.
4. Pray for the Construction Campaign of the 'Home for the Elderly'. Lots of support is needed and fund-raising events to build the Fund so that Construction can begin this year!
5. Pray for the sick who can't afford medical treatment and that Smiles will continue to have sufficient means to meet all the needs that confront us.
6. Pray for the families leaving our programme. That the help we have given them will enable them to live better on their own in the future.

Contact Details: Email: info@thesmilesfoundation.org ; Website: www.thesmilesfoundation.org
UK : The Smiles Foundation, P O Box HK70, Leeds LS11 6YR Telephone: 0113 276 5060 Charity: 1087961
USA: The Smiles Foundation, P O Box 35602, Phoenix AZ 85069 Telephone: 423 239 9525 Charitable non-profit: 86-0957704