



## Welcome to our Autumn-Winter 2021 Newsletter

Greetings and thank you for your interest and support for the Smiles Foundation's work in Romania. This latest Newsletter is full of important and interesting reports from the various projects of the ministry, and I sincerely trust you find the news and updates as exciting as I do.

As we are all well aware, the past 20 months have been extremely challenging. In addition to constantly adjusting to something of a 'new norm', we had to explore and develop new ways of doing 'old' things. However, that process encouraged us to consider those 'old things', making changing and improvements, so that now I see a much more efficient organisation, streamlined but doing more than ever. Our truly remarkable God inspired upgrade all round! It has been an interesting journey and I am so thankful you have remained committed and supportive, because we are emerging as a stronger organisation on every level. Praise be to God!

Please take the time to read the individual updates and news from each Pillar of the ministry. The activities in Romania continue to impact hundreds of lives on a daily basis, with some exceptional work going on day by day with children, families, the disabled and elderly. These are served by over 100 dedicated staff who do their very best in every area of our projects. All are designed to serve as Jesus would, to make a contribution to encourage people into a living relationship with a personal Saviour, and focus their sight on an eternity with Him.

As well as maintaining all that has developed after more than 20 years of ministry here in Romania, we still have vision and dreams for new opportunities to raise up the Name of our Lord. Over the next few months, I will have the pleasure of sharing piece by piece the wonderful news of Smiles latest Project to be launched fully by January 2022. However, I can't resist sharing a little each month on our website, and even a snippet on the plans in this newsletter!



Join us for the continuing journey as we embark on the next exciting project here in Romania, for the Glory of God.

My sincere appreciation to you all.

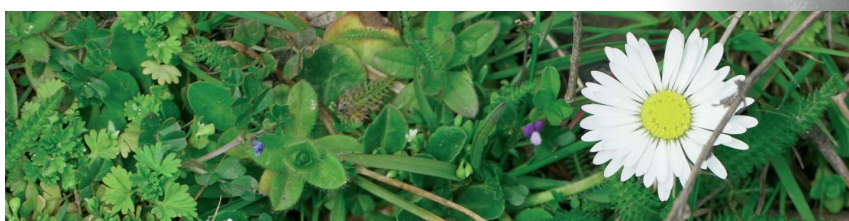
**Kevin Hoy**  
Founder & Chief Executive  
The Smiles Foundation

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# MISSIONS PILLAR

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**.

**Maria Hava**

Director of Missions Pillar  
The Smiles Foundation



Most people around the world, know the Great Commission! How many are doing it? Sadly, not too many! "Around the world", most of the time, means around our house, on our street, in our city or neighbourhood, which for sure it includes, but in God's eyes - everything is important!

For the Missions Pillar, after the major changes we did at the beginning of 2021 on the main operating structure, things have settled reasonably well. Even though the circumstances we live in, this covid pandemic era, can change things from one day to the next (at least in Romania it can). In the Tileagd Nursery we started another academic year with 40 kids happy to be back. This year we have two age groups, and it seems to be working well, so far.

The Tileagd After-School supports about 10 kids going further in attending the state school to extend their education, which is good. We try to support, as we are able, but we have learned in the last 18 years of doing Education for the Gypsy Culture, that it requires ultimately, for the interest and effort to come from them. We can reinforce the importance year after year, try everything to encourage, if not persuade them to continue, but ultimately, it must be their decision. If they decide and are committed, the education process will reap much greater rewards.



After such a difficult and often depressing time living with this pandemic, we had the great news in August of our first mission trip group this year! In fact, our first since December 2019. It was amazing to have a team back in the Mission Centre, working with us on projects every day.

It was really encouraging and totally recharged our batteries, especially mine! We have a few more arriving in October and then again in December. We are slowly but surely getting back in the swing of Mission Trips, and I couldn't be more thrilled to have our friends visiting and sharing the Work with us.

As the travel restrictions are steadily lifting it gives the opportunity for us all to go where we have dearly missed, and I know for many of you, that includes Romania. Being reminded just how special our Mission Teams are means we are even more desperate and praying for a magical bumper year in 2022. I truly pray you are making plans to come and to share the Work here in Romania. Everyone is waiting!



Before I finish, I want to remind you we have less and less days to Christmas! SOOOOO my favourite project S.O.S (Sack of Smiles) will take place this year and you can help me one of two ways – or both! I have lots of kids waiting to receive a gift and for me to see them smiling when we give a Sack of Smiles in December, is one of the greatest things! You can help with a donation towards all the supplies we need to buy to fill the Sacks. Any amount will be gratefully received. More support, means more Sacks – so please send your gift, or call the office or go online.

Secondly, come and help us play Santa – distributing the Sacks to the kids is amazing. Come on the December Mission Trips and help pack Sacks and take them on projects for giving to kids. It will probably be the best thing you do this Christmas!

So, my dear friend, I'm thankful for your involvement in the work we do. I appreciate it and I admire your commitment. Without your prayers and financial support, as well as your time - we can't do it! Thank you for being a part of changing the world, for someone!



*We were so excited to once again have friends coming over to Romania, after such a long time!*

*Together we prepared food parcels for families in need, delivered them and spent time visiting the people.*

*This we do as a regular activity with visitors and it is something we love and they love, and it definitely represents a great support for our beneficiaries!*



## OUTREACH PILLAR

Outreach represents several well-established projects that Smiles has become known for in more recent years. Now the focus has moved from the primary "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



There are many different aspects of Outreach we could write about, and all of them are important, but this time I'd like to mention this one in particular, which is rather special and precious - and that is the latest baptism in our church at the Tileagd Complex.

Pastor Vasile and others along side have put in a lot of effort in the past months and years to let people know what baptism means and why it is important for them to do this. This teaching was accompanied by many practical efforts in providing for the material needs of those being taught. As a wonderful reward, a number of the new converts expressed their intention to receive baptism as a public testimony of their faith.

As a result, we decided to organise such a service in our church in Tileagd, in September 2021. We had 6 candidates for baptism and they were from Oradea, Tinca and Tileagd. There were some others who were considering, and others ready to do it, but for sickness reasons they could not make it.

So, please pray for these new brothers and sisters who are now starting their walk with Christ! May they all grow strong in their faith day by day and their contribution in the church will benefit many of their family members and friends!



We were happy to have a good number of participants to this service and after such a great and diverse programme in the church, we all enjoyed snacks and fellowship, just to mark such a special day in a special way.

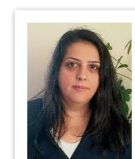
We also had a good number of children attending, not the least those from Rapa, who insisted on being taken to Tileagd for the occasion. This resulted in a rather overcrowded van, and we were thankful for God's protection. It was a well-worth it, given the joy and enthusiasm they all displayed! It definitely was a wonderful day for the Outreach Pillar of Smiles!



*How I see Outreach – trying to impact as many people as we can: children, young people, adults, elderly, families, homeless and teach them about God's love, His faithfulness, His kindness. You all may know the Parable of the Sower: that seed we once were, and now is our turn to plant that seed, and as far as we can do, and it's in our power, to help it grow.*

*There are many poor people in Romania, but they are not only materially poor, but spiritually also: they are thirsty and hungry for God's word, and they do not even realise it, until they will meet Him. We use some social ways to reach out to them, but the purpose is for them to know God, to change their way of living, thinking, acting, and to start to take some action for getting better chances.*


*In the last years, I saw that through kids and young people, a lot can be changed in one family. So, one of the seeds must be sown in this area, using children activities, through COPs, Youth meeting, Camps. Using a well-planned programme each time, we can reach many hearts. At COPs we go into churches, schools, villages and put a Smile on their face and God's Word in their heart; Camps – an amazing opportunity for kids to know God, to study about Him, to be disconnected to the rest of the world and focus on His teachings.*




**Ioana Tamas**  
Outreach Team

*We all hope that for each one the outcome will be this: "But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." - Matthew 13:23*





**Making Smiles...  
Changing Lives**



**Leave a Smile**  
with a gift in your Will

[www.thesmilesfoundation.org](http://www.thesmilesfoundation.org)



**Kevin Hoy**  
Founder & Chief Executive  
The Smiles Foundation

I have been asked a few times this past year, whether Smiles had a Legacy Programme in place.

Probably only down to the fact I had more time during lockdown this past year, but I finally got my own Will updated and officially in place which I found a remarkably easy process.

However, in response to the question, of course, it is not so much Smiles having a Legacy Programme in place, but more a matter of ensuring our Supporters know, that as a Registered Charity, in the UK, America and Romania – we can receive Legacies that are properly recorded in your Will, through a solicitor/attorney, and all such Gifts to Smiles are free from inheritance tax.

A Legacy Gift is an enormous blessing to the Work of God through Smiles, which ensures a continuation of the Projects you love and care for, as well as allowing us to continue developing opportunities through Evangelism, Education and Care for the Vulnerable.

There are various ways you can establish your wishes through a Legacy Gift:

1. Download our Leaflet from the Smiles Website:  
[www.thesmilesfoundation.org/legacy-giving/](http://www.thesmilesfoundation.org/legacy-giving/)
2. Telephone the Office or E-mail me requesting further information on the procedure.
3. Advise your Solicitor/Attorney of your wish to update or create a Will – giving them the detail of what you wish to give and ensuring they have our correct information:

**United Kingdom:**

The Smiles Foundation (Registered Charity)  
Charity Number: 1087961  
Registered Address: 153 Beeston Road, Leeds, LS11 6AW

**United States of America:**

Global Music Ministries (DBA The Smiles Foundation)  
TAX Reference Number: 86-0957704  
Registered Address: 10645 N.Tatum Blvd. # 200-471, Phoenix, AZ 85028

*If you decide to include The Smiles Foundation in your Will, it is helpful to let us know the fact, without the details necessarily, but for us to record the information for when contacted.*

**Thank you for Making Smiles ....  
Changing Lives, for now and into the future.**

## Container Challenge 2021

Collecting items, packing them into boxes and filling a container to go out to Romania has been an annual event for the Smiles supporters in Northern Ireland since 2009. Due to Covid however, the last container sent out was back in June 2019, and the absence has been greatly felt by Smiles in the intervening two years. So, there was great excitement and anticipation when Kevin announced the Container Challenge in his June newsletter – this was going to be a special container because all four countries in the UK were going to be involved.

Darren Charles brought a vanload of much needed items from Worthing via Cornwall, Cardiff and Leeds to the store in Ballymena, Northern Ireland and Jean Barclay organised a vanload of supplies from Dalmellington, Scotland to add to all the supplies collected throughout Northern Ireland over the summer. Smiles are indebted to McBurney Transport who have agreed to bring the container out to Cihei, a round trip of over 3,500 miles.



*These donated items will make a big difference to the lives of all those who receive them, and will be a real encouragement to the Smiles staff team in Romania. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the Container Challenge 2021 – maybe we can make this an annual challenge, once again?*



**Adrian Pogue**  
Smiles Development Ambassador  
(Northern Ireland)



## On the Road again...

In September I was finally able to start visiting our Smiles Family in the United Kingdom again, and that is for the first time since 2019!

The swift way that the route and bookings came together for places to visit was so encouraging, with friends contacting me from all across England, Scotland and Wales.

But this was as nothing compared to the warm welcomes and encouragement I have received whilst visiting people.

From Wales to Worthing, Scotland to Salisbury, Redcar to Redditch - you have all been a blessing to spend time with and share updates from Romania with.



**Charity Shop in Wales supporting Smiles with Marion Morgan**

Your prayers and encouragements have helped me on this tour and helped the staff and beneficiaries at Smiles, we are so grateful for all your support. Your eagerness to return to Smiles and serve with us again is also inspiring. I can't wait for the day when I can welcome and serve you in the Cihei Mission Centre once again!



**Luke Wathen**

Smiles Development Ambassador  
(England, Scotland and Wales)

Thank you and may God bless you all!



## First Mission team in 20 Months

There have been times during this past 20 months when we wondered if Mission Trips would ever be possible again. It has been a desperately difficult time coping with the Smiles Projects without the assistance of

Mission teams since the last one left Cihei in December 2019.

In August, 2021 – the first Team arrived after the long journey from Terre Haute, Indiana (USA) and how amazing it was for all of us at Smiles Romania to meet and welcome them to Cihei.

A wonderfully committed team of men and women who came with exactly the right spirit. Their desire was to serve – and serve they did in a multitude of projects across the spectrum of Smiles Activities. Even after their 20-hour journey via Chicago and Warsaw – they arrived in Cihei Sunday evening to enjoy dinner, a brief meeting on plans, before heading to bed and resting for the real start of their trip.

Monday morning, they were ready and dividing into two teams, one team headed off to demolish a derelict house and the second team went to Tileagd, to visit the Nursery, Gypsy Community and Assisted Living facility. The week flew by with Painting the Playground at the Nursery, visiting the Glasshouse to help prepare Plants for selling.

Extensive gardening at JFL, a COP's programme and visits to Families, the Homeless and supported Communities in Corbesti.

Just an amazing week for everyone ... the team and all at Smiles. We thank them for coming and being the cause for Celebration as the first team since the Covid Pandemic and demonstrating how

good such a trip could be, with the right focus and commitment to do God's Work.







## 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**.



**Carmen Pop**  
Manager JFL & ECO



**Ligia Cralic**  
Manager TAL



Our desire and goal at Tileagd Assisted Living Centre is to offer support, care, assistance, and love to those who are unable anymore to take care of themselves, and in the process, to help them to experience God's love and to discover more about His desire to know them personally.

If there is one thing that I have learned lately, it is to adapt quickly and respond to new things, restrictions, changing laws all the time. Change is part of life and when you are a senior person, change becomes harder and harder to handle.

I have learned that each day is a gift from God and that we have to make the most of every moment that is given to us from above. Together, with our residents, we enjoy the gift of "today", whether it's someone's birthday or just a normal day, we make the most of each opportunity to be thankful and celebrate life!

Psalm 103:13-16:

*"As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more."*

We are blessed to have your support on this journey, and we are very grateful for it! God bless you richly!

JFL is more than a centre for the elderly, it is a family, a place where people with life stories meet and spend their later years together, in terms of remembering the years of their past.

Every day of the week, our beneficiaries from JFL have some free time activities, such as: aerobics, film club, worship time, board games, reading club. In these activities they feel very well and with the wisdom of some people who have gone through life they relate to each of them. Currently at JFL we have 29 beneficiaries with different needs, hobbies and interests. We can say with a joyful heart that in July-August-September the Lord blessed us and we recorded an increase in the number of beneficiaries after the crisis caused by COVID-19 when there was a period of decline in numbers.

We thank God for the help provided so far, and we pray that He keeps us under the protection of His grace for the future. Thank you for your support!



**Andrea Borszeki**  
Social Worker at JFL





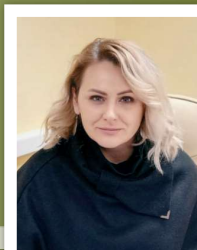


## ENTERPRISE PILLAR

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



During the past months, the activities at the Glasshouse were focused more on preparation for the busy sales at the end of the year. In order to be ready for the autumn season, we have improved some of the production protocols, so that the workflow will be better and faster. Not the least, as often the delivery period is quite demanding, we try to make sure the system for loading and sending the plants will function perfectly.



The Summer period, which is always a happy time in Romania, provided the opportunity for us to also enjoy other type of successes - Dani, our colleague who is in charge of a lot of the practical aspects of the work, got married in June! You see, talking about happy times...

Unfortunately, the impossibility to have you present here in Romania, as Mission Trip visitors, made the work at the glasshouse even more challenging and added another pressure to organise the work and get

everything in place for the respective dead lines. But we had some of our colleagues from other projects who were very happy to help and we organised some special staff-days in Arpasel, to make sure we kept up to speed!

Just for you to know, between October 2021 and April 2022 is basically the busiest season of the year - we need to plant, grow and sell about 750,000 flowers to our partners. We will supply plants, as in the past years, for Lidl and Kaufland and we still pursue the big Carrefour option. This is indeed huge and for a rather small team of people it is a lot of work, this is why organising the whole activity as well as possible is very important!

Hopefully there will be more possibilities for you to come over and maybe next time when you are here we can meet again and you'll be able to spend some time with us at the Sminro Glasshouse. We always appreciate the occasion! Thank you for being a supporter of Smiles and Sminro and let's hope soon we'll see each other again and we'll spend more time together!

*Sometimes the needs at the glasshouse require extra work-forces. As we missed our beloved visitors, who are always so generous in helping out with everything that's necessary, our colleagues from other areas of Smiles come and help us! There's nothing better than a good team-building session with the bulbs involved!*





# Please pray with us!

Prayer is something we always appreciate and we believe your support in this way makes a great difference!

Especially in these unsettling times, when every day seems to bring a new concern, we all need God's wisdom and guidance in everything we do. We also need His peace and calm, clear mind and thoughts, so that our work can be indeed His work and all the effort we put in will bring us joy and a sense of purpose.

Below you'll find some points that are important to us and we would like to ask you to pray for:

- 1 *As a first choice, we always want to be grateful to God for His provision and for the solutions He gives us in all situations. So, let's be thankful and bring our hearts into a praise time before Him!*
- 2 *There are many plans for future development of Smiles programmes, which include some ambitious capital investments - let us pray that all of these plans will be in God's hands and entrusted to Him!*
- 3 *For each and every person we come in contact with, either through our activities or otherwise, let's pray they will understand God's desire and plan for their lives and will actually follow it, for His glory!*
- 4 *Let's also pray together that all of us, be it the team here in Romania, or you elsewhere in the world, will stay together in one vision and commitment, so that our ministry will always stay strong and relevant!*

## Our Exciting Announcement...

After 31 years since my first visit to Romania, I can reflect on a lot of what God has done and for sure, be encouraged that God used me in a small part of His Great Plan.

Reaching the age of 65 this year, makes it perhaps a little surprising I would propose embarking on the biggest single project to have ever been undertaken within Smiles.

We have seen some great things over the years which only God has made possible through His provision and blessings, and I am extremely grateful as I reflect on these past years with a Church, School & Nursery in Tileagd, a Church and Community rebuild in Rapa, a Residential Care Home in Salonta and an amazing Glasshouse in Arpasel – to name but a few and not forgetting the beautiful Dezna Outreach Centre – all of these projects focused on building His Kingdom and bringing Souls into His Eternal Glory.



You may have heard little snippets here and there about the new project being launched this month called Sunset House, Cihei. A state-of-the-art Facility providing residential Adult Care for the Elderly, Disabled and Vulnerable.

Romania and what we have been able to do in this wonderful country that needed so much help and support when I first visited in 1990. I believe we have provided that much needed support and Sunset House will be the final effort from my part.

Over the coming months, I will share a great deal more about the Project, on the website updates every month, the newsletter twice a year and a multitude of other outlets, we hope to get the message to thousands who will join us in this incredible challenge.

I'll be looking for Visionaries – to share the Vision with others.

We'll need a Taskforce – led by the Visionaries to help raise the funds.

We will have God with us – every step of the way – that will make everyone SMILE!

Keep your ears and eyes open but equally, feel free to write me anytime for news, updates and how to get involved with the Sunset House Project. I'll be happy to have you as part of the Team.

Kevin D. Hoy – [kevin@thesmilesfoundation.org](mailto:kevin@thesmilesfoundation.org)

It will be, I pray, the final piece of what will be my legacy to

## Thank You!

As you can read in these pages, there are always things happening, one way or another, across our programmes!

We are always trying to do the best we can for the beneficiaries, but also we want to acknowledge and express our gratitude for YOUR support and generosity!

All the work we put in here requires your contribution and you have been amazing at providing resources and prayer support for all we do! Thank you very much and may God bless you!

The Smiles  
FOUNDATION

Latest updates from Smiles in Romania

# newsletter

series 4, edition 2 – AUTUMN/WINTER 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: 423-239-9525  
Registered USA Charity # 86-0957704

[www.thesmilesfoundation.org](http://www.thesmilesfoundation.org)