Smiles CEO Report on Investment Requirement for Fire Upgrades to Dezna Outreach Centre

In June 2016, the CEO of a UK based charity contacted me to explain the predicament they faced with what is now called Dezna Outreach Centre.

A building initially built in 1996 by predominantly UK Mission Teams, in conjunction with a local Romanian group who registered a Romanian Charity to be responsible for the building.

In 2006, after 10 years and an investment by the UK based Charity of approximately £200,000/$250,000 – the building was far from finished and the UK Charity wisely decided to withdraw from further investment, until the Romanian group responsible, completed the building. Unfortunately, they didn't finish the construction, and with no further work or repairs undertaken in 10 years, the building became significantly compromised with a broken roof, interior water damage from the open roof and burst pipes. It was completely overgrown and considered derelict and a major concern to the community and the local Mayor.

The CEO, on behalf of the Charity, who had done all they possibly could to achieve their initial aims, asked if Smiles could get involved and endeavour to salvage something of the project that would bring Honour to God, which was always the primary objective. In June 2016, Smiles agreed to investigate, as being in country, made the possibility a great deal more feasible.

After visiting Dezna and consulting with the Smiles attorney, it was felt to be a rather significant challenge, as we discovered no paperwork or approvals had been sought or secured by the Romanian Group during the entire construction process. After numerous meetings with the Romanian Group and some very tense and difficult negotiations, with the full support of the UK Charity it was agreed for the Deeds to be given to Smiles on the basis the project would be taken on, completed and operated as an Outreach Facility for the Glory of God. This was achieved by May 2018 and work started practically on the building and legally through the Courts to ensure once completed, we could function in the provision of Christian Camps in Dezna.

Both approaches for making progress were successful and the Deeds of the Land and Building were transferred to Smiles and a further £180,000/$225,000 was invested by Smiles to enable the facility to begin Camps in 2019. It was a very successful opening year with approximately 250 young people attending our Dezna Camps followed by our Opening Celebration on September 28th, 2019 – attended by representatives of the UK Charity. It was such a wonderful time of celebration.

The momentum was in full swing, sadly to be hit the following year, when all camps had to be cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic and national lock downs.

Camps started to resume in second half of 2022 and picked up where they left off and were as popular as ever, with many bookings which continued in 2023 and 2024. All at Smiles could see the tremendous potential for God's Message of Love to be shared with hundreds of young people through Dezna Outreach Centre. Then, the Arad County Fire Department visited, following some strict new Romanian laws introduced in May 2024, which have proved devasting for Smiles and all those passionate to see God's Kingdom expanded through this work.

In July 2024, the Fire Department closed the facility until Upgrades were completed and with so much work required, getting full details of what was needed has taken 10 months before having the Fire Department approve the Proposals put together by Professionals, allowing Smiles to secure Quotations on the work that is needed.

That has currently resulted in the following being quoted:

Architectural Drawings and Project Creation:		£ 5,000/$6,250
Entire rewire of the Building with legally approved materials:		
Approved Electrical Contractor – Materials	£58,500 + VAT	
- Labour	£48,750 + VAT	
		£ 107,250/$134,062
Approved Fire Specialist Contractor – Materials	£21,728 + VAT	
- Labour	£ 5,886 + VAT	
		£ 27,614/$34,517
Construction Work with Fire Resistant Materials:		
Materials	£24,530 + VAT	
- Labour	£ 22,500 + VAT	
		£ 47,030/$58,787
TOTAL BUDGET for Project		£ 185,894/$232,367
Contingency Allowed	10%	£ 18,590/$23,237

VAT – Value Added Tax is Europe's Sales Tax and in Romania, is currently 19%.

TOTAL FUNDS NEEDED	**£ 204,484/$255,605**

Available To date:

Interest Free Loan (3 Years)	£ 70,000/$87,500
Trust Grants secured – TBF / VR / ARD	£ 65,000/$81,250
Personal Seed Money Donation	£ 5,000/$6,250
Received to Date	£ 140,000/$175,000
Outstanding Need	£ 64,484/$80,605
MATCHING to NEED	**£ 204,484/$255,605**

We believe God has major plans for Dezna Outreach Centre and finance will not be an obstacle. Once Funds are secured, Work can continue to complete the Project and begin Operating Camps again. How exciting it is to be a part of God's Almighty Work.