



The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation

Summer edition Newsletter 2012

RCHF Summer camp for children in the Suceava Mountains!

After many weeks of planning and gaining parents approval for their children to attend we were able from 20th -25th August to provide thanks to our sponsors and volunteers including Freddie Michell from the UK a holiday for children who had no possibility to enjoy a week away from home. The long summer holidays in Romania combined with a far different lifestyle to that in the western Countries mean that children, some because of poverty in the home, others because of a need to work with parents in the fields with animals and crops never get a holiday away from home and this year we addressed this by taking a group of girls and boys in families both in Botosani County and Suceava County on what was for them a holiday of a lifetime in the beautiful Suhard mountain range of Suceava County in the Botos village area.

The holiday week was filled with organised games and sports activities including sack races, egg and spoon races, blow the ball over water filled cup races, pass the ball from spoon to spoon by mouth races and much more including physical morning exercises for children and the ability to play badminton, football, volleyball, basketball amongst the sports facilities we were able to offer.

Children and volunteer staff enjoyed 3 good meals a day along with hot cups of tea, water and juice to drink. All children were treated to ice creams on one occasion by the local Mayor Mr Ciocan who also attended the final evening special events were each child was awarded an RCHF diploma of participation. Our thanks also go to Suceava Police Inspectorate who attended with a Police car to show the children inside the car as well as arrange talks with them and provide interesting role play sessions for the children to take part in, which the children really enjoyed!

This was a new experience for every child including sleeping in a tent for the first time, enjoying a sing song around the camp fire at night and was a thrilling experience and enjoyable for every child, many asking us to provide another camp next year.



Children on arrival at the RCHF Botos campsite August 2012



Children enjoying taking part in some of the camp activities, games and sports in photos above and below.



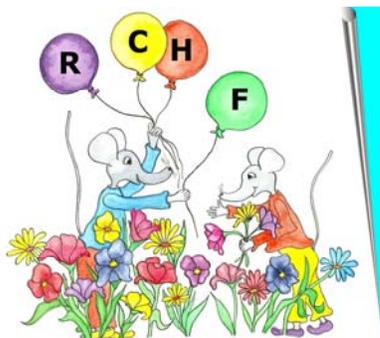
RCHF provided a July Summer school at Ciocanesti in Suceava County.

Also in Suceava County in the village of Ciocanesti we were again this year able to provide a summer 2 week school thanks to UK volunteer Freddie Michell who helped children to advance their English language skills and organise sports sessions also.



In the photo above you see Brian Douglas who introduced Freddie Michell to the children at Ciocanesti mountain village school.

This again was another example of how RCHF provides activities for needy children in their free time of the school holidays



Freddie Michel teaching English below and arranging sport for Ciocanesti Children above



Romanian flash flooding 2012

Despite the long hot summer there were also extremely violent storms in many parts of Romania that caused heavy flooding and havoc especially in rural areas. One of the worst hot areas was in Suceava County in sucevita and surrounding villages and again RCHF was able to provide emergency support and help in this time of great need.



It is vital in these times of flooding to be able to provide clean drinking water, food supplies and warm clothing to victims all of which help avoid a public health outbreak of illness. RCHF has worked in this important domain in Romania since 2006 including in Dorohoi in 2010 in Botosani County with emergency aid.

RCHF continues to fight for Tuberculosis sufferer's rights



Romania continues to have the highest rate of people infected with Tuberculosis in all of Europe despite the fact that TB is perfectly treatable in the vast majority of cases provided the infected person adheres to the course of treatment provided by their medical specialist.

Within Romania the discrimination of being a TB sufferer even after being cured makes it extremely difficult for a former TB sufferer to regain their employment or find new employment and often these now cured people are even found upon and kept at arms distance by those within the local community such is the fear of TB in Romania today based on old and unfounded superstition often.

Though TB treatment is free in Hospitals there is no back up or social support for the family left behind if the sick one is the breadwinner and because of this simple fact many patients renounce early on their treatment when they feel a little better, go home to do a days menial work to put food on the family table and within a short space of time are re interned in Hospitals fighting for their lives now with multi drug resistant TB and many die needlessly. We advocate for changes that will allow TB sufferers and their families to have rights full social support to allow overcoming their TB and also living in dignity.

A Big THANK YOU from RCHF to Katie Jane Ironside



Western adults are known in many Countries for their charitable actions to help those worse off than we all are including in East European Countries where extreme hardship still reigns compared to that in many Western European Countries, but it really took my breath away when I received a mail from the Mother of 8 year old Katie Jane Ironside explaining to me that her daughter had recently in May been admitted for the first time to Communion at their Church and that little Katie Jane wanted to donate a sum from her gift funds for being at communion for the first time to help a Romanian child in need.

At this time I was also looking to purchase a new bed for a 6 year old girl in Dorohoi who had no bed and was sleeping on an old broken settee despite having a health problem and often being ill. The 50 euro sent by Katie Jane allowed us to go with the child's Mother to Botodsani town and purchase a new bed and Mattress for this child and her Mother in Dorohoi and thanks to Katie Jane's generosity 6 year old Stefie, photographed above on her new bed, sleeps well every night!!

Katie Jane, there is a special place in my heart for you as you have, via your kind thought and donation, helped a really needy child here in

Romania and in my book you are a great Ambassador for your Country! Blessings and thanks to you and your family Katie Jane

Brian Douglas (Director RCHF)

Be wise and don't get involved in narcotics

Within RCHF we support and advocate for an end to the narcotics trade that yearly kills many consumers of drugs and in organised crime cause the death of often innocent people all over the globe. In Romania as both EURAD and EAD representatives we educate young people on the dangers posed by narcotics.



Recently voluntary our work in this important domain was recognised by The European Action on Drugs team (European Commission on Justice) and we were awarded a certificate and metal wall plaque for our actions in helping to raise awareness and educate young people about the dangers of becoming involved in drug consumption that leads quickly to addiction and abuse. Our work in this domain continues as does our overriding will to see an end to the narcotics trade that kills people, ruins families and causes innocent victims via organised crime including prostitution of girls and women who are abused and subdued by drugs to stop them escaping their captors.

2 young children suffering heart problems transported to Iasi Hospital from Dorohoi

The RCHF vehicle is vital to our work as an NGO and performs many tasks. Recently we transported 2 young Children to Hospital in Iasi from their home town of Dorohoi. The trip of over 200 kilometres' allowed both children to be seen and examined by a leading heart specialist. Unfortunately in Romania the ambulance service fails to cover such needs despite the fact these children suffer with serious heart problems.



Iasi Children's university Hospital SF Maria

RCHF support for Special Needs Children.

Special needs children in Dorohoi received replacement clothing, footwear and other items from RCHF in another recent visit to the special needs centre (photo right) and we will continue to support the needs of these special children who deserve all our support and help.

In Romania there is a distinct lack of appreciation of the talents of special needs people overall and RCHF continues to advocate for a more open society towards special needs people of all ages.



Dorohoi Town special needs school and centre

The above information is just a part of our activities over the last 3 months to help children and families in need in North East Romania including in Dorohoi where hard poverty unseen in the rest of Europe is a daily occurrence for far too many families still today.

We thank all who have supported our voluntary work as your support made all the work we do possible. RCHF relies on public support to continue to help the neediest of people including children and pensioners, as we receive no support from the Romanian Government.

Our next news-update will appear in 3 months time with all the St Nicolas day and Christmas news!

