

VISION

Summer 2021



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





In the last few months, I have been keeping you informed of the challenges Children in Distress was facing during these pandemic difficult times and the efforts we were making to adapt to the rapidly-evolving cyberworld. Your support to our cry for help has been great, and I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and words of encouragement. As a result, we have been able to keep our children safe and secure, we continued to be a family for the new or long-term children who are in our care.

We turned every donation received into therapy hours, good and nutritious meals, clean clothes, games and toys.

Ysabela has taken her first steps. Cristina stands with more self-confidence and is receiving walking therapy. Rares now speaks, with great volubility. He now can pull himself with his arms along a table, his legs following behind.

With your donations we continue to provide a present and a future for children who were abandoned as having no chance.

Welcome

When you look at their photos in which they smile and are happy, please know that you have contributed to those smiles and happiness - and their chance to have as normal a life as possible.

The last two years have not been easy for any of us. We have gone through isolation, anxiety, and frustration. Many of us contracted the virus, and as did others we love. Most of us have lost a spouse, parent, or friend. Yet when we see the smiles of our children we understand that life comes with much good, which strengthens us to overcome any obstacle.

Thank you, dear friends, for your kindness and generosity. Together we have shown that with a little help from many people a lot can be accomplished.

In this edition of VISION we present events and happenings from our life from Easter through the end of summer. We hope you will enjoy it.

With much thankfulness,

Valentina Zaharia Smith
CEO



Children in Distress will host its annual service of Thanksgiving Saturday, October 9, 11.00 a.m., at the Anglican Church of the Resurrection in Bucharest. The service will be in person as the COVID situation in Bucharest is not like it was last year when we were unable to hold an in-person service. The service will be compliant with the mask, social distancing and other guidelines of the Church of England and the Romanian government.

A light luncheon will follow the service.

We ask that you RSVP if you will attend in person, so that we can prepare appropriate COVID measures and lunch arrangements. To reserve or if you have questions, please contact The Rev Steven Smith at mission@cid.org.ro.

The service will be filmed and later posted on CID's YouTube channel. Details on when it will be posted will be forthcoming.



Virtual Supporters' Tour

Out of an abundance of COVID caution, CID will not offer its in-person annual supporters' tour, which typically coincides with the Thanksgiving service. Instead, we will offer a virtual supporters' tour, with visits to our hospices in Bucharest and Pitesti and our children's centre in Curtea de Arges. We hope to offer the tour via YouTube in late September. If you would like to participate, please contact Tina Connelly at our Glasgow office, tina.connelly@childrenindistress.org.uk.

St Margaret's Hospice, Bucharest

Summer Journal - A Day at the River

In mid-August several of our children went on a field trip to Transylvania. Summer traffic was slow, so we had plenty of time for singing, shouting and looking out the van windows at the mountains and rivers. We visited the German-Saxon town of Brasov, where the children had lunch, and practiced how to look at a menu and order their food. Then we went farther into the mountains to Zarnesti, where the kids played in a green field and waded in a stream. Then we went to a nearby river for some REAL wading (for the brave!). It was a great day, and a nice chance for the children to get out of the Hospice and into nature. They had so much fun! Smiles and laughter all around.



St Margaret's Hospice, Bucharest

Summer Journal - First time at the Sea

August 4 was a very special day for eight of our children, and several staff and volunteers. Besides the fact that it was our first outdoor activity in a public space in 18 months (because of COVID), it was our children's first ever visit to the sea.

The children helped us prepare for several weeks, a way to build their excitement. We made a list, and as items were purchased, we ticked them off with the kids. Swim suits: tick; beach slippers: tick; beach towels: tick; sunglasses: tick.

The days came closer to our grand adventure to the Black Sea, and the excitement became fevered. The night before, we were supposed to go to bed earlier because the next morning we had to be ready to leave at 7:00 a.m. It was not "all

quiet" until 3 in the morning.

The two hours spent on the bus passed with songs and good cheer. Then we arrived at the Black Sea, at a special beach for children with physical and mental challenges. The beach is run by Together for the Future Association Constanta. The children were so happy, so excited! They were amazed to see that the sea is real. We played in the water, built sandcastles, laid in the sand and had lunch. We all wanted to stay longer but we knew we had a long way back home. It was a great day!

We thank Mrs. Laura Racaru from Alsys Travel and Uncle Radu (our driver), along with Together for the Future for their generosity and care and for making this day possible for us. The kids already are asking, "when do we get to go again?"



St Margaret's Hospice, Bucharest

Summer Journal - Children's Day

June 1 is Children's Day in Romania, the United Nations Day to celebrate children. We celebrated at St Margaret's with our own children, other children who live with their families in extreme poverty near Bucharest, and teenagers who have better economic and educational opportunities and wanted to be with our and other children.

In the morning we started our celebrations at St Margaret's with the Smile Project teenagers of the "A Dignified Life Together" Association. The Smile Project teens collect treats and gifts to give to children in local hospices. These generous young people gave us balloons and sweets, and together we heard music and played games. Our children then had lunch, contributed by an anonymous donor. The clothing company Next Romania also donated gifts of beautiful clothes, toys and sweets. The children of St Margaret's were ecstatic. Then the surprise came - cake, with the Smile teens singing happy birthday for Children's Day.

The Smile teens and some of our children then went together to the parish church in Pantelimon, a very poor village, where 23 children were waiting for us. It was clear from their clothes and faces that they come from economically challenging

circumstances. Their faces brightened when we gave them balloons and bags of presents and sweets. They were so happy!

Then we headed to our last location, Balaceanca parish. With the priest we visited the houses of 40 children, in order to get to know better the world in which they live and give them gift packages and balloons for Children's Day. Here we were even more amazed and saddened to see children almost naked and barefoot, living in indescribable poverty and whose parents have reached the limit of resources. We gave them gifts, sweets and balloons, which brought broad smiles to their faces, and reminded them that others care about them.

Thus, June 1 became the day of all children, children with disabilities, children on the verge of poverty and those teens who have learned to give to those less fortunate than themselves.



Summer Journal - Day at the Pool

How can one stay cool during the summer's heatwave? At St. Margaret's, our children like to cool off in our inflatable pool. Similar to previous years, in July, our courtyard turns into a huge space where the kids like to hang out and splash around.

Access to a pool outside of St Margaret's is challenging, if not impossible, because of our children's disabilities. So CID purchased an inflatable pool where the kids can paddle about in the courtyard of St Margaret's. This is the most anticipated moment of the summer - getting into the pool with their toys and squirt guns. Some are shy at first, apprehensive about the water. Yet one by one they get into the water, some jumping in with a splash, others dipping in a toe before they trust to put in their legs. Water splashes around and laughter of children can be heard

from afar. The highlight is the squirt gun fight. There is screaming, laughter; adults are not spared the water spray. It is the children's greatest pleasure to soak the adults. That's how they know their mission has been accomplished for the day. After each busy summer day spent at the pool, the children fall asleep for a well-deserved nap.

These are the coolest summer days when the children in St. Margaret's know the joys of childhood and experience that living with disabilities does not mean living without happy times.



St Margaret's Hospice, Bucharest

Cooking workshop

In March we started a cooking workshop. The children love it.

The main purpose is to develop independent living skills, even with children with mental and physical disabilities. It is really cool to see how inventive and adaptable the kids are with their cooking lessons. They get so excited that it becomes a celebration.

Once a month we ask the little ones to decide what recipe they would like to try. We give them some ideas. From there, we list out the ingredients for purchase, explain how they are purchased, bring the goods to the hospice and then together prepare and cook whatever it is. Of course, the highlight is the eating!!

An important aspect in our cooking process is the hygiene necessary to carry out the activity. The children acquire skills such as washing their

hands, rolling their sleeves, donning gloves and head caps. Together we develop skills such as performing rotational movements by mixing dough, or cutting pieces of fruit or filling containers. The other thing the children learn is how to work in a group, how involvement with others leads to good results.

So far, we boast delicious recipes such as "hearty muffins with chocolate sauce and apricot jam", "Easter eggs" and "cool fruit salad".

The next recipe... maybe a really good summer ice cream in these hot times!



Anastasia

has a new home - with us!

Anastasia has moved into St Margaret's. We are her new home. Anastasia is a four-month-old infant who is diagnosed with a severe digestive illness. Anastasia was born with an esophagus malformation which required reconstructive surgery. At birth, Anastasia was mechanically ventilated for over 96 hours due to her breathing problems. Anastasia remained hospitalized for four months for surgical reconstruction of her esophagus.

At present she is fed through a stoma in her stomach and a tube in her esophagus. Unfortunately, Anastasia requires specialized and complex care which involves proper feedings and maintaining her within optimal parameters. The entire feeding process is complicated, takes time and requires specialized knowledge regarding proper palliative care techniques. Additionally, she needs permanent monitoring and care of her gastric stoma to prevent infection and inflammation of the surrounding area.

Anastasia is a happy and curious child who smiles, coos, and gurgles whenever people interact with her. She is playful and energetic, and

she constantly moves her arms and legs. She continues to grow despite her challenges. Anastasia receives incredible attention, love and specialized care from St. Margaret's staff.



St Margaret's Hospice, Bucharest



Happy birthday Andrei!

Andrei is now seven years young. We had a great celebration, with lots of colourful balloons and garlands, party hats and a festively-decorated lunch table. The key element of our party was the (non-alcoholic) champagne for children, a smashing hit. Andrei had birthday cake and gifts. One of his sponsors, Denis, gave presents not only to Andrei but to all of the children. The boys, together with Andrei, enjoyed playing with their toy cars and their fireman hats and clothes. The girls received colourful ponies, toys and new attires. This gave the Andrei the idea, which he has repeated, that a person should give to others, not just receive. Thank you to Andrei's sponsors who made this birthday so fantastic. Andrei and all the children are grateful for the beautiful gifts they received and for the normalcy given by others into their everyday lives.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Andrei, our special boy! With each passing day you become cleverer and more adventurous.



Happy birthday Cristina!

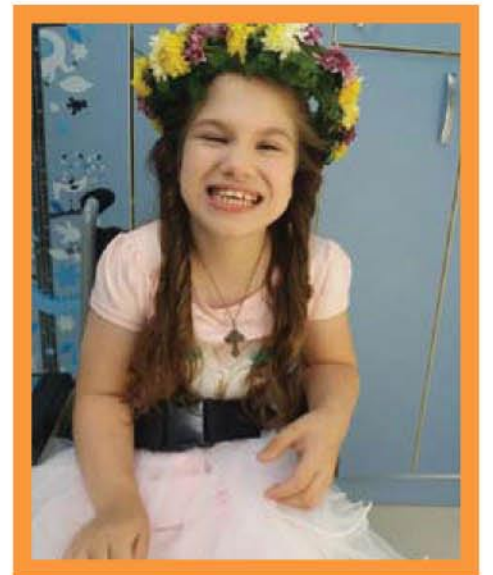
In July, we celebrated Cristina's 10th birthday. She has been at St Margaret's since she was three. Cristina is a beloved child, usually called "The Princess of St Margaret's." Both the staff and children congratulated Cristina when she first woke up. While the children hurriedly put on their party attire, staff decorated the courtyard with balloons and flags and lots of party hats, trumpets and princess-themed plates and cutlery. We gave Cristina a Disney princess cake, which everyone ate with relish, after they had sung the Romanian version of "Happy Birthday."

Then came the time for Cristina to open her gifts. She received presents from her sponsors in the UK and CID staff. Thank you, Cristina's sponsors for transforming her birthday into a special and memorable occasion suited to our beautiful princess!

Cristina is learning to stand and walk. With a lot of ambition, she is learning to recognize numbers and letters and strives to shape them.

Cristina loves the cooking classes, she is so caring of the other children, and she smiles wholeheartedly!

Although in her life everything requires a lot of effort, Cristina continues to smile and enjoy each achievement and enjoy those around her. She is a joy!



St Margaret's Hospice, Bucharest

Happy days for Yzabela



Yzabela is one of the young heroes of St Margaret's. Our precious young lady has suffered since birth from an oscillating cardiac condition, and recently the team of doctors who have been diligently monitoring her condition decided it was time for surgery to correct her health issue.

Yzabela's case was handled by a team of foreign specialists brought together by her doctor in charge in Bucharest. In June, Yzabela underwent an invasive heart procedure aimed at correcting the malformation. Everything went according to plan during the surgery, and Yzabela recuperated well during the following hours and days. She was discharged and returned to St. Margaret's to continue her recovery surrounded by her best friends.

Yzabela continues to make progress with each passing day, she is the forever cheerful, energetic, and full of smiles. CID is so grateful to Yzabela's doctors for their fantastic job and to wish our little winner a swift recovery and numerous days filled with jolly good fun in the sun!



Bianca, we know you are at peace

Our beloved Bianca left this life at the end of April. She had been at St Margaret's for two years. Bianca could not talk, walk, or feed herself. Yet she remained a constant presence with the children of St Margaret's.

In April, Bianca's heart condition turned badly in a very quick amount of time. She was hospitalized, and remained there while her condition deteriorated. The doctors did their best, but Bianca went into a coma, for a week. She then passed to life eternal.

Many staff attended Bianca's funeral and burial. They laid a wreath of white flowers on Bianca's grave, on CID's behalf. We are sure that Bianca's gentle soul will find the peace she did not have on this earth. May we pray for Bianca, and thank the angels for their presence with her. God bless you Bianca.

Easter Celebrations

Thanks to Children in Distress's good-hearted and generous supporters, the Easter Bunny delivered Easter gifts and foods to lots of our children in celebration of Orthodox Easter on May 2.

To prepare for the Bunny's visit in Bucharest, some of the children of St Margaret's Hospice created Easter bonnets and bunny masks. A few days later they wore their bonnets to meet the Easter Bunny in the garden of Maria Popa, a CID Romania Trustee and long-time supporter. It was the first time they had met the Easter Bunny in person. The Bunny and his helpers had hidden chocolate eggs and other candies around the garden, and so the children also had their first Easter egg hunt. After the hunt, the Easter Bunny gave each child a bag of Easter gifts

purchased with the funds donated by our supporters. There were pants and shirts, trucks and soft ducks for the boys, and spring dresses, dolls and soft bunnies for the girls. They had so much fun opening their gifts, squealing and laughing with excitement. The event ended with a lunch of pizza and salad. Many thanks to the Maria Popa, our staff and volunteers who made the day a fun and happy one.



The Easter Bunny also visited the St Margaret's children whose medical and cognitive condition restricts them to the hospice. There the interaction was more limited. Each child received an Easter soft toy from the Bunny, along with some cooing and touching. A few children smiled, one or two put their hands on their toy. Many did not seem to know they had had an Easter visitor.



A few days later the Easter Bunny travelled to St Christopher's Children's Centre in Curtea de Arges. Fifty children gathered to meet the Bunny and have an Easter egg hunt. As with the St Margaret's children, meeting the Easter bunny and having an egg hunt was a first. In addition to the candies and chocolates the children found as they scrambled around St Christopher's garden, each child was given a package of Easter treats. Fifty packages of food for Easter dinner also were distributed, so that the kids and their families could have a nice Easter dinner. Each package included, among other items, mince, pork, flour, rice, cooking oil, cheese, eggs, chocolate and Cozonac, the traditional Romanian Easter bread. Thanks to the St Christopher staff and volunteers who shopped for the candies and dinners. These children come from desperately poor conditions, so it is good that CID was able to provide an Easter dinner and candies to so many children and their families.

A big thank you to our supporters who made financial contributions so that we could hold these Easter celebrations. Thank you for providing a joyous, festive and abundant Easter for CID's children.



St Andrew's Hospice

St. Andrew's relocates

St Andrew's relocated June 15 to Valea Mare neighbourhood of Pitesti. The move was required by government to provide more family type living conditions, as required by the EU. On that day, the entire residential ward moved to our new home: children, beds, clothes, medical equipment and other necessary objects. The move took planning and logistics: several ambulances were required to transport our children with specialized medical transportation staff, and the trucks necessary to move the beds and other equipment.

The new (to us) facility was prepared for the children's arrival in advance, putting the children into four bedrooms rather than our two larger wards. Once settled into their new accommodation, the children spotted their familiar objects like their beds and toys. We hope they will get used to their new home and environment. The transition has been

easier for them because our medical staff have accompanied them and continues to work with them. We pray for the children and the staff as they accommodate to their new home.



Izabela learns to communicate with the help of sign language



From birth, Izabela has had no speech or hearing. To help her orient herself as well as possible, Iza was hearing aided from an early age. In parallel, a person was sought to teach her to communicate through sign language. For a long time, a suitable specialist could not be found. While we explored for the right specialist, our staff worked with Iza, teaching her basic things: to imitate, make puzzles, play with a ball or toy.

Recently, with the help of our staff, in concert with the local county's Child Protection Department, Iza has been set up with a therapist, a per-

son who also does not hear or speak but can help Iza. The therapist comes twice a week to St Andrew's to help Iza with mimic-gestural language.

At first, Iza was not able to mimic the therapist. However, after a few sessions Iza is already another child. She got used to working with the therapist and began to understand the program. It is a small beginning, but we are grateful as Iza is severely mentally disabled. Progress is slow, yet CiD remains hopeful.

St Andrew's Hospice

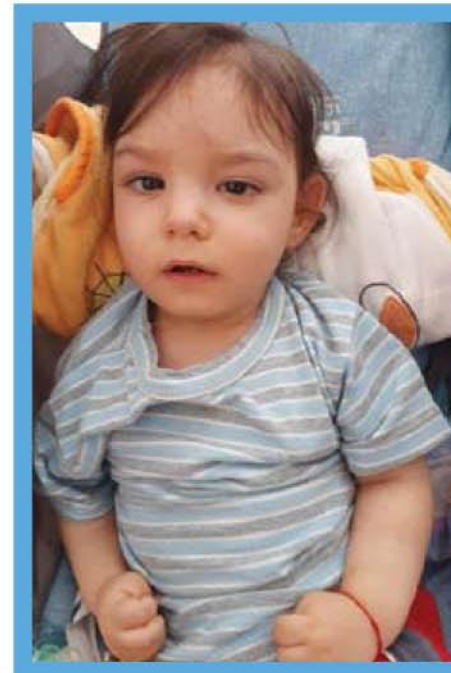
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday Adelina!

Adelina celebrated her 14th birthday in June. The children at St Andrew's seem to grow up so fast. We celebrated with Adelina by throwing a party for her, her chums and our medical team. There was cake, music, and a serenade of Happy Birthday from the staff. Iza, Adelina's friend, sang along to Happy Birthday by moving her hands back and forth. Adelina, we wish you many more days of sunshine and love.



Mihnea moves to St Andrew



In July St. Andrew's welcomed a new "little brother", Mihnea. Mihnea was born April 30, 2020. His diagnosis is microcephaly, congenital strabismus, and global development delay. Nonetheless, he is a wonderful child, beautiful and ever smiling.

Unlike most of CID's children, Mihnea comes from a family. His mother and his grandmother tried to care for Mihnea at home but without the training and equipment they were not able to care for the medical aspects of his daily life. So he has come to St Andrew's.

Mihnea is learning to enjoy hearing voices, he cooperates with his feeding, and he smiles from time to time. We are happy to welcome Mihnea to his new home!

St Christopher's House

Our children make us proud!

St Christopher's House is open again following over a year of pandemic closure. It is wonderful to have our children and young people back, attending our programs and seeing their friends after what must seem like an eternal separation. It is comforting to see that most of our kids have come through the pandemic with their bright spirits and smile still in place.

Marina and Diana, twins, continue with their cousin Bianca to flourish. Despite very challenging economic circumstances, they had fantastic results at grades time. For another year each of them finished among the first in their respective classes. The girls work exceptionally hard to earn great

grades, in the hopes for a good future. They are proof that determination and positivity can bring success, regardless of serious financial limitations.

Children like these three young women make us feel great joy and pride in our work.

To help them remember these special moments and to reward their efforts, the House team gave them each a small gift. Marina, Diana and Bianca were so excited because their parents cannot afford to give them extra gifts. These young women are blessings. Keep up the good work, girls! And welcome back everyone to St Christopher's.



Ecaterina and Her Neighbours

"We are simple people, used to being poor". That is how this mother of seven introduced herself, using a low voice. As per usual we immediately set our system in motion and found kind-hearted people willing to offer support of new clothes, footwear, hygiene products and blankets.

Ecaterina is a single Mom. Her sole income is a monthly state allowance. We learned that her family lives in a humble home which shares a dirt yard with another family of two adults and five children. They too live in dire poverty. The two homes are not truly proper for raising children. There are no utilities. The families heat their few rooms with logs given to them by a man in the village. The parents cannot find stable jobs as they have no education or marketable skills. They are desperate.

We discussed their issues with Social Assistance representatives and contacted several associations in the area to involve them in supporting these families. We hope that with the quick interim help we provided, and the longer term support that will develop, these families' situations will improve.



X-MAN ROMANIA

The CID team placed first at X-Man Romania 2021. X-man is a three person triathlon held in Oradea in western Romania. CID's team consisted of (from left to right in the photo) **Sebastian Ghioca** - cycling, **Mihai Badea** - swimming, and **Adrian Presuceanu** - running. Not only did Team CID win, but the team raised enough funds from sponsors to achieve their stated goal of financing one month of physical therapy sessions for 17 children at St Margaret's Hospice. Sebastian and Adrian have done several sports competitions to benefit CID.

Thank you for your continued support and interest. Thanks to Mihai too, who joined our team for the first (and not last!) time. We are so appreciative of your efforts.

We also thank those individuals who sponsored our team, the organizers of X-Man Romania, and the companies who generously underwrote our winning team, Kulttur (Bucharest), Dr Cristina Paris Ophthalmology practice in Calarasi, and Ceres Container Calarasi.



Daniel Osmanovici

CID has been awarded three spaces in the 2021 London Marathon Charity run. The Marathon's purpose is to raise money for charities and requires an application process. The date this year is Sunday, October 3. The Marathon will be run live in London AND others not in London will run the 26.2 miles in their own location, anywhere on the planet. Due to the fact that people around the world can run, it is being billed as the world's largest marathon ever.



CID is fortunate that three runners will run to raise money for CID. They will run in Romania, with the aim to raise money for physiotherapy sessions for CID's children.

Daniel is the father of two children, husband, runner, cyclist, blogger and morning host of the TV news program, Focus la Prima Ora on Channel PrimaTV.



He started running in 2010 as his way of getting over a trying period in his life. His wife and he were told that their baby had died, just two weeks before birth. Running - and the possibility of running a marathon the following year - became a target for someone who knew too little about distance running and training. Yet Daniel believed that the commitment, effort, and motivation would somehow help him deal with his family's tragedy. In 2011, Daniel and his wife found out they would become parents again. Daniel dedicated his first marathon to the child to be born and to the memory of the one who never came. Daniel did this because he wanted it to be understood that running is related to children, and that everything that followed in his running career would be dedicated to his children and children in difficulty. In 2017 Daniel did a "marathon" marathon of 37 hours and 11 minutes presenting news and weather on television to raise money for a young girl who needed funding for complicated surgeries. Then in 2019 he walked 100 km non-stop for children with autism; he now has made this walk three additional times.

As of the time of the printing of this Vision, Daniel has run 15,000 km, and cycled almost 7,000 km, for children. It is natural that Daniel would combine his running with his dream for children by participating in the London Marathon, even if virtually. He says that the London Marathon is the dream of every marathon runner, and he dedicates his run to the children of CID, who in his words "need as much attention, love, care, and love as possible... as they have always received it since CID became their home."



Dan Spataru



Dan is a husband and the father of two children. He is a lover of exercise and healthy living. In the last three years, Dan has run in three half-marathons to raise monies for Children in Distress. This year Dan will participate for the first time in the London Marathon, and he is pleased to support CID's children through his effort.

Dan tells us: "running is my passion, and in addition to the things that help me be better (strong will, perseverance, training), I have the advantage of HEALTH. Many of us have this gift but maybe we are not aware enough. Unfortunately, some adults do not have good health, and that is certainly true for the children of CID with severe neurological and terminal disease. CID is a specially arranged and equipped centre that provides accommodation, medical assistance, personalized care, emotional support, all kinds of therapy and socialization. Sports enthusiasts know that for these children, daily physical therapy sessions are essential. These sessions help to prevent the worsening of health, tones the muscles,

strengthens the central nervous system and supports physical recovery. It is pretty simple, physical therapy adds moments of life."



Adrian Presuceanu



Adrian is a police officer with the Administration Directorate for Communications and Information Technology (Bucharest). He is passionate about sports, reading, music, and gastronomy. He is a marathon runner and runner of other races, including mountain runs.

Adrian is a good friend of the children of CID. He has run three marathons for CID, and this year his CID team took 1st Place at the X-Man Romania 2021 triathlon, raising funds for our physiotherapy sessions with the children. Adrian hopes to continue to raise money for physiotherapy by running in the London Marathon. He hopes his and others efforts send the children the message:

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Please support Daniel, Dan, Adrian, and CID by sponsoring their running in the London Marathon. Each runner has a Just Giving page on which you may donate to their efforts and CID. Please respond to Daniel's, Dan's, and Adrian's generosity with your own generosity. Thank you to them and to you.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CID-Daniel>
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CID-Dan>
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CID-Adrian>

Thanks too to Simon Errington, who came up with the idea of CID's participation in the Marathon and completed our application.



Angela Gowdy BEM – My Personal Experience of CID

It was in 2005 that I first heard of Children in Distress. This was through a fellow volunteer at the charity Home-Start, which involves visiting families in their homes, with at least one child under the age of five, needing support help through difficult times.

As a retired pediatric nurse who had cared for children for nearly 50 years, I was immediately interested. My love of children goes back to my teen years and I am now 90 years old!

I have sponsored three children at St Margaret's, all boys – perhaps because I have five grandsons!

My first little boy was Rodin Ionido. Although we never met I just loved him and was deeply upset when I was told that he had died shortly after he returned to his family. He was just seven years old. It was lovely to see his photograph displayed in St Margaret's when I visited.

Then I was introduced to Florin Flora when he was about four years old. Anyone who has met Florin is unlikely to forget him! He always acted as host to any visitors to St Margaret's.

I had great pleasure in meeting Florin in 2011 and we became great pals. When it was time for me to leave he came with me to the airport but couldn't understand why he couldn't come too. Florin turned 21 in April of this year.

And now my thoughts turn to Stefan Andreescu who became my third little

boy five years ago. We met in 2019 during the 30 Year Anniversary Tour. There were many people visiting St Margaret's that day, which was difficult for Stefan. I regret that I was unable to connect with him but he is in my heart and I love catching up with him through the Vision Newsletter.

Sadly, I don't think that I will manage another visit to Romania and I won't be able to see Vali again. Vali has kept CID alive for me and, I am sure, for all the other volunteers who support this very special charity. Her dedication and love for the work she does is an inspiration to us all.

Meanwhile how do I stay connected with CID? Knitting! I NEED to knit every day for these children. The photo here shows the result of a year's lockdown, which I hope will reach them in the not too distant future.



QUIZ NIGHT

On May 15, over 40 people gathered via Zoom for CID's First Annual Quiz Night. The players joined in from the UK (England, Scotland, Wales), Romania, Germany, Spain, and the US. There were six teams, with members mixed among the countries so that new and long-term supporters could get to know each other. Following a break-out session for team members to meet each other, we spent approximately two hours with the teams answering questions related to Literature, Geography, History, Science and Nature, Entertainment, and Famous Faces. Many times every team had the answer to a question; other times only one team would have the correct answer. Half-way through we had a drinks break and got to know each other better.

Each team was named for one of our children who had a monthly sponsor on that team. The winning team was Team Tania, named for Tania in our Pitesti hospice, who is sponsored by

one of the winning Team Tania members. The winning team was Yasmin Catley and Lily Clark, Loughborough Univ., Loughborough, UK; Mary Hogan, Sussex, UK; Courtney Kaylor, Atlanta, Georgia, US; and Ambassador Andrew and Helen Noble, Bucharest. The winning members received a CID T-shirt and writing cards containing a drawing by one of our young people at St Christopher's House. Thanks to Vlad Radut (Bucharest) and Simon Errington (Yorkshire) for organizing the IT, to Yvonne and Phil Cockcroft and Kaye O'Connell (Germany) for helping to develop the questions and format, and to the team hosts, Yvonne, Phil, Kaye, Simon, Vali Zaharia and Steven Smith. Thanks too to all who participated. It was great to have such a diverse age range. We had a fun time, with healthy competition and lots of laughter. We look forward to hosting the Second Annual Quiz Night!

Children in Distress really needs volunteers to fundraise for us. If you could help or have questions, please contact Tina Connelly at :
tina.connelly@childrenindistress.org.uk, (0044) 1415 595 690
or Jane Russell at :
janewren@btinternet.com, (0044) 1751 432 089



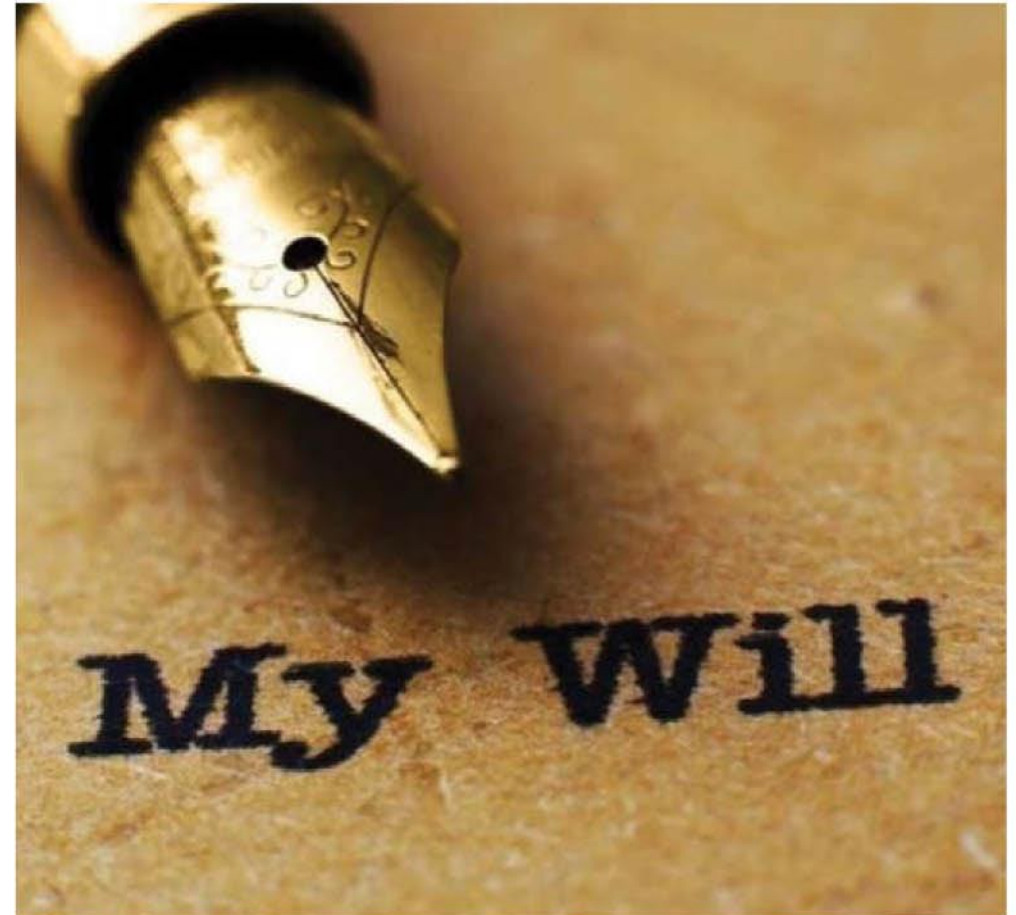
From this Day Forward

CID's CEO Valentina Zaharia and The Rev Steven Smith were married June 29. They were married at the Episcopal/Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd in Ogden, Utah, USA, near where Steven grew up. The service was followed by dinner, speeches, toasts and lots of photographs. Many family and friends attended in person, and 275 watched the live stream or later viewed the service on YouTube. The staff of St Margaret's truly surprised Valentina and Steven by getting our children dressed in their wedding best and holding a lovely bouquet of flowers to watch the ceremony. They then recorded songs of well-wishes for the couple.

Valentina and Steven met in 2014 when they began working together to support CID's hospice and community programs. Their common values and care for the well-being of children literally brought them together through CID.

The two, Vali and Steven, became one, and we welcome them in CID's family as a couple and wish them endless love and happiness. It is a new chapter in their life, and the life of CID, from this day forward.

Paul Kubaszky
Vice President, CID Romania



Legacies

Please remember - you may leave a legacy (gift in your will) to Children in Distress. These and other remembrances and gifts are so helpful in our continued work with the children in Romania. To discuss

leaving a gift to Children in Distress, please contact CEO Valentina Zaharia Smith, vali@cid.org.ro. Vali is happy to answer any questions you may have. Thanks!!

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