



SPECIAL APPEAL FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporter

You may not be surprised to hear that we are facing one of the most challenging times in the history of our charity and I need to ask for your help.

The problems in the world's financial markets have already had a severe knock-on effect and inevitably some of our sources of support have temporarily dried up. Alongside this, salaries in the health sector in Romania have risen by 46% over the past 12 months, albeit from a very low starting point. We do not have large reserves so if we are to be able to continue with our commitment to our hospice partners and patients we need to find other sources of support in order to survive. I really hate having to make such a clear "ask" but I know that if you can help, you will.

For many years now, thanks to the generosity of all our donors and latterly thanks to a contribution from the Romanian House of Health Insurance, we have been able to expand our services. The most recent, and for me a really exciting development, has been the establishment of two "pilot" hospice teams in two very poor rural areas of Brasov County (Fagaras and Zarnesti). For the first time, terminally ill patients living in these areas have someone to care for them. We hope that many more rural communities will eventually benefit.

However, we do now expect that in the current circumstances, sacrifices will have to be made. At a recent board meeting in Romania, members were asked to face the reality of the current financial crisis by deciding which services would have to be cut first in the event of funds drying up. You can imagine that this was a painful time for all present. We have already had to temporarily suspend the operation of the hospice school due to lack of funding, and letters were produced from a number of distraught parents. One said "The school meant so much to our son, he is a different child now. Please open the school again." Such heart-felt pleas are hard to deal with.



We want to try to ensure that as much as possible of what has been built up in Romania, Moldova and Serbia will be preserved, so once again, if you do have the capacity to help us at this time, we would of course be immensely grateful. Standing orders are particularly helpful, as they help us to be able to plan for the future. Money still goes a long way: £50 is the cost of an adult in-patient bed per day, £75 provides home-care for a patient for a month, £100 pays for a specialist nurse for a week.

Please pray that with God's help we will be able to pass through these difficult times and continue to be a "beacon of hope" in the midst of a struggling and suffering world.

Thank you

Graham Perolls
Executive Director



Cosmin on admission to the hospice in September 1998

The Gift of Life - 10 years on Cosmin's Story

" I had the privilege of meeting Cosmin for the first time in June 2007, when I spent a week at Hospice Casa Sperantei in Brasov working alongside a team of UK volunteers at the annual Holiday Club for children who are patients in the Hospice.

I had always been aware of 'Cosmin's story' and that he was one of the first children cared for when the Hospice began the paediatric team 12 years ago. It was on another visit to Brasov last month that I really discovered the impact that hospice care has had on children with life-limiting illnesses in Romania and surrounding countries.



Cosmin with his parents, brother and Hospice Casa Sperantei Founder, Graham Perolls in 2002

Cosmin was referred to Hospice Casa Sperantei from a local paediatric hospital as he had a rare congenital heart disease and was given 2-3 weeks to live. That was in September 1998.

Cosmin still lives a limited life because of this incurable illness, but as a result of the care he has received from Hospice Casa Sperantei, he has enjoyed a further ten years with his family.

The Hospice staff are continually amazed at Cosmin's strength of character, his popularity with everyone and his medical progression against all odds.



Cosmin with Emily, on the day of face painting and party hats at the Holiday Club!

This is all testament to that fact that Cosmin would not have lived these last ten years without the love and care of the Hospice staff, and that this has only been made possible by the prayers, kindness and donations of supporters over the years. "

by Emily West, Hospices of Hope



Cosmin in September 2008

Our next newsletter will focus on our projects in Moldova and Serbia



Buy a Christmas card with meaning...

This card was designed by Alexandra Iosub, aged 7, especially on behalf of the children who are patients at Hospice Casa Sperantei in Brasov.

Price £4.50 per pack(10 cards) plus postage and packing

To buy

1. email: office@hospicesofhope.co.uk
2. phone: 01959 525110 with your request
3. from a Hospices of Hope shop

Other designs of Christmas cards available in a Hospices of Hope shop.



Gift of Hope

Last year the Gift of Hope scheme enabled many children and their families to have an enjoyable Christmas. This year our appeal will fund drugs and medical needs for the 150 children in our care.

£25 will pay for drugs and medical care for one day for 'Larisa' and other similarly ill children. Giving a present has never been so easy and so worthwhile.

Below is an illustration of our 2008 Gift Voucher. These are available for you to purchase to send to your friends and family. This unique present will be a gift both to your friends and a terminally ill child in Romania.

We ask for a minimum donation of £10.00 each. Buy as many as you like and we will send you your vouchers in their envelopes for you to simply address and pop in the post.



These vouchers are ideal to send as Christmas cards

To buy a **Gift of Hope** voucher contact Carole:
phone 01959 525110 or email carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Save & Donate! Save & Donate! Save & Donate! Save &



Hospices of Hope have partnered with leading utility supplier Utilities Warehouse to give our supporters the chance of reducing their gas, electricity, telephone, broadband and mobile phone bills. Voted Best Supplier for Customer Service in a recent "Which" survey, Utilities Warehouse will make a donation for every HoH friend who subscribes to a service. Call them on 0800 13 13 000 and see if they can save you money. Be sure to quote the HoH Community Fundraiser number B36822.



Many people change their mobile phones at this time of year, or get new ones as presents. Remember, there's no need to leave the old one in a drawer. We can have them recycled and raise money at the same time. If you would like one of our Freepost bags, visit one of our shops or call Barbara on 01959 525110.

Hospices of Hope Patrons visit Hospice Casa Sperantei



In April 2008 Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham made his second visit to the Brasov Hospice since he became a patron. Lord Jones visited patients and staff and gave a talk to Romanian State officials calling for national support of Casa Sperantei.

In September the Duchess of Norfolk visited the Hospice teams in Brasov and Bucharest and attended fundraising events in both cities. The Duchess who has been our patron for 14 years has witnessed the many changes and developments that have taken place both in the country and at Hospice Casa Sperantei.

Read more about their visits with more pictures in the next Newsletter

How far would you go? Take a Challenge!

City businessman, Christian Hillkirk, is leaving the comfort of his armchair and instead of enjoying brandy and mince pies this Christmas will be spending up to two months trekking to the South Pole as part of Amundsen Omega 3 South Pole Race to raise money for Hospices of Hope.



To sponsor Christian go to:
www.justgiving.com/christiansouthpole

Midsummer Ball

Congratulations to Charles and Karen Sommer who put on a magnificent Midsummer Ball at their home in Kirdford, West Sussex and raised almost £20,000 for Hospices of Hope. The Duchess of Norfolk was patron for the evening and 150 guests braved the dreadful weather to enjoy a splendid evening of dining and dancing.



Charles and Karen Sommer with the Duchess of Norfolk (second left) and the Midsummer Ball committee

Events

UK

18th November 2008 - Ancuta Nite in Concert
Stewart's Melville College, Edinburgh
malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk

21st November 2008 - Masked Ball
Russhill Hotel, near Crawley
barry@hospicesofhope.co.uk

29th November 2008 - St. Andrew's Ceilidh
Merchants' Hall, Edinburgh
malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk

20th December 2008 - Christmas Concert
with Stuart Pendred
New Life Church, Jubilee Community Centre,
East Grinstead
office@nlceg.co.uk or 01342 328334

7th February 2009 - An opera evening with
Stuart Pendred

Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells
emily@hospicesofhope.co.uk

12th March 2009 - City Dinner
Royal Automobile Club, London
vanessa@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Romania

13th-16th November 2008 - Insight Visit
Tour of Romania
carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk

15th November 2008 - Annual Edelweiss Ball
Hilton Hotel, Bucharest
carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk

April / May 2009 - Insight Visit
Tour of Romania
carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk

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hospicesofhope
making every day count
for terminally ill children and adults in
Romania and surrounding countries

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