

IN 2011 RCHF CONTINUES TO DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH OUR SERBIAN PARTNERS



The photograph above shows the bombing by NATO of Novisad the second biggest Serbian City, which bore the brunt of the bombing campaign in 1999 causing not only the destruction of vital Bridges, roads and infrastructure, but also civilian deaths as residential areas were cluster bombed several times in this campaign.

For many in Novisad the life will never be the same again as they were innocent civilians caught up in a war of super proportions. Children still bear the scars of those terrible days as do families who had no say in what was happening around them and old people who couldn't understand why they were being targeted as there were we now know easier ways to change a Countries President that would not have cause so much human death and suffering of the innocent ones – Men, woman and children.

2 years ago RCHF developed a new line of friendship and a partnership with NARUD an established Serbian NGO that is doing great work within the Country and we have followed this up together with many new ideas to help both the Serbian people and the many Romanians who are also living in Serbia who will also benefit from new NGO initiatives that are well placed, well thought out and serve the best interests of those in greatest need including the large Serbian Roma community and Hungarians alike who live in the Novisad municipal area.

Further to this in February Brian Douglas traveled again to Serbia to spend some days with our partners NARUD in the once bombed, but now rebuilt beautiful city of Novisad that is a credit to the Novisad population and local authorities who have over the past years worked so hard to rebuild the damage done in 1999.

Despite sub zero weather, ice and snow it was a warm visit as the hospitality given to RCHF on this visit was wonderful in all aspects including paid accommodation and the kindness show to Brian by all of the NARUD staff headed by Prof Dr Miroslava Trifovic who Brian first met on a previous visit to Belgrade and her daughter Jovana who looked after Brian daily showing him around the City and arranging visits to institutions that NARUD supports in its fine voluntary work.

Dr Trifociv whom is the senior TB and Pulmonary specialist at the massive Vojvodine Medical Institute Hospital arranged for Brian to visit the Institute Hospital including the section for patients with Tuberculosis and he was able to see also the well equipped modern laboratory in

this section, plus met with doctors and medical staff also, who explained the problems of Tuberculosis in the Novisad large County in Serbia.

Both RCHF and NARUD are partners in the World Health Organization housed STOP TB department and so this was indeed a vital visit for RCHF to learn of how the Serbians are addressing Tuberculosis in their Country at first hand.



Brian with the Medical team at the Institute Vojvodine in Novisad in February 2011

What was impressive was the fact that the Vojvodine medical institute was as Brian stated rather like walking into a 5 star hotel than a Hospital. This was so good to see as the conditions of comfort and modern facilities along with professional staff from the Director in charge all the way down to the cleaning ladies are so important to aid recovery and in this wonderful setting Brian found in Novisad there is no doubt that it does just that! Everyone was calm, well mannered and polite, just as a Hospital for the sick should be so that the sick can feel at rest and have the support they really need to get better from serious illness and relatives on visits can feel at ease also. Drug therapy and operations are only apart of recovery and the human side in so many Countries in Eastern Europe is forgotten sadly so it was a real plus to see the Serbians have invested in healthcare and have got it right also!



NOVISAD SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL AND WORKSHOP VISIT



NARUD members arranged a visit for RCHF to both the special needs school Milan Petrovic and the Special needs workshop for adults also. In the photograph above Milan Petrovic Director Slavica Markovic welcomes Brian on his arrival.

Shown around the well equipped special needs school, which is to the highest standards in terms of equipment, facilities and highly trained staff who are plentiful it was clear to Brian that again the Serbians have invested in the most needy of their population heavily and this is both a credit to them and a lesson for other Countries in Eastern Europe to take up and learn from at the highest level. Again here the voluntary work of our partner NGO NARUD is vital to the support of these children and adults alike at the Special needs skills center. The adult center provides the scope for special needs adults to have a positive input into their society, with the production of fine traditional ornaments, recycling of paper products and production of toiletries like fine quality soap and bath products all of which are sold to help in their upkeep as well.



Brian with a child at the Special needs school and Jovana and Slavica Marcovic show me the huge modern school library of the Milan Petrovic Special Needs School in Novisad.



Milan Petrovic school has a fully equipped special needs therapeutic light room and a conference center as in the photographs above.



Jovana (left) of NARUD speaks to a special needs educator in one of the many modern classrooms on our visit.



The outstanding work being undertaken by NARUD in Novisad is a real credit to all involved

NARUD



Above just some of traditional Serbian figurines made in the adult Special needs Milan Petrovic skill center



Dr Mirolava Trifovic and Brian enjoy some time with the adult special needs center classes as they make their products.



Left is just some of the fine soap and bath products produced by the special needs center adults.

This Milan Petrovic center in Novisad brings with it a real purpose in life for all with Special needs and gives parents a real chance of respite as well daily



Throughout the working visit Brian was able to discuss the visit and also show the latest RCHF brochures including anti Drug Brochures and explain about our work in this domain as well as produce the RCHF hygiene book, which we have now agreed to via the support of Ljiljana and Jovana translate into the Serbian language so that NARUD and Milan Petrovic can also benefit from this material to teach with as we do within RCHF. NARUD likewise had many new ideas that RCHF can also adapt and work with so the collaboration is indeed a healthy one!

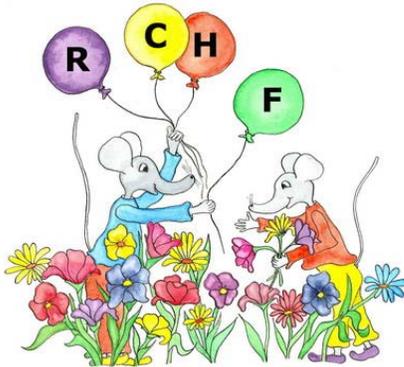


The beauty of Novisad can be seen in these few photographs!



Marica seen with Brian (both with handkerchiefs in hands as had cold on the day) and her colleague Igor both give their time to supporting the Special needs school and skills center Milan Petrovic and it was an honour to be interviewed by them in a short film that was made of the RCHF visit to Milan Petrovic.

Within this year we will as partner NGOs with so many domains we work in common continue to develop our relationship for the benefit of both the Serbian people and Romanian people alike. It is good to have such creditable partners and within RCHF we thank all at NARUD for their hospitality on Brians visit.



NARUD
