

# VISION

Summer2022

Să visăm  
împreună!

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

Children  
in Distress



## From the CEO Romania Valentina Zaharia Smith

Over the past three years, Children In Distress has faced significant financial and operational challenges because of the COVID pandemic, declining financial support, the energy crisis and the Russian war on our border neighbour Ukraine. These challenges have resulted in several significant changes at CID.

One of the most important changes is the decision of long-serving Board of Trustees members to resign, and the election of new Trustees. Another change is the result of the Romanian government's strategy, in compliance with European Union requirements, to reduce the number of children cared for in a residential system such as St Margaret's Hospice and place them in sheltered housing or family-type care facilities. This will require the closure of St Margaret's Hospice and the opening of the smaller Casa Maria Hospice. There is more information about these developments in following articles.

We continue to serve the forgotten children of Romania, and since early March, Ukrainian children. In addition, with our new Trustees, we envision an exciting new venture – to build a retreat centre in the Carpathian Alps for children with mental and physical challenges and their families and caregivers, a place where the children will have activities, parents and carers a bit of rest, as well as educational programs for them on raising a child with physical and/or neurological challenges.

So, we have been busy in the last months. We give thanks to our resigning Board members, whose resignations became official at CID's AGM June 1. These Board members collectively have served many, many years, some since the very foundational work of CID in 1989. Words cannot express CID's gratitude for these tireless, long-serving, generous, thoughtful, and faithful stewards. We thank Dr Harry Ward, chair, John Burns, Dr Robin Dunn, Rev Canon Chris Samuels, Sir Neil Thorne, and Ian Wiseman. Thank you to you all!

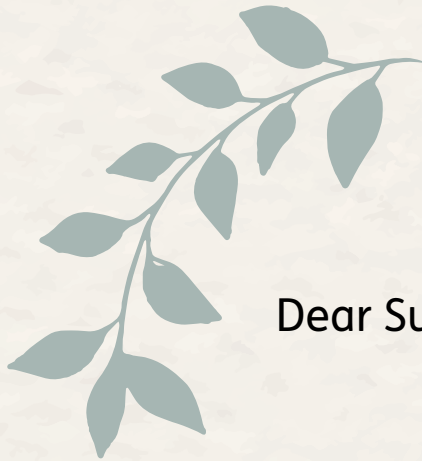
Rev June Hurn remains on the Board. Rev June has been with CID since its founding over 30 years ago. To join Rev June, we welcome as newly-elected Trustees, Anne-Marie Martin, Simon Errington, Ian Catley, Diana Comsa, and Maria Cristina Mitu. All have long-time connections to CID and its fundraising efforts. CID is grateful for their willingness to serve. You can read more about the new Trustees in this Vision.

It has been a difficult past few years, yet we are seeing a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. With the wisdom and sound leadership of the most recent Board, and the ideas and inspiration of the new Trustees, I know that Children In Distress has a bright future in continuing our over 30 years of care for the most vulnerable children and youth in Romania.

**Valentina Zaharia Smith**  
CEO Romania



# A Letter from the Board of Trustees Chair



Dear Supporters,

I write to you with some sadness as I along with other members of the Board of Trustees of Children In Distress UK have made the difficult decision to stand down and make way for a new Board to take control. I also feel immense gratitude, however, which I know my Board colleagues share, for the honour of serving the charity: to have witnessed the skill and dedication of our care staff in Romania; the commitment of our UK staff and volunteers; and, above all else, the generosity and compassion of our supporters who have made such a difference to the lives of so many vulnerable and sick children. To each one of these supporters the Board offers their sincere and heartfelt thanks.

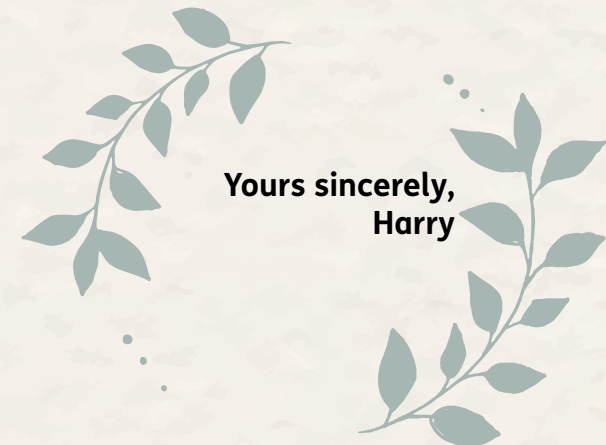
Despite this sadness, however, there are reasons why the current Board feel this is the right time for a “change of guard.” The charity sector, like all sectors, is subject to constant change. This requires an organisation to be able to adapt and meet new needs. The past two years with the COVID pandemic and lockdown have highlighted this even more so. Many members of the current Board have served Children In Distress for a number of years, some from the charity’s inception. While all members have brought great experience and many skills, we have had to ask ourselves whether the Board in its current makeup has the specific expertise to address the challenges Children In Distress faces. It would be remiss of us to continue serving while knowing others are better suited to taking Children In Distress forward in the form and environment it finds itself after over thirty years of operating.

We are very lucky to be handing over to a new Board recruited by Anne-Marie Martin and Simon Errington, both of whom have a long-term interest and commitment to CID UK and CID RO and have experience of serving on the UK Board. I leave the charity in very capable and safe hands and know Anne-Marie and Simon are looking forward to assuming their responsibilities and introducing themselves and the new Board to you all.

Both organisations, of course, have come a long way since the Revd John Walmsley went on holiday to Romania in 1989 with his family and called at a children’s orphanage near his hotel, where he found children tied to their beds, suffering from HIV and full AIDS. Over the years the organisation developed into a wide-ranging service on five sites in Romania, providing for Children with Special Needs, including autism, blindness, together with school refusers.

While Romania has become a more prosperous country and Romanian authorities have assumed more responsibilities for their children with Special Needs, both to be greatly celebrated, there is no doubt that there is still a need for the services Children In Distress provides and CID RO, ably led by Valentina Zaharia Smith, is in the process of developing services in line with modern practices for the care of Children with Special Needs.

I would like to thank my Board colleagues for their service and to wish the charity and new Board the very best for the future and to continue making true our mission: to cure, sometimes; to help, often; to comfort, always.



Yours sincerely,  
Harry

# A new UK Board of Trustees

“By building on the legacy of the past, together with our team and supporters we want to create an even better future for our wonderful little people!”

**Dear Supporters,**

The new Board of Trustees is absolutely thrilled to be writing to you today to provide you with some sense of our vision for the future of Children In Distress UK. Over 30 years of good work raising much needed support and funds during often difficult times for the children and projects of Children in Distress, the foundation in Romania and the charity in the UK have reached a pivotal moment. We thank the outgoing Board of Trustees for their unwavering commitment, hard work and dedication over many years of service. The new Trustees are delighted to announce that the Rev. June Hurn, a long serving Trustee of the charity, has agreed to stay on the Board to provide us with her wise counsel, expertise and long-standing experience of the charity and its beneficiaries. Along with June, we introduce the newly-elected Trustees -



**Ian Catley**



**Diana Comsa**



**Simon Errington**



**Rev. June Hurn**



**Anne-Marie Martin**



**Maria Cristina Mitu**

**Ian Catley**, Vendor Manager, European Patent Office

**Diana Comsa**, Global Head of Customer Data, Condé Nast

**Simon Errington**, Director, Gundog HR & Development Consultancy

**Rev. June Hurn** (retired)

**Anne-Marie Martin**, Director Global Business Networks, British Chambers of Commerce

**Maria Cristina Mitu**, Solicitor, Head of UK and EU, McAllister Olivarius

Against the backdrop of a changing operating environment, new and more complex developments in the Romanian charity sector, the impact of our new trading relationship with the EU, the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine War, and the economic challenges ahead, Children In Distress in the UK has reached a milestone in its long and successful history. Our priority will be to engage with the existing team and supporter network to understand your expectations and to together build a resilient, sustainable charity that is future proofed for the next generation of beneficiaries, supporters, donors, and management team. We are developing our strategy for the charity to effectively respond to the demands of a new environment, to build on the legacy of the founding Trustees and the supporter network in the UK and to take the charity through its next important milestones.

There is a real opportunity to bolster the structure, invest in our team, and after several years of limited contact with each other, to reinvigorate, grow and work with our network of supporters and donors, and to leverage the abundance of expertise available

to us both in the Board and our wider stakeholder groups, to deliver the much-needed funding for key projects in Romania. We have a big target to reach, and new clear and strategic projects to support, including a brand-new home and hospice for our young beneficiaries in Bucharest, an exciting community outreach project to support children to return and stay in education, and the vision of the foundation of a new social enterprise in the heart of Romania's beautiful Alpine countryside. We plan to establish a retreat centre to provide much needed respite to children and carers in a wonderful calm and soothing environment in one of the most beautiful locations imaginable. Since its inception, the new Board has received a donation for the retreat centre of \$34,000/ €32,600/ £28,150 from Cristian Marian Enache and Ionut Georghe, clients of new Board member Maria Cristina Mitu's law firm McAllister Olivarius.

We will be working with the team to build exciting and engaging fundraising campaigns. We cannot wait to share them with you and look forward to creating many opportunities for us to meet and get to know each other better over the coming months.

**With our very best regards,  
The Board of Trustees of  
Children In Distress UK**

# The Ukraine

For 32 years Children In Distress has focused on care of children in Eastern Europe, beginning in Romania at the end of the Communist regime, then expanding to Bulgaria and Albania. In recent years we have returned to our original focus in Romania. When the Russian government began its war on Ukraine, and we saw how many children were impacted, CID made a quick decision to concentrate efforts to help refugee children and their families. Thanks to you, our donors, within days we raised sufficient funds to begin a relief effort. For five weekends, beginning with the second weekend of the war, CID carried food and clothing to the Ukrainian/Romanian border at Isaccea, either on our own or in convoy with other organizations and individuals. The Danube River is the border between Ukraine and Romania at Isaccea; it is a two-hour drive from Bucharest to Isaccea. The one ferry running from Ukraine to Isaccea was the single route of escape into Romania for Ukrainians living in the southwest of their country.

The first weekends were rough because there was little government organisation or involvement. Instead, local volunteers and volunteers from around Romania quickly organized a welcome camp and distribution centre in Isaccea. CID joined the make-shift effort. We purchased goods requested by the volunteers at Isaccea: tinned and non-perishable food, baby food and diapers, winter clothing, blankets, pet food, and all sorts of medical supplies. Each weekend we drove the two hours to Isaccea to a supply

camp set up by volunteers for distribution to evacuees arriving across the Danube and also for shipment across the Danube to Ukraine. At the start of the war there was only one ferry that made the Danube crossing, which takes one hour. The ferry would bring a full component of evacuees, then load goods on the ferry to take to Ukraine.



After depositing our supplies, the CID team was assigned to greet evacuees as they left the ferry, help them through immigration, and then get them food if they wished, and then to the appropriate collection centre for those wishing to travel to family or friends in Europe.

We early on realised that CID did not have funds to sustain a long-term effort.

We appealed to you, our supporters and friends, and we are amazed at the response. You have contributed \$35,000/ €34,210/ £29,550 for our work with Ukraine. What incredible generosity. Thank you!!! You enabled us to purchase far more goods that we could have with our limited budget, and you have allowed our work to continue even now into the fourth month of the war.

One cannot truly reflect in words the expressions on the faces and in the eyes of the evacuees as they disembarked the ferry. Bewilderment, confusion, tears, and sorrow. The feeling of “lostness” was palpable. Most carried their most important possessions in roll bags and plastic bags, one in each hand; sometimes a gym bag or rucksack. With little time to evacuate, they did not have time to pack suitcases or the luxury of an auto to transport luggage. They could only bring what they could carry on their back and in their two hands. Some brought a dog on a leash or a cat in a cage. That meant something else had to be left behind since there is only so much one can carry. Most were women with young children and elders; the only men were seniors because men between 18 and 60 are required to remain to maintain the war effort.



Almost all of the evacuees I met knew someone in Europe to whom they wanted travel and stay for the duration. We helped get them to the tent for “travel to France”, etc. The most heart breaking for me was meeting a woman, perhaps 70 years, coming off the ferry, with three dogs on leashes and one gym bag. She told me she had to choose between bringing her dogs or her possessions, and she chose her dogs. When I asked her where she wanted to go in Europe, where she might have family or friends, she replied “I don’t know anyone. I don’t know where to go. I don’t know what to do.” Luckily, there were convoys to Bucharest to help people like this woman, to get them to refugee centres or to the Bucharest train or bus station to get them on their way to where they wanted to go. CID transported as many people as we could carry over those five weekends. Our vans were as full as legally allowed. We took our passengers the two hours to Bucharest, usually arriving around 11 p.m. I cannot imagine what the day, or days preceding, had been for them. There was good reason that we did not see many smiles or hear laughter. Tiredness mixed with anxiety in their faces.



CID has a relationship with a refugee centre run by the Pantelimon city council, a city just outside Bucharest. We would leave our passengers there, where they were fed and could wash.

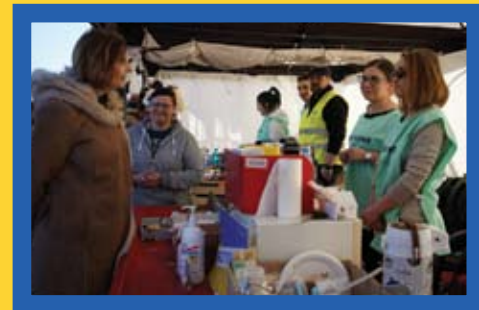
We would meet our new friends the next morning to get them to the train or bus station, usually paying their way for their onward journey. For those with no place to go, we connected them with the Bucharest refugee centres. Some still stay at the Pantelimon centre while they apply for Romanian residency.

The Romanian government has now developed programs to welcome refugees and transport them to Bucharest, so our trips to the border are no longer required. Transport to Bucharest is allowed now only through government transport. In Bucharest, the government now provides support, such as school integration, psychological support for mothers and children, and employment counselling. We continue to work with evacuees as they arrive in Bucharest, especially through the Pantelimon centre and also with the MOTOC centre.



On one weekend trip, our royal patron HRH Princess Maria of the House of Romania joined us. It was a gift to have her accompany us; her presence especially gave a boost to the volunteers staffing the feeding and food stalls and collection tents.

MOTOC is a state-run cooking school which has created a hostel for refugee children and their mothers on its top floor. Through your generosity and support, we provide food, candies, children's clothing and shoes, and transit passes. We are in discussion to start Romanian and English language lessons. Through our connections with the General Director of Social Assistance in Bucharest, we also have begun work at the Romexpo refugee centre, the central evacuee hub in Bucharest. It is like a mini-city, with 2,000 beds, food and clothing shops, and warm food take away restaurants. Our main contribution is donating food and clothing, and working in the shops and sorting donated clothing.



CID is so grateful for the support that many of you gave to support our initial efforts at the border. The response was immediate, and frankly, overwhelming. Thank you. Your support truly has been life affirming to the Ukrainians, but also to those of us who have been trying to serve. (For more photos and stories, and a video or two, visit [www.cid.org.ro](http://www.cid.org.ro). You might especially be interested to see the video of March 12, showing us carrying refugees in our vans to Bucharest as tanks passed us going in the opposite direction to the border.)

**Rev Steven Smith**  
**CID Mission Ambassador**



# Our new Hospice, Casa Maria

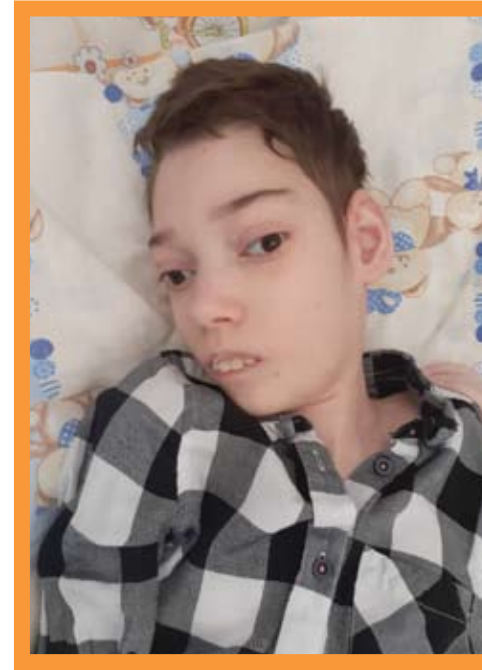
In addition to the Board changes, there has been a major shift in the hospice work of CID. St Andrew's Hospice in Pitesti has been subsumed by the local government authority in order to provide the type of facility now envisioned by the Romanian government. All of our children now have been moved from St Andrew's residential hospice to a government run centre.

In addition, because of financial shortfalls and new EU strategies adopted by the Romanian government, we are closing our large St Margaret facility in central Bucharest and moving to a smaller facility on the outskirts, to be named Casa Maria. The Casa Maria

building has been purchased and is being adapted for use as a family-type hospice. We plan to move the children in August into their new home, and dedicate the facility on St Mary's Day (in the Romanian Orthodox calendar), September 8, at 13.30. A reception will be held that evening at the residence of the British ambassador, Andrew Noble, and his wife Helen Noble, at 19.00. All are welcome to join the dedication and reception. Further information will be given once we are closer to September 8.



# St Margaret's Hospice



**O**n a very happy note, Anastasia, after several hospitalisations and months at St Margaret's, is well enough that her mother decided that she could take her home and try to care for her. The challenges and expenses are significant, but it is nice to see daughter and family home together.

**W**e have welcomed Robert to St Margaret's! Robert is an adorable toddler. He was born prematurely and faces numerous health problems. He spent the first two years of his life being moved from one hospital to another. Following a shunt installation, Robert came to live at St Margaret's. Although he cannot communicate with words, he gives us broad smiles and a twinkle in his eye.

**O**n a sad note, Valentina Gospodin died at age 19, after having lived most of her life at St Margaret's. She had a long and hard struggle in life. Valentina was repeatedly in hospital for all sorts of complications, especially with her heart and lungs. She was never capable of walking, talking, or feeding herself, but she did smile when touched. After a return from hospital to the hospice in November, Valentina seemed stable. Then suddenly, it became clear

that her heart was failing. Ambulance paramedics and hospital staff were not able to revive her. Valentina remains forever in our hearts. Our expressions of grief go also to the staff who cared for Valentina for so many years.



# June 1 was International Children's Day



It is a big day at St Margaret's. From the beginning of the week, Andrei, Cristina and Ștefan repeatedly asked, "when is the party"? We began the day with the children putting on their best party clothes. Medical school volunteers joined to help the kids make the hospice a festive party space, with balloons and flags. We then started the party with a workshop to make swirls and rattles – all from recycled products.

The children received toys, and after playing with them they danced, frolicked and played mini-volleyball. Obviously, any party had to be accompanied by snacks and cake. The children had their favourite lunch – pizza – along with

the traditional long-awaited June 1st cake. Shortly after, gifts of toys, books and clothes arrived, from friends at a Bucharest parish, Viitoarul suntem Noi NGO, and Next Romania Association.

We ended the day with a visit from our soprano friend Marta Sandu Ofrim, who brought a second cake and fruits.

It was a day of joy for all of us! The children already are asking, when do we have the next Children's Day??

## Therapy dogs



Therapy dogs have returned to St Margaret's. For six months, starting in May, specialists from Club of Utility Dogs have returned to provide therapy techniques with their therapy dogs, together with specialists from the Animal Therapy and Assisted Activities Association.

This therapy helps the children develop living skills, especially in cognitive behaviour, where the therapists emphasize emotional self-regulation through interaction with calm, friendly dogs. In turn, friendship with a dog facilitates the acquisition of relationship skills with others. Even for those

children who cannot communicate, being with non-speaking dog friends brings a lot of joy.

We thank the Club of Utility Dogs from Animal Therapy and Assisted Activities Bucharest, for resuming a beneficial collaboration in helping our vulnerable children have a more fulfilled life.

# Janson-Roberts Scholarships in Arges County

The Janson-Roberts scholarships were awarded in April for the third year in a row. The scholarships are funded by a legacy left to CID by Dr Michael Janson and his wife Varuni Roberts. The scholarships provide €500 each to 10 students in rural areas of Arges county who are academically successful but financially challenged. The scholarship recipients, all who are entering or are in high school, are selected by a committee of teachers and education leaders. Competition for the scholarships is stiff, because many of the applicants do not see a way to university without financial assistance. The awardees are allowed to use their scholarship in any way they deem fit. Most purchase laptops or mobile phones in order to do school work; can one imagine going to school without a laptop for homework? Some

choose to share part of their award with their families to buy food or clothes.

At the award ceremony, Inspector Lavina Orasanu thanked CID for the opportunities the scholarships provide these promising students, and expressed her appreciation for CID's assistance in helping to fulfil the students' educational aspirations.

The recipients of this year's scholarships are:

**Nicoleta Romina Avram**  
**Bianca Andreea Bunica**  
**Mihaela Durdun**  
**Larisa Georgiana Murgoci**  
**Ionela Elena Ponea**  
**Darius Ionuț Sima**  
**Daria Alexandra Stanciu**  
**Andra Gabriela Toader**  
**Maria Teodora Toader**  
**Floarea Andra Diana Cristina Tudor**



# Royal Patronage Ceremony

In October 2021, Children In Distress officially received the royal patronage HRH Princess Maria of the House of Romania. The presentation ceremony was held in the Royal Palace, now also the National Art Gallery. CID's CEO Valentina Zaharia Smith (on left) accepted the official patronage document. It was a splendid occasion to be honoured in this way, along with several other organizations and individuals who were honoured by Crown Princess Margareta for their service to Romania.



# Bike Around the Entirety of Romania



In order to raise awareness for vulnerable children in Romania, and raise money for CID, Sebastian (Sebi) Ghioca and Adrian Ster biked the entirety of the internal routes of the borders of Romania between May 16-29. Sebi is a long-time supporter of CID, and in addition to using his athletic abilities to raise funds, he has been integral to our work at the Ukrainian border.

Sebi and Adrian set out a map of Romania's borders which could be traveled by bicycle. They averaged 230 km/day, and by the end of their round trip journey they had biked 2760 km. This action supported the Awareness Campaign - Outlining Romania for Vulnerable Children, designed to draw attention to the needs and presence of vulnerable children in the country. In addition, Sebi and Adrian raised

\$9,500/ €9,100/ £7,875 for CID's children. WOW! Once they returned to Bucharest, they visited the children of St Margaret's, who gave them a thank you certificate and a trophy that outlined their route.

We thank Sebi and Adrian for dedicating two weeks of their lives, away from their work and families. We thank those promoted their effort and donated to us, especially the corporate sponsors who supported the ride - 360 Competition,

High Energy, Big Consulting, Optcycling, CMI Ophthalmology Dr. Paris Cristina, MedySportsLine, CeresContainer, Kulttur, and Giant Bicycles Romania.

Thanks too to the television stations and social media who advertised and supported this challenge.



# German Non-Profit Established

**W**e are pleased to announce that Children In Distress has established a non-profit organisation ("Verein") in Germany, Hilfe für benachteiligte Kinder und Heranwachsende in Rumänien - translated in English "Help for Disadvantaged Children and Young People in Romania". It has taken a year to work through the government bureaucracy, but we finally have achieved our goal. It is due to the hard work and time of many German supporters, especially Barbara Rushiti and Rev Frauke Ackermann, both frequent visitors to Romania who took on the labouring oars of the endless forms and approvals, as well as Kaye O'Connell, Dr Yvonne Cockcroft, Patricia Shaw, Catharina Ginsel, Rev Dr Lutz Ackermann, and Rebecca Ackermann.

The creation of the Verein means CID can raise funds in Germany and also issue tax certificates for donations. Membership in the Verein is open anyone who wishes to join. Dues are €50 per year for a family, €30 for an individual. To join the Verein, please contact Yvonne Cockcroft at [yvonne@cockcroft.de](mailto:yvonne@cockcroft.de). At the foundational meeting, the following were elected as officers: Rev Frauke Ackermann, president, Patricia Shaw, vice-president, Kaye O'Connell, treasurer, Yvonne Cockcroft, clerk. Thank you for the team that made the Verein possible. The Verein is in the midst of its first fundraiser - a 10,000 step a day walk challenge. You may contribute to the fundraiser by contacting Yvonne Cockcroft.

## St George's Church, Berlin, joins as a Supporter

**O**ur German network continues to grow with the new partnership between St George's Anglican Church, Berlin, and Children in Distress. The

partnership resulted from a mission visit to Romania of the Rev Canon Christopher Jage-Bowler, vicar of St George's, in late autumn 2021. Here you see Rev Christopher leading a Sunday service at Church of the Resurrection, Bucharest.

St George's has contributed €1,000 for an oxygen machine, and the members of the congregation also contributed a significant amount of money for our Christmas 2021 shoe box program. It is great to have St George's aboard, and we are grateful for Rev Christopher's leadership in forming this partnership.



## Scottish Episcopal Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway Raises Funds for CID

The Scottish Episcopal Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, under the leadership of the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, dedicated its Lent appeal to raise funds for Children in Distress. Monies are still coming in.

Each year at Lent, Bishop Kevin alternates the diocesan appeal between a Scottish charity and those based overseas. This year Children In Distress was selected as the appeal recipient. The appeal was launched during Lent at the diocesan Synod in March. Due to COVID restrictions, the Synod was held via Zoom. Valentina Zaharia Smith, CEO of CID, made a video presentation from Romania. John Mitchell, Diocesan Secretary, commented that Valentina “impressed everyone enormously with her dedication to the work of Children in Distress, and by the ‘hands-on-humanity’ that she espouses so wonderfully.”

Robert Burgon, Diocesan Treasurer, nominated CID to be this year’s recipient. He and his wife first became acquainted with CID when CID was building a children’s hospital in Albania. He reflected on how committed he and his wife became to CID from that experience. He



said at Synod, “I sincerely hope that the generosity of heart and spirit across our Diocese – modelling God’s love, as our Bishop said at our Synod – will provide a much-needed financial boost to the wonderful work being carried out by everyone at CID.” Children In Distress is very grateful to the diocese, Bishop Pearson and all those who contributed for their support. We wish you God’s blessings on your continuing work of Christian mission and ministry.



## St Martin’s Church, Sherwood

We are very thankful to St Martin’s Church in Sherwood for making us, not only their charity of the year but the next four years! St Martin’s is a thriving Anglican Church situated in the Nottingham suburb of Sherwood. St Martin’s is deeply involved in their community and offer support and friendship to all. The church runs a food bank and offers a weekly hot meal to those who find themselves struggling. St Martin’s and its members are long term supporters of Children In Distress and are passionate participants of our Christmas shoe box project.

We say a massive thank you to everyone at St Martin’s for the past and on-going support.



## A New Sponsor – The Society of the Priory of Our Lady, Walsingham

We are delighted to announce that The Society of St Margaret Priory of Our Lady, Walsingham have made us their charity of the year. The Church of England order of nuns was established in 1855, and moved to Walsingham in 1947. Many of you know that the Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham is one of the most revered and visited pilgrimage sites in the UK, in existence since the 11th century, destroyed by Henry VIII in 1538, and re-founded in 1922. The Sisters daily life is centred on the Eucharist and their prayers of the daily Office, from which flows their involvement in the ministry of healing and reconciliation in the Shrine, local parishes and the wider Church. The order has autonomous houses in Haiti (where CID's Mission Ambassador visited with mission groups several times in the 2000s), Sri Lanka, East London and West London, and Boston, USA.

The Sisters are dedicated to working with children and young people in all of their locations. Over the years, they have served as teachers (especially training girls for domestic service), nurses, and run homes for orphans. A perfect fit for Children in Distress. Today, in Walsingham, one sister visits a local Church of England primary school every Tuesday with a group of local people for collective worship and Christian teaching. At the local parish,

she leads Sunday school and helps with the youth group.

The Sisters' ministry focuses primarily on welcoming pilgrims who visit the Shrine. They especially welcome youth and children, and delight in explaining what is a Shrine and what is the role and purpose of a nun.

The Sisters ask pilgrims and others visitors to donate to the charity of the year during their visit. With COVID (hopefully) coming to an end, they have seen an uptick in visitors, which is in CID's favour. The Sisters also have a gift shop, selling everything from recycled greeting cards to toys knitted by the nuns, and other crafts. The profits from the shop will be given to CID.

CID is grateful to have the support of such a well-known, missional order with a long history of service to children, orphans, and religious pilgrims.



## Keble College, Oxford

The Rev Dr Nevsky Everett recently was appointed vicar of the Anglican Church of the Resurrection in Bucharest. Rev Nevsky has brought renewed life to Resurrection, and a renewal of the bond between Resurrection and CID. In learning about Resurrection's history, Rev Nevsky was informed by church warden Helen Noble of the long-standing relationship between the church and CID. At the time, Rev Nevsky was chaplain at Keble College, Oxford. It is a tradition at Keble that all chapel service collections for each semester are given to a particular charity. For autumn 2021, all Keble chapel collections were donated



to Children in Distress. Thanks to Rev Nevsky for your generosity, and thanks to warden Helen for raising the attention of CID to Rev Nevsky. Resurrection also helped CID distribute Christmas shoe boxes, and individual members contributed to our Ukraine appeal.

We look forward to a new chapter in CID's relationship with Resurrection.



# Christmas



**I**n the weeks leading to Christmas 2021, Children In Distress delivered almost 7,000 shoe boxes of Christmas gifts to children and elders, in Bucharest and villages and cities within a two-hour drive. For the children each box was stuffed with toys, dolls, trucks, writing paper, crayons, pens, pencils, body soap, shampoo and tooth paste and brushes, hats and mittens. For the seniors the boxes contained body products, mittens and hats, writing paper and pens, a picture of an Orthodox saint and Orthodox praying cards.

The boxes and funds for boxes were

donated by supporters in the UK, Germany, Romania, and the US. Eighty percent of the boxes and donations were given by our friends in the UK, who have supported this effort for well-over 25 years. Donations were made from places as diverse as Glasgow, the Midlands, Cambridgeshire, Yorkshire, Essex, Nottingham, Ely and Sheffield. Thank you for your generous and compassionate support! Especial thanks to John Burns, Roy Wheeler, Trish Witcomb, Tracy England, and the Glasgow office staff for their time and effort in organising and collecting the

boxes. Another special thanks is given to Graham Sloan, who as Operations Manager of Amey's transport company took the lead since 2016 in collecting shoe boxes in Glasgow and the surrounding area, and transporting them to the warehouse in Potto, in north-east England, the collection point for all UK shoe boxes. We are saddened that Mr Sloan recently passed away. We are so thankful for his commitment and effort dedicated to the shoe box campaign. He, along with the others mentioned, accomplished miracles despite the restrictions required by the COVID

pandemic and the new regulations determined by Brexit.

Once delivered in Potto, a team packed almost 800 cartons of shoe boxes and other aid. Transport from the UK was a challenge because of the acute shortage of drivers and the new rules regarding transfer of goods from Britain to the EU.





John Burns and Roy Wheeler went the extra mile to find sufficient transport and forge compliance with the new regulations. The lorry arrived just in the “St Nick” of time for Father Christmas to make his deliveries. Father Christmas delivered all around the Bucharest area. He gave shoe boxes to the children in our hospice in Bucharest; to children at the refugee camp in the heart of Bucharest – children from Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan (this was prior to the Russia-Ukraine war); 1,000 boxes to children in Arges County – for our 100 children at St Christopher House in Arges their families also were given food packages to make a bit of a merry Christmas meal; children in villages an hour or two or three outside Bucharest – Urlati, Sintesti, Varteju, Bertea, Peris, Pietrosani; children in the Orthodox dioceses of Slobezia, Calarasi and Dambovitita County, children in Bucharest at St Sophia and St Bretonian, and to elders who live at the All Saints seniors’ centre in Bucharest.



It was a blessed several weeks, to see laughter and smiles from those who received our gifts. Our team was often serenaded with Romanian carols, and at some places we were given hand-crafted gifts made by the children.

The Shoe Box Project is special, giving gifts to Romanians for many years. We hope you will continue to support us this year. People already are preparing shoe boxes for Christmas 2022!



# CID

## Medical Volunteers in Action



Medical school began again at Bucharest University following relief from COVID, and our medical student volunteers were back with us as soon as possible. To make a nice Easter for the children of St Margaret's, 15 volunteers spent two weeks painting plaster figurines and making Easter cards to be sold at the Easter fair of the Faculty of Medicine. It is a blessing that the Easter fair has returned to a physical format, which gives a good opportunity for other students to learn about CID and how they too might help.

Our medical student volunteers are a constant and tireless presence and support! Thank you.

## In Memorium



We know they rest in God's love until we meet again  
Supporters and Friends

Julia Elaine Maud Bailes  
Joyce Brooks  
Gwendolene Howse Button  
Irene Cole  
Sheila May Cook  
Margaret Cottrell  
Sue Garlick  
Mary Monica Gray  
T Howden  
Eve James  
Kathleen Jones  
Norman Jopling  
Margaret Brooke Keate  
Catherine Lang  
Violet Ethel Marion Middlebrook  
Ann Moon  
Edna Radford  
Graham Sloan  
Ellen Larsen Smith  
J Symons  
Judith Miriam Whyte

Our Child  
Valentina Gospodin





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

