

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

UK Registered Charity Number 1002326



Greetings to all supporters of SHARE

Chloe, Sophie, Alex, Jane, Lindsay and Caroline
minus Abi who had to fly home!



We are back from another wonderful trip to Sibiu! This year we took out two new volunteers to Romania, for 10 days, during which we visited Jim's House, Little Johns House (a local private adult home and day centre) and also spent the weekdays volunteering at Speranta, the children's home.

On our first day, we couldn't resist a walk down to Speranta to visit the children and meet with the centre's director. It felt great to be back and we were warmly welcomed. The director gave us a run down on the centre, with any updates on the children and we discussed the plan for the coming days. She was extremely encouraging of us taking the children out into the community, which we definitely took full advantage of over the week! As well as the director, the carers were also extremely welcoming, many with open arms! It is great to see that our relationships with the carers are becoming very well established and not only do we spend time with the children, we also spend time with the carers, finding out how we can best support them whilst we are visiting.

Over the last few years some of the children have left Speranta and have moved to the adult institutions and this year there are some new additions also. It was a great week at Speranta, full of lots of fun and laughter and therapy input too. We introduced Makaton signing to some of the new children, developed another child's turn-taking skills, worked on mobility and fine motor skills, and lots more. In the afternoons, we took the children to the nearby park to run around, meet some other local children and enjoy an ice cream in the sunshine!



*There was no time to waste, so during our first weekend in Sibiu, we boarded the train to Medias to visit the three young adults at **Jim's House**. Met by big smiles and even bigger hugs, we were welcomed into their beautiful home. After exchanging some small gifts, completing a puzzle with Alex, painting Bianca's nails (a few times!) and wearing in the tyres of Ionut's new toy car, we went into the town for lunch. Every time we visit we always see such amazing progress with all three adults. They have grown in confidence, have developed their bonds with each other and are always a pleasure to be around! It was a delightful trip and is always so reassuring to see them thriving in their home.*



We cannot wait to get back to Sibiu next summer, hopefully next time with even more volunteers !

BALLOON RACE

This year's fund raising event was a Virtual Balloon Race!



The virtual balloons flew from Coventry Cathedral across the White Cliffs of Dover, through Paris, Vienna and Budapest before arriving in the village where Jim's House is situated. It was such fun to do and we raised £1655. Those who bought balloons could track them on the website. The winner was Sophie Richards who Jane has been working with over the past three years in a Covid Vaccination Clinic. Sophie decided to come to Romania with Jane as a volunteer this summer and has fallen in love



Left
Jane and Sophie
Right
Ionut, Bianca and Alex caught
the winning balloon!

Fund raising is a daily struggle and we thank everyone for their generous donations over the last year and in the future.

An Update on Jim's House



*Bianca, Ionut and Alex continue to thrive in their home in Jim's House. They are a happy, confident little family who are looked after by amazing loving carers provided by **Love Light Romania**—a Romanian NGO (supported by a UK Charity) that runs a project called The Sanctuary. Here, they care for young adults, some who were infected with HIV at birth and were abandoned by both their parents and the Romanian Government.*

Our three young people are able to join this wider family.

*Some of you may be aware of the recent investigation into 30 adult institutions in Romania by the country's anti-organised crime prosecutors who found gangs had been exploiting vulnerable people through inhumane or degrading treatment. 100 or so people were found beaten, unfed and lacking medication. The conditions in the "homes" were described as "torture-like". The scandal forced the resignation of two government ministers and the President Klaus Iohannis calling it "a national embarrassment". Since this news broke Romania has been carrying out inspections of all care facilities in Romania. However this has had a cost to NGO's such as Love Light Romania. They have been inspected and fined 1100 euros for not having a tumble drier and a number of other equally ridiculous issues! This news has resolved us even more than before that Jim's House was the best thing **Share** could have done.*

*Our thanks to **Franciscan Aid** who have funded some renovations to Jim's House and outside area.*

Check out articles on the Share Website: <https://share.charity>

DACIA

Over the past 13 years we have been supporting a project in Dacia. funded by a German Charity. In 2010, the Romanian Government decided to close all schools with less than 200 children. This decision denied the poorest families education and has caused further inequalities. For ten years a small room has acted as a shelter and school room for the children—led by a Montessori teacher they have felt safe, have had a place to learn and develop. **Share** has donated regularly to this project which has had a link with Coventry Cathedral as a Cross of Nails Centre. We have taken the therapy volunteers over the years and this has been an opportunity to see another side of Romania where there is no mains water or sewerage and where the main form of transport is a horse and cart. In the past year the school has moved into what were the parish rooms for the Lutheran Church next door. Now the children enjoy their renovated school where they have access to the internet, school furniture, a blackboard and space for learning and playing . They need a new roof on the building and have appealed for funds to cover the cost of 60,000 Euros. **Share** has donated £1000 this year.

Left
A visit to Dacia in 2018 when we met with some of the children , Fritz and the donkey!

Right
A recent photo of some of the children who attend the school .



*Do you remember Father Simeon's Project in Sibiu? Over the years **Share** supported this lovely priest as he worked hard to develop a care home for the elderly. We visited last month and there are now residence in the house. It looks lovely and everyone seemed very happy.*

Sophie, Caroline and Jane with some of the residence, and Father Simeon's wife, daughter and granddaughter



Do come and join us
at our
Annual Meeting to be held in
St Michael's House
Coventry Cathedral
on 21st October 2023
from 12 midday.

*Thank you for supporting SHARE.
Donations large and small can be made through:
www.give.net/20023496*

When donating in this way we would love to hear from you direct, as the giving site is anonymous. We like to thank every one who helps us, and it enables you to keep up to date with the news from Jim's House.

*If you prefer to send a cheque by post,
please write to SHARE at 63 Daventry Road, Coventry CV3 5DH.*

We are seeking sponsors for Alex, Ionut and Bianca. Our target is to raise £2000 each month to cover the care costs. If you are not already doing so, are you able to give a monthly amount of any size towards this total?

Regular payments can be arranged through the same giving website as single donations— www.give.net/20023496

There are pictures and stories about SHARE's work on our website, so why not log in to — <https://share.charity>. Or follow our Facebook page @uk.share.charity.

**For further information contact Jane Williams
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