



*Giving Children A Childhood*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Why did the Project start?***

The project was initiated by a collection bag dropping through the door. This was from an organisation called Task Force Romania and instead of merely placing clothes in the bag we contacted the organisation, they subsequently put us in contact with the incumbent Director of Centre No.1 Mrs Carmen Burcur.

### ***When did Romanian Pride start?***

Romanian Pride began in March 2001; this took the form of an investigative visit.

### ***Where?***

The initial visits were based in the city of Deva in the Hunedoara District. Where there were two Centres of Placement, Centre No.1 & Centre No.2. Over the years the authorities have worked hard to accommodate the children from these Centres with family members or in smaller homes, with these Centres now becoming day centres. In order to keep in touch with these widely dispersed children we now visit children in three Centres of Placement, Hateg, Brad and Orastie as well as the baby centre and family style apartments in Hunedoara. Also to celebrate our tenth visit we took 67 children to the Romanian coastal city of Constanta.

### ***How many visits?***

To date there have been 11 visits, initially these were at approximately 9 month intervals but now occur annually.

### ***How many people have been involved?***

Over the 11 trips there have been 16 team members.

### ***How many clubs have been involved?***

The members have been from 5 Lions Clubs with 4 members coming from Charnwood Forest Leo club.

### ***How is the money raised?***

We write letters to Lions clubs local to the participants as well as any contacts outside of the organisation, such as businesses. As well as money, we have also received goods such as football nets, tennis nets, badminton nets, children's toys and baby clothes, however, these all present their own additional transportation issues.

### ***How much money has been spent?***

Over the years c. £30,000 has been spent on a wide variety of things.

### ***What is the money spent on?***

We buy anything that we think the children would enjoy, such as crafts, toys, sports equipment and take as much as possible with us. We also use the money to take the children swimming, to the cinema and to the market, where they are given some money to spend on whatever they like. Taking the children to Constanta was a big spend for the team, costing us c. £15,000 but it was worth every penny with many of the children experiencing the seaside for the very first time.

### ***Why do the team members go?***

Each member would probably give a different reason but we generally return each year because we enjoy seeing the happiness and enjoyment on the children's faces. We want to give as many children as possible a good time so as long as there are still children, we will keep going back!

### ***What improvements have we seen since the first visit?***

The main and most obvious improvement is the children are now housed in smaller units (Centres or Apartments). There appears to be more money available in general as experienced by the numbers of new supermarkets, bars and better quality cars. But one of the most encouraging improvements is the improved relationships between the carers and the children, this is something that we feel we have been partly responsible for, over the years the carers have realised that they can enjoy their jobs more by interacting with the children rather than just being their supervisors, a small but important legacy!

### ***How old are the children?***

The majority of the children we work with are within the range of the education system, which ranges between 6 years old up to their early twenties if they chose to enter further education.

### ***How can you find out more?***

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