

## Christmas Gift Box Distribution, 2017:

We were able to distribute some 2,600 boxes in time for Christmas; this was more than expected and is about 150 more than last year. Around half of these were given to our registered families with the rest being shared between the various schools, churches and other institutions with which we have links.

The boxes were once again of an excellent quality and our thanks go to those who gave so generously and to those who prepared them for transport.

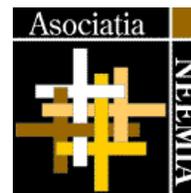


### The Romanian Aid Foundation and Asociația Neemia

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## The Romanian Aid Foundation and Asociația Neemia Review of 2017



The Romanian Aid Foundation (RoAF) operates from two main areas; in south and west Wales and in Surrey & West Sussex. We also receive significant support from individuals and organisations in other parts of the UK. The charity's principal activities are the collection, preparation and transport of humanitarian aid for distribution to needy people in the far northeastern corner of Romania.

The work in the UK is undertaken exclusively by volunteers who give of their time and, often, underwrite their expenses personally. Essential supporting activities include fund raising, accounting, liaison with donors and prayer support. There is plenty to be done and more volunteers are always welcome!

During the past year the RoAF teams have sent over 100 tons of donated aid items to Romania. This aid had a local value equivalent to some £135,000. In addition to the general aid, RoAF supporters have sponsored several special projects including a children's summer camp and a home for young people who have grown up in the orphanage system, together with designated support for specific people with particular needs. A legacy from a supporter allowed RoAF to finance the purchase of the freehold of a shop in Romania, which in turn means that our activities there can continue to be largely self-financed (see overleaf).

**As a Christian charity, we thank God for the way in which the past year has unfolded; the amount of aid sent to Romania has again exceeded expectations, and we look forward to the new year with confidence.**



### 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

## Achievements in Romania

RoAF works closely with its Romanian partner charity, Asociatia Umanitara Neemia (AN), which acts as its principal agent in the distribution of aid in the Dorohoi area of north-eastern Romania. AN operates year round using the local knowledge of its Romanian staff to distribute aid where it is most effective.

Asociatia Neemia received goods to the value of some £135,000 from RoAF during 2017 which was supplemented with stock remaining from 2016 and goods-in-kind donations from other sources. Clothing, food and other items to the value of approximately £106,400 were given to some 1,240 households asking for help.

During the year, AN was able to acquire the freehold of our shop in Dorohoi. This put AN's finances onto a more secure footing and offers more security for our staff. In accordance with the charity's constitution, goods up to 15% of the value of the available stock can be transferred to the shop. The sale of these goods funds all AN's usual activities, including warehousing, vehicle costs and staff salaries. Certain types of item such as hand-knits, sportswear, gift boxes and school equipment are not sold but are donated directly. The same applies to any item whose donor has specified direct donation. The shop raised sufficient income to cover Asociatia Neemia's operating costs plus an additional 10% which was given as cash donations to needy households, to help with rent, fuel bills, school stationery, medical costs and other domestic emergencies; during 2017 AN made over 1,000 cash donations to people in need.

Casa Neemia is our vision to provide secure accommodation for some young people who have been raised in the orphanage system. There has been good progress this year and the first residents are testing the facilities prior to full occupation.

In addition to the distribution of aid from RoAF, Asociatia Neemia co-operates with other charities and local organisations, sharing local knowledge and providing facilities and staff for special projects and joint ventures. In accordance with our Christian ethos, we have Christian literature available for those who request it and we help many local churches with their activities. However we make no demand on our beneficiaries with respect to religious beliefs or church attendance.

**Snapshots from 2017:** 12 photos that give an insight into the range of activities that Asociatia Neemia has undertaken during the past year.



During a warm spell in **January** we took the opportunity to prepare the maize that we had harvested the previous autumn. This was milled into flour which was donated to needy families.

**February** is often the most severe month of the winter. Those in the rural areas who have not made adequate provision can find life very difficult and many ask for help.



**March** brought some warmer weather, allowing outside construction to resume. A solar powered system for providing hot water was installed at Casa Neemia and this proved to be very effective during the following months.

In **April** we received a quantity of vegetable seeds which were shared with some households who have land, allowing them to grow more food for themselves.

In **May** we received two lorry-loads of aid, including bicycles, pushchairs, wheelchairs and crutches in addition to clothing and bedding. All these items are valued by those in need.

During **June** some 45 children enjoyed a holiday at a camp in the mountains. For some this is their only experience of being away from home. RoAF sponsored the cost of the holiday whilst AN provided transport and materials.

**July:** A legacy allowed AN to acquire the freehold of the shop in Dorohoi. We are grateful to those who "held the door open" during the period prior to this acquisition.

In **August** a team from Reigate came to refurbish a house for a village family. This included some structural improvements, redecoration and the provision of a new cooker, washing machine and essential furniture.

**September** saw a visit from Project Hope in Paisley. The team sponsored and fitted the furniture necessary to complete the laundry at Casa Neemia, complementing the washing machines from south Wales.

During **October** we received additional stocks of oil, rice, flour and other groceries. This food is distributed to households as required during the winter months.

In **November** we donated some furniture to a village kindergarten, to replace older items that were becoming a danger to the children. We also donated stationery to other kindergartens and schools throughout the year.

A major activity during **December** is the distribution of Christmas gift boxes, to registered families, kindergartens, churches and other similar organisations. More details overleaf

