

Without the support of GIVE EUR-Hope we as an NGO simply would be unable to address the very real needs of many children who suffer from social deprivation within Europe today.

I can sum up best in my opinion by stating that GIVE EUR-Hope by its outstanding and prestigious actions undertakes the most noble service of all serving the children of Europe! Give EUR-Hope through its hard often unseen work, aids throughout Europe many projects I know that help not only children, but all who are in need of support in the many areas that suffer from lack of support and often this makes a difference to a local community overall by raising standards in Europe.

GIVE EUR-Hope came highly recommended to the Romanian Childrens Humanitarian Foundation in mid 2011 via a personal recommendation from Mrs Grainne Kenny the Honorary President of EURAD (Europe Against Drugs) of which our foundation is a member. Very soon we were in touch with Sarah Ironside (EMP) section and Give EUR-Hope member who kindly explained to me about GIVE EUR-Hope and its valiant work and after this we as an NGO placed our first project to bring much needed support to children in Ciocanesti Mountain village school in Suceava County of Romania.

Funds of 1,000 Euro arrived for this first project in 2012 and thanks to GIVE EUR-Hope we were able to provide all the children in this mountain village school with new sports equipment, plus a chain saw that was urgently required to cut heating logs for the school boiler heating system.

The benefits of support in this first project granted by GIVE EUR-Hope were plain for all to see. Children now were taking part in sport lessons with new equipment as the school lacked even the basics of modern sport equipment, this children enjoyed their lessons and the end result became healthier and fitter too, by exercise used in sports lessons.

In each year the school had suffered a major handicap in the winter months which last around 6 full months here in Romania as huge tree logs that were delivered by the local authority to heat the school were simply dropped in the school playground and left for staff to cut. Here was the nightmare as with few male staff and only a handsaw it was both a backbreaking job, which resulted in the logs being cut bit by bit, maybe just enough for a days warmth at a time. Even worse was the fact that the huge tree logs were left outside as couldnt be cut in bulk this was with a hand saw and all got frozen, wet and covered in ice and snow, thus when were cut and placed in the heating boiler unit failed because of the moisture content to provide enough heat, the result being cold children in class and associated health risks. Within this first donation from GIVE EUR-Hope and as per our application and chainsaw was approved and purchased, which was donated to the school for cutting heating wood. Immediately the difference was seen with in the first morning of use over 70% of tree logs were cut into manageable sizes and placed by nighttime by teaching staff after hours under cover to keep the logs dry and ready for use! The benefit of this part of the project saw children much happier in classes because they were warm and feeling the full heat in the school heaters, plus teaching staff were able to forget the sheer pain of trying with a handsaw to cut heating wood in freezing cold conditions! Today the chainsaw and sports equipment are still in use daily and being enjoyed and benefitting all of the children in Ciocanesti mountain village school in Suceava County of Romania thanks to the support of GIVE EUR-Hope.

The fact it takes a while for any funds to arrive is not a problem to me as an NGO director because I know that all the members of the GIVE EUR-Hope team are extremely busy and also is the fact which I approve of fully that all projects need to be vetted in detail, thus assuring that any donation is a worthy one and fulfills the criteria of GIVE EUR-Hope. Contact is essential and I am delighted with the contact I have with GIVE EUR-Hope who are always there to answer also any queries I might have and give positive advice in the course of any application and project placed and I really appreciate this aspect as it shows an upfront human face to the very busy GIVE EUR-Hope team overall. As an NGO we prefer to be transparent in all our work and are delighted to partner with GIVE EUR-Hope as share this important aspect between us. Sponsors who donated need to be respected and its only good basic practice to show them just where their hard earned donations were used and on what and why, plus who benefitted from their kindness and generosity and here again I applaud GIVE EUR Hope for their follow up with news of project benefits and results to all who help by sponsorship making it possible to help the most needy of European citizens today.

We have now to date The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation has had 2 projects approved and financed by GIVE EUR-Hope and in both projects we were very pleased with the efficiency, sincerity and professionalism of the GIVE EUR-Hope team in communication throughout the project and with support of the same.

This year we made our second application for funding to GIVE EUR-Hope as we saw and do see far too many children including adolescent age children with no after school activities roaming the streets at night and also know of pensioners living alone who never get out of their dwellings apart from an essential trip to the local shop and as such feel like the children forgotten by the community they live in. Here in Romania many live a whole life in the same community they were born into, so the effect of exclusion is more apparent in such cases.

After speaking with the village Mayor again in Ciocanesti, school head teacher, plus local police officers because of the apparent problem of children falling into bad habits, frequenting village bars and causing a nuisance on the streets of this large village, plus having a real threat of being inticed into petty crime, which in turn leads to more serious crime I made waves to address this problem by suggesting a youth club for children. In such a setting they would be occupied, in a place of safety, overseen by elders in this case the local Mayor staff and school teachers they know and trust as well as any parents willing to donate free time. All far better and safer than being on the streets at night.

In the same respective project because of the number of pensioners in the community with no meeting place I decided to add an afternoon a week for them into the project as well and the Mayor and his staff was fully in approval of this whole project idea and provided a suitable building with 2 rooms which his staff cleaned, put new windows and doors in and a heating system, plus agreed to pay all electricity and heating costs.

Born in Yorkshire England many years ago when I was a child I attended youth clubs in my local town and they taught me a great deal and so I based the project on the kind of club I attended all those years ago! Tables, chairs, benches, many boxed games including educational games, a large screen TV plus DVD unit so that films and presentations could be shown and also high backed chairs and tea making equipment for pensioners were all purchased with the GIVE EUR-Hope funds on this occasion.

The benefit is a village now where children are in the main part occupied in the club in several evenings after school per week in healthy activities, playing board games, learning about various subjects from DVD educational films aimed at teenagers, local people come and give a talk for instance like the local forestry chief, police officer on the subjects affecting young people, priest likewise and children also take part in competitions of art and dancing, plus have a recently had a singing competition, all of which keeps them occupied safe and provides a positive aspect to their free time.

The benefit to the village is a quieter community where children are no longer on the streets each night.

In the same respect the most senior generation of the community now also have a warm, safe meeting place where they can enjoy a cup of tea, some biscuits and chat with other similar aged pensioners often about old times and make new friends amongst themselves as well as renew old friendships! All of this brings the pensioners back into the community and lifts their standard of life and far better than being sat at home week after week with no one to speak to, thus GIVE EUR-Hope has brought by its support of projects in Romania a huge benefit to the whole community, to children in particular and pensioners alike and we are very proud as an NGO to have this outstanding support as without the approval of Give EUR-Hope would be unable to finance such vital community benefitting projects as these.

Sincerely
Brian..

Brian Douglas (Director RCHF-NL)

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