

The Smiles
FOUNDATION



Latest updates from Smiles in Romania

newsletter

series 4, edition 1 - SPRING/SUMMER 2021

Welcome to our Spring-Summer 2021 Newsletter

Greetings to our friends around the world. It is great to be focusing on writing these few words for our new-look Newsletter. I love 'new'... when change brings excitement and anticipation, and this year within the Smiles Foundation, we have had a good share of new and exciting developments.

After such a difficult year that we all faced in 2020, I certainly prayed for brighter days in the new year, and whilst not as quick as we would like, I believe we are seeing progress in the fight against COVID-19 and the possibility of greater normality in the coming months. During the challenges, I learnt not to focus so much on what we couldn't do, but more on what we could do and what we needed to do, within the allowed restrictions, to make the necessary progress and ensure we could continue to fulfil our mission to those who needed our help.

All this actually resulted in some great concepts and initiatives which were drawn together under a major strategic review during a year when we had a little extra time in the office to plan and discuss, producing the announcements and new structure launched in January this year.

Our new structure is establishing many new aspects to the work and for me personally, after 30 years of endeavouring to develop the work here for good, I feel we are at a wonderful place right now, where God is truly leading to more efficient, effective and extraordinary ministry.

I am so thrilled to be at this stage, and I appreciate all those who have supported us through what was a difficult year in so many ways, and yet at the same time, an extraordinarily beneficial year, allowing us to discover God's Plan for the years to come. The pages of this new style newsletter will share many more details and stories of the life and work of Smiles in 2021.

Very exciting and very fulfilling to be where God wants you to be and ready, once again, to serve Him in sharing the wonderful message of the Gospel to a world in great need.

Thank you for joining us on this exhilarating journey.



Kevin Hoy
Founder and Chief Executive
The Smiles Foundation

Inside this newsletter:

**Maria writes on
the new Missions Pillar
and its projects**
(page 2)

**Kevin reports on
the Financial Situation
in the past year**
(page 4)

**Luke writes on what
happens with UK
fund-raising events**
(page 4)

Sminro Updates
(page 7)

Let's pray together!
(page 8)



MISSIONS PILLAR

Maria Hava
Director of Missions Pillar
The Smiles Foundation



*Missions is one substantial corner pillar that supports the entire work of God through Smiles. It covers strategic elements of long-standing projects that have been the backbone of Smiles for over 20-years. Now with new vision and motivation, the MISSIONS Pillar strives to be 'salt & light' as we are commanded in **Matthew 5 v16**.*



So, we started work on repairs at the facility and redecorating the entire place. I look forward to completing this, as I miss my retail shopping therapy! 😊 And I'm really looking forward to have this place up and running at its full capacity, once again. PLEASE pray for that. Pray for every person that comes in contact with us to know that "our house is a refreshing house". Refreshed by the Spirit of God.

Thoughts for the future of Smiles Missions Pillar

In January you heard us talking about the "new structure of Smiles", the New Pillars.

Going forward, for as long as God gives us, you will hear the updates on how the work is running! Only with Him, through Him and for Him, we want to do all things!

I am responsible for the **MISSIONS PILLAR**. So, what is involved? All the best side of the Smiles work! 😊 The educational side with the Nursery and After-school programme in Tileagd, the Emergency Housing Unit, the Mission Trip visits, Medical support and special programmes like SOS (Sack of Smiles). Quite a list!

On February 8th, the nursery was reopened after a long break during the Covid restrictions. I was really happy for the staff and the children. They missed each other. I was happy to see that even after a long time away, they integrated into the schedule really fast. Please pray for the staff and kids and for the continued means to do this work!

The after-school club is running great. I am soooo happy to see the kids involved in the church more and more due to the afterschool club. After 17 years of working with them, I came to the conclusion that if I help them know how to read, write and more important to know about Jesus and have a relationship with Him, I'm successful in my main purpose! Please pray for this aspect of the Missions Pillar.

At the Emergency Housing Unit, I'm happy to tell you our progress towards the next step. This past month we received good answers to our prayers. A friend of ours for many years, a Romanian businessman, stepped in with financial support.

I am also looking forward to the **MISSION TRIPS** starting again! I miss you all. I pray to God that He will "make a way" and we will see each other soon. Meanwhile, the Virtual Mission Trip we enjoyed in March was a wonderful reminder of why our Mission Trips are so loved and appreciated. I'm excited to have more virtual trips in April and May – and if you can join us, I think you will love it and I would love to see you.

And... within the Missions Pillar, I have the opportunity to 'Share Joy' and this has been and will continue to be especially welcome at Christmas through our SOS project. To re-enforce our focus of 'sharing joy' we are now working on a programme for the Romanian Easter which in 2021 is May 2nd. We will celebrate the Risen Christ and I want to see how we can do a special programme for the children to understand and remember the importance of this celebration.

Plenty to consider for the Missions Pillar, so your continued prayers and support is critical. Thank you for your amazing commitment over the years, especially during this tough period we are now moving through. God bless you all!





OUTREACH PILLAR

Outreach represents several well-established projects that Smiles is well known for over many years. Now the focus has moved from a primarily 'social' concern to our primary responsibility of 'spiritual' concern. This new emphasis of purpose encourages all in the OUTREACH Pillar to honour the Great Commission of **Matthew 28 v19**.

Adrian Matis
Director of Outreach Pillar
The Smiles Foundation



Thoughts for the future of Smiles Outreach Pillar



Looking at the perspective of what the Outreach Project is and what it could become in a few years, I cannot help but ask "what might be next?"

There are some very well known and familiar areas where Smiles has always been very active, and that is the social care for the destitute people and families, equally for some entire communities, who are now better off and hopefully they will continue to improve. What was known as Field Project continues to be of great importance for us and we will not stop our support in this direction, but it will necessarily be associated more with spiritual values and development.

We are planning on introducing a number of programmes, as has been described ever since the launch of the new Pillar structure of Smiles. Our desire is to see more happening on the spiritual front - we know how important this is, but we want to help other people, those directly interested, to understand it. So, the priority here is to share with them, on each occasion, that beyond the "immediate" there is something even more important! And that is what matters even more in fact!

So, we are happy to say that not only do we have some good plans for what is to be done, but we do hope and believe these plans will be blessed by God, but now we also have the people who are going to do it. As of 1st April, Sefora, Adriana and Ruben will get the opportunity to serve under the Pillar's banner, but more exactly, they will have the chance to do God's work as part of Smiles team.

We are excited about their involvement and their contributions, as they seem to be themselves very willing and able to get their hands "dirty"! There are many communities, villages, people waiting for us to go and see them. There is a lot of work to be done!

We want to say thank you for supporting Smiles' projects and for your interest in the Outreach Pillar. As we plan new activities and a more diverse package of services, we need your partnership as much as always. And we know we can rely on you, just as we always could!

Finally, we hope soon enough we'll be able to see each other again in person, once the pandemic is over, or at least under control. We trust God for delivering us through these difficult times and also we want to appreciate your support for all we do. Many blessings!

DEZNA OUTREACH CENTRE
Casa Torch

Chief Executive's Financial Reflections on 2020

We all know what a difficult year we came through in 2020 and so much of the difficulties came about due to uncertainty of the future. We were the same in Smiles, but the difference being our trust and dependency on God to provide all our needs. It is a true testimony to the Great God we serve that even through the extreme difficulties of a worldwide pandemic, God ensured His Work continued and I'm humbled to report how supportive the Smiles Family were during this past year.

Overall income was down in 2020 compared with 2019 by £107,310 / \$139,503

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| This still provided us an Operational Income for the year of: | £1,325,011 / \$1,722,514 |
| Our Project Expenditure for the year was: | <u>£1,060,210 / \$1,378,273</u> |
| Providing a working surplus as follows: | £ 264,801 / \$ 344,241 |

From this surplus, we financed –

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Capital Expenditure/Maintenance & Repairs | £ 59,881 / \$ 77,845 |
| Non-Project Operational Costs (Admin, promotion, etc) | £ 59,657 / \$ 77,554 |
| Loan Repayments – Bank and Personal Loans | <u>£ 85,207 / \$ 110,770</u> |

Providing a Net Surplus for the Year: £ 60,056 / \$ 78,072

Without a doubt, the pandemic hit the income of Smiles, especially in areas such as Residential, Mission Trips and the Glasshouse. However, the restrictions imposed on us also limited our activities for much of the year, with School and Nursery closed, Churches closed, no Camps at Dezna, the Homeless Village closed and extreme limitations on our normal family support with not being allowed to enter homes – all these restrictions also limited our regular budget expenses especially with a 10% reduction in Staff during the year.

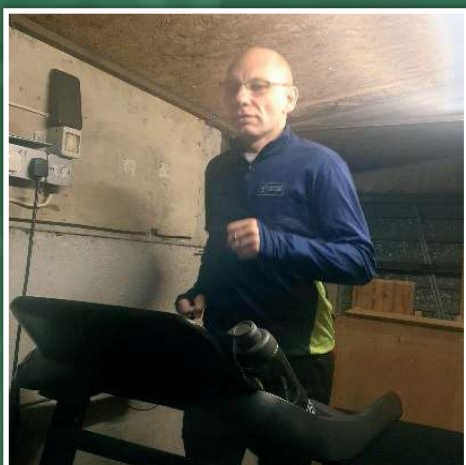
Given the circumstances, we remain amazed at what God did during this crisis in protecting Smiles and even allowing us to finish the year with a surplus, such was the wonderful support through the generous giving of His People, our donors and faithful supporters.

We give God the thanks and glory for this truly miraculous testimony of His Goodness and Provision as well as the reminder once again, as Paul tells us, in Romans 8 v28 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'

Even a world pandemic with the impact of COVID-19 cannot change the promises God makes!

online events from Smiles and you, our fantastic supporters that have provided great support and blessings!

The February cooking classes followed by the first Virtual Mission trip in March have brought friends together from across multiple countries for long overdue fellowship. Furthermore, the range, creativity and effort of even more fundraisers is inspirational. From a gruelling 526 miles run by Darren to the creation of beautiful flower baskets and Jam Jar flowers by Diane Taylor, with all the proceeds donated to the work here in Romania.



Everyone at Smiles, and I, would like to thank you and celebrate your kind generosity in effort, time and finance! You are a blessing to us all with your talents and we pray that God will richly bless you!

Please keep in touch with us about any fundraising you are doing or planning in the coming year, as we would love to help in any way we can with it and celebrate your events with the whole Smiles family.



Kevin Hoy
Founder and
Chief Executive
The Smiles Foundation



Luke Wathen
UK Development
Ambassador
The Smiles Foundation

Luke's Corner: Despite restrictions, there is progress!

Whilst I have been restricted in travel around the UK for presentations and in freedom to organize fundraisers during my time at home, there have been continuous



Testimonies from our beneficiaries - teenagers from Gepiu share their appreciation for being part of Dezna Camp again this spring.

IOANA - 15 years old, ambitious and sincere

"For me the camp means the place where I can get really close to God, I feel comfortable, I love being around everybody there. I like the games, the activities, and my favourite part is that each time I come back from the camp, I return with new teachings which I can apply in my life."

IOSUA - 15 years old, studious and little bit introvert

"The camp means a lot for me, because of the teachings that helped me to understand and walk easier on God's way. And is important too, because of the people there."

DAVID - 17 years old, perseverant and hard-working

"The camp is important for me, because is one of the few places where I learn new things about God, where I spend beautiful moments reading from His word. Is also important because there I create new memories together with old and new friends, I have fun, I feel good, and each time I learn something useful for my life."

MARIA - 16 years old, smart and attentive

"Camp is important for me, because here I make new friends. Here we can give God more of our time, to focus on Him without any distractions from outside."

SERGIU - 15 years old, sensitive and little bit shy

"The camp is important for me, because, I spend time with wonderful people, with friends, I learn Bible verses about Jesus love, I make great memories that I will never forget."

STEFAN - 15 years old, involved and generous

"Well, the camp is very important for me because here I learned more from the Word of God, is a place where we can talk in a free way, not being judged, about our experiences or our curiosities. And also here we bind strong friendships which are pleasing the Lord. Here we get out of our comfort zone."

DENISA - 15 old years old, always happy and smiling

"Camp means a lot for me. I can't wait, each time, the day to go back there, because is the place where I made friends, I feel good and free. And we also have a very busy programme with beautiful activities, from which we can learn good things. But one important thing that I wouldn't know if it weren't for the camps or Gepiu Centre is the name of the Lord. Being in camp I feel very close to God, because there I can focus on His teachings without any distraction or bad influence from bad company. I thank the Lord that He gave me the opportunity to go in such wonderful and amazing camps."

SORANA - 17 years old, kind and supportive

"Camp means for me time spent with true friends, a place where I can be myself without being ashamed, also, means Bible teachings about God and His plan with our life. We also have fun playing games, having competitions, hikes. Since 8 years ago, I started to go in camps with Gepiu After school programme, and now I am so happy to have this place in Dezna, so other kids can also come to know about God and about His love and plan."





RESIDENTIAL PILLAR

Residential is a key-pillar of Smiles – demonstrating God's love and compassion for the elderly and disabled in our communities. Substantial facilities with trained and dedicated staff, enables Smiles to be a leader in the development of Residential Care in Romania. We rejoice at God's provision as stated in *Isaiah 46 v4*.



Ligia Cralic
Manager TAL



Carmen Pop
Manager JFL & ECO

Updates from our residential centres

*"Be the living expression of God's goodness;
... Kindness on your face, kindness in your eyes,
kindness in your smile, kindness in your deed!"*

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Life at the Residential Centre in Tileagd continues with many more challenges but we thank God that in all, He is our support.

This period of the pandemic has challenged us all to move beyond our comfort zone and adapt to the new regulations imposed by the government in order to protect us from the virus. There were some good regulations but for sure there were some downsides that impacted us quite badly. Can you imagine how it would be if for one month, two or three, even 6 months you could not see your family, children, and grandchildren? And any interaction with them is at the minimum necessary!

The answer is a very difficult one.

Our senior residents went through these difficult times, because of the pandemic, we had to suspend weekly family visits and all the social activities.

A positive aspect was both the residents and staff understood that they had to make sacrifices and face the new challenges, and the relationships between them have been strengthened. The residents developed more trust in the staff, appreciated more the help, are grateful for the care they receive both medically and socially and felt that they are not left alone during these difficult times.

In life we face difficult moments, but the most important thing is what we learn from them.

Through everything, every challenge, we continue to do our best, to care for those in need, to build trust and be a blessing for those who are in so much need of our help.

Thank you for helping us 'meet their needs'!



"Here at Joint Facility of Love Centre we want people to see a place where their loved ones can find a second home, for the years when they are unable to look after themselves anymore, having health issues and the family can't take care of them. We also have a very special place for disabled children and youth. Being the only foundation in Salonta offering this for free, we are trying to prepare as many activities as we can to make them feel loved and part of the society. Each time there is the opportunity, we receive the visits from a well-established group of about four or five. But we do welcome everyone!" - **Andrea Borszeki, Social Worker JFL Salonta**



ENTERPRISE PILLAR

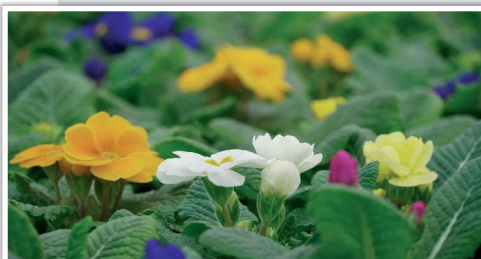
The Enterprise Pillar carries the responsibility of supporting the Work of God through Smiles as an honourable Business, doing God's Work in God's Way. 100% owned by the Smiles Foundation, ensures all profits are channelled into front-line ministry – wherever most needed with the other three supporting Pillars of Smiles. Inspired by **Matthew 25 v15-16**.

Simona Tosity
Director of Enterprise Pillar
The Smiles Foundation



Enterprise Pillar Update Smiles Investment Romania - SMINRO

Its April 2021 – what a year we left behind. I am sure all of us will remember very clearly the unique and extremely unpredictable year of 2020.



For many years now I've participated each year at the world's leading trade fair in horticulture, located in ESSEN Germany and on January 26th, 2020 I was there having the usual meetings, research, participating in different training sessions, everything looked normal and usual, thousands of people from all over the world spread around 11 hectares of exhibition stands.



Two days later, 3 of my meetings with 2 Dutch companies and one German supplier had some major newsflash: the stress they were experiencing to bring in that day their colleagues from China because it was in a total lockdown there caused by 'a virus'. As we discussed it, rather annoyed by the big noise created with something that will



be gone in a few weeks!

On January 29th I was travelling back home, when I was shocked seeing the airports in Dusseldorf and Budapest, completely changed in the 3 days since I was there, on route to Essen. Everyone was wearing protective equipment, masks, gloves, we had been asked to disinfect constantly - and then, I said to myself: "Something big is coming"!!

Unfortunately, that proved to be the case. By that time, in our Glasshouse, all the orders had been discussed, all the plants were in, and March 2020 came with a lockdown over us all. We panicked as we had over 250,000 plants at that moment in the glasshouse, with a great deal of money invested, without knowing if the customers would honour their orders or not. But amazingly, a few weeks after lockdown was instigated, the confirmed orders started to come.

For **SMINRO** it was a very exciting year, with some peculiarities caused by the pandemic, but equally we not only managed to maintain the same level of sales to the previous year, but actually increase numbers for some of the crops.

In 2019 we managed to sell 35,000 herbs, in 2020 we sold 100,000 to LIDL supermarkets alone.

Also, in 2019, we produced and sold 90,000 Christmas bulbs, in 2020 we managed 145,000 bulbs.

In 2020, during the most challenging of years, SMINRO managed a 23% increase in production. We were blessed to see God's protection over us in an extremely difficult year, but we all agree that life must go on and therefore plan and establish new goals for the year ahead.

2021 will definitely be a better year, by the time you read this newsletter, we will have finished the biggest and busiest season of the year - with a turnover in the first quarter of £129,000 / \$167,000.



In April, SMINRO starts a very exciting collaboration with another big chain of supermarkets in Romania - **Carrefour** - allowing us to put our own personalized stands of herbs in 8 Mega-Markets all over the western part of Romania.

It's a very important step for SMINRO to advertise with our own name and our own stands in a huge and popular supermarket.

So, lots of plans and still lots of hard work ahead of us.

This pandemic gave us many lessons for sure, but mostly showed me how fragile everything is and how easy everything that humans create, can be destroyed.

But God proved His faithfulness rewarding through His Grace the hard work and prayers of so many of you. Thank you for your continued support of SMINRO's efforts to support the work of Smiles.

Please pray with us!

We had some amazing times during these past months spending some hours of fellowship and encouragement with friends from all over the world!

Despite the limitations of over-internet sessions, we were still very happy to get together in prayer meetings and we can say God definitely hears the prayers this way too, as we already have received some amazing answers and we feel very encouraged and inspired!

Here we are once again launching a new edition of our newsletter and we do not want to miss the opportunity to share with you various prayer points and requests.

1.

Let us all appreciate and be grateful to God that we can all be part of a work which brings praise to Him!

2.

We want to pray and ask guidance for the new programmes and the new people joining Smiles' team. May they be committed to God, first and foremost and then determined to do His work through Smiles!

3.

We pray that each and every beneficiary will be indeed touched by the Spirit, so they understand what we want for them and more to the point, what God wants.

4.

Let's pray together for all of those who support the work of Smiles, in various capacities. We thank God for their hearts and pray His blessing upon them.

Upcoming highlights:

April 23rd - 26th

Second Virtual Mission Trip

The virtual tour of Smiles Programmes, with all the explanations and updates, the next best thing to a hands-on experience.

Monday, April 26th

Smiles Monthly Prayer Gathering

This is a time of getting together and sharing various prayer points in relation with the work Smiles does.

Sunday, May 2nd

Smiles Annual Prayer Day

A very special occasion when many Smiles supporters will get together in worship and prayer, through an international programme.

May 24th - 28th

Third Virtual Mission Trip

The virtual tour of Smiles Programmes, with all the explanations and updates, the last before hands-on experiences begin again.

Monday, May 31st

Smiles Monthly Prayer Gathering

This gathering, along with all the other prayer meetings, really is meant to bring together as many people as possible, who are Smiles supporters and want to intercede for the work.

Saturday, June 19th

Smiles Open House by Zoom

Great fellowship is always enjoyed, an opportunity to find out the latest updates.

THANK YOU!

Our sincere thanks for taking time and for your interest to read this newsletter with all our current news from the Smiles Foundation and its work in Romania. We depend upon you to maintain your prayerful, practical, and financial support so we will see the work flourish under God's Divine Guidance.

Look forward to sharing more next time!

Latest updates from Smiles in Romania

newsletter

series 4, edition 1
**SPRING/
SUMMER 2021**



The Smiles Foundation UK
PO Box HK70, Leeds, LS11 6YR
Telephone: 0113-276-5060
Registered UK Charity No. 1087961

The Smiles Foundation USA
10645 N. Tatum Blvd # 200-471, Phoenix, AZ 85028
Telephone: 509-818-4721
Registered USA Charity # 86-0957704

www.thesmilesfoundation.org
info@thesmilesfoundation.org
 The Smiles Foundation
Romania, UK and US

