

We will try to improve our work here and to be more efficient for the poor families and for those who need us.

OFFICE: The AN office was opened to the public Monday to Friday from 9.00 to 15.30 where myself, Maria, Ionela and Laurentiu are working - interviewing families, accounting papers, pricing up, donation forms, repair of electrical items, etc. We manage to replace the windows of the office, which were very bad, and we were losing a lot of heat. We also replaced one of the internal doors with one that was sent from you. The accounting software that we have bought last year is good for the work and for keeping the accounts at the office, Ionela managed to learn it and finding it very useful.

SHOP: It has been a good year for the shop. We had very good income during the year, which helped us with all the running cost of AN. The shop is opened Monday to Friday from 9.00 to 17.00 and Saturday from 9.00 to 13.00. We tried to sell within 10% of what we received from donation. With the proceeds from the shop we also were able to concrete all around the warehouse, to replace the two metal doors at the warehouse, and to change the windows of the office. Since the shop has been renovated, it looks much better, we have more customers and the income is bigger. We use the new room in the shop to price up the clothes now, which releases a lot of space in the office. We have heating in the shop now which make the customers stay longer in the shop if they want and the ladies are working in better conditions now.

WAREHOUSE: There is also a lot of work going on during the day at the warehouse: sorting the clothes, preparing the boxes for families, distribution of food, disinfectant, etc. We concreted all around the warehouse and made new metal doors, which make a big difference in the winter. We had a good harvest of corn this autumn; we will start this month to make flour to donate to families. For this year we would like to put the fence up on one side at the warehouse and to do the floor of the top level of the warehouse if possible.

This year AN has been accredited which means that our charity will have more credibility as an organisation and that it is recognised as a social service supplier. The conditions that we are working now require more paper work, so we asked Cornelius's daughter, Raluka, to help us sometimes to register some data on the computer.

Thank you very much for everything and may God Bless You! *Beni Mirauta*

The Romanian Aid Foundation Newsletter Spring 2007



News Updates

In the previous newsletter we promised you a bit more information about the work in Romania. Over the page we show a financial breakdown for the work of Asociatia Neemia for 2006; the figures have been converted into £Sterling for easier reading.

We dispatched a full load to Dorohoi in February and at the time of writing it is planned to send two further full loads at the end of April; one is to be dispatched from Lampeter and the other will be the first from our new warehouse in Horley.

We are now operating from premises in Horley, in co-operation with Furnistore. The warehouse is up and running and we would like to thank all those who have helped in sorting and moving the items from Smallfield. Thanks, too, to our landlords at Smallfield for their hospitality during the past year. Our address for Saturday deliveries and lorry loading is **Unit 10, Bridge Industrial Estate, Balcombe Road, Horley, RH6 9HU**. Our website has a link to a location map and normal opening times still apply - 09:30 to 13:30 each Saturday. The registered address for mail remains as shown at the bottom of page 4 and the packing team will continue to meet at Horley Baptist Church on Friday afternoons.

You may recall that our January newsletter contained some photos of the gift box distribution last Christmas. We are very pleased to tell you that some supporters here have offered to sponsor one of the families shown in those pictures. The family has been in desperate need, living in their part-finished house without running water or electricity. Thanks to the sponsors, the family now has a small but regular income and we are looking at the feasibility of connecting power to the house so that they can have a water pump and also continue with the work on the house.

Those of you with even longer memories may recall the incubators that we took to Dorohoi hospital some 8 years ago. Peter & Lesley, who run the Centre of Hope in Dorohoi, were delighted to report that a sick premature baby born to one of their regular visitors is now doing well thanks to one of the incubators supplied by RoAF.

Asociația Neemia 2006 - Financial Summary

For Customs purposes, all the aid sent to Romania has to be given a notional value. For clothing this is currently 67p/kg, for tins of food it is £1/kg. During 2006 we sent out full seven lorry-loads of food, clothing, household items and Christmas gifts. These were donated through RoAF in Horley and Lampeter, RANI in Northern Ireland and friends and supporters across the UK, and included consignments that arrived directly from the Isle of Man and Eastbourne. The declared value of these goods was over £40,000. Of this, just under 10% (£3,885) went to AN's shop in Dorohoi for sale, to cover the costs of operating in Romania.

All the rest was given away to needy people in Dorohoi and the surrounding area. The actual value given away in 2006 amounted to some £43,000 because the stock remaining at the end of the year was less than that at the beginning of January. This stock comprises items yet to be donated, such as summer clothing that is inappropriate for donation during the winter or bulk food stocks which are given to people on a year-round basis.

Around 3,000 individual donations were given out last year, so each donation had a nominal value of approximately £15. In local terms, this is equivalent to about 1 week's pay on the minimum wage but remember that most of those registered with AN are living on much less than this.

A proportion of the incoming stock is sold through AN's shop in Dorohoi. Some people have asked whether the shop fits into the original vision for Asociația Neemia. The shop provides the funds to run the aid distribution work, as well as providing some employment. In 2006, the stock sold was less than 10% of that received, with an inventory value of some £3,900. Selling this stock produced an income of £20,155, which was used as shown opposite. It also created a small surplus that has been used to help people in need, with medical or fuel bills, etc.

Many thanks to all those who made donations of time, money and goods

Forthcoming Activities

The annual **Duck Race** on the River Mole is planned for **Saturday 16th June**. Meet at the car park of the Six Bells pub at midday. Last year this event raised over £600 in entry fees and donations – let's see if we can better that this year.

The **Dennis Hickman Jazz Quintet** will be giving another concert on **30th June** at Oakwood School, Horley. Dennis and his friends had a very successful first visit last year and are coming back by popular demand. Their programme this year will include some Romanian music – if you can't imagine how Romanian folk music fits into traditional jazz then you had better make a date to find out!

Asociația Neemia 2006 – The Figures

These tables give a summary of income and expenditure, compared with last year.

	2006	2005	
Shop-derived income after deduction of rent, taxes, fuel	£ 20,155	£ 16,047	79% of AN expenditure in 2006.
Other income and donations	£ 5,412	£ 4,246	Excludes personal funds
Total Income	£ 25,567	£ 20,293	
Salaries, incl taxes, after deduction of sponsorship	£ 7,725	£ 5,124	30% (2006), 25% (2005)
Customs, accounts and other statutory approvals	£ 3,256	£ 4,489	16% (2006), 22% (2005)
Asociația Neemia transport, van and staff car expenses	£ 2,997	£ 2,239	12%(2006), 11% (2005)
Office and warehouse, incl lighting and heating	£ 2,585	£ 3,503	10%(2006), 17% (2005)
Cash donations to persons in need (fuel, medical bills)	£ 1,367	£ 671	5%(2006), 3% (2005)
Miscellaneous expenditure (not included above)	£ 5,096	£ 4,267	20%(2006), 21% (2005)
Total Expenditure	£ 25,567	£ 20,293	

The Annual Report from Asociația Neemia

First of all I would like to thank you for all the support you offered to the work of Asociația Neemia during the year 2006 and before that. All the goods that you donated to us: clothes, bedding, food, toiletries, toys, crockery, furniture, detergent, disinfectant, Christmas boxes, computers, photocopiers, bicycles, etc - there were all very good and represented a big help for so many families in this area. We have registered many new families during the year 2006, which represents about 25% of the total number of families that we helped which is over 2,000. The families we have helped are under the minimum of living level and our help is very important for them. There are still a lot of desperate people because of the conditions they are living in and for many people it is harder now than before.

The work of Asociația Neemia has grown very much in the last few years, we are the most known charity in the town and I think that with your help we managed to help a lot of families, they still need our help, we still need your support to continue this work, otherwise everything may stop. Getting into EU didn't improve the conditions of life for people here and our office is still full every day with people asking for help.