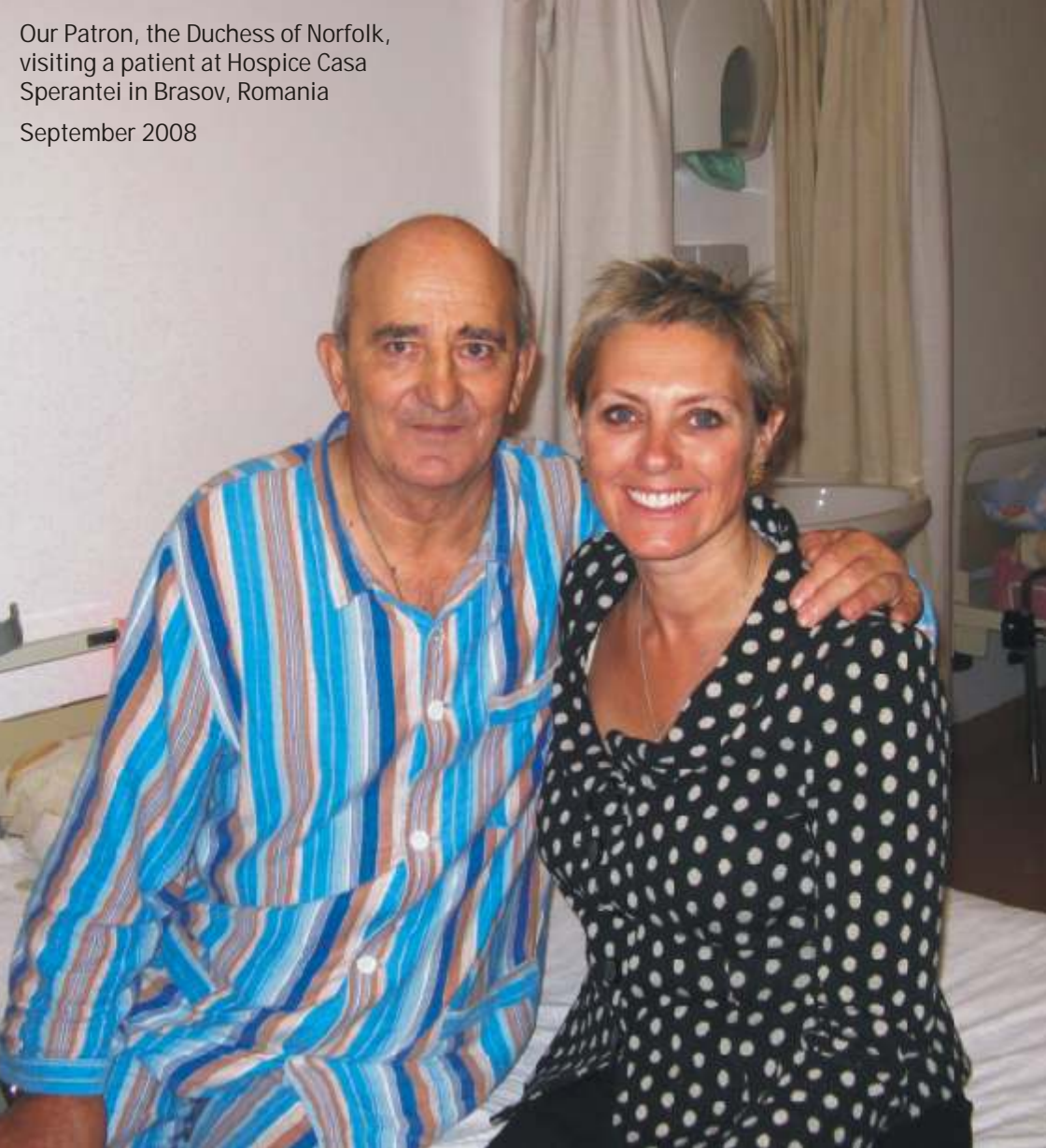


Our Patron, the Duchess of Norfolk,
visiting a patient at Hospice Casa
Sperantei in Brasov, Romania

September 2008



2008

Annual Report



hospicesofhope

UK Chairman's Message



In spite of the challenges we faced during 2008 as a result of the onset of a worldwide recession, Hospices of Hope has continued to have a major impact on the development of hospice care in South-Eastern Europe.

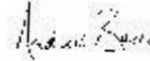
In January 2008 we began our partnership with Hospice Angelus in the Republic of Moldova, the poorest country in Europe. With our support, they have now been able to set up the first multi-disciplinary team in the capital, Chisinau. By the end of the year they were caring for 127 terminally ill adults and children.

The BELhospice team in Serbia continued to do excellent work even though the current legislation does not make it easy for charities to operate in the country.

Their educational activities helped to spread the hospice message.

Turning to Romania, we secured grants to enable Hospice Casa Sperantei to pioneer mobile hospice services in two very poor rural areas of Romania. We are hoping they will become models that can be replicated in other rural areas of the country, where there is still widespread poverty and lack of medical support.

I know that all the trustees and staff will continue to do all they possibly can to find ways of improving the care of terminally ill patients and their families in the region. The help and support of all our donors are greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew Bache".

Andrew Bache CMG JP
Chairman

Executive Director's Message



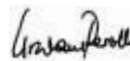
I think that 2008 will be remembered as the year of President Obama's victory in the American presidential elections. At one of his rallies, he talked about how his mother had died young of cancer. "I know what it's

like" he said "to see a loved one suffer, not just because they are sick, but because of a broken health care system". That sentence rang a bell!!! It certainly applies to all the countries that we are working in.

It was a proud moment when I heard that Hospice Casa Sperantei had won the prestigious Carol Davila prize for the best "private" medical unit in Romania. Of course they do not have the most luxurious building or the most expensive furnishings,

but I believe that they do have the patients at the centre of what they do and staff that really care about the quality of the service they provide. They too, as well as our teams in Moldova and Serbia, have "triumphed over adversity" and are finally being given the recognition they deserve.

None of this would have been possible, except through the generous commitment of our supporters: individuals, trusts, businesses, local authorities, churches and many others, particularly during a time of economic hardship in this country. Thank you for not forgetting the "forgotten" of Eastern Europe.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Graham Perolls".

Graham Perolls OBE
Executive Director

Scottish Director's Message



The Scottish office continued to thrive during 2008, with further supporters being added. We remain however rather Edinburgh-centric and I am looking to expand our support further west and north in 2009.

The exchange programme with St Columba's Hospice which has been such a benefit to us has continued. The interchange of ideas is a great stimulus for both our organisations, particularly as our hospices operate in very different health care environments.

In 2008 we held our first golf tournament. 92 golfers participated and 110 guests sat down for dinner. Many generous donations and sponsorships helped the event to raise £11,000. Our marathon runners raised

£3,500 and included a team of four Romanian-born runners in the relay event.

In October, Ancuta Nite, who was a Music Scholar from Romania at Mary Erskine School in Edinburgh a few years ago and is now a postgraduate student at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, performed a wonderful piano concert at her old school.

Donations from individuals and corporate sponsors, together with the income from our three shops in Edinburgh have produced much needed amounts to further our hospice work. We are very grateful to all those who have supported us.



Malcolm McVittie
Scottish Director

USA Director's Message



Despite the huge financial challenges of this last year which we continue to face, we refuse to give up in our efforts to support the amazing work of our partners.

While giving has decreased significantly as a result of the global financial downturn, this has only strengthened our resolve to persevere and continue to make a difference for those with a terminal illness in South-Eastern Europe.

We have all learned a moving lesson of perseverance from the small but determined staff that have been at Casa Sperantei in Romania since the beginning. They operated in an atmosphere vastly more challenging than what we are facing today. Yet they never gave up, and through their dedication,

Casa Sperantei has grown into the thriving organization it is today.

We are seeing similar movements take place in Serbia and Moldova as committed partners and staff are working tirelessly under extremely difficult circumstances to establish fully-fledged hospice facilities in their countries.

During the past year, we have moved to a smaller office and now operate solely on a volunteer basis so that every dollar raised will go directly to help patients. We are optimistic about the future of Hospices of Hope. When it is the darkest, our "Beacon of Light" will only shine brighter.



Dr Ronna McHammond
USA Director

Vision & Mission

OUR VISION is of a future where all terminally ill patients in Romania and surrounding countries are able to live and die with dignity as respected and valued members of their society.

OUR MISSION is to improve quality of life for terminally ill patients and their families in Romania and other countries in the region through increased provision and access to palliative care services and training of medical personnel.



Partners & Projects

WE WORK THROUGH COUNTRY PARTNERS:

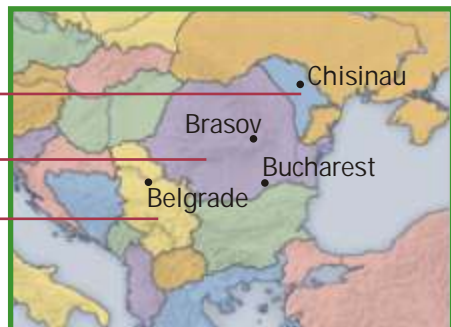
- Romania** Hospice Casa Sperantei Brasov City; Brasov County (Fagaras and Zarnesti); Bucharest
- Princess Diana Education Centre Brasov
- Nicholas Edeleanu Institute Bucharest
- Serbia** BELhospice Belgrade
- Prue Dufour Education Centre Belgrade
- Moldova** Hospice Angelus Chisinau

... and offer advocacy and training to hospice/palliative care organisations in other countries in Central and Eastern Europe such as **Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Ukraine.**

MOLDOVA

ROMANIA

SERBIA



Romania

Over 1,000 new patients were taken into the care of the hospice's services during 2008. In June, the new "rural project" officially began with the aim of developing specialist care for terminally ill adults and children in two rural areas of Brasov County (Fagaras and Zarnesti) for the first time. By the end of the year, both teams were working well, and the services were immensely appreciated by both patients (many of whom were extremely poor) and local medical staff. The new hospice out-patient clinic in Bucharest was opened and patients who are still mobile can come for advice and support. Support groups are also run at the Centre.



Rural project home visit

During the year, Hospice Casa Sperantei undertook 20 different projects funded by national and international donors; these included educational programmes for professionals, advocacy projects and a national awareness campaign. The team also continued to work on research projects to gain information for the national health authorities on palliative care issues, such as developing national standards for hospice services in different settings and providing a cost analysis.

The financial contribution from the House of Health Insurances towards the costs for adult and children inpatients increased, but the Hospice is still struggling to find recognition and appropriate financing for the home-care services and to set up contracts for the Bucharest home-care and outpatient services.

In March 2008, Hospice Casa Sperantei signed a historic partnership agreement with the Ministry of Health to devise a National Plan for Palliative Care.

The world economic crisis was felt dramatically in the hospice by the end of 2008. Unfortunately, the school (for children receiving palliative care in the hospice) had to close until new financial resources become available.



Elena in the Hospice

1,500 medical staff from Romania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Greece and Kazakhstan received palliative care training at our education centres in Brasov and Bucharest and at other locations.

Summer activities for our hospice children took place with the help of UK volunteers.

Serbia

During 2008 the BELhospice team cared for 141 terminally ill cancer patients in their own homes. 65% were male and more than 30% of them suffered from lung cancer. 1,243 visits were made to patients and the majority of them were referred for specialist symptom control and pain relief.



The cultural attitude in Serbia still means that most patients are rarely told their diagnosis and are unaware of the specialist care available for people with a terminal illness, so the team has to work hard to change attitudes.

The team also spent time contacting patients' GPs advising them of appropriate drugs to be prescribed.

This was not an easy task but progress is gradually

being made. In addition, the team made regular visits to two of the city's hospitals to advise on the care of terminally ill patients on the wards. There is still an urgent need for an in-patient hospice in Belgrade.

The 'Prue Dufour' Education Centre held many courses and presentations for healthcare professionals, associations and the public. Hospice care is now becoming more widely known within Serbia and the Ministry of Health announced that a 'National Strategy for Palliative Care Development' would be produced. However, it is important for BELhospice to continue as an independent service that provides true "holistic" care for patients and sets a high standard for palliative care in Serbia.



"With your knowledge and specialised care, as well as with your positive attitude, you succeeded to bring out cheerfulness in our mother Gordana

even in the last days of her life allowing her to cope with the illness. You were a tremendous help to us and other members of our family, through her every day care."



By Dragan and Dragana T.

Moldova

The partnership between Hospices of Hope and Hospice Angelus began in January 2008 and the team moved into a new office/clinic space in central Chisinau. This provides a meeting and training room, a store for medications and equipment, a separate area for patients who are able to visit Hospice Angelus for check-ups and medication and a room for private discussions with patients and their families.



There is a small garden area which is used by patients and their families when meeting with their doctor, nurse or social worker. We support adults and children in our care through home visits, at the office and by telephone. We are able to provide the necessary medication and equipment to our patients free of charge.

In September 2008, Hospice Angelus set up a specialist team for children with a terminal or life-limiting illness. The team has developed a strong partnership with the Paediatric Oncology department of the State hospital in Chisinau.

By December 2008, 90 adults and 37 children were receiving care from the team which comprises of a director, 3 doctors, a paediatrician, 4 nurses and a social assistant.

In 2008 the average monthly salary in Moldova was 2529 MDL a month, which is £145! ... a doctor's salary in the health sector was even lower.

We were delighted that Dorothy House Hospice in Bath agreed to "twin" with Hospice Angelus and two senior members of staff made their first visit to Moldova in September.

"We were so grateful to receive a donation of stoma bags from the UK - they are almost impossible to get hold of in Moldova and our patients were so desperate for them"



Official Opening

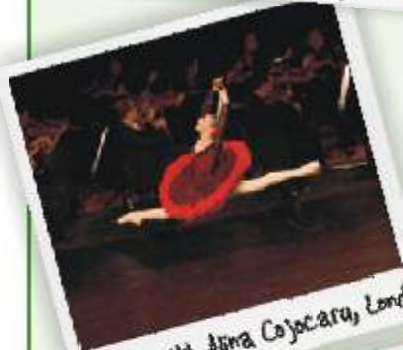
Fundraising Highlights 2008



Annual Ball, Tunbridge Wells



Tito's Train Trip, Serbia



Ballet with Alina Cojocaru, London



Stuart Pendred Opera, New York



Farthings Ball, West Sussex

Imperial College, London



Big Band, Romania



Sinfonietta, Romania



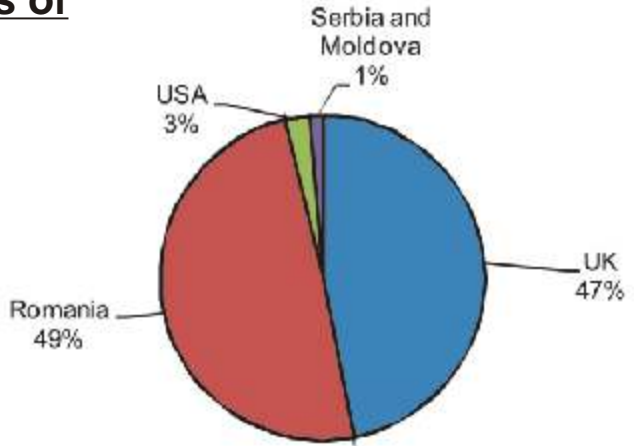
East Grinstead Shop Opens

Income & Expenditure

Combined results of the 5 charities:

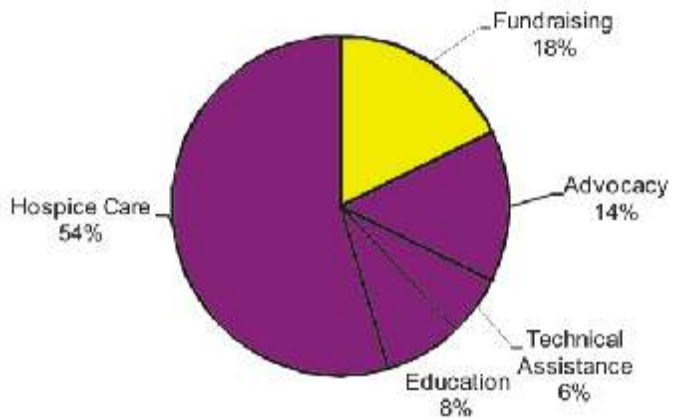
2008 Income

£1,966,091



2008 Expenditure

£1,739,005



The total income of £1,966,091 (\$2,673,884) was generated by the group of charities in the proportions shown above. The total expenditure totalled £1,739,005 (\$2,365,047). These figures excluded grants made between charities. The surplus increased the reserves held by the charities to a combined total of just under 4 months of running costs at the end of 2008. These reserves are expected to be vital to enable each charity to operate through the global recession. Detailed copies of the audited accounts for each of the individual charities are available from the head office of each charity.

James Niblett

James Niblett ACA
Deputy Director
July 2009

Our Future Plans

ADVOCACY AND PROMOTION

We will continue to work with the Romanian Ministry of Health to develop a National Plan for Palliative Care. The Romanian government changed following elections at the end of 2008 and we will need to develop relationships with the new government.

We will continue to support our partners in lobbying their governments to provide appropriate legislation for care of dying patients and their families (particularly in Serbia) and more financial resources and other types of support for palliative care.

We will aim to promote hospice services in our partner countries through World Hospice Day.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

We will continue to advise our partner charities on the development of hospice services, particularly in the rural areas of Romania as well as in Moldova and Serbia.



Hospice Casa Sperantei staff spell "HOSPICE" at their retreat day

We will assist with plans to build a new hospice in Bucharest, Romania.

We will provide advice and help for the fund-raising teams in all our partner charities in order to help steer them through the global financial crisis. We will also help recruit the first fund-raiser for Moldova.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We will seek to help establish a medical diploma course in palliative care based in Romania which will be available to doctors from all over Eastern Europe.

We will identify and train two senior nurses in Moldova and Serbia in order to provide nurse trainers for the future.

FUNDING

We will aim to raise £800,000 in the UK and \$200,000 in the USA for our work in 2009 and aim to obtain grants for our partner organisations from the EU and other international funders and partner organisations.

Meet Ilona

“I miss you and school so much” Ilona told her school mates on the telephone. In a feeble voice, full of pain, these were practically the last words she spoke.



Ilona was diagnosed in January 2008 with a tumour in the upper arm. Just 9 years old, she came from a family of five children who lived with their parents in a small village near Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. Being the youngest, she was adored by all the family. “She was a wonder child” recalls her mother, with tears in her eyes. “She was the soul of the family.”

For a whole year she followed the treatments prescribed by the doctors at the Oncology Institute, strictly respecting all the protocols and advice. But in spite of intensive radiotherapy and chemotherapy, the tumour continued to spread and produced multiple bone and lung secondaries. Ilona was discharged from the Oncology Institute for symptomatic treatment at home. Soon afterwards, the hospice team found out about her suffering and immediately took on the task.

From the moment she arrived home, Ilona had stayed practically immobile in bed, with a suffering face, trying to draw a smile of friendship for the hospice team. Because of extremely strong pain, she tried to avoid any movements. The paediatric home-care team soon got her feeling better by managing to give the best medication for her pain and other symptoms. The hospice social assistant was able to offer practical help and consolation for the family. Although she was physically weak, Ilona enjoyed special moments with her family and loved the nurses who visited her.

In January 2009 Ilona passed away peacefully, leaving an inconsolable pain in the family's heart. The hospice team continued visiting the family to offer consolation and support and her mother said “you have been beside us in the most difficult moments of our lives, we could not have managed without you”.

Written by Hospice Angelus, Moldova

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England & Wales: 1088475
Scotland: SC040117

www.hospicesofhope.co.uk

www.hospicesofhope.org

Hospice Casa Sperantei, Romania: www.hospice.ro

BELhospice, Serbia: www.belhospice.org



hospices of hope
making every day count