

VISION

Autumn 2023



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



Welcome to the Autumn Edition of Vision

Dear Friends

As we move out of the summer period into autumn, harvest is descending and we begin to see the landscape changing, with new colours appearing on the horizon.


Like the emergence of a new season, Children in Distress also moves into a new dawn.


This period of refresh is a great time for us all to take stock of where we are and for the charity to prepare for what we will deliver and achieve in 2024 and beyond. Although 2023 has had its challenges for the charity in Romania, with children being moved from our care to other provision, for the benefit of cost saving for the local authority, we continue to support and care for our lovely children at Casa Maria as well as wonderful new arrivals and continue to keep an eye on those who have moved.

2024 will see Children in Distress reach its next milestone 35th Anniversary, providing a significant point of reflection. A plan to build the future of the charity to ensure it continues to be relevant and focussed on raising funds to secure the future of more children in Romania through our three pillar projects – the Casa Maria home, the Arges Community outreach Project, and the Pineview Retreat Lodge, our vision for the next 35 years.

During my first six months as CEO have enabled me to develop and build on our long-term strategy to drive additional fundraising campaigns and events, social events to thank our supporters and the extension of our retail outlets into Scotland and growth of those in Yorkshire. We are exploring a new e-commerce offering (selling online), to reach many more customers/supporters with the generous donations throughout a wider geography.

The most significant change in 2024 will be the relocation of the Charity's head office back to Yorkshire, to centralise the support team in the UK in the heart





of our communities, so it is well placed to support all the UK nations as well as be on hand to the majority of our activity in Yorkshire, Teesside and County Durham.

So far two key events have been set for 2024, which you can read about in this issue of Vision. The celebration Gala in March in London which will include a silent auction, with gifts donated by wonderful people and businesses. Should you have any donations of auction items please contact our team with details.

Secondly, we have the celebration tour in Romania in September which will enable supporters, donors, and friends to come together and see first-hand the great work taking place in Romania.

I hope you enjoy reading about what is happening across the UK and Romania in this Vision and if you would like to offer any support, wisdom, or ideas in respect of our plans to grow the charity, please contact me or one of our Trustees, who would be pleased to hear from you.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting our small but highly ambitious charity. As CEO and the Board of Trustees we will continue make important and impactful decisions to do what is right for the charity in order that we achieve a new level of success for the single benefit of providing for those children in Romania who rely on our care, compassion, and support.

Best wishes,

Simon Errington

CEO, Children In Distress



Children in Distress UK is to relocate its head office to Yorkshire.

I am pleased to write today, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, about new developments at Children in Distress UK.

Following the appointment of Simon Errington as CEO earlier this year, in response to the Board's strategic direction, Simon has conducted a full review of the structure and operations of Children in Distress UK and has made his recommendations, which I am pleased to advise the Board has approved. I take this opportunity to thank Simon for his hard work and professional leadership during the last few months.

As you all know, 2024 will be a milestone year - the charity's 35th anniversary. Fundraising, growing the initiatives and activities as well as retail aspects of our shops, and increasing our community in England and Scotland sit at the heart of our strategy and business plan. There are visionary projects to deliver in Romania and ambitious targets to meet.

To meet these ambitions, the charity will be relocating its head office functions back to Yorkshire from November 2023, placing our operations at the heart of our charity community. Our CEO and financial function are based here, and we will be growing our team in the region, to provide administrative, fundraising and communication support for the head office. This shift will bring opportunities for new activities, events, and initiatives.

Our team in Scotland will focus on building its community focus through new projects, campaigns, and the potential for additional retail outlets and e-commerce initiatives.

I am pleased to advise that Lesleyann Connelly will lead the transformation of the charity hub in Scotland in the new role of Hub Manager, supported by Julian Dawydiak as a new Campaigns Assistant.

Our activities in London will continue to be supported by Hannah-Liisa Kirchin, our Partnerships and Projects Coordinator, whose role it is to organise events, campaigns, and drive sponsorship of activities in that region.

We will be recruiting for additional team members in Yorkshire including a Hub Manager for Yorkshire who will build the community focus in Yorkshire alongside the Shop Managers through new projects and campaigns as well as engaging with key support communities across England. To deliver the head office function in Yorkshire, a full-time Administrator will also be added to the team.

It is with heavy heart that I report that after eight years of invaluable service to the charity, Tina Connelly has decided to take this change in direction as an opportunity to explore new opportunities and will be leaving the charity on 3rd November with her last working day being the 2nd. We are very grateful to Tina for her hard work and dedication. We take this opportunity to wish her well in her new role, and I know that she will stay connected with many of you for many years to come.

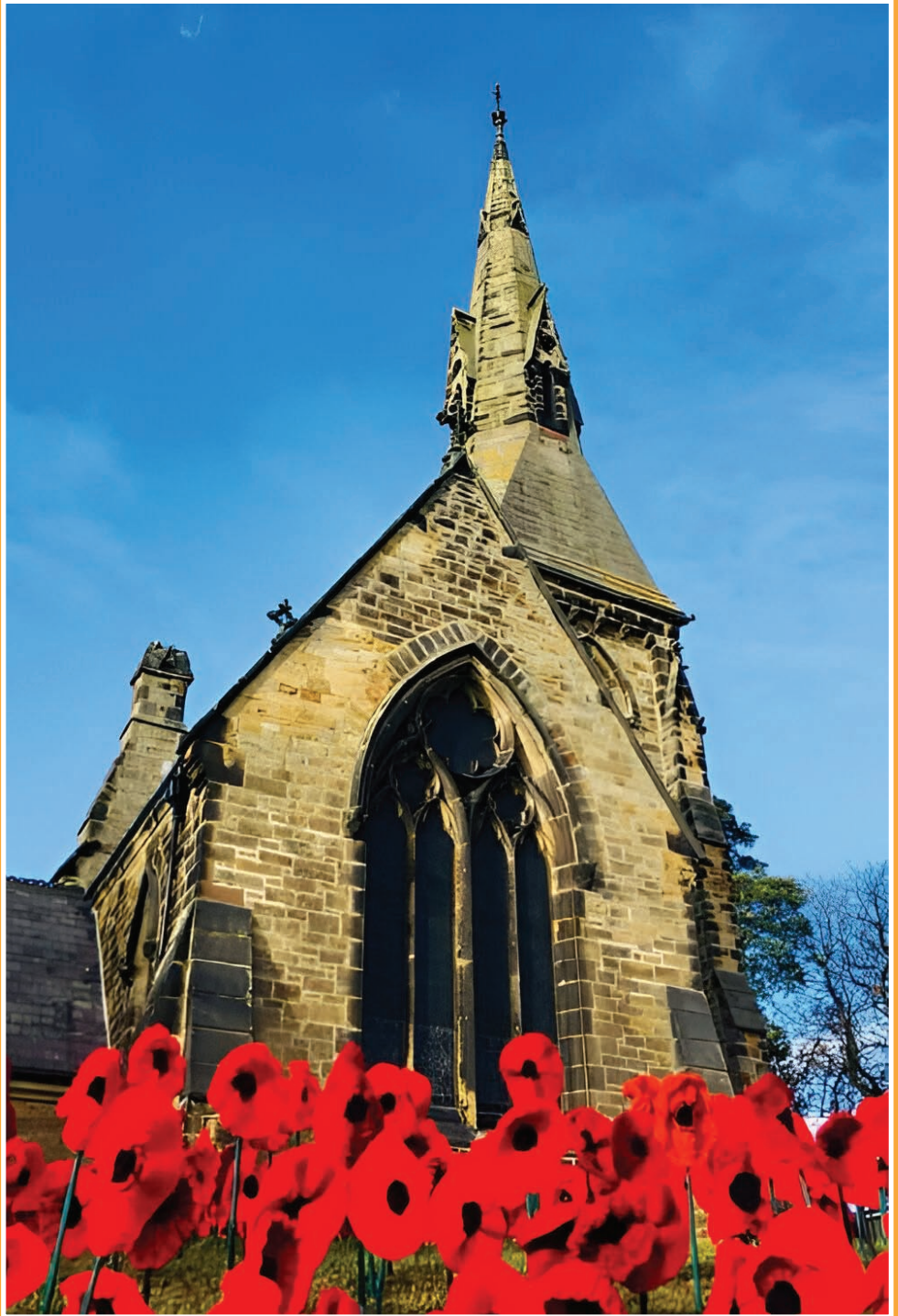
I hope that our plan to bring the charity back to its original home, placing it in the heart of its largest community of supporters whilst continuing to grow the work already carried out in Scotland, the Southeast of England and London, this is an important first step to ensuring a commitment to the charity's future sustainability and success.

My Board colleagues and I take this opportunity to thank you - our volunteers and donors for your incredible dedication and invaluable support of our wonderful little charity and look forward to seeing many of you at our Thanksgiving Service on Saturday 14th October at Christ Church, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough TS9 6AB. This will be a good opportunity to catch up and explore new ideas together.

With very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne-Marie Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Anne-Marie Martin
Chair, Children in Distress UK



ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

You are warmly invited to CiD's annual Thanksgiving service on Saturday 14th October 2023 commencing at 2:15 pm. This year the service will be held at Christ Church, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough. The service provides us the opportunity to give thanks for our supporters, staff, and volunteers who care for our Romanian children living in vulnerable circumstances. as well as those who raise the funds to provide this support. The Rev Paul Peverell, a CiD supporter and friend for many years, will lead the service. We will also hear from Anne-Marie Martin, Chair of the CiD UK Board, Simon Errington, CEO of CiD UK and Valentina Zaharia Smith, President of CiD Romania. There also will be a special video message from CiD's Royal Patron, HRH Princess Maria of Romania. A light buffet luncheon will follow the service.

The service and reception will be held at:

Christ Church
Tower House
10 Guisborough Road
Great Ayton
Middlesbrough
TS9 6AA

If you would like to attend in person, please contact the CiD UK office at admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk or telephone 0141 559 5690.

For those who cannot attend in person the service can be seen via live stream on the CiD UK Facebook page. Go to Facebook page "CID-Children in Distress" on October 14th at 2:15pm (UK time), and click on our live stream video: www.facebook.com/groups/78129449426.

We hope you can join us. Thank you for your continued support, volunteer assistance, and prayers.

35th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN 2024

SAVE THE DATES!



Celebrating Our Charity Heroes – Gala and Tour Romania, September 25 – 28/29 2024

Wednesday 25th September: Arrival in Bucharest.

Thursday 26th September: Visit Casa Maria, our Bucharest hospice followed by an Unsung Heroes Gala in the evening at Bragadiru Palace, Bucharest.

Friday 27th September: Travel to Zarnesti to see land purchased for Pine View Retreat Lodge with a lunch stop in Brasov.

Saturday 28th September: 35th anniversary celebration service at the Church of the Resurrection, Bucharest, followed by lunch. Departure will be late afternoon/evening.

Sunday 29th September: If there are people who wish to stay over to Sunday, a plan of activities can be provided or just explore Bucharest. Departure will be in late afternoon/evening.

More information to follow.

Celebration Gala in London

March 14th 2024 , The Orangery & Courtyard, 11 Cavendish Square, London

The event will include a drinks reception with hot and cold food, and a silent auction featuring lots of wonderful gifts. We will create a link to a website for the silent auction and will open that up in good time ahead of the event.

Full details coming soon!



Peter, to your new home!

Peter (Petru) is a cute little one year old who moved into Casa Maria in July. He is with us because of fetal alcoholism. When Peter arrived in the care of Casa Maria, he was very small for his age, however with the benefit of physiotherapy he is now beginning to gain weight, and is getting stronger every day.

We are very happy to have Peter in our family.



Larkin' About



SCOTLAND
PRESTIGE AWARDS
2023/24 WINNER

We are delighted to announce that Children in Distress has won the Scotland Prestige Award for Children's Support NPO. We're so proud of our supporters and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to all the children and families that we support - Thank you!!!

We would like to thank the children in Larkhall Academy Glasgow for inviting us in to deliver a talk to their youth philanthropy Initiative. The children Chose Children in Distress to be their charity of choice and put us forward to win a prize of £3,000 to put towards all the wonderful work that we do.

Whilst we didnt win the prize it was an absolute pleasure speaking with all the children, who behaved wonderfully and showed so much compassion and love for the work that we do.

They even designed a fun wordsearch!!



LARKHALL ACADEMY

Word

S E A R C H

Try and find the 14 words and names of our children in the word search below. Answers at the back.

Disabilty
Cristiana
Mihaela
Stefan

Charity
Cristina
Robert
Lustin

Home
Marius Daniel
Andrei
Donate

Romania
Elderly

S	I	E	N	S	E	M	R	A	O	E	A	S	R
O	O	B	S	A	N	I	T	S	I	R	C	R	A
I	N	D	T	I	I	H	D	O	N	A	T	E	A
R	E	E	E	M	T	A	I	R	E	R	L	N	T
O	A	I	F	H	S	E	B	M	E	T	I	S	A
B	C	N	A	N	U	L	L	L	I	M	E	U	S
E	T	R	N	I	L	A	R	O	M	A	N	I	A
R	M	A	R	I	U	S	D	A	N	I	E	L	A
T	S	A	Y	R	E	L	D	E	R	L	Y	T	A
H	T	L	T	D	I	S	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y
I	S	C	H	A	R	I	T	Y	S	L	I	N	H
D	N	T	O	A	E	A	T	A	L	Y	I	C	H
N	R	S	M	S	A	N	A	I	T	S	I	R	C
Y	D	I	E	D	R	E	A	N	D	R	E	I	E

School graduation



On June 6, Cristiana, Andrei and Ștefan, all resident at Casa Maria, were awarded diplomas by their in-house teacher, Dana Ifrim, for the school year 2022-2023.

Congratulations Cristiana, Andrei and Ștefan, and thank you Dana.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

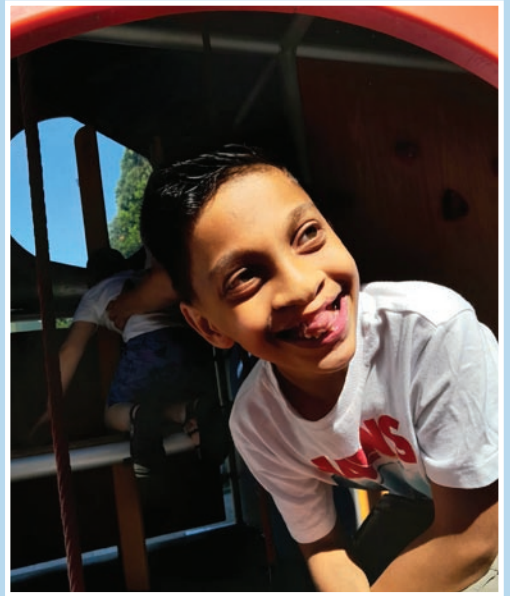
Emotions, smiles, hopes, and the making of new friends... September 11th was a big day yesterday for Stefan, Andrei, Daniel, and Cristina from Casa Maria as they prepared themselves for the new term.

A new beginning, and new opportunities.
We wish them well for the year ahead.





Andrei's Birthday



Andrei celebrated his ninth birthday this summer. Children in Distress has cared for Andrei since he was one-and-a-half years old. We continue to fund his mouth surgery, hoping to remedy his severe cleft palate. Mrs. Emilia, a special volunteer very loved by the Casa Maria children, celebrated her birthday on the same day. Being such a special day, Emilia took all of the mobile children out for an ice cream, followed by a happy McDonald's meal for everyone. Thank you Mrs Emilia, and happy birthday to you and Andrei.



Getting Ready for Christmas!

If you are searching for a gift that's a little special, take a look at our *Christmas Gifts from the Heart*. These gifts provide a child in Romania with the only toy they may receive this Christmas. These gifts also provide winter clothes for one of the adults we support, or let a family enjoy a festive meal. Find out more about these and our other Christmas Gifts overleaf. Please check out our **new** Christmas Card Bumper Pack too!

2024 Calendar



2024 is big year for Children in Distress as it will be our 35th anniversary so we have made our calendar a little special. Along with photographs of all the children we care for, it will also feature highlights of our work over three and half decades, including the many supporters and volunteers who helped make that work possible. The calendar is available in small and large sizes.

A5 (210 x 148 mm) – £5

A4 (297 x 210 mm) – £10

All orders must be received by 6th December please.

Christmas Gifts from the Heart

Children's Gifts



£7.50 – Children's Hygiene Pack



£10 – Children's Hat, Scarf & Gloves



£15 - Christmas Eve Pack



£5 – Educational Workbooks



£20 – Christmas Toys



£40 – Children's Winter Coat & Boots



£10 – Selection Boxes

Adult's Gifts



£10 – Men's Toiletry Pack



£12.50 – Women's Toiletry Pack



£60 – Adult Winter Coat & Boots

Family Gifts



£30 – Small Family Christmas Hamper



£40 – Medium Family Christmas Hamper



£50 – Large Family Christmas Hamper

Christmas Card Bumper Pack!

£4.50

Our Bumper pack contains ten wonderful designs of various styles for all tastes. Perfect for sending to friends, family or colleagues. The cards are 148 x 105 mm and printed on matt card. The message inside reads “Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year”. The pack also contains ten envelopes. Best of all 100% of all sales go to Children in Distress!



Christmas Order Form



Please enter below the item names you wish to order.

You can also order by phoning **0141 559 5690** or online by scanning the QR code or visiting our website: **www.childrenindistress.org/shop**

Item Name	Price (£)	Quantity	Total (£)
		Donation	
		Grand Total (£)	

Your details

Name

Address

Postcode Telephone

Email address

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

Payment

I enclose a cheque / postal order made payable to Children in Distress for £

I wish to pay by credit / debit card:

Card No.

Valid from date (mm/yy) / Expiry date (mm/yy) / CSV No.

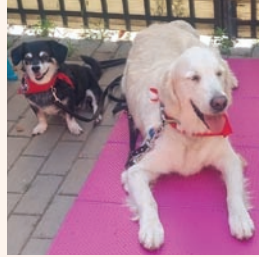
Signature Date

Please post to: Children in Distress, Suite 31 Ladywell Business Centre, 94 Duke Street, Glasgow G4 0UW

To reduce the cost to Children in Distress I do not require a receipt.

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

And they call it
puppy love...



This summer our furry friends Betti and Aliss from
Utility Dogs Club visited Casa Maria.

The children loved playing, feeding and caring for these
wonderful animals, they also got to take them on a walk
of the local neighbourhood!!

Watching our children grow and develop with the help of
these beautiful dogs, shows us the important role animal
therapy plays in their lives.



Summer fun at Casa Maria





DANUBEMAN



Earlier this year two of our amazing sports ambassadors completed the Danube Festival Triathlon, to help raise awareness and funds for Children in Distress. Sebastian Ghioca and Luca Manole, partnered with the Romanian triathlon Federation and Calarasi City Council, to create a wonderful sporting event which attracted participants from all over Europe!!



Not only that but our sports ambassadors decided to take up the challenge themselves and created their own team.

Sebastian was our cyclist, Adrian Presuceanu was our runner and Mihai Badea was our swimmer.

These four men showed their dedication for Children in Distress as well as displaying their love for sport and we could not be prouder.

Thank you all!!!



SUMMER AT ST CHRISTOPHER'S CURTEA DE ARGES

In July, St Christopher's Centre hosted student volunteers from Loughborough University in England for the second summer in a row. Their visit turned an ordinary summer day into a fantastic, fairy-tale day for the children of St. Christopher's. Significantly the students celebrated Bianca's birthday. After a rendition of "happy birthday" in Romanian and English and cake, the children and students planted a tree to commemorate Bianca's birthday. The first cut was made by Bianca, then everyone had their turn. Bianca had the honour of watering the tree.



SUMMER IN CID'S ARGES COMMUNITY PROJECTS



Children in Distress continues its great work in Arges County. With the aim of providing remedial education activities and art and crafts workshops to help the children resist their family pressure of dropping out of school to find work.

We host events at local schools, mostly focusing on giving the children a sense of empowerment.

In addition, our children are given a hot meal every day they come to the centre. We are proud of the following achievements:

- The children have improved their vocabulary, language and communication in Romanian;
- Developed their maths skills and analytical thinking;
- Their self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities has been strengthened.
- School attendance and performance have improved;
- Personal and classroom hygiene are given more attention;

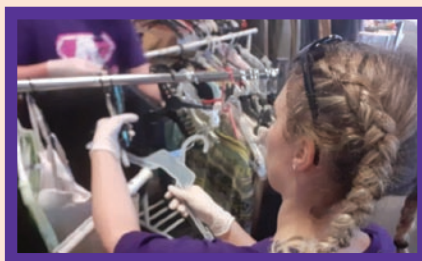
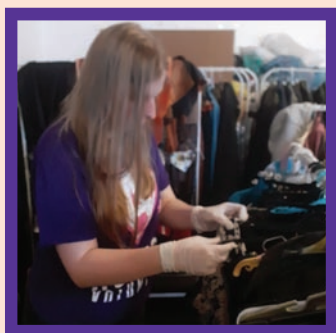
We are very happy that these young people have made such progress in the short year since the program was started.





Loughborough University

We had our second group of wonderful student volunteers from Loughborough University in England, come to Romania and volunteer with Children in Distress for 8 days!!



The volunteers began their journey at the Romexpo Ukrainian refugee centre in Bucharest. They spent 2 days sorting clothing donations to make it easier when distributing them to families in need. Throughout the process they showed so much compassion and engaged well with the people that they met and helped.

The students also worked with Rev Steven at the Ukrainian refugee day care centre, where they spent the morning preparing breakfast, playing games and attending a language class with all of the children, who were excited to meet some new friends!



In Arges County, the students Isaac, Bryony, Lauren, and Jordan met some of the students who are recipients of the Children in Distress' Janson-Roberts scholarship program.

Together they discussed the British and Romanian educational systems, and their dreams for the future.



The Arges young people really enjoyed meeting the English students and learning about education possibilities. In Curtea de Arges, the students met the Children from St Christopher's centre, where they planted a tree to honour Bianca's Birthday



The students were able to spend 2 days at Casa Maria, to see all the hard work that goes into providing care for our children. The students played games and danced with more mobile children, as well as learning how to interact with the children with less mobility. They would spend their time holding the children's hands, reading them stories and building strong positive lasting memories for all of our children.



Throughout their visit, the students learned many things about Romanian culture and religion. We were able to have some wonderful experiences together such as walks through the Old Town in Bucharest and visiting some of our iconic museums and churches.



The students were a pleasure to have and have been an inspiration to us all. Here is what they thought about their time with Children in Distress:

ISSAC

I had the most amazing time in Romania, volunteering for Children in Distress. We visited both Bucharest and Curtea de Arges - both beautiful in their own way. We met some of the most bubbly and enthusiastic children who made our trip incredibly special. It was lovely to see who and how this charity helps and experience firsthand the love and joy they spread to the children. We really were shown the cultural side of Romania through the food, the churches and religion and dancing! I'll always be very grateful I got to take part on this trip, and that I got to meet these wonderful children! Prior to leaving for Romania, I was not entirely sure what to expect from the trip and how I would cope volunteering overseas, as it's not something I've done before. However, once we arrived, I realised I had no reason to worry because our hosts were incredibly welcoming with warm and friendly faces, but this shouldn't come as a surprise considering they open their kind hearts to so many young people in

JORDAN

During my time in Romania, I had the opportunity to explore the full scope of activities and support the charity Children in Distress offers. From supporting Ukrainian refugees to get basic provisions and education to helping disabled children live a full and happy life in Bucharest, the incredible work that the charity does is invaluable. I was privileged to witness first-hand the wonderful community centres and scholarships in Arges, and for a short time, be a part of helping those from poor families achieve their goals and thrive. Children in Distress truly does try to help as many children as they can to the best of their abilities. The staff I had the pleasure of working with are clearly very passionate and welcoming to all who come to them in need of support. I thoroughly enjoyed such a culturally immersive experience, learning so much all while supporting the charity. It was truly an enlightening and lifechanging experience, one I would love to do again.

LAUREN

I have learnt many important lessons on this trip, it has definitely been life changing for me. It was a wonderfully unique experience to see first hand what the money we donate is doing - and the opportunity to be a part of the team making a direct impact. Those at Children in Distress have been incredible and made me feel so welcome during my time in Romania. We were a real team making a real impact. I enjoyed being shown the wide range of what the charity supports; we met some of the scholarship beneficiaries, met children who use the community centres, and even celebrated a birthday! We were also lucky enough to get involved in supporting the Ukrainian refugees at the summer school and the Romexpo centre. There is nothing more special than the connection you can have with a child whilst not being able to speak the same language. Kindness and compassion have no limits, no language. A particular highlight for me was to be meeting the children at Casa Maria. The house is full of smiles and joy and it is so lovely to see a team working to look out for these children who need extra support. The happy atmosphere almost makes you forget what those children have been through. I will be eternally grateful for this experience and I look forward to seeing CID continue to do incredible work and supporting that in any way I can.

BRYONY

Over the course of our trip, we had the pleasure of seeing the range of projects that Children In Distress offers and thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck in ourselves. From helping out Ukrainian refugees, to playing with the kids at Casa Maria, and getting to know the children who access their scholarship funding for education - it was incredible to see that volunteering is a universal language for kindness and that generosity knows no bounds in the face of adversity. Although it was saddening to think of the situations and reasons as to why we were volunteering, it was difficult to feel sad about it around the children, especially at Casa Maria where they had the biggest smiles whilst we danced and played. It was so heartwarming to see how loved the children are and how much they love despite their heartbreaking back grounds. There are not enough thank you-s in the world to express my gratitude to Children in Distress for taking care of us during the entirety of our trip, and giving us the opportunity to volunteer with hem. It was an incredible experience and we have made memories to last a lifetime. I hope to volunteer with them again in the future.



June 1st was International Children's Day. We celebrated the day with our Casa Maria children. Joining us were volunteers from Grijă de aripi (Wing Care), and student volunteers from the medical faculty at the University of Bucharest. The CiD team and the volunteers put up balloons, garlands, flags, and hats around the Casa Maria yard to celebrate. The children enjoyed pizza, juices, cherries, strawberries, and the highlight, cream cake. The children also received toys from the Grijă de aripi volunteers and BNI Voice, a business association, for whose support we are grateful.





Our social media pages are always up to date with the latest photos and information about Children in Distress.

So... dont forget to "like" and join our pages at:

Facebook

www.facebook.com/childrenindistressUK
www.facebook.com/groups/78129449426

Twitter

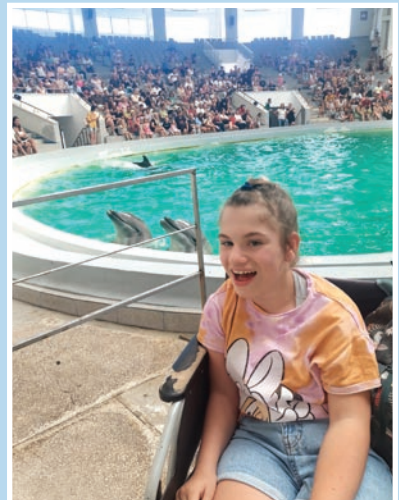
www.twitter.com/ChildrenID

Instagram

www.instagram.com/childrenindistress/

Word Search Answers!

E	A	N	D	R	E	E	D	R	E	E	D	I	E
C	A	N	A	I	T	S	I	R	C	S	M	S	N
H	A	E	A	T	A	L	Y	I	C	H	O	N	T
H	A	R	I	T	Y	S	L	I	N	H	C	H	I
Y	S	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y	H	T	L	T	H
A	E	L	D	E	R	L	Y	T	T	S	A	Y	R
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A	R	O	M	A	N	I	A	A	L	I	N	I	N
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A	B	M	E	T	I	S	A	E	S	H	F	S	O
T	A	I	R	E	R	L	N	T	A	I	R	E	M
A	D	O	N	A	T	E	A	H	I	L	I	T	I
A	C	R	C	I	T	S	I	R	A	N	S	A	N
S	R	A	O	E	A	S	R	M	S	E	N	S	E



In 2024, Children in Distress proudly celebrates its



To raise funds for our wonderful children and current/future projects, we are seeking donations from business leaders and individuals to add to our silent auction catalogue.

We are looking for items such as:

Products

Experiences

Gift Vouchers

For more information, please contact Hanna-Liisa, our Partnership Co-ordinator, who is happy to answer any questions you may have:

hanna-liisa@childrenindistress.org.uk

Thank you!

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 **0141 559 5690**.

Donate £ **monthly**



Sponsor our children £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. See www.childrenindistress.org/newsletter for details.

To make my donation go further I don't need a receipt. Send me information about sponsoring children.

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.

giftaid it



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www.childrenindistress.org

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