

SPECIAL CHARITIES EDITION
BRCC ASSOCIATE MEMBER CHARITY CHRISTMAS APPEALS



Acorns Foundation promotes and supports early years education and teacher training. One of our ongoing projects is **0 2 3 early education**, which aims to raise awareness of the educational needs of children aged between 0 and 3. State child care for children in Romania aged 6 months to 3 years old is in crèches. These are run as medical institutions and therefore the staff employed here are nurses and assistants. The Acorns Foundation recognizes the need for children aged 0-3, to grow and develop not only physically but also intellectually, emotionally and socially. *“A child’s mind develops 80% of its capacity before the age of 3”*. This development is only possible given the right environment, with stimulation, toys and activities which aim to develop the ‘whole child’ from all aspects, and staff trained to meet their needs. To this end, we have decided to raise funds to buy much needed toys for 2 crèches, in Sector 3, “Cercelus” and Titan IV, close to our Acorns and Baby Acorns nurseries. In the future, we would like to extend the number of state crèche and to put together a training course for staff from state crèche, so that they gain a better understanding of the needs of very young children and how these can be met. We hope that this project will come to fruition over the long term so that crèche staff may come to work in a way which is more similar to that of Acorns and Baby Acorns staff.



Funds can be paid into the following account, dedicated to the purchase of equipment for state crèches:

RO28RZBR0000060008701759

Raiffeisen bank Ag Decebal

Fundatia Acorns



Donations to the 2 crèches will only take the form of toys and equipment and not money. You or your friends can also choose to donate **toys in good condition** which can be brought to Baby Acorns in Str Chiparosului nr 36.

We are very conscious of the fact that we cannot change a system but until now no charity or company has expressed an interest in the educational needs of these healthy children who attend state crèches. Christmas is the most opportune moment for beginning our initiative.

Thank you in advance, for your generosity.

www.acorns.ro.

From small acorns, big oaks grow

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Skills@Work Challenge: British Council and Junior Achievement Romania bring students closer to entrepreneurship



Junior Achievement Romania and British Council Romania jointly organized the Skills@Work Challenge, an enterprise competition for young people from vocational schools aged 15-18, which opened in Cluj on 15-16 November 2008. This competition aims to encourage young people to use their skills in enterprising and innovative ways, ultimately enhancing their communication and entrepreneurship abilities. The Romanian students worked

in teams to find the best solution to the challenge: Rethink the bottle of water to enhance its value and usefulness.’ Business volunteers from Banca Transilvania in Cluj worked with the students and helped them to create their business plans. The best teams’ business plans were awarded prizes. This competition is part of a national programme and will be followed by an event in Iasi on 24-25 January 2009 and a national final in Bucharest on 21-22 February 2009. The winning team will participate in the European regional final in Sofia, Bulgaria on 11-13 March 2009.



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FARA Foundation is a registered charity both in UK and Romania and has been actively working with orphaned and abandoned children since 1991 when the deplorable conditions of Romania's state orphanages were first revealed. The number of children and young people being supported by FARA has grown rapidly and changed since the beginning – there are currently 9 programmes meeting the needs of over 250 children – children living in extreme poverty – children with no access to education – children with disabilities.



St Raphael's centre in Bucharest will open this month with residential and day care facilities for young people with learning disabilities coming from an appalling state institution. FARA will work in partnership with Social Services and pioneer a new philosophy of care with training and clinical support provided by UK medical specialists.

Funding for all FARA's programmes is still urgently required within Romania

Contact details:

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Fundația Principesa Margareta a României

Gifts with a story: This Christmas offer your partners, clients or beloved ones ornamental objects and drawings made by children of the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation

This year, the creative workshop of the Generations Community Centre was a real incubator of talent and new creative ideas. Children and elderly came together, learned



from each other, received tips and guidance from skilled craftsmen and artists and ended up creating their own ornamental objects that would add charm to any Christmas table and any Christmas tree.

Supervised by a professional painter, children also created beautiful Christmas **drawings** and paintings on wood or fabric. Companies and individuals are invited to buy one of these drawings and use them on the Christmas cards they intend to offer this year to their partners and clients. What makes these drawings special is that each of them has a story behind: the story of the child who created it.



Christmas baskets, Santa bags, table napkins and Christmas candles are just some of the **objects** made by the beneficiaries of the inter-generational community centre set up in Bucharest by the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation (FPMR). Pictures of the Christmas objects made by children are included in the FPMR "Christmas catalogue", available on request at doina.crangasu@principesa.ro. Prices of these objects vary from 30 to 80 RON.



Funds raised from selling Christmas drawings and ornamental objects will help the Foundation continue its financial support for the art workshop, the workshop that brings generations together and stimulates creativity. The activities children and elderly are conducting at the centre are an important way to keep both the elderly and the young people active, involved in the community and ... smiling.

Find out more about the Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation on www.fpmr.ro

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TO DEFEAT PAIN IS HARD, but without you it is impossible....

Hospice Casa Sperantei is Romania's leading hospice charity.

Established in 1992 as a UK-Romanian partnership, it has been responsible for pioneering better care for terminally ill patients and their families throughout the country. Many patients are now dying with dignity rather than suffering unrelieved pain.

Hospice Casa Sperantei is based in Brasov and Bucharest offers care free of charge to patients of all ages diagnosed with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.



Currently, the charity looks after 300 patients at any one time. The hospice in Brasov has 13 beds for adults and 6 beds for children, together with day care centres and out patient clinics. In Bucharest there is a hospital based service and an outpatient clinic. However, the majority of patients are cared for in their own homes. The multi-disciplinary hospice team comprises of doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, chaplain and support staff as well as more than 100 volunteers.

Due to the world financial crisis, the sources of funding have been considerably less in recent months. Grants from the UK and USA have been adversely affected and we expect to receive more than £100,000 less than expected by the end of the year.

In order to try and maintain the services with the same capacity, Hospice Casa Sperantei has launched an emergency fundraising campaign. We are appealing to the business community and to individual donors because we believe that together we can help to defeat pain and bring relief to those who need it.

In Romania, one person out of 5 is affected by cancer and every year more than 40,000 people die from the disease. Over 70% of cancer cases are diagnosed in the most advanced stages of the disease so there is a huge need for hospice care.

Recently, the Ministry of Health signed a partnership agreement with Hospice Casa Sperantei to develop a national plan for providing hospice care across the country. This is an exciting development, but at the present time only 3% of people needing this type of care receive it.

Please help us to continue making a difference. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

To find out more contact James Niblett, the Campaign Director on 0728 130092 or visit www.hospice.ro



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Light into Europe Charity

A better future for the Romanian Sensory Impaired Children and Young People

Making a difference at Christmas to the Sensory Impaired Children

Light into Europe is a non-profit organisation with a mission to improve the lives of the Deaf and the Blind children, young people and adults of Romania, enabling them to maximise their potential and change their lives for the better.

Each year, the Light into Europe Team is working closely with hundreds of Sensory Impaired Children for very special Christmas celebrations.



From our well-established Christmas bazaars and Christmas carol concerts to School parties, our Christmas activities include providing food, toys and clothing to children and adults who otherwise live Cinderella lives, to enable them to experience the joy of the Christmas Season.

The most popular activity- The Christmas Bazaar brings together in creative activities more than 500 sensory impaired children from Bucharest, Buzau, Cluj, Timisoara and Iasi schools, producing wonderful Christmas cards that are sold successfully to companies such as Orange, JW Marriott and DHL.

This year, we will be sharing the festive joy and celebrations with an additional 100 families with young children with sight or hearing loss around the country.

If you would like to join with our efforts, purchase HAND MADE Christmas cards or contribute in another way, kindly contact us at contact@lightintoeurope.org



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Bucharest Office: 35, Clabucet str, tel 021 224 4608 fax 021 2244793 resource@lightintoeurope.org

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Motivation Romania Foundation is Supporting Mobility
– The wheels of change start spinning if we work together –

Motivation Romania Foundation was born out of the initiative of a small team that, 13 years ago, dreamed about giving people with disabilities the chance to a fulfilling life. They started by producing customized wheelchairs. Over time, our understanding of the needs of children and adults with disabilities translated in programs and services created to foster their wellbeing and active participation in the society.



Currently Motivation Romania Foundation provides physiotherapy and peer group training, day care and recovery services for children, school and labour integration, but also adapted sports and leisure activities, to name just a few of our services.



In 2001 we created three family-type homes for 24 children with severe disabilities from a state-run institution. Motivation helped them recover and develop independent living skills, enjoy friendship, colours, sports. In this process our children learned to create unique decorations. **Some of these decorations will be available for sale at the Christmas Ball organized by BRCC on December 12** (http://www.motivation.ro/pdf/Manufacturi_Motivation.pdf).

Discover Motivation on www.motivation.ro and join us in building a society free of barriers.

PROGRESS
FOUNDATION



PROGRESS Foundation is a Romanian NGO based in Bistrita founded in February 2002. It is the main Romanian partner of The Prince's Trust (UK). The Foundation acts towards

increasing the development opportunities of the Romanian vulnerable groups of population (youth, women and minorities). It promotes the civic spirit of the Romanian citizens, the volunteering and work for the benefit of the community.

Since 2003 the Foundation has hosted more than 200 UK volunteers, mainly clients of The Prince's Trust. They have been involved in Romania in community projects (i.e. renovation of the elderly home from Bistrita, kitchen renovation for the orphanage from Nasaud, re-forestation of a protected area in Cetate village, renovation of numerous kindergartens and primary schools in both Bistrita-Nasaud county and Ialomita county).

In the area of community development through education, Progress Foundation has been managing

two community centres, one in the mining town Rodna "From Pick-Hammer to Computer" (vocational training for former miners and their families, funded by DfID) and "Rroma Day Education Centre" from Barbulesti (extracurricular activities for Rroma kids and vocational training for mothers, funded by UNICEF). The Rroma Day Centre from Barbulesti has been declared by UNICEF best practice project. For instance, at the end of UNICEF financing in February 2007, we have reached the following indicators: number of children assisted within 2003 – 2004: 600 persons; number of mothers assisted: 50 persons; school performance grades improvement: more than 70% of children have improved grades in maths, Romanian language, English, history and geography; 6 shows set up and performed by children: theatre plays, Romanian and English poems and songs, etc.; 1 training session with teachers from school on intercultural education; 15 mothers trained in sewing and tailoring; number of computer literates: 100 children. Starting with 2008 the project is continuing in the school premises, based on a MoU the foundation has signed with the mainstream school of Barbulesti.

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In order to understand the magnitude of the community problems we have faced in Barbulesti, we would like to point out that Barbulesti is the largest rural Roma community from the county Ialomita and from Romania. The commune of Armasesti, that includes the village Barbulesti has – according to the 2002 census - 7320 inhabitants, 4151 of them have declared themselves to be Roma. We estimate that in the village of Barbulesti the percentage of Roma is close to 98%. In Barbulesti, the education system integrates 969 children: 524 (246 girls and 278 boys) in the primary education and 445 (188 girls and 257 boys) in the secondary education. Estimations of the Local Council indicate there are over 1,000 children within the community, but not all of them are registered in school. Compared to the first grade, where are registered 71 girls, in the 8th grade there are only 32 girls – and only 3 of them are actually attending the classes. We deem 90 % drop out rate in the secondary education when about girls and 70%



drop out rate regarding boys. Because the small capacity of the school, children are learning in two shifts, in the morning the primary and in the afternoon the secondary classes. Before new premises were given to school, children had been learning in three shifts.

Our organization aims to continue funding the extracurricular activities for the Roma kids from Barbulesti carried out under the supervision of 2 staff members. This is why, **during this year BRCC Christmas Ball, we will display some of the Christmas tree decorations prepared by the children from Barbulesti.** We think that education is the most important tool in breaking the vicious circle of poverty and under-development. We thank you for your assistance and look forward to telling you our success stories.

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Sustaining Members

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Zamfirescu Racoti Predoiu (ZRP)

**OUR FOLLOW UP MEETING FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBER CHARITIES
WILL TAKE PLACE LATE JANUARY/ EARLY FEBRUARY 2009**

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