

# VISION



Easter 2023



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



# Welcome!

A few words from Valentina Zaharia Smith  
President of Children in Distress Romania



Dear Friends,

As you will see, this issue of Vision has a mixture of seasons featured with both winter and spring. It is no surprise with the warmer weather now here in Bucharest, that the children of Casa Maria were eager to get out and explore. It was wonderful to experience with them their first spring in their new home and to see their excitement as the Casa Maria yard came to life with flowers.

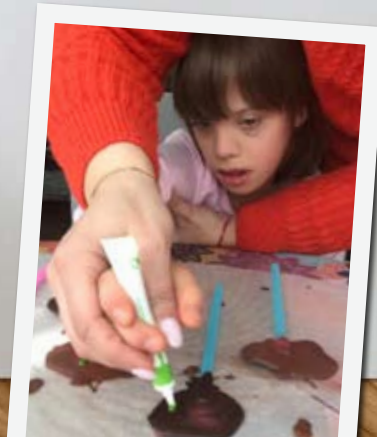
Though Christmas has long passed, I must report on the incredible response to our Shoebox Appeal in 2022. Every year we are astounded by the kindness of the 100s of people who take the time to fill their shoebox with care and love, and by the volunteers who collect and help send them on their way to Romania. You will see in the following pages what words cannot fully express, the joy in the eyes of the children, families and older people as they receive their special gifts.

CiD's children enjoyed the Christmas season, even without any snow. There were decorations to make and holiday parties to prepare. The children excitedly jumped into the Christmas spirit. Not so patiently, the children waited for St Nicholas and Father Christmas. You will see in this edition that St Nicholas and Father Christmas did not disappoint! It was a happy and full Christmas season for the children.

As I reflect on the past year, I am so grateful for the support you – volunteers, supporters, and sponsors – gave to Children in Distress. The year presented serious financial challenges, including the costs associated with our move to Casa Maria, our new family-type care service in Bucharest. I thank you all for the moral, financial, and hands-on support you gave us. I pray that in 2023 we can continue together to serve our children so that they will have a promising and bright today and tomorrow.

With gratitude,

Valentina Zaharia Smith



Cover, Cristina and Marius spread the love, and right Cristiana has a sweet time making lollies!



Valentina Zaharia Smith, second left, with the Archbishop; essential aid for Ukraine's refugees.

## Archbishop of Canterbury Meets CiD Leaders

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, visited Bucharest in March to explore ways the Church of England and Anglican Communion could create church responses to the needs arising from war in Ukraine.

The Archbishop met with Patriarch Daniel, head of the Romanian Orthodox Church, and lunched with Crown Princess Margareta and Prince Radu of the Royal House of Romania.

Archbishop Welby also visited the Ukrainian refugee centre at Romexpo, the largest Ukrainian refugee centre in Romania, which Children in Distress has supported with food, children's items, and our Christmas shoeboxes.

Archbishop Welby was shown the pallets of food and children's items donated by CiD, and admired the stand

with knitted sweaters, hats, and blankets donated by CiD. Thank you to all the supporters of CiD who for years have knitted and donated clothes and blankets for vulnerable children in Romania.

While in Bucharest, the Archbishop preached at an Evensong service at the parish Church of the Resurrection, and then joined the Church Council and clergy for dinner at the Residence of Ambassador Noble. Valentina Zaharia Smith, CiD Romania's President, and CiD's Mission Ambassador, the Rev. Steven Smith, sat with the Archbishop and talked about the many aspects of CiD's work with children.

Archbishop Welby also travelled to Kyiv to show spiritual and moral support for the Ukrainian people.



St Mary's Maternal Centre for Young Mothers and Children, Bucharest.

# Shoebox Appeal

Though Christmas is past, for all who received one of the 7,000 shoeboxes donated, the generosity of our supporters continues in the gifts contained within. Overleaf the faces of children, older people and families, show the power of your kindness. One mother told us: "I want to tell you how much this means to us."

Father Christmas, known in Romania as "Mos Craciun" (Old Man Christmas) visited many places in Bucharest and surrounding areas in the weeks leading up to Christmas. He delivered Christmas paper-wrapped shoeboxes stuffed full with gifts donated by you, our supporters. These were delivered to children, young adults, and older people.

In addition to this, your generosity allowed Children in Distress to provide bags of food to 100 children of St Christopher's House in Arges County and their families for Christmas dinner.

Father Christmas was assisted in these deliveries by his tireless elves (Valentina Zaharia-Smith, CiD RO President, and Lorena Torpoc, psychologist).

By far, the most frequently asked question of Mos Craciun by children was "...but Mos, where are your reindeer?" To which Mos replied, "they are resting so they can carry me all over the world to deliver gifts. It is a big job, and they need to eat a lot hay to get strong and to rest up."

In addition to the personal visits from Mos Craciun, we distributed shoebox gifts through Romanian Orthodox churches in the cities of Slobazia, Ialomita, Calarasi, and Ilfov County.

The deliveries were a joyous time for everyone involved. We thank you for your support in bringing some Christmas cheer and joy to those who otherwise might not have had such a happy Christmas.



Photos taken at: All Saints' Senior Care Home, Bucharest; St Sophia's Children's Centre, Bucharest; St Stelian's Children's Centre, Urlati; Residential Centre for Children with Disabilities, Bucharest; St Mary's Maternal Centre for Young Mothers and Children, Bucharest; Marie Curie Children's Hospital, Bucharest; Ukrainian Evacuee Centre at Romexpo Hall, Bucharest; Britonian Church Missionary Centre, Bucharest; and, CiD's St Christopher's House Community Centre, Arges.



# Christmas at Casa Maria

Just like the rest of us, Casa Maria's children were very busy in the run up to Christmas!

Volunteers from the Bucharest University Faculty of Medicine taught the children how to make Christmas coasters from napkins. Staff at Casa Maria then helped the children cut out huge snowflakes to decorate the dining room.

Volunteer Emilia gave a workshop for making Christmas ornaments and painting Christmas figurines, not only with the children of Casa Maria but also children from the neighbourhood.

The children decorated their Christmas tree, made a gingerbread house for Father Christmas, and wrote their gifts wish lists to Father Christmas.

## Waiting for St. Nicholas

In many European countries, including Romania, St Nicholas visits homes with children during the night of December 5th, in preparation for St Nicholas day on December 6th. When good children awake on the 6th, they find that the boots they left out the night before are filled with all sorts of goodies. But naughty children just find a wood stick in their boots!

The children of Casa Maria were especially good this year. They polished their boots with great care and excitement. The next morning, all of their boots were full of sweets and fruits, and next to them games and clothes donated by CiD's good friends at Next Romania clothing. The children found that St Nicholas had left

one boot with only a wood stick inside, to remind them to be good children in the coming year.

## The Magic of the Christmas Market

After two years of pandemic restrictions, everyone was delighted to see the Christmas Market return to the Bucharest city centre.

CiD staff took Casa Maria's mobile and wheelchair children to the market to help them all get in the Christmas spirit. The children loved the fairy tale atmosphere. There were beautiful decorations, a colourful carousel, and Santa's house.

The children ate buns and lollipops and ended the visit with a snowball fight.

## Father Christmas

The Christmas activities culminated when a surprise special visitor arrived.

On Christmas Eve, the children were in their pyjamas, watching TV in the sitting room by the electric fireplace. Suddenly there was a knock at the door, and in came a tall man with a big white beard and a red coat, carrying a big bag... Yes, it was Father Christmas!

He brought many gifts, and handed them out individually to each child. Father Christmas explained he had many helpers to make the gifts possible and then went upstairs to give gifts to the children who cannot be physically active.

But the children had one question – how did their letters get to him so quickly?!



A visit from Santa at Casa Maria: Mihaela (top) and Stefan (bottom) receive some gifts from UK sponsors.



The 'elves' craftmaking and shopping, and a grateful family with their unexpected Christmas gifts.

## Santa's Little Elves Hard at Work in Arges County

In late 2022, CiD launched a program of workshops for children in the disadvantaged area of Corbeni, in Arges County.

The Bucharest CiD team had met the mayor of Corbeni when a group of students from Loughborough University in the UK came to work with CiD for a week, including a day spent with Corbeni high school students.

The mayor spoke with the CiD team about possible projects to help children in the area feel valued, learn useful things, and socialize.

As Christmas approached, CiD established "Santa's Workshop" with the children designated Santa's little elves. Over the weeks, the children learned how to make Christmas decorations. Day by day, the laughter got louder, excitement increased, and friendships made.

The elves were very proud of their

work and their handmade crafts were sold at a Christmas market to fund food packages for needy families in the area. The market was a great success, raising over £300!

The little elves made a list of basic foods a family needs, and were taken to a store to buy the goods. There, the CiD team gave the children help to learn how to choose products and to look for a bargain.

The children made the Christmas packages with the food bought. Once it came time to deliver the packages, they were surprised to learn that not only would other families receive them, but their own families would too. And so, many needy families, were made happier on Christmas day!

CiD very much looks forward to workshops in the spring with the children of Corbeni.

# Christmas Fundraisers

Many people and organisations helped raise funds for CiD. Thank you to them all for their wonderful support!

## Online Christmas Carols

CiD carried on its tradition of online Christmas songs to raise funds. A well-known band in Brasov, Za Bend, donated a Christmas song. Two classical singers also contributed to the effort. The internationally-known soprano Irina Baian donated the Christmas song "Home", and promoted the campaign at events and in the media. Singer Marta Sandu Ofrim, soprano at the Bucharest National Opera, donated a Christmas carol and encouraged listeners to donate to CiD.

Heartfelt thanks to all who took part and who donated.

## Fundraising for Casa Maria

Students of the Beirut International School came to meet the children of Casa Maria. The students had organized a fair at their school, offering traditional products for sale, to raise money. On their visit, the students played with the Casa Maria children and presented the money they had raised from the fair.

Two other groups of young people used their talents to collect donations. The young pianists and soloists of the Amadeus Academy music school performed a recital for parents and teachers to raise funds. The New Dance Club, participants in the "Romanians Have Talent" TV show, raised funds by giving a dance show to the public.

## Galantom Santa Claus Campaign

For the third year, the Santa Galantom online campaign raised funds for physical therapy sessions for the children of Casa Maria. The Campaign encouraged people to make a gift to family and friends of a physical therapy session in lieu of a present.

## Christmas Fair

Students of the University of Bucharest's Faculty of Medicine volunteered at Casa Maria. The relationship between the students and CiD over the past four years has become strong. Again, the students participated in the Faculty's Christmas Fair, and donated the money raised to CiD.

## Bandu Uganda

Bandu Uganda is a ministry supported by St Boniface Episcopal/Anglican Church in Augsburg, Germany. Bandu Uganda works with Ugandan women to teach sewing with a machine and improved farming techniques, and provides seeds for farm planting and funds to purchase piglets which once raised are sold.

Bandu Uganda held a Christmas market at St. Boniface, and donated half of the income raised to HiKHeR (Help for Children and Young Adults in Need in Romania), CiD's partner non-profit in Germany.

# Unsung Heroes

Our Shoebox Appeal depends on the support of the companies and volunteers who helped transport the boxes.

In 2022 we sadly lost one of CiD's heroes, our dear friend Graham Sloan. Graham worked for Amey PLC, and would help us every year with our shoebox collections in Glasgow and on our long journey to deliver them to Northallerton for their final destination to vulnerable families in Romania.

However, we connected with old friends, and made new ones who helped support us with our journey.

We were joined by Ross and Lewis Sloan, Graham's sons, who decided they were going to step up and help fulfil their father's legacy and complete the delivery their father would have done.

Amey PLC, our long-time supporter, helped again by donating a large van and fuel, and another Amey employee, Stuart Henderson, stepped in to complete the journey in Graham's memory.

Ross' employer at DMI likewise

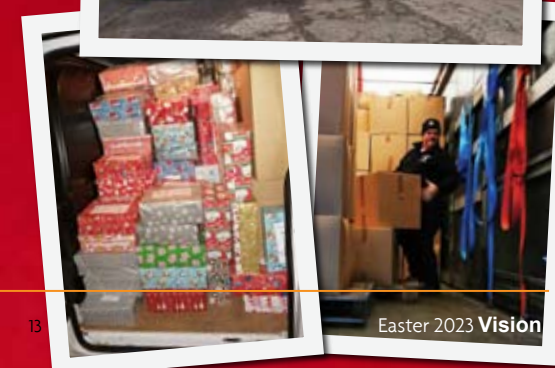
provided a company van and diesel for the journey, all free of charge.

With such a wonderful response to our Shoebox Appeal, we had an enormous number of shoeboxes and were very grateful for both vans.

Thanks to these three wonderful new supporters, we can safely say that although 2022 had many bumps in the road for us, we managed to end the year with joy knowing that we were able to help so many children and families in Romania have a wonderful Christmas.

We would like to once again extend our thanks to Amey PLC and our new friends DMI.

Below, shoeboxes leaving for Romania.





Centre: Valentina Zaharia Smith,  
Rev. Steven Smith and Dr Walter Baer.



## Triathlon Fundraiser in May

Sebastian Ghioca and Luca Manole, two of CiD's sports ambassadors, have created the Danube Festival Triathlon, to raise funds for CiD and raise awareness of the vulnerable children aided by CiD. Partners in the triathlon are the Romanian Triathlon Federation, the Calarasi County Council and the City of Calarasi.

The event will be held May 27. Runners, swimmers, and bikers around Europe have been invited to register for the competition. The cycling portion of the event is through Romania's Baraganu plain, the swimming is in the Danube Canal, and the running portion is through the City of Calarasi and its environs.

CiD is grateful for the vision and work of Sebi and Luca in establishing the Danube Festival Triathlon. If you would like to support a team, in any amount you wish, please contact CiD's Bucharest office, [bucuresti@cid.org.ro](mailto:bucuresti@cid.org.ro)

# News from Ukraine

In mid-January, the Venerable Dr Walter Baer, Archdeacon of the Episcopal Churches in Europe, visited Romania to see CiD's work, and in particular to explore ways the Episcopal Church might help Ukrainian evacuees in Romania.

Archdeacon Baer was shown several locations by CiD RO's President, Valentina Zaharia Smith, along with the Rev. Steven Smith, CiD's Mission Ambassador.

In Bucharest, Archdeacon Baer visited Casa Maria and St Margaret's House, meeting with the children and staff. He also toured Romexpo, the largest Ukrainian evacuee centre in Romania, which CiD has supported with significant donations of food and other supplies since the beginning of the war, along with

volunteer help.

Archdeacon Baer also visited two kindergartens for Ukrainian children, and a feeding program for refugees. Archdeacon Baer, Ms Smith, and Rev Smith also met with Cosmina Simean, Bucharest's Director General of Social Services, who is responsible for refugee care in Bucharest.

They also visited the Romania/Ukraine border, which is divided by the Danube River. On the Romanian side, they met the director of the refugee camp and then crossed over into Ukraine where they met workers of an NGO which focuses on relief to children.

They were taken by car into Ukraine to see a food distribution centre and the

miles and miles of lorries with Ukrainian exports waiting for the ferry to cross over into Romania. The group was told that many Ukrainian ports have been blocked by the Russians, so this is an alternative route to bring exports out of Ukraine.

It was a long day, but the trio returned with a firm commitment to explore ways to assist Ukrainian evacuees.

During Archdeacon Baer's visit, the City of Bucharest awarded a certificate of appreciation to President Valentina Zaharia Smith for CiD's work with Ukrainian evacuees. Cosmina Simean, Bucharest's Director General of Social Services, presented the certificate, signed by her and Bucharest's Vice-Mayor.





With four-month old Tania in 2015 and opposite with Andrei in 2017.

# The Joys of Sponsorship



Child sponsorship is a wonderful way to support us. Not only does it have lasting impact on our work, it also does on sponsors. We asked Bonny, who has supported us for decades, to talk about her experiences.

For me, sponsoring children is a great privilege. It allows me to be part of a life that I wouldn't have been a part of, to receive as much or more than I give.

As a Christian, and single, I had always worked with disabled children and came to see sponsorship as a way of supporting disabled and sick children in places where the care was not – at that time – as good as in the UK. So in 1974, I began to sponsor children with a variety of organisations.

I began sponsoring Bogdan with Children in Distress in 2011 in memory of my sister who died suddenly, and have continued with many children for different lengths of time. The plus with Children in Distress was that I could visit the children easily with the tours that were arranged.

As the years go by, it is a privilege to see the children grow, often living beyond original expectations.

Meeting the children made them “come to life”. Being able to actually hold

a hand or stroke a head is a very special moment.

With Andrei, I was so excited when he cried at the sound of my voice and stopped as soon as he heard one of the carers speak. To me it showed he was aware of what was going on around him.

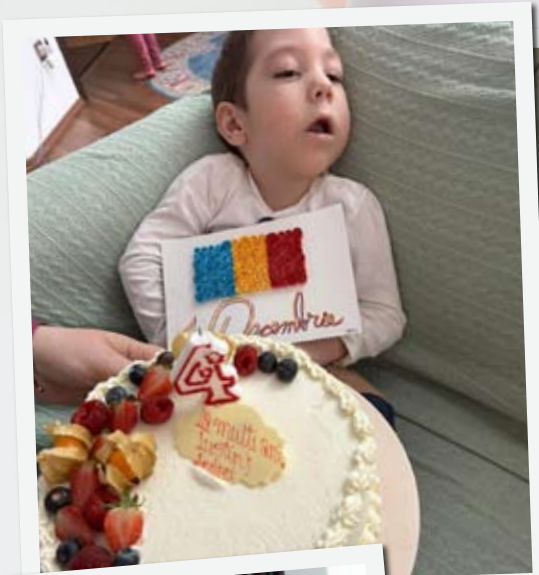
To anyone considering sponsoring with Children in Distress, I would say: “go for it!” In fact, I often do, to folk that I speak to about “my children”.

It can be a painful experience, when your child dies or moves to another centre, but that is far outweighed by the sheer joy of knowing you have been part of a young life.

If you would like to find out more about sponsoring a child with us, please get in touch: phone 0141 559 5690 or email: [admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk](mailto:admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk)

You can also write to: Children in Distress, 94 Duke St, Suite 31 Ladywell Business Centre, Glasgow G4 0UW.

# Birthday Celebrations!



Over the past few months, Casa Maria's staff shared in the excitement and fun as some of our children celebrated their birthdays.

Iustin turned four, Daniel six and Cristiana nine.

Surrounded by the whole Casa Maria family, the three children enjoyed their special day with cake, games and – most important of all – presents!

## Putting the FUN in Fundraising!

**Wanting to fundraise but don't know where to start? Too many ideas and not sure which one will suit you best? Feeling overwhelmed?**

Well don't worry! Children in Distress have created a new fundraising pack to help answer all of your questions.

Inside you will find information on various fundraising ideas, how you can plan, what things you have to think about before your event and much more!

Our amazing fundraising pack can be easily downloaded at:

[www.childrenindistress.org/fundraising](http://www.childrenindistress.org/fundraising)

Alternatively, you can contact our office and one of our team will be able to send you a copy in the post.

Just remember you are not in this alone. The staff at Children in Distress can help you plan your event, create posters and advertisements, send you information to be distributed as well as create sponsor forms for your event, all you have to do is ask.

And remember, Fundraising is supposed to be Fun!!!



Tina Connelly, our Operations Manager, at the cheque presentation.

## Cheque This!

Thanks to a nomination by Bob Burgan, Diocesan Treasurer, for nominating Children in Distress for Bishop Kevin's annual Lent Appeal for 2022.

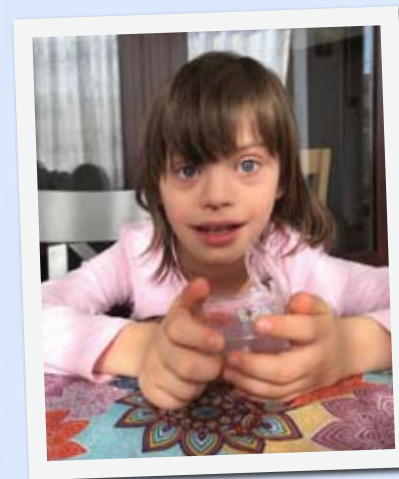
Bob Burgan and his wife have been supporters of CiD for around 30 years. They first became aware of the charity from friends just before visiting Corfu on holiday.

It was while there they decided on a daytrip to Albania where CiD were building a specialist children's hospital at the time. They returned home determined to raise funds towards the project.

We were extremely honoured to be chosen as Bishop Kevin's charity for his annual Lent appeal for 2022 and very grateful that the appeal was extended due to the ongoing situation in Ukraine.

We extend our gratitude to everyone in the congregations, Just Giving donors and supporters of the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway for their tremendous donations which all came to an incredible £11,609!

# Springing Into Action!



Spring finally arrived bringing her fragrant blossoms and warm rays of light surrounding Casa Maria's courtyard. The snowdrops were the first to make their presence felt and surprised the little ones with their beautiful white and tender flowers.

As soon as they were spotted the young ones immediately started asking full of curiosity: What flowers are these? Why did they suddenly spring in our yard? Why are they so small? Who planted them here? Each question was duly answered and the children continued to admire each snowdrop that made its shy appearance.

The first day of spring was welcomed with all the gratitude our bravest young souls could best demonstrate. Thus, the day started in the early morning hours with the little ones welcoming every mother who stepped over the threshold of our little house by saying: "may you

have a wonderful spring!" and was followed by a sincere and affectionate embrace, the children's personal way of showing their appreciation.

During the day, with the help of Lorena, our fellow psychologist, they handcrafted traditional *martisoare* to the best of their abilities, which were then offered to all the mothers in our home. They were so excited to see that their mothers wore the on their left lapels, as it is accustomed, thus appreciating the children's gift and efforts.

Our young children always manage to surprise us with the unique way they show their feelings, with their generosity and sincere affection they already know how to convey to each of us every day.

We would like to wish you all a colourful and happy spring, filled with lots of fragrant bouquets of flowers and sunny days!

## Love is in the air

Love is present in our lives in various contexts and it makes its presence felt in infinite ways, but in our case, as the carers

Left. Cristina, Marius and Iustin craftmaking; above left Cristiana shows her handiwork, and right, celebrating a birthday.



Showing their love for your support.

of the children from Casa Maria, we can clearly state that we are among the few lucky ones who can enjoy love's presence with every breath we take.

The children reward us everyday with their unbiased love proving that to stand by their side is what matters the most. Since the moment we arrive each morning, they make us feel welcome with their exuberance, they call us by our names, they offer warm hugs and tell us how much they love us and, most of the time, they just want to feel us near them, to have us around when they play together or to feel our gentle hands caressing their foreheads. Each and every one of them has their own unique way of expressing love. A smile, a serene gaze, a hand that reaches for ours or the simple gesture of putting their warm cheeks on our arms when we pick them up are the purest manifestations of love, we bask in every day with our entire being.

The children from Casa Maria know how to show their love by taking care of each other, consoling the one in need or who isn't having a great day and needs a warm hug or a gentle touch, asking their caretakers about the ones who, for various reasons, are forced to spend time in the hospital or enjoying the time spent with their chums and celebrating each progress and milestone reached.

Because they are big-hearted and already know how to share with others what they have, our children drew pictures of, to the best of their abilities, hearts full of love and gratitude and decided to send them to you as a gift or their way of thanking you for always being by their side.

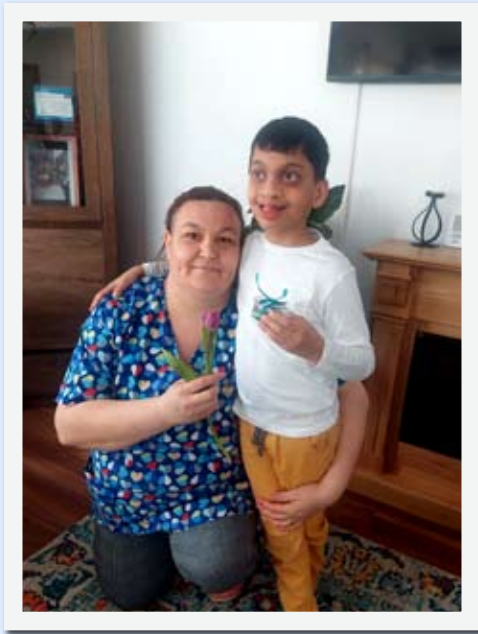
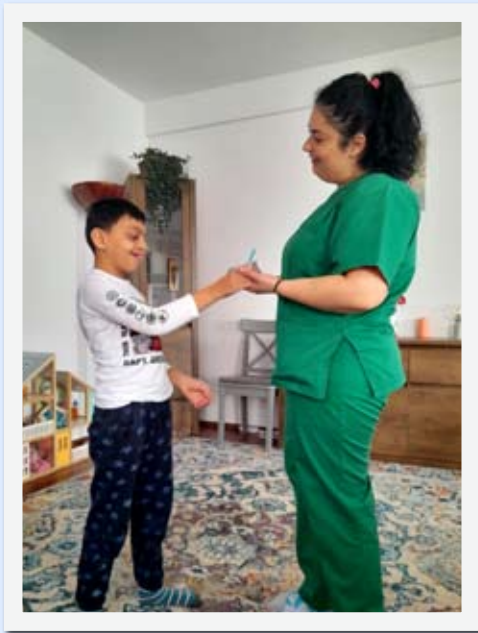
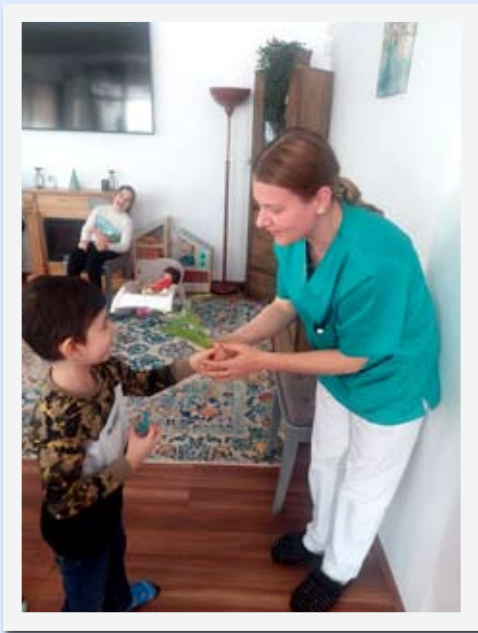
## **International Women's Day**

Every year we prepare for the 8th of March as a special celebration of our feelings for the mothers who patiently and kindly take care of the children from Casa Maria every day.

Bright and early in the morning, the children's chirpy and clear voices started filling our cosy home's sleepy atmosphere and echoes of their happy wishes could be heard around the hallways while they wished their "happy birthdays" to the mothers who arrived and prepared for a new day at the house. The avalanche of hugs brightened our ladies' day, made them smile and realise how important it is to work with such a special gang who know that a small gesture can always make a big difference.

Under Lorena's considerate guidance, the children prepared a sweet and colourful gift for each mother and also for each child. They carefully chose the ornaments which decorated their gift boxes and filled them with the delicious candies. After each box was prepared, they went to offer them to their mothers and friends. Their gesture was accompanied by their well wishes and the boxes were next opened and all the candies were tasted and appreciated by their recipients.

Through their innocent gestures, the children from Casa Maria manage to assure all the mothers, grandmothers, ladies and young ladies who take care of them that they are doing a wonderful job that must continue and that behind each gift there is the hope that the future will bring lots of happiness and tranquillity for everyone involved.



Casa Maria's 'mothers' receive their gifts.

# Let Your Kindness Live On

Your will is not only a way to ensure your family is looked after, but that the causes you care about continue to make a difference to people's lives.

Leaving a legacy to a charity can be one of the most meaningful ways to make a positive impact on the world. By leaving a legacy to Children in Distress, you help ensure the sick and disabled children in our care receive the support and love they deserve.

In a world where it can be very difficult predicting the level of financial support available from year to year, leaving a legacy can make a real difference. You can help provide long-term stability and support, allowing us to continue providing critical services to children in need. Any gift you choose to leave, large or small, will help support our work for years to come.

Your legacy can also inspire others, serving as an example to family and friends. It's a positive cycle that can create lasting change.

Leaving a legacy can also bring a sense of peace and fulfillment to your life. Knowing that you've made a difference and helped improve the lives of children. It's an opportunity to leave behind a positive mark on the world, and to be remembered for your generosity and kindness.

To find out more, please get in touch with us by sending an email to: [admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk](mailto:admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk) or write to:

Children in Distress  
Suite 30 Ladywell Business Centre  
94 Duke Street  
Glasgow G4 0UW





Above, with Hannah Hanratty, Mayor of Shildon.

# It isn't everyday you Meet a Princess!

March got off to an exciting start for the staff and volunteers of our shops in Guisborough, Shildon and Kirkbymoorside with a visit from our Patron, HRH Princess Maria of Romania.

Princess Maria toured the shops to meet and thank our supporters in the local communities.

Dorothy, a volunteer in the Kirkbymoorside shop, said of Princess Maria, "She was very friendly and spoke to as many of the visitors and volunteers as she could, thanking everyone for their support and good work. It was a lovely day for everyone concerned."

Tracy England, manager of our Guisborough shop, admitted to a little nervousness beforehand but the moment Princess Maria arrived it all disappeared.

Tracy and her team of volunteers who work in the shop were proud to meet her and chat to her. Princess Maria spent time chatting to them and asked about their work for the charity and thanked them

all for all they do. She also met some shoppers with the children especially loving to meet her. One little girl was very shy but the Princess soon had her smiling and giggling.

All were joined by other supporters of the charity who help with our shoebox appeal, Rev Paul Peverel and Paul Wetheral and his wife Della. Princess Maria also met Roy Wheeler who has supported the charity for 30 years. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with positivity and fun that no one will forget.



The Northern Echo © Newsquest Media Group Ltd

In addition to the royal guest, the three shops also welcomed their local mayors: Hannah Hanratty at Shildon; Jill Wells at Kirkbymoorside; and, Stuart Smith at Guisborough.

The three shops are big parts of their local communities and with the cost of living crisis are now an essential way for many people to save money on their shopping.

Anne-Marie Martin, co-chair of Children in Distress, said: "Our shops are a vital part of our fundraising, and our supporters and volunteers are the bedrock of the charity. This visit shows just how important they are to us."



Left: Making the news in the Northern Echo! Above, with Jill Wells (second right), Mayor of Kirkbymoorside.



Princess Maria addressing guests, and above with Nelly Miriciou

## Fundraising Gala

Last month we held a gala at the Romanian Cultural Institute under the auspices of the Romanian Embassy. Many members of the Romanian diaspora in London gathered to learn more about CiD.

The assembled guests heard from Laura Popescu, Romanian ambassador to the Court of St James, HRH Princess Maria of the Royal House of Romania, Valentina Zaharia Smith, CiD Romania's President, and Anne-Marie Martin, CiD's co-chair. Romanian opera star Nelly Miriciou sang while the attendees watched a video created by the CiD RO team.

The event was a big success and raised the awareness of CiD among those who did not know about our work.

Food was donated by Corneliu Ghetea, owner of Cornelius restaurant in London. Wine was donated by Marius Iliev, and other drinks by Alina Balatchu of Aqua Carpatica. We appreciate their generosity.

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

Account Holder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of Bank \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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

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