

VISI N

Winter 2023/24



To cure, sometimes; To help, often; To comfort, always.

Welcome

Dear Supporters and Friends of Children in Distress,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the same warmth and gratitude that permeated our recent Annual Thanksgiving Service. Whether you joined us in person or via video link, your presence added immeasurable meaning to the occasion, and for that, we are truly thankful. I am thrilled to share with you the heartening efforts of various groups and individuals who continue to show unwavering support for Children in Distress. The Caritas group at St. Roch's Secondary School once again exemplified compassion through their annual "love in a box" shoebox appeal. The dedication and enthusiasm of these children in gathering items for families in need truly embody the spirit of giving.

At our Guisborough shop, the festive season was made even more special with the presence of Santa Claus, bringing joy to both young and old. The meticulously decorated shop window and engaging activities added to the holiday spirit, creating unforgettable moments for all involved. Similarly, the Kirkbymoorside and Shildon shops embraced the festive season with enthusiasm, organizing Christmas fairs and raffles to spread cheer among their communities. The support from staff and customers alike in these initiatives is truly commendable.

Christmas at Casa Maria was a heartwarming celebration filled with joy for the children, thanks to the generous support of our backers. The visit from Santa Claus and the cherished moments with loved ones made it a truly magical experience.

Our Shoebox Appeal in 2023 was a resounding success, thanks to the unwavering support of supporters like Amey PLC and dedicated volunteers like Stuart Henderson and Robert Colquhoun. Their contributions ensured that thousands of shoeboxes reached families in Romania, bringing hope and joy during the holiday season.

As we reflect on the past year, we also remember with fondness those who have left us. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Maxwell and Hancock families, who have been longtime supporters of our cause. Their compassionate spirit will be deeply missed.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to Celtic Football Club for their generous donation, which greatly contributed to our fundraising efforts.

In the spirit of gratitude and unity, we eagerly anticipate our 35th Anniversary Celebration Tour, where we will come together to celebrate our achievements and look forward to the future.

With warm regards,

Simon
CEO of Children in Distress

Annual Thanksgiving Service

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who joined us for our Annual Thanksgiving Service, whether in person or via video link.

We owe a debt of thanks to the remarkable Reverend Paul Peverell, whose sermons unflinching touch the hearts and souls of everyone present.



It was a joy to connect with each of you. Your unwavering support over the years has enabled us to assist countless children and families. We deeply appreciate each and every one of you, and eagerly anticipate our reunion next year.

With warm regards,

Simon & Valentina





St Roch's Secondary School

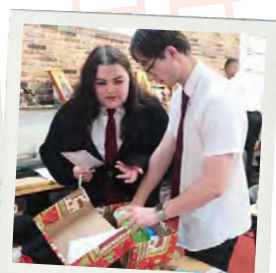
Once again, the Caritas group at St. Roch's Secondary School in Glasgow has demonstrated their steadfast support and compassion for Children in Distress by participating in this year's annual "love in a box" shoebox appeal.

The children took the initiative to deliver enlightening talks to both their peers and teachers, shedding light on the remarkable efforts of Children in Distress in assisting families in Romania. Their presentations also inspired donations for the shoeboxes.

Eager to make a difference, the children diligently gathered items for their shoeboxes and even organised a bake sale to raise funds. With everything meticulously collected and prepared, the fun part began: filling and wrapping the shoeboxes!



As their journey concluded, the children had assembled a multitude of shoeboxes to bring joy to children and families during Christmas. Everyone at Children in Distress is immensely proud of their efforts and extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone at St. Roch's Caritas Group.



Guisborough Shop



During our festive celebrations, the Guisborough shop had a very special visitor to delight the well-behaved children who frequent the store... none other than Santa Claus himself!

Tracy adorned her shop window to guide Santa on his way, much to the delight of all the boys and girls who eagerly awaited his arrival and their special gifts. Even the adults couldn't resist a peek at Santa and were overjoyed by his presence.

The atmosphere was magical, and many guests decided to kick off their Christmas shopping during the event. We also organized exciting raffles for a Christmas hamper and a chocolate hamper, with Andrea winning the food hamper and Sue claiming the chocolate one.



Additionally, we hosted a lively tombola, which proved to be a hit among our fantastic customers, who walked away with extra treats for the holiday season.

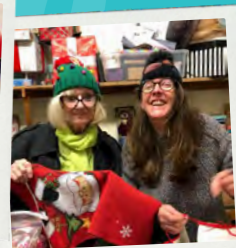
One of the highlights for us was meticulously decorating our shop window. We invested considerable time and effort into ensuring it was perfect for our valued customers, and we're thrilled with how it turned out!



For more information on our Guisborough shop, to donate or volunteer please contact the shop manager Tracy on Tracy.England1@childrenindistress.org.uk or call on: 01287630770

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Kirkbymoorside Shop



We were bustling with activity as we prepared for the Kirkbymoorside Christmas fair.

Glitter and tinsel adorned every corner! Margaret and Maureen took on the role of this year's tree decorators. To mark our dedication, we decided to treat ourselves to a staff Christmas Dinner!

Additionally, we organized a Christmas hamper raffle, which attracted numerous participants from our clientele. And the eagerly awaited winners were finally announced...



1st Prize
Sue Hook



2nd Prize
Mr and Mrs Cooper



3rd Prize
Tina



4th Prize
Joyce



5th Prize
Mrs Poole



6th Prize
Michael



For more information on our Kirkbymoorside shop, to donate or volunteer please contact the shop manager Tracy on Tracy.russell1@childrenindistress.org.uk or call on: 01751432406

Shildon Shop



Our Shildon charity shop launched the festive season with an incredible Christmas Raffle.

Among the top prizes were a Holiday Express train set, a Reflex smartwatch, and a Sanctuary Spa hamper. Heartfelt congratulations to our top three winners: Arthur, Helen, and Kath!

Additionally, we had a special prize...



Margaret and Syl feeling festive!



Madge roped her daughter into the madness!



Madge and Frank getting in the Christmas Spirit!

Our enthusiasm for the festive season was evident in every moment of our celebrations, from adorning the shop with decorations to donning festive jumpers to spread the holiday cheer among our customers!

For more information on our Shildon shop, to donate or volunteer please contact the shop manager Melanie on melanie.morgan1@childrenindistress.org.uk or call on: 01388773405

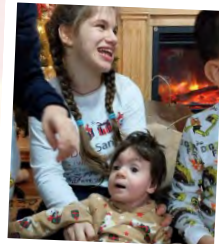
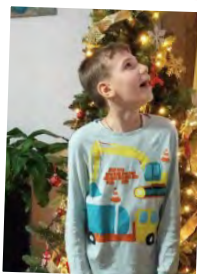
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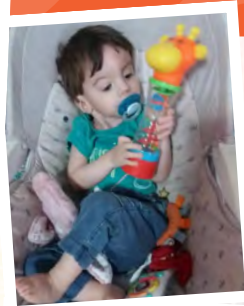
Christmas at Casa Maria



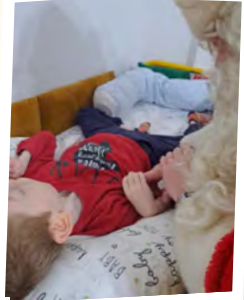
It's time for tree decorating and advent calendars!

The children couldn't contain their excitement as they received early Christmas gifts of cozy winter clothes and sweets. We were delighted to have some dear friends visit us to sing Christmas carols; joining in and learning new songs was a joyous experience. And the excitement reached its peak when Santa Claus paid us a visit!





Our amazing staff all gathered for a family photo with Santa, capturing a memorable moment. The children had a blast throughout Christmas, from cherished moments with family and friends to joyful carol singing and even braving the chilly snow for some fun adventures.



Because of the generous support from our incredible backers, our children were able to immerse themselves in the enchantment of Christmas.

Shoebox Appeal 2023



**Belmont
Primary School**



**Pioneering Care
Centre and Village
Pharmacy**



**St Peter's church
in Norton**



**Newton Wallacetown
Parish church**



**St Roch's
Secondary School**



**Chaloner
Primary School**



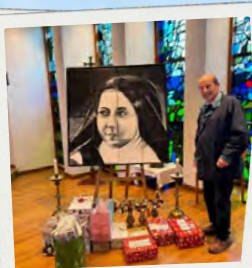
**Mrs Vanessa
Cole**



**Cranmore
School**



**Mr and Mrs
Aguis**



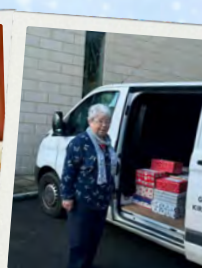
**Holy Trinity
Church**



**Mrs Cath
Drake**



**Mrs Margaret
Thorpe**



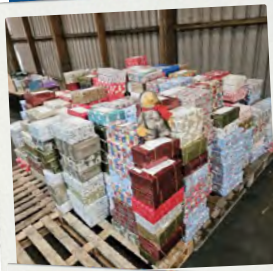
Thank you!

In 2023, amidst numerous changes for Children in Distress, one constant remained: the unwavering support for our Shoebox Appeal.

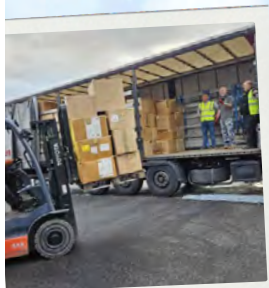
We extend heartfelt gratitude to Amey PLC, who generously donated a van for yet another year, facilitating the transportation of our shoeboxes. With this invaluable resource, we successfully completed collections from various regions in Scotland, including our largest collection from Newton Wallacetown Parish Church in Ayrshire.

We were immensely grateful for the assistance of supporters Stuart Henderson and Robert Colquhoun, who not only aided in our Scottish collections, but also embarked on a lengthy journey from Glasgow to Preston's of Potto in Northallerton. There, we were fortunate to receive storage space for the 4,600 shoeboxes collected this year!

Thanks to the support of Mission Relief, all the shoeboxes were transported to Romania, allowing us to conclude the year with the knowledge that we have brought Christmas joy to the families we serve.



Shoebox Packing at Preston's of potto



Loading Day



PRESTONS OF POTTO



Santa's Shoebox Deliveries

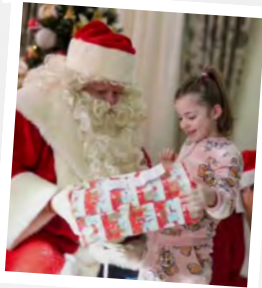


For all of us at Children in Distress, the most rewarding moment of our shoebox appeal arrives at its conclusion.

When we receive photos of the children and families who have received these heartfelt gifts, witnessing their joy and excitement as they meet Santa, it validates all the hard work invested.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported our shoebox appeal in 2023... WE DID IT!!!





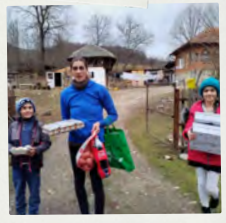
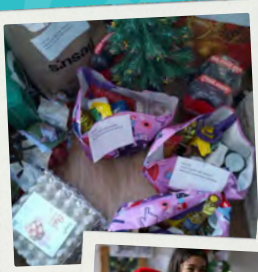
Santa's Shoebox Deliveries

Santa's Special Deliveries

Each year, our mission extends to assisting numerous vulnerable children and families in Romania, including those who may feel overlooked.

We pride ourselves in the fact that Santa always has time to make special deliveries to our aging community members. We take pride in ensuring that Santa never overlooks our elderly community members. He dedicates time to make special deliveries, engaging in heartfelt conversations, singing songs, and presenting them with well deserved Christmas gifts.





Gifts from the Heart Deliveries

Thanks to our wonderful supporters, we were able to help so many families by providing them with our Gifts From the Heart donated meals.

We cannot thank you all enough for purchasing these items, the families who received them are truly grateful.

Pine View Retreat Lodge

A respite space for children, family and carers

The opportunity to break down taboos and barriers surrounding disability, whilst providing care for those who need it Respiro type care services, social activities and therapies, and training dedicated to specialists and families in developing complex skills.

Additional training to develop independent living skills/social skills, and a wellbeing retreat providing activities such as yo-ga, massage and outdoor walks.

To donate to our vision and the future of our children, phone 0141 559 5690 or email lesleyann.connelly@childrenindistress.org.uk

Gifts from the Heart

Gifts from the Heart help provide the children with necessities for their care and is a great way to support Children in Distress.



♥ **Doctors Visit:**

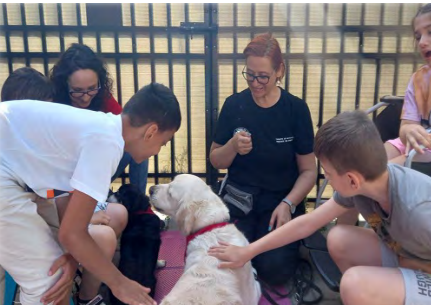
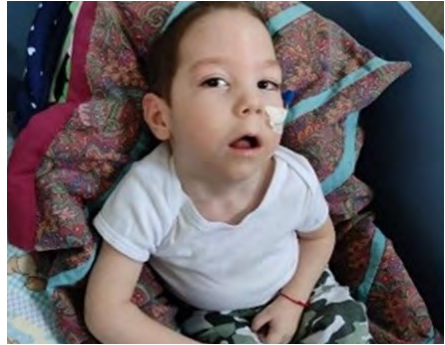
Helps provide a child with a visit to the doctor to receive the specialist care needed.

- £22** will cover one week's cost of a child's doctors' Visits.
- £88** will cover one month's cost of a child's doctors' Visits.

♥ **Medicine:**

Will help provide the medication that is needed to manage a child's medical condition.

- £38** can provide a child with the medication they desperately need for a week.
- £150** can provide a child with the medication they desperately need for a month.



♥ **Specialist Therapies:**

Will help provide specialist therapies designed to help them with their emotional, social and physical development.

- £75** will provide a child with a week of specialist therapies.
- £300** will provide a child with a month of specialist therapies.

♥ Activities:

Helps provide educational and fun activities for the children to improve their health, wellbeing and development.

- £23** can provide a child with a week's worth of activities.
- £90** can provide a child with a month's worth of activities.



♥ Meals:

Will help provide 3 meals and snacks to a child specifically designed for their nutritional needs.

- £60** will cover the cost of meals and snacks for a child a week.
- £240** will cover the cost of meals and snacks for a child a month.

♥ Ordering a Gift from the Heart

To order one of our gifts from the heart please tick your option and return to the Glasgow office with the back page of this vision and your chosen method of payment.

Alternatively you can contact us by email:
lesleyann.connelly@childrenindistress.or.uk
or by phone on: 0141 559 5690

Anniversary Celebration Tour



35th Anniversary Celebration Tour to Romania with Heroes Gala Dinner

25th -29th September 2024

Programme

Wednesday, September 25th

All supporters will gather in Bucharest to prepare for the official tour of Children in Distress, scheduled for the following day. We will come together for an informal dinner, provided to facilitate introductions and camaraderie.

Thursday, September 26th

The day will commence with a visit to Casa Maria in Bucharest, where we will meet the children in their new home/hospice. Lunch will be provided, offering the chance to converse with both staff and children. In the evening, we are thrilled to host the Charity Heroes Gala Dinner at Bragadiru Palace in Bucharest. The venue is breathtaking and will serve as a fitting backdrop to celebrate and express gratitude to all those who have contributed to the charity's work over the past 35 years.

Friday, September 27th

Our itinerary for Friday includes a journey to Zarnesti, where we'll explore the designated area for the development of Pine View Retreat Lodge—a significant project undertaken by the charity. Here, we'll delve into the vision for its realization and its potential benefits for the local communities.

Following our visit, we'll enjoy lunch in Brasov, a captivating medieval city nestled in the Transylvania region of Romania. Framed by the Carpathian Mountains, Brasov boasts an array of gothic, baroque, and renaissance architecture, offering a picturesque backdrop for our meal.

In the evening, dinner will be provided at a local restaurant in Bucharest.

Saturday, September 28th

We will mark our 35th anniversary with a special service at the Church of the Resurrection in Bucharest, followed by a celebratory lunch.

Sunday, September 29th

Lunch will not be provided as individuals will be departing today. This presents an opportunity for personal exploration of Bucharest before heading to the airport.

Cost Breakdown

Total cost for the listed Programme of events is **£650 per person**, including the following:

Accommodation: **£280** for 4 nights, including breakfast

Food: **£245** for lunches and dinners

Gala Dinner: **£50**

Transport: **£75**

Please note that flight bookings are not included in the package. We recommend booking your own flights, which are estimated to be between £200 and £280 per person, depending on your departure location. If you need support with booking flights, please contact adminyork@childrenindistress.org.uk

Once your flight details are confirmed, please share them with us so we can coordinate airport transfers using the Romanian Charity Minibus.

Additionally, please ensure you arrange your own travel insurance for the trip.

To book your place

for this event, please contact adminyork@childrenindistress.org.uk.

In Loving Memory



Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Maxwell, Hancock and Lockstone families during this difficult time. We are deeply sorry for your loss.

Mr. David Maxwell

January 22, 1942 – December 25, 2023

David and his wife, Barbara, coordinated donations for Children in Distress over many years. David and Barbara visited Romania many times to be with our children and young adults. They were steadfast, wonderful promoters and supporters of CiD.



Mrs. Julia Hancock

January 13, 1938 – December 16, 2023

Julia was a child sponsor and integral to CiD's Christmas shoe box efforts. She collected Christmas shoe boxes from everyone she knew, and she solicited donations from all of her family and friends. Julia visited Romania several times to share the love for our children that she felt. We give thanks for Julia's care and concern for our children..

Mr. Derek Lockstone

Derek was a long-time supporter of CiD. He was a member of the UK Board of Trustees and served on our medical advisory committee for years. David visited Romania many times, and he gave a lot of time, attention, and necessary advice as a medical advisor, especially to our HIV/AIDS hospice in Cernavoda. We are immensely grateful for all the time and love David gave to CiD.



Dates for your diary

- 10th March** Mothers Day UK
- 14th March** 35th year Anniversary
Event in London
- 31st March** Easter Sunday UK
- 1st April** Easter Monday UK
- 6th May** Easter Monday Romania
Robert's Birthday



Thank You to Celtic Football Club

Children in Distress extends heartfelt thanks to Celtic Football Club for their generous donation of a signed football top, complete with an authentication certificate, for our raffle.

Through extensive promotion across all our social media platforms, we are delighted to announce the lucky winner of this extraordinary prize:

Mr Neil Wright
Congratulations!
Your support is truly appreciated.



**You are cordially invited to a
celebration of 35 years of
Children in Distress**

Guest of honour HRH Princess
Maria of Romania

**MARCH 14TH 2024
NO.11 CAVENDISH SQUARE,
LONDON**

Arrival: 6.30pm for 7pm start
Carriages: 9.30pm

Ticket Price: £85 per person

- Drinks reception & Formal Dinner
Silent Auction

Speeches and updates from our Royal
Patron & team

**For more information please contact:
hanna-liisa@childrenindistress.org.uk**

Help support our work

Donate £ today

I enclose a cheque / postal order payable to *Children in Distress*.

I am donating by Credit / Debit Card. My card number is:

Valid from

Expiry date

CVS No.

Signature _____ Date _____



You can donate to us securely online by scanning this code with your smartphone, or by going to www.childrenindistress.org/donate

You can also donate by telephoning us on **01904 460066**

Donate £ monthly

Or

Sponsor a child £15 £20 £25 Tick a box

Account Holder's Name _____

Account No. _____ Sort Code _____ Start Date _____

Name and Address of Bank _____

Post Code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Official Use: Please pay to the account of Children in Distress at:

The Royal Bank of Scotland, 10 Gordon Street, Glasgow G1 3PL. Account No. 10114023, Sort Code 83-07-06.

Your details

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Tel _____

Email _____

Please tick if you'd like to receive occasional news updates from us by email. You can unsubscribe at anytime. Please see www.childrenindistress.org/newsletter for full details.

To make my donation go further I don't need a receipt. Please send information about sponsoring a child.

I am a taxpayer and authorise Children in Distress to reclaim tax on my donations since 6 April 2000 and all future donations (unless I notify otherwise) as Gift Aid donations.

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