

Deerbolt Aid To Orphans

DATO is an established charity based at the Deerbolt Young Offenders establishment in County Durham. They have been taking aid to various countries in eastern Europe for 17 years and we were delighted when they accepted an invitation to visit Dorohoi last September. They took 5 van loads of clothing, toys and bedding for Asociatia Neemia to distribute, hosted a party for the children at the Centre of Hope and visited some of the families that the two charities help. If you live in the north-east of England and would like to get involved then drop us an email, as below.



Vacancies

RoAF has the following vacancies, based in Horley:

Warehouse manager: Principally; to ensure that the Horley warehouse is open each Saturday, to act as a point of contact for the warehouse volunteers and to liaise as necessary with Furnistore management.

Mail co-ordinator: Principally; to take responsibility for incoming post, to distribute it to the appropriate recipient and to respond to general enquiries as necessary.

RoAF does not employ paid staff in the UK and these posts are on a voluntary basis. If you feel that you could help in either of these roles then please ask for further information.

Forthcoming events, all subject to confirmation

Lorry loading:

Saturday 14th February – Horley

Thursday 7th May – Lampeter

... plus some others

Jazz Concert in Horley, - tbc.

Duck Race – first Saturday in June

Christmas Concert – tbc.

Joy in a Box launch, mid June, Christmas lorry – 28th November



The Romanian Aid Foundation Newsletter, January 2009



Heading

2008 is over, with its memories of loaded lorries and an overflowing warehouse, of lean times in the summer yet returning to full health by the year's end. In 2008 we managed to send 9 full loads out, in addition to several consignments (such as that from DATO (back page)) delivered directly to Dorohoi. Thank you for all the hard work from all our many supporters who have packed and loaded their way through over 130 tonnes of aid. The aid consisted of some 53 tonnes of clothes and bedding, 200 mattresses, 40 tonnes of tinned food, 40 wheelchairs, 50 prams and pushchairs and 100 bicycles, plus of course, around 2,500 shoeboxes which arrived from many locations throughout the UK. All this adds up to our best achievement in a single year, and we finished the year with enough aid, ready to go, to fill another 2 lorry loads. All in all, another good year for RoAF and we praise God and give thanks to all those who contributed to what turned out to be another record year.



However, once again we have to report that it was not such a good year for the poor in Dorohoi. The cost of many basic living items like food and fuel have continued to increase. There is a greater sense of wealth and activity in Dorohoi now, but the gap between those who have and those who have not is growing. One family that received gift boxes on Christmas Eve had nothing to eat for the next day, another family was expecting to be evicted early in the new year. Thanks to RoAF supporters, we were able to address both these situations, but they are just two examples of a more widespread need.

RoAF is working with Asociatia Neemia, its Romanian partner, and other like-minded charities in the Dorohoi area to bring some relief to such people, by providing clothing, food and some limited help with fuel or medical costs. Reports from the team in Romania are encouraging, with the equivalent of 10 loads arriving during the year meaning that the amount of aid distributed has exceeded previous records. The receipts from the shop have allowed all the employment, property and distribution costs to be funded from locally generated income.

The Romanian Aid Foundation and **Asociația Neemia**

179 Albert Road, Horley, Surrey, RH6 7HS, UK.

Strada Spiru Haret Nr.9, Dorohoi, Botosani, Romania

© January 2009 email: info@roaf.org website: www.roaf.org

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

In this newsletter we are concentrating on the UK activities which allow this help to continue. Further details of Asociatia Neemia's achievements will be included in our Spring newsletter.

2008 was also a good year with our finances, although at times it was challenging. Total income was just over £28,500, of which around £23,600 came directly from gifts from our supporters, just over £2,000 from various fund raising events and the balance from gift aid refunds. A big thank you to all our supporters for making it all possible. We finished the year with a small balance and plan to send our first load of the new year out in mid February.

A special thank you to all the organisers and supporters of our fund raising events. Look out for the fund raising events planned for 2009, then put the dates in your diary and let your friends and neighbours know. These events are not just for fundraising, they give us an opportunity to meet many of our supporters and give them news firsthand. Another advantage is that these events can also attract corporate sponsorship, such as the £200 from ParcelForce following last year's Duck Race.

So what are the challenges for the new year?

As with so many organisations, it looks as though money matters are going to dominate this year. However, unlike other organisations, we're not asking you to give any more than last year, but we would like you to give more efficiently. Only 20% of the donation income came from regular giving - the other 80% was from ad-hoc gifts. Regular giving allows us to plan the timing of the lorries more efficiently and helps to balance the stock levels in the warehouses. More significantly, only 10% was Gift Aided. What happened to the other £4,500? Of course, not all gifts qualify for the 28% refund but do you really trust the government to spend that money better than we can?

Many people have been helped and are able to move forward on their own, but there are others who will never achieve that degree of success. The poverty doesn't go away, so neither will we. Thank you all for your efforts and support during the last year, please carry on, let's try to make 2009 an even better year for those who come to us for help.

Email Spam

The roaf.org email address is for incoming messages only. It is checked on a daily basis and valid messages are passed to the relevant person, who will then reply directly using their own email address. Any messages purporting to come from the roaf.org address are spam and should be deleted without being opened. (Apologies to those who haven't a clue what this means!)

The Figures

At £28,500 last year's income was over 20% more than the previous year's. Our expenditure in the year was just under £30,000, a little less than last year but still slightly more than we received. Of this around £5,700 went on UK costs, mainly the rent for our warehouse space, but also a bit for insurance, postage and publicity. All of the rest, some £24,000 in all, went on transport.

INCOME	2008	2007	Change
Income from donations	23,682	17,118	+38%
Fundraising events	2,136	4,236	-50%
Tax reclaim	2,632	3,598	-27%
Interest	106	64	+65%
Total income	28,556	25,043	+14%
EXPENDITURE	2008	2007	Change
Transport (9 lorries in both years)	24,173	19,923	+21%
Needy individuals (funded directly by AN in '07 and '08)	nil	nil	~
Warehouse costs (including rent, materials, insurance)	5,390	6,682	-19%
Special projects (additional vehicle for AN, 2007)	nil	4,000	~
Publicity (including phone, postage, stationery)	345	970	-64%
Total expenditure	29,908	31,575	-5%
Balance of income over expenditure	-1,352	-6,532	~

Notes

- The figures for 2007 are taken from the audited accounts for that year, and may differ from the estimates given this time last year. The figures for 2008 are preliminary and are subject to confirmation.
- Transport costs are linked to the costs of fuel and to the exchange rate between the pound and the euro. High fuel costs combined with a poor exchange rate resulted in a significant increase in transport charges during 2008. We do not anticipate a drop in transport costs during this coming year.
- Extra storage costs during the transfer from Smallfield to Horley resulted in higher warehousing costs during 2007. Warehousing costs are expected to stabilise at about £5,400 during this coming year.
- Publicity costs were lower this year due, in part, to stopping the answer-phone service and the donation in-kind of some stationery and publicity materials.

Many thanks to all those who have made donations of time, goods and money to help this work continue.