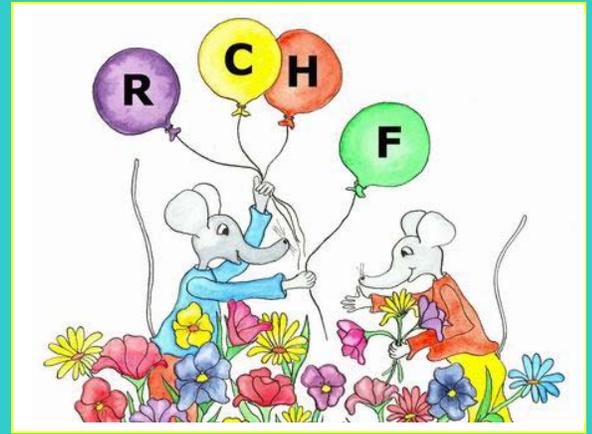


RCHF 2012 NEWSLETTER.

January – March edition.

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Romanian suffered its hardest winter for many years with the first 2 months of the New Year being particularly bleak. Constant snow blizzards combined with driving winds and sub zero temperatures combined with a lack of emergency rescue coordination left whole villages cut off from civilisation for weeks at a time. Mountains of snow gathered so high that dwellings were simply engulfed to roof height with residents having to dig their way out. Local shops ran out of supplies and could not be re stocked with roads impassable and even driving in towns was quite risky as was walking because of falling ice from apartment block roofs which caused injuries to passers by below. The old aged suffered worst and many became prisoners in the snow in their small dwellings.



Despite this extreme weather we managed apart from a few days when we ourselves were blocked in by deep snow to get to the social families we serve in both Botosani County – Dorohoi - Cobula and in Suceava County with vital aid and support for these most needy families with children and also to old aged people living alone.

In the North East of Romania there are many families who have less than 100 euro per month to live on and out of this pay rent and service charges, thus there is simply little left in the family purse to provide food for the children and thanks to our supporters we have been able to fill this gap for these families and old aged people as well in the hard winter months.



A lifeline to those without sufficient funds.

RCHF food aid en route to the needy in Dorohoi.





Rural children even in the harsh sub zero winter months walk to their village school and often if there is no school in their hamlet have to walk many kilometres a day to the main commune village. They arrive frozen and because of a lack of funds in many rural areas sit in class likewise frozen as there is no or very little heating. These children are extremely exposed to illness because of this and the fact that many come from homes where they have no breakfast as simply the family hasn't funds to cover all meals a growing child requires.

This young boy is one of many that RCHF helps and will continue to support so that he and the others can have a better standards of life than would be if we were not here! We met him, his Sister and Mother along with his Grand-Mother in June 2010 after their dwelling had been washed away in the flooding in Dorohoi along with all their belongings. He is a nice young boy of a fragile age and like the entire flood victims suffered trauma from the terrible events when a wall of water crashed into the family dwelling at night with no warning in the dark. He was lucky to survive as some sadly didn't and we continue to help him and his family with support on an ongoing basis as the family has huge needs, as do many families in Dorohoi. His Mother was given a new dwelling to live in after spending a full year with the family in a tent and shack, but the dwelling which they pay rent for suffers from damp as the workmanship in building was well below standard. This is a health hazard to the family and we advocate for better conditions in our support work also.



Walls running with water and showing mould can be seen in the photo and this is the dwelling this young lad and his family were given as a replacement to their dwelling which was washed away in the flooding. There is a monthly rent to pay also!

Within Dorohoi and the surrounding areas the problems of hardship are huge and we face many trials as we strive to help the most needy first as well as arranging help and support for the sick also in these communities.

We are thankful for support via, Timmetiusmuis, Dorcas, Foto Verweij Nijmegen and all who support our social project to help raise standards for the most needy of families and pensioners.



POVERTY ENDAGERS LIFE

This is the tragic result of poverty, a burned out dwelling in Dorohoi were 2 children and their Grand-Mother lost their lives after a candle fell over and caused a fire that in seconds engulfed the dwelling. The family had no mains electricity as had no funds to get a legal supply.

RCHF via our monthly funds have paid the cost of mains supply of electricity and mains gas supply to the neediest families on our social list, but there still are sadly others we simply can't reach at present.



4 children in Cobula village commune (left) who have the support of RCHF along with others in the same commune including school materials and clothing, food aid and counselling for families.

On the photo right is the entry to the Dorohoi hospital where we support with vital aid and visit patients also.

Cobula commune – photo below





Support for Ciocanesti mountain village school

In the fall of 2011 RCHF applied for a support grant to purchase much needed sports equipment and a chainsaw for the mountain village school in Ciocanesti, Suceava County of Romania where we have collaborated since 2010. We were delighted to be awarded the funds applied for to purchase the listed equipment for the school from the GIVE EU-HOPE team and thankful too!



Ciocanesti in the winter snow.

In Ciocanesti mountain village the life is hard for every family in this former mining community that now has no work to offer its residents. The school we noted had a sports hall but no equipment and heating logs were being cut by hand saw even in the sub zero winter months as the school had no funds for a basic chainsaw.

Sport is a vital subject for every child and aids healthiness as well, so we supported to find funds to supply equipment needed for the school. A chainsaw was required to make light work of cutting heating logs so that the children could be warm daily in school time lessons. This we applied into a project with our European partners and after approval the funds arrived into our account to purchase the above items.



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Brian Douglas with the GIVE EU-Hope sport equipment aid purchased for Ciocanesti School at sports shop. The aid including chainsaw will be delivered in next week as we had to await arrival of some equipment not in stock at sports shop. This will thus bring extra Easter joy to the Ciocanesti children!



Within RCHF we continue our healthy collaboration with the Suceava Police Inspectorate who guides us to many families in need of social support within the County. With their support again last Christmas also we were able to provide gifts to the most needy of children in Suceava.

As an NGO we are extremely pleased to see the Police authority take part in social actions and are thank full for this support in identifying needy families by their officers when we visit.



TUBERCULOSIS STILL RAVAGES AT WILL IN ROMANIA

Because of a lack of both initiative and funding from the Ministry of Health over many years a perfectly curable illness – namely Tuberculosis remains rampant in Romania today.

The hard facts is that Romania has the highest TB rate in the European Union with a 2011 rate of 90.5 per 100,000, more than five times the European Union average and twenty times the U.S. rate (World Health Organization 2011).

Romania an EU country has a far lower proportion of state funds to combat TB than does the Ukraine a Non EU member. In 2010 Romanian had 15,963 new diagnosed TB cases with a funding of TB control of 6.000.000 USD.

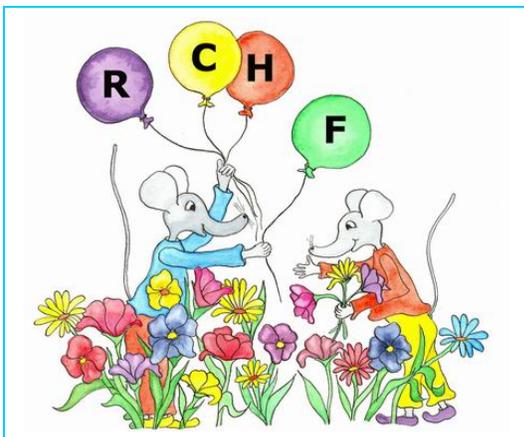
By comparison The Ukraine in 2010 had a reported 31,295 new cases of TB and a budget for TB control of 148.800.000 USD

The number of re treated patients differed by 1 patient in both countries showing 5,115 and 5,114 for Ukraine respectively.

Poverty, poor living standards, sub standards accommodation and a lack of education in TB prevention at state level all lead to a constant flow of infected people into TB sanatoriums, many of whom who renounce on treatment early as go home to work and earn small but vital money to put food on the family table. The problem here is that these are the ones who we now see back in a TB hospital in a serious condition with life threatening multi drug resistant TB in which the body has become immune to first line TB drug therapy and all too often innocent lives are lost. This year on World TB day with Brian Douglas working in Suceava and Botosani Counties Ionut Preotu of RCHF stood in and spoke at the Iasi press conference about TB and how we as an NGO address this serious subject via awareness and education. We are pleased to note that the Romanian press again acknowledged that RCHF is the only NGO working voluntary in this domain.

In the last weeks we have helped a Father who came to Brian asking for information about TB as his child was infected and in the Hospital in Iasi. Brian made enquiries as knows well the staff at the TB hospital and was able to assure the father that his child was undergoing treatment, would get well again and also to explain what TB was and how a parent of a child with TB can best support their child as they get better. In the same month we also helped a lady who was recovering from TB with advice and guidance about her recovery and how to look ahead to a healthier life. Ionut Preotu has likewise been helping with TB education in Crucea village area of Iasi County.

In the vast majority of cases Tuberculosis is fully curable if the full course of treatment advised by the medical specialist is followed and one changes to a healthier lifestyle also. Sadly prevention via a national education promotional action in the media is sadly lacking in Romania on the TB subject and this along with poverty and poor accommodation is the reason why TB is still a huge problem within the Country. We within RCHF will again this year continue to support the TB cause in our actions.



We thank you for your support of our voluntary work which brings hope, happiness and helps the neediest of families to the next week ahead.

Our next news update will appear in June.

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