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APRIL - MAY NEWS UPDATE

2011 2011



The Short Romanian springtime gave way to hot summer days and days of plenty of backbreaking hard work for the millions who live in rural areas where life seems to have stood still for decades. After raising seeds into plants in the springtime these are then planted out into gardens and outlying land areas both in and around the rural villages. Without modern farm implements its nearly all hard manual work taking many days and after the planting there is constant weeding of rows of plants under the hot summer sun, plus hundreds of trips to the nearest water well to bring water in buckets and plastic containers to water the plants with at the end of each day as the sun goes down. In the communist times there was irrigation pipes and pumping stations to the land thus watering of crops was far easier than now some 20 years after communism! After 1989 there has been no investment in rural infrastructure in agricultural terms and the old water pumping stations now lie in rust and ruin, plus the many kilometers of pipes that went around the land to sprinkle crops daily with water have disappeared long ago.

In the close knit Romanian families all members join in the agricultural work as the crops are vital to their food supply as is the many animals that many rural families raise – again for home consumption in the family food chain as they have not the means to purchase these items in the main part because of the huge prices being charged in Romanian Supermarkets in urban towns and cities alike. Since joining the European Union some years ago Romanian families have seen exorbitant price rises on all food items whilst salaries have been reduced and for the rural families there is all too often hard unseen poverty with no work in the rural areas since the demise of Romanian agriculture after communism ended. Growing crops and raising animals is therefore essential to rural families for survival. Horses and carts remain the rural mode of transport covering often long distances in their days work for their owners. The one advantage is that they are ecological unlike today's fuel thirsty vehicles in urban areas and the horse and cart has many uses apart from agricultural work. Often children can be seen on their parents horse and cart gaining a welcome life to the rural school, which may be many kilometers away from the family dwelling and can even be in the next village. This valuable mode of transport also takes the sick to the family doctors on occasion and has many uses within the community as well.

Sadly nowadays many rural young people have left and gone to seek a better lifestyle in the European Countries where they can not only have a chance to progress in life but can also gain a decent salary and have far better living conditions than back home in the rural Romanian village. Many forward funds earned abroad home to their parents to help them overcome shortages and items they simply cant afford.



RCHF DOROHOI ANTI DRUG 2011



In May RCHF started its campaign of both a series of conferences and workshops for young people and parents alike to raise awareness of the dangers of all types of narcotics that are all around us in society today. The first RCHF conference was held in the Botosani Romanian County town of Dorohoi and further conferences are planned in the next months in both Iasi City and Suceava in the north of Romania. RCHF also is advocating for an end to the weed shops within Romania and a ban on all hallucinating products within the Country also. Romania has in the last few years become a Country that has seen a huge rise in narcotics of all types and the loss of life of young Romanian victims, plus serious addiction of countless others who have become all too easily addicted.

It is vital that we take actions to raise awareness of the dangers of drug abuse and we make it plain that all incidences of drug consumption will endanger your health and can easily cause you to lose your life. RCHF has now a complete range of brochures and PowerPoint presentation on the subject of drug abuse including on the dangers associated with drugs like organized crime which includes trafficking of people, prostitution and committing acts of violence and robbery.

RCHF collaborates with EAD, EURAD & DFS in its anti drug actions





Students participating in decision making in the RCHF interactive anti drug workshop Dorohoi 2011



RCHF long standing volunteer Ionut Preotu hands out informational brochures to a group of students.

Further information can be found in the RCHF anti drug web page

RCHF Support of the homeless and needy continues.

In the photograph on the right you see sacks of RCHF freely donated vital aid being carried manually across difficult terrain at Racovit near the Ukrainian border by volunteers to a needy family at the dwelling in the distance. Unfortunately our aid car cant cross heavily rutted terrain, but we still manage manually to get aid to these distant families in need.

RCHF still is also supporting aid supplies to families from Dorohoi who lost their homes in last years flooding who are still not re housed and have a hard life as refugees.



RCHF SUPPORTS BIODIVERSITY



Many may think that Biodiversity is a strange action for a Humanitarian NGO to support but the reality is quite the opposite as nature and our World should be of great concern and interest to all of us. Brian Douglas therefore was happy to join in a biodiversity event being held at a Botosani County rural school in Hlipiceni recently and spoke to the audience of children about well water as most rural families draw water from street wells even today in Romania. Children were thrilled to learn about ecological issues via a short film as these very issues affect their own rural community. The event was supported by the University AL Cuza in Iasi via its biodiversity consortium.

RCHF Tuberculosis lecture



To celebrate World TB day 2011 RCHF held a lecture for students at the pedagogic high school in Iasi.

The event included facts not only about TB in Romania but on a global basis as well so that students could more easily understand the global situation about Tuberculosis.

As members of the World Health Organization housed **STOP TB** partnership RCHF gives a great amount of time to education on this important subject which affects both Romanian and Republic of Moldova populations in great numbers, plus is on the rise in western European Countries also.



In April Brian made a working visit also to Bucharest to meet both Rupert, Samuel and Dean who are three UK expiates also and support the work of RCHF in Romania, plus he met also Natalia who is a wonderful young Romanian lady who has given huge support to RCHF in recent months. Brian was in fact able to bring back to his Iasi base a huge case full of freshly printed RCHF brochures donated freely by Natalia thus it was a successful visit to the Capital City.



Natalia awaits Brian's arrival in Bucharest.

We sincerely thank all of our supporters. Your support makes it possible for us to provide the vital support needed to those we help in both The Republic of Moldova and Republic of Serbia.



Our next newsletter will appear at the end of July.