Smiles 200 Hope Club

Giving Hope to Families living in poverty

Newsletter April 2011

Dear Friends **Edition 5**

Welcome to the fifth 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.

Offering HOPE to the Family in Need, the Sick and the Homeless

A sad story of a wonderful family

It's not easy for me to find the right words to share the story of an extraordinary family, with three wonderful children, that have experienced a tragic event – the loss of the mother.



Todor Family

Todor family, made up of the father **Octavian** – 36 years old, and three children: **Miriam** – five years and a half, **Samuel** – four years and **Estera** – two and half years. They all live in a house in Alparea, about 8 miles from Cihei.

Two months ago, **Mirela**, their wife and mother, only 32 years old, left this Earth for Heaven, to be with her beloved Lord. She suffered with problematical lungs and after a very severe cold, her situation dramatically deteriorated. The ambulance came and took her to the hospital, but one day later, she left feeling better, but also because she was worried about the children at home. Getting back home, only hours later, she was again very sick. She asked the husband to help her sit down in an armchair, to rest and very soon she went into a coma. They thought she was asleep but realised the reality only the next day, when they took her to the hospital again. But it was too late. The doctors could not do anything for her.

Someone that knew of **Smiles**, asked us to help this family. What help could we offer? During such times it's just enough to be present, even if you are speechless. The fact that we were there, talking to them and comforting them counted a lot. We found a special family, but a very sad and hurting one, even if they did not talk much, it was so obvious. You could see it, even feel it.



Estera

We noticed their needs: for clothing, food, pampers, play toys. We went back there and we spent a nice time together, playing with the children and at least for some minutes, the father could relax a little bit.

There are a lot of sensitive people and they tell us about situations like this one. For this particular family, we want to stay with them for a longer period of time. Surely, there's nothing or no one that could replace their mother, but there are things we can do to help them face this difficult situation.

Mr. Octavian had to give up his job, to stay at home with the children. He has no qualifications, so he was doing only hard work jobs, but still, that was a welcomed income, that is now lost. Now, the only income the family has is the allowance from the state for the children, approximately £30/$45 a month.


Miriam

The children were very much attached to their mother, Miriam is still asking about her. ***Where is mum, when is she coming back?*** The father tried to explain she is in heaven now, and she is not coming back, and only they will go to be with her one day. And then, she asked again: ***is it long until we will go too?*** There are things too difficult even for us as adults to understand, so much more so for the children.


Samuel

Octavian lost his family's support because he became a Christian. Even now, his mother would not help him with the children unless he paid her. So, he will have to stay at home with the children for a while, and later on, the children will go to the nursery/kindergarten and he will find a job. He has some friends that will take care of the little ones for some hours when he needs.

There is a time when the answers are hard to find, so we just decided to stay by this family. I trust there will be people touched by their story and together we will become a true blessing for them. We'll try to get support volunteers involved also, to stay with the children, to take them out in the city or do a picnic with them. Also, there will be a lot of other needs a single father will encounter raising his three children.

Through our presence we want to offer all the support we can for this family. This is the reason we asked Octavian to call us whenever he needs to. **We are looking for people that will sponsor a monthly food parcel, people ready to answer to a need, actually we need YOU, the ones that make this programme to run for the benefit of needy families.** Maybe you could share this need with your family and friends. Some way, we will add the sponsorship for at least £30/$45 a month – maybe even £60/$90 so we can really Bless this family and help meet their needs.

Thank you for your commitment and involvement.

***Ioan Cioara (Nelu),* SMILES Social Worker.**



Prayer Points:

1. 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.
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 Land needed to locate our Containers for housing the Homeless. We are building great relationships with the Homeless community, but need to offer real solutions to restore their Hope.

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