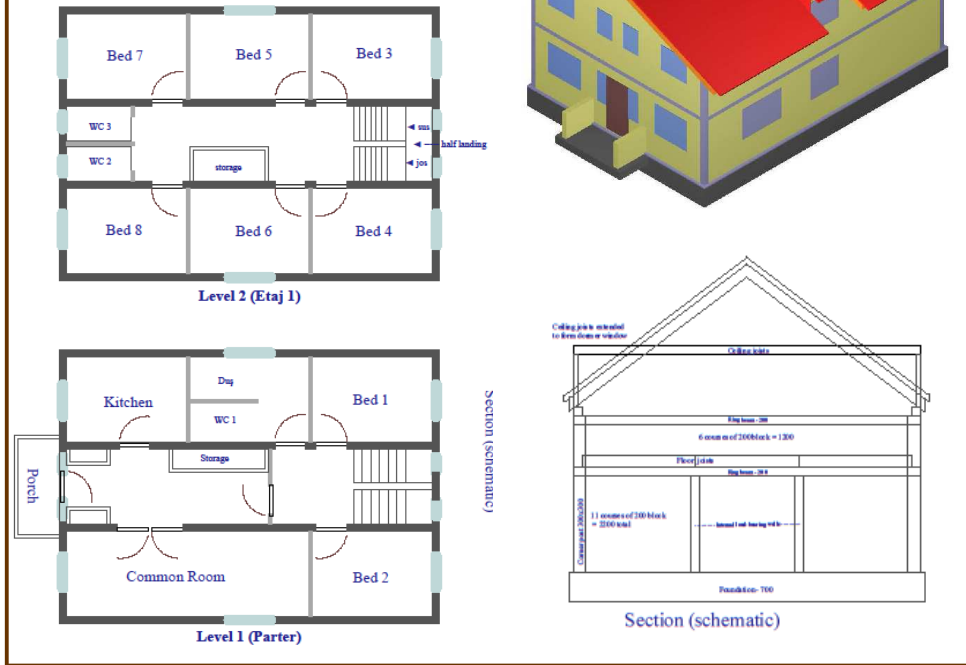


Some preliminary thoughts about facilities and design, subject to change as the project progresses.



The proposal does not solely address the accommodation needs. We would like to ensure that the house sits in a plot of land that can be worked by the boys. This will teach them some marketable skills and help to keep them occupied (another important consideration). In due course we would like to add a small workshop, to allow a wider variety of skills to be learnt.

So how can you help? Well you've probably guessed that this is leading up to an appeal for help to raise the final £8,000. But it is not just that. The boys benefit from the knowledge that someone is taking an interest in them, and having someone who asks about them or who prays for them is very encouraging. If you feel able to help or want to know some more about these boys and others in similar circumstances then please get in touch via our addresses below.

**The Romanian Aid Foundation and Asociația Neemia**  
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**Asociația Neemia**  
 working with  
**The Romanian Aid Foundation**  
**After the Orphanage?**



It is now more than 20 years since the world looked on with fascinated horror as the doors of Romania's orphanages were opened to reveal the terrible conditions within - neglected children, harassed staff and inhumane conditions. Many people felt moved to help and much was done to improve conditions for the children and the staff.

Those children are now adults - pushed out into a world that they were ill-prepared to cope with. Some, like Mihai Gradinariu who appears in both the photos on the right, have achieved a successful transition, settling down and starting their own families. It is not easy for orphans without family connections to find jobs but many have done so. But what of those who have not fared so well?

These people often lack social skills and a sense of purpose, and for some of them their experiences in the orphanage have left them with psychological scars which make it difficult to integrate into every-day life. Some of them receive small medical pensions from the state but most have no regular income.

Working with other local people, Asociația Neemia (AN) provides ongoing help to several such persons. Sponsorship from families in the UK allows us to cover the costs of renting rooms for them. We can pass on designated gift boxes containing food and clothing for them and we provide medical items, bedding and other necessities, and small cash payments as required to cover essential living expenses.



**The Romanian Aid Foundation and Asociația Neemia**  
 Working with Romanian people to bring **help** to the needy,  
**hope** through the Christian message and **co-operation** through joint ventures  
 UK Registered Charity 1060828

As part of our care for these 'orphanage boys', the AN team also makes time available to listen to them, take an interest and help to resolve their problems. Here is an introduction to some of the boys that AN is helping. (We also help girls but that is a different story!)



Lŭ: Nigel has become a valuable member of the AN team - he enjoys helping with the aid distribution work and provides muscle when required.

CŖ: Constantin is a willing hand at the warehouse. Now aged 25, he did not receive his official state identity documents until earlier this year.

RŦ: Marcel likes to help around the office, tidying up and running errands. He can be impatient and tends to use his size and strident voice to gain attention.



Lŭ: Ionut is now 28. He was living in a house infested with parasites and became one of the first boys sponsored for accommodation, some seven years ago.

CŖ: Ilie is 29. He was involved in a car accident which has left him requiring almost constant use of a catheter. He has been in sponsored accommodation for three years. AN also provides for his medical needs whenever we are able.

RŦ: Marian, 25, completed school but has no job. He was sleeping in a pigsty with the pigs until AN found accommodation (and fresh clothes) for him.

At present, accommodation comprises a number of rooms in different houses which are rented on a short-term basis. This is not very satisfactory as it is often poor quality accommodation lacking long-term security and the occupants often feel exploited by the landlords.

An initiative from St Peter's Aid to Eastern Europe, based in Essex, has led to the possibility of Asociatia Neemia obtaining premises to house these people on a longer-term basis. There would be savings on room costs if they could be accommodated in one place rather than being dispersed throughout the town in short-term lets. Facilities such as clothes washing and the safe storage of personal possessions would become available. They could also develop their social skills in a controlled environment and contribute to their keep by growing some of their food in the land adjoining the proposed hostel.



A suitable plot of land has been identified, and land acquisition procedures and building approval processes are about to be started. Subject to completion of these preliminaries it is hoped to start construction in the autumn. The cost of erecting the building has been estimated at about £25,000. A substantial proportion of this amount has already been pledged but we need a further £8,000 in order to progress to a stage where the boys can start to benefit from the accommodation.

Much of the building work can be undertaken by AN's team of experienced workmen, under the supervision of a master builder. This team has built several houses for sponsored families previously. Working in this way provides an opportunity for local employment and training, and allows for any visiting supporters to get involved 'hands-on' if they so wish.

Each resident would have his separate room, with bed, table, chair and cupboard, and with washing facilities and secure storage. This addresses one of their main complaints - that there is no privacy or security. Communal facilities will include a basic kitchen and laundry area, and a common room with tables and chairs. An adequate number of toilets and showers will be provided adjacent to the bedrooms. A well will be required at an early stage and winter heating would be via a wood-fired boiler system, exploiting AN's source of subsidised firewood.



Although the residents will be largely self-sufficient, one of the AN team will take responsibility for ensuring the proper care and maintenance of the property, and will ensure that the boys abide by such rules as are necessary.