

VISION

Spring 2021

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

Children
in Distress



COVID-19 Challenges

In April 2020 Children in Distress launched an appeal to help us meet the financial and psychological challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic. As with everyone, new words and concepts became commonplace for us - lockdown, social distancing, quarantine, testing. Our lives were impacted in ways that seemed surreal - our homes quickly became the office (the Glasgow office of our UK branch has been closed for almost a year), we didn't meet friends or family. There was no more the communal experience in shops, neighborhood centres, museums, restaurants or cinemas. Schools were closed, with educational tasks heavily falling to parents already maxed with other COVID challenges. Holidays were spent in isolation. You all know the experience of wearing an entirely new ensemble of masks, plastic gloves and for some, face shields, and carrying

the ever-ready sanitized gel. Many of us suffered serious negative financial repercussions. The most upsetting experience is that we lost loved ones. Sadly, several CiD supporters and friends passed away in the last year. Their dedication, concern and friendship are remembered, and CiD grieves with their family members and friends. We know very well that COVID's impact on our supporters and friends has been heavy.

So too, COVID affected CiD in significant ways. CiD was required to close St Christopher's House, our outreach project to children and young people in Curtea de Arges. St Christopher's has yet to reopen, though we have continued to serve through projects which are mentioned in this magazine and the Christmas shoe box pamphlet sent earlier this year.

Of course, CiD did not close its

hospices. St Margaret's in Bucharest and St Andrew's in Pitesti couldn't close because there was nowhere else for the children. Despite the COVID complexities CiD continued our care for these least fortunate. To some extent we functioned in a knowledge vacuum, as government requirements often changed with little notice given. By early spring 2020, CiD required emergency funding to continue operating in lockdown conditions. We made a special appeal in April 2020 to help us cope with the emerging situation. You responded with gracious generosity. The campaign ran six months, and 192 individuals, churches and groups donated £36,000. We were overwhelmed by the response and are so grateful. You helped us greatly minimise the pandemic's impact. Thank you.

Over the last year, we have learned what is required to meet the challenges of the Coronavirus. The pandemic is not over. Circumstances continue to change. We continue to need masks, gloves, hospital gowns, special medical suits, all kinds of disinfectants (hands, surfaces, entrances), monthly

professional disinfection of the entire hospice, weekly toxic debris removal, and, importantly, special benefits paid to the care staff for their working in quarantine conditions, as well as continued compensation for the staff who test positive and are not working because they are required to quarantine at home.

We are headed toward a "new normal", but it is still off in the future. Our efforts to keep our hospice children safe means that we have to continue our fight against COVID and maintain our lockdown posture. We ask that you lend us a hand if at all possible. The children need now, as much as they did in 2020, our support. A contribution, even a small one, will help.

Please know that we are very grateful for your help over the last year: for your financial help, your prayers, and texts, calls, and emails of concern. Together, we offer the children a bright today and hopefully a future tomorrow.

Valentina Zaharia
CEO UK & Romania



St. Margaret's Hospice in Quarantine

Since March 2020 we have worked hard to control the spread of Corona infection in the hospice. We mobilised our forces in a very short time to take the necessary measures to implement proper safeguards for the children and our staff. The entire facility went into lockdown, with no visitors permitted. We tested staff every week, with no one positive from the pandemic onset until after the Christmas holidays.

The days following Christmas brought a new reality. We had our first infections, beginning with staff and eventually six of our children. As a result, the hospice was required to declare quarantine for 14 days. The positive children and staff

were isolated into a single ward of the hospice, using the rooms we normally use for physical, speech and other therapies. Non-positive children and staff were combined into two other wards. Of course, staff and children must eat, so a catering service was retained to provide meals during the 14 days.

We are lucky that neither the children nor staff encountered serious health problems because of the virus. The worst was that some staff felt fatigue and had lingering coughs. We are grateful that by now everyone is recovered and well.



Meet a Child

COVID restrictions required the cancellation of the Children in Distress Supporters' Tour in 2020. Individual visits fell off dramatically in 2020, with only one couple visiting from abroad. This means that many child sponsors and others have not been able to see and meet the children for quite a time. We do not know when this will change; it certainly will not change in the near future. To continue your connection with the children, we have developed a program whereby you can spend virtual time with your sponsored child on live online video or engage in a group activity. Those who do not have a sponsored child can participate too. This is open to anyone who might enjoy some time online with a child or par-



ticipating in a group activity. There are a number of activities for you to share – birthdays, reading him/her a story, teaching each other to count to 10 in your respective languages, singing or playing. We also can invite you to join a larger group when they have an activity, such as crafting, singing or playing. For those children whose medical condition restricts activity, a sponsor can visit a child, speaking to the child with a caregiver repeating the conversation and showing the child a plush toy or giving the child something to hold, like a rattle. No matter the child or activity, a caregiver who speaks English and Romanian always will be present during an online meeting.

Meetings with an individual child may be scheduled through the Bucharest office, bucuresti@cid.org.ro. Similarly, if you would like to be notified of group activities in which you can participate, please write the Bucharest office and ask to be placed on the "Online Activities List." You will be notified when an activity is scheduled.



New Beds for Beautiful Dreams

As we detailed in the last Vision, in 2020, in the midst of the COVID pandemic, St Margaret's was required to renovate to meet new government standards. The hospice was morphed from "hospital" to "family" living, at a cost of £20,000.

After the structural renovation, we next moved to replace the children's beds. The beds were twenty years old and no longer adequate. Over 50% of the beds are for special needs, which increases the cost of replacement because they require unique features.

All told, we needed to raise £14,000 to purchase new beds for the children at the hospice. As CiD was focused on our general appeal for assistance to meet COVID costs, we turned to a few people to inquire whether they could assist in raising funds for the beds. Several generous and wonderful people stepped up to meet our needs.



The children of the "Band Music School", the choir of School No. 27, and the children of School No. 62, held an online marathon of Christmas carols to raise money for the new beds. This was exciting because not only did the effort help us buy beds, it educated a young generation in the direction of social involvement, and the need for acceptance and integration of children with disabilities into Romanian society (an issue that remains controversial in large sectors of the population).

Significant funds were raised by Anne-Marie Martin and Nelly Miriciou, two good-hearted supporters in London, both of whom are Romanian and who serve as CiD charity ambassadors. Anne-Marie "donated" her birthday to CiD, asking for gifts of contributions to CiD in place of personal gifts. Nelly made a special giving appeal on her Face Book page. Anne-Marie and Nelly



raised a significant amount of funds for the purchase of beds. Last but not least, a Romanian firm donated a large amount of money.

So far, six beds have been installed, with more on the way. The first recipients, Cristina, Andrei, Stefan, Cristiana, Elena and Bianca were extremely excited when their new beds arrived and

could not wait for night to arrive so they could get in, curl up and fall asleep.

Children in Distress is grateful for the school children, Anne-Marie and Nelly, and the Romanian firm who made it possible for our children to live and sleep in greater comfort and security. With their support, our children's dreams are more beautiful!





HAPPY *Birthday* LAURENȚIU

Laurentiu celebrated his fifth birthday just after leaving 14 days of quarantine. He was one of the six children at St Margaret's confirmed with Coronavirus and quarantined for 14 days apart from the other children. Laurentiu managed the quarantine easily, remaining in good health and not requiring any special medical intervention. Thus his birthday came with a double joy, the return to live amongst his friends and moving forward in age without additional medical complications.

The children hurried to welcome Laurentiu back with hugs and smiles. Laurentiu and his friends celebrated his birthday with balloons, cake, gifts and music. The children sang to Laurentiu, danced and yelled him "Happy Birthday". The cake was the favorite moment, when the children eagerly waited to blow out the candles, and of course, have a slice.

The most important thing for Laurentiu and the rest of the children was the opportunity to be together

again. One could see the joy of reunion on everyone's face. These are the moments when CiD is truly blessed. We are together, we can celebrate birthdays, we can share some happiness with a little hero like Laurentiu.



Justin Adjusts to Life at St Margaret's

Hello, I am Justin! I'm a little boy who came to St Margaret's two years ago. My parents brought me here because they love me and wanted me to receive the best possible care.

I remember that in the first weeks I really missed my mother and her hugs. I had to adjust to my new bed, my new surroundings, and the new people who take care of me. Over time I learned that there are warm arms besides my mother's to soothe my crying. My mother visited once or twice a week for the first year, but since the lockdown I cannot have visitors and only hear my

mother's voice on the phone.

I miss that we cannot go outside the hospice for walks. All we see is a patch of sky above the yard. The women who take care of us, our mothers in this house, are still here, but we can barely see their eyes and smiles because of masks and shields. Their hugs remind us that they love us and that they are fighting hard to keep us safe from this disease.

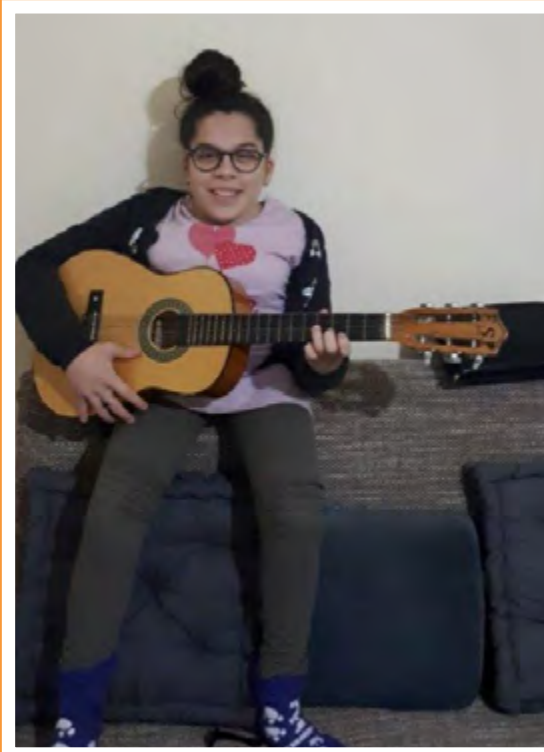
I miss our natural way of life and hope COVID is over soon!

With love, Justin



St. Andrew's Claudia and Her New Mother and Home

The year 2020 was difficult for each and every one of us. Yet the end of the year brought some good news for Claudia and St Andrew's hospice. Dana, St Andrew's physiotherapist, became Claudia's foster mother. "Mommy", as Claudia likes to call Dana, is a dedicated professional and esteemed colleague. Dana began at St Andrew's as a nurse, almost 14 years ago. Claudia was a baby of seven months when she came to St Andrew's, and she was not yet two years when Dana arrived at the hospice to work. Dana became attached to Claudia from almost the first time she met her in the ward. The years passed quickly and Dana and Claudia created a special relationship and routine. With permission from Child Protective Services, Dana took Claudia home on weekends and holidays. When Claudia was hospitalised



for her various surgeries, Dana served as guardian. Dana took her for her periodic medical check-ups. Dana has been there for Claudia for these many years and supported her all the way.

Claudia is a wonderful young woman by now. Since her arrival at the centre everyone understood we had been gifted with a special bundle of joy. During her infancy she was a happy, exuberant child, always ready to have some fun. She knew how to get to our hearts and stay there. Claudia was allowed outside the centre for kindergarten and then school. She made a lot of friends at her schools, along with her best chums at St Andrew's. Claudia's journey with us has been filled with grace and humour.

Everyone knows that Claudia will reach her full potential, and that this



stage of her growth living in a home with a loving mother is best. Dana and Claudia have talked for a long time about living together. This past Christmas, Father Christmas brought the best possible gift to Claudia and Dana, a life together as mother and daughter.

Even though Claudia no longer resides at St Andrew's, she has promised to keep in touch and visit whenever possible. We will sorely miss Claudia and her energetic, optimistic personality. We wish Claudia all the best in the world, to be healthy and to enjoy her new life.

St. Christopher's

Andreea - "Sport brings me joy!"

"Practicing a sport makes me happy because it helps me forget about my problems! It gives me energy and a positive feeling. Succeeding at sport shows me that others can look differently at me, to see who I really am, a resourceful, energetic and humorous child, a HUMAN, not just a kid in poor, old, torn clothes."

That's what Andreea tells us while she darts around the courtyard field at St Christopher's, sprinting in one direction or another, and playing with the equipment. It is almost impossible to keep up with her.

Andreea feels safe at St Christopher's. It is a place where she and other young adults can openly share their feelings, where they know they are loved and cared for and will not be judged. While St Christopher's in-door programs of homework assistance, afternoon lunch and fun (arts, crafts and music) have been cancelled because of COVID, the playfield remains open for monitored running about and playing with the equipment. Sport is the best route Andreea could take to help her overcome her frustrations and avoid school dropout and social marginalization. Andreea experiences harsh remarks and bullying because of her poverty, and along the way she lost her self-trust and confidence. St Christopher's intentionally uses sport to keep Andreea integrated and adaptive. Signing Andreea for the local handball team was a big

step to regaining her sense of self. Now she is smiling because she again trusts her instincts and abilities. Her loneliness has been replaced by her desire to be a part of a group and to make herself useful.

Due to COVID restrictions, there currently are no handball competitions or open practice courts. So Andreea comes to St Christopher's to practice her moves and stay limber and fit. Andreea hopes that when things return to normal, people will be kinder to each other because our social isolation has taught us that we need each other and should care about each other. She hopes that when we no longer wear masks, we will remember to smile and share a kind word rather than judge and criticise.

We hope you are right, Andreea! Thank you for teaching us what it means to be HUMAN!



Sofas for Those in Need

Many of the children who see St Christopher's as part of their family are from very poor circumstances. In visiting them in their homes, we see that some sleep on the floor because there are not enough beds. Others sleep in an old bed with a stained and lumpy mattress. Most often there is more than one child per mattress or bed; often there are several children crammed into a bed.

Children in Distress obtained a grant to buy a number of sofas for the most needy of these children and their families. The new sofas have become the center piece of the house for these families. They are the place to gather together, to report on the day, prepare homework, read stories, play games, and at night, to curl up for sleep.

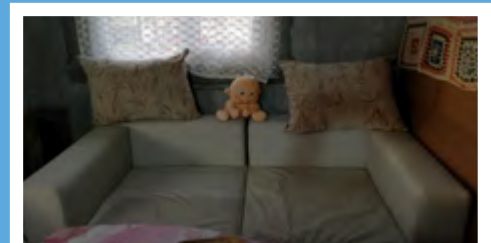
Two family stories:

Robert and Alex are brothers who have been a part of St Christopher's since they were little boys. Alex is now in his mid-late teens, Robert in his mid-teens. They share the same bedroom, but only Alex has a bed. Robert sleeps with blankets and pillows on the floor. A new sofa is now Robert's bed. It is in a place of honor, covered with a blanket to protect it. The brothers two younger sisters now make excuses to come into their room, so they can sit on the sofa. They call it "our place of stories" because it is where Robert reads to them. Robert also uses the sofa to sit with Andrei, his mentally-challenged little brother, and read to, and talk with, him.

Alex reports that it nice to see how "glued" his sisters and Andrei are to

the sofa. *"I'm happy when I see them laughing, when I know they have something of their own! I don't need anything anymore!"*

In another home, Daria and her family now have a place of happiness, play and study. Their new sofa replaces an old, broken armchair. That is where Daria used to sit to do her homework because the table is not large enough for all the family. Daria now does her homework on the sofa. Her brother naps beside her. Daria's father says *"we love to see them so happy in their corner"*. Daria doesn't have a bed, and it would have taken a long time for us to buy it. *"Now I look with great pleasure at Daria, how she falls asleep happily in the evening and how I find her in the morning, as if smiling in her sleep. I almost can't bear to wake her up."* Daria is gleeful. *"My house has more faces. It's like we have more rooms just because we have a sofa!"*





Janson-Roberts Scholarships

The deadline for application to the second year of Janson-Roberts scholarships was November 20, 2020. The scholarships were established in 2019 in Curtea de Arges County through a portion of the legacy left to Children in Distress by Dr Michael Janson and his wife Varuni Roberts. Dr Janson and Ms Roberts were two Americans with a large heart for children, and CiD is grateful to help socially and economically-challenged youngsters in Curtea de Arges County achieve their educational dreams through the generosity of Dr Janson and Ms Roberts.

For this second year, 25 young people applied for the ten scholarships. Competition was based on present academic achievement and future potential success. The competition was tight, with all of the applicants showing ability and drive. The evaluation committee, comprised of CiD representatives and those of the Arges County School Inspectorate, awarded the following scholarships for the school year 2020-2021:

Ciucu Maria-Raluca: Maria is a student at the Albestii de Arges Secondary

School. Her biggest passion is dancing, and she is part of a group of Romanian folk dancers called HORA. Maria applied for the scholarship because of her difficult financial situation and the fact that her parent's divorce makes things more challenging. Maria is very proud of her scholarship and will use it to buy a laptop and a printer.

Popa Ionut Alexandru: Ionut is a student at the No. 1 Budeasa Secondary School. He wants to become a policeman. He loves sports and practices karate. He helps his mother with everything since his father left the family four years ago. Ionut applied for the scholarship on the advice of a friend who was awarded a scholarship last year. He plans to use his scholarship for private lessons in mathematics and the Romanian language.

Banu Alexandru: Alexandru is a student at the Mihai Tican Romano Bervoiesti Secondary School. He is passionate about IT and wants to develop his skills in this direction. He was abandoned at birth, and at 6 weeks he was placed in foster care. He was diagnosed with cryptorchidism and has had three surgeries to get eliminate the problem. Alexandru will use his scholarship to buy electronic devices to help him learn more in the field of IT.

Ioana Sorina Mihaela: Sorina is a student at the Calotesti Secondary School. Her mother left her at an early age, and she was raised by her paternal grandmother and her father, who works as a day laborer when he can find work. She remembers with sadness when in the 3rd grade her class was instructed to create Mother's Day cards for their mothers, and she had no mother for whom to make a card. Sorina's life has motivated

her to want to work to support children from disorganized families. She plans to use her scholarship to create a studying room of her own, decorated with new furniture.

Gosoiu Petruta Stefania: Stefania is a student at the Cicanesti Secondary School. Her parents divorced a few years ago and she is cared for by her maternal grandmother. Her grandmother lives on a small pension and so Stefania often is unable to purchase school supplies. She plans to use her scholarship to purchase the school supplies she needs to continue her academic work.

Georgescu Florina Gina: Gina is a student at the No 1. Recea Secondary School. She is a frequent participant in the external section of the School of Arts and Crafts, especially at the sewing and knitting lessons. Gina's mother left the family when Gina was very young. She lived with her father and her three brothers until she was seven years. At that time, the parish priest and his wife offered to take in Gina. She is connected with her father and brothers and visits them frequently. Gina plans to save her scholarship money for high school.

Anghel Alexandra Denisa: Alexandra is a student at the No 1 Micesti Secondary School. She is an excellent student; last year she received the highest marks. Alexandra's family faces financial difficulty, and she is often short of school supplies. Alexandra will use her scholarship funds to buy books, notebooks and other educational materials.

Busioc Gabriela Andrada: Gabriela is a student at the Nae A Ghica Rucar Secondary School. When she was a child her family moved to Italy so her parents

would find better paying jobs. After saving some money the family returned to Romania. Her father has a job but her mother does not have employment. She feels she is look down on because of her financial situation, by teachers and other students. Gabriela plans to use her scholarship to purchase a laptop so she can attend her school's online course. [This is a broad problem in Romania. Due to COVID, all schools were closed and courses taught online. Neither the schools nor the government provided laptops. Consequently, children from families with little income were unable to participate in online school and essentially have sat out a year waiting for schools to reopen.]

Cornateanu Larisa Nicola: Larisa is a student at the No 1. Poienarii de Muscel Secondary School. She loves school and her passion is reading. She says that through education and books she finds escape from her difficult socio-economic situation. Larisa plans to use her scholarship funds to buy books and take private school lessons.

Martin Ana: Ana is a student at the No 1 Corbeni Secondary School. Her father works as a driver. Her mother works in the home. Ana has a great passion for drawing and wants to attend an art high school. With her scholarship funds she plans to buy art supplies and a laptop.

Congratulations to these young students. We wish them the best to accomplish their dreams of a good education. We are proud of their hard work and determination.

Thank you, Dr. Janson and Ms Roberts! You have left a great legacy in the lives of these and other children!

St Lawrence 'Walking Dragonboat'

Every September for the past few years a team from St. Lawrence Church, Seal Chart in Kent, has taken part in a Charity Dragonboat Race on Bewl Water to raise funds for the charities they support, including Children in Distress.

Year 2020 was different because, like many events, the Dragonboat Race was not held. This did not stop the Church Parish Council, which wanted to sponsor an event to raise much needed funds for the charities. The Council came up with the creative idea to hold a 'Walking Dragonboat'. A course was set, and volunteers sought, to walk (suitably distanced of course!) the 20 km (13 miles) around Bewl Water.

On September 5, 2020, an enthusiastic group gathered at the lake. They were extremely lucky with the weather;

in the preceding rainy days the group had wondered if they would get wetter on the walk than they had on the water. A great and fun time was had by all. Due to generous sponsors, the team was able to raise funds to donate to several charities. As one of the three main beneficiaries, Children in Distress received £1,000.

Thank you to everyone who organised, took part in, and sponsored this event!



A Gift from our Green Fingred Friends

Sue Goldby is one of CiD's most long-term and loyal supporters. To benefit CiD, Sue prepared for and held two plant sales in May and June 2020. Sue divided plants from her garden and took cuttings from others. A neighbor also donated from her garden. Sue advertised the plant sales on local WhatsApp groups.

Sue was amazed by the positive response. She was almost sold out by 11.30 on both days. From the two sales, Sue raised almost £400 for Children In Distress.

This was a wonderful and appreci-

ated initiative in a year when many of us wondered how we might help in the midst of such a dire pandemic. Well done Sue and neighbor! Your support helps us to continue the work that we do.



Our Woolly (New) Friends

Children in Distress has received our first ever donation from a pack of alpacas!!

CiD received an email from Mr Brian Murrell and his wife, to let us know that they were donating two 30 x 100g balls of double-knit alpaca wool. The wool had been made from their own alpacas and spun at a mill. Mr and Mrs Murrell were inspired when they read about CiD's wonderful groups of knitters, and they thought to contribute to the knitting of items needed by children in Romania.

This certainly was a new one for us, and a very welcomed donation. Our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Murrell, and of course, their generous alpacas.



Our Christmas 2020 Vision included a survey through which CiD asked your opinion on how well we are communicating and what we could do to improve. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey. We have taken your suggestions to heart.

As you might remember, we offered a £15 Amazon gift card for one lucky person who returned the survey. We are delighted to announce (drumroll please!) that Carol Johnson has won the gift card. Carol has been a CiD supporter for many years. Carol now lives in the Shetland Isles, but prior to relocating there Carol lived in Skelton village, just north of York. Skelton is next to Shipton

village, where the Revd John Walmsley served as vicar. Of course, it is Revd John who founded Children in Distress over 30 years ago. Carol knew Revd John very well, and through their friendship she became involved with CiD. CiD is still close to Carol's heart, and she is thankful for all that it is still achieving into our 4th decade.

Congratulations Carol – and thanks to all who returned the survey.

Although Carol has won the prize, it is not too late for you to complete the survey. If you would like to take “have your say”, please click on the link: [Have Your Say! \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com) and follow the steps on the screen.



Children in Distress hosts **Quiz Night, Saturday, May 15, 18.00 (UK), 19.00 (Western & Central Europe), 20.00 (Eastern Europe)**. We host LIVE on Zoom from St Margaret's Hospice. We hope you will join us for a fun evening, when you will meet new people, exhibit what you know, and learn things you didn't know you don't know.

A link will be sent to all who sign up to participate. There will be 10 questions from different categories, including History & Current Events, Entertainment, Science & Nature, and General Knowledge. The questions will not focus on a particular country but will be spread around to give everyone a chance to answer at least one question

correctly!! Teams will go into breakout “rooms” to privately decide their answers. The members of the winning team will receive a prize. Team members will be assigned from different locations and hopefully even different countries. This is a great opportunity for you to meet other CiD supporters and friends you don't know and perhaps renew acquaintance with someone you know.

To sign up, please email: mission@cid.org.ro. Please provide your name, email address, best phone number and the location and country where you currently live. **Please sign up by May 7.**

We look forward to our Zoom Quiz Night with you!

Easy Ways to Raise a Bit of Money for Children in Distress

Donate your Birthday to CiD

Rather than have people give you birthday gifts, why not consider asking them to contribute the value of a gift to CiD in your name. Several donors have done this in the past months, with impressive effects for the charity. Since lockdown means that we are not giving as many gifts in person, this is an easy way to celebrate a birthday and help CiD.

It's simple!

Just access the link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ideas/birthday> and follow the steps to create a fundraising page for your birthday, with the proceeds designated to Children in Distress. Just Giving allows you to add your story, a photo, and tell people why you're raising money for CiD.

Once you have created your birthday page, please share it on any social media platforms you may use. Please also let us know you have done this, so we can wish you a Happy Birthday too.

Remember Loved Ones with a Gift to CiD

Making an online donation to a charity in the name of someone who has died has increased in popularity over the last several years, and especially in the last year. Memory giving is a nice way to remember loved ones and raise money for a cause that was near to their heart or is close to your heart.

Children in Distress supporters have used two websites to ask friends and family to make a donation to CiD in memory of their departed loved one:

<https://www.memorygiving.com/>

This site allows you to create a tribute page dedicated to a departed loved one, and gives others the opportunity to make a memorial donation in the name of the deceased to the charity of your choice.

<https://muchloved.com/>

This site allows you to create a memorial tribute for a loved one with photos, candles, stories, etc. Others may participate in the tribute by adding their own reflections or photos, and they may make a memorial donation in the name of the deceased to a designated charity.

Once a memorial is set up on one of the sites, please share it with others so that they know you are honoring your deceased in this manner. And helping CiD along the way.

smile.amazon.co.uk

Something to Smile About

Online shopping has been part of our lives for many years now, even more so over the past year. While it is more convenient, and safer, than visiting the high street, there is now another reason to shop by mouse.

Children in Distress has joined Amazon Smile. This is a programme run by the online retailer that supports charities by donating 0.5% of your Amazon purchase to the charity of your choice. Best of all, it does not cost you a single extra penny.

And it couldn't be simpler!

1.To become a member, simply go to: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

2.Sign in with your usual Amazon details (email, password) or create an account if you don't have one

3.Choose Children in Distress as your charity (you can search by our name or charity number SC039383)

4.That's all!

From then on Amazon will donate to CiD 0.5% of the value of eligible purchases you make. Just in case you're wondering, CiD won't receive any personal information or details of what you buy.

Please note, you must go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> for your shopping. No donation will be made if you use the normal Amazon website address.

Please let your family and friends know about this simple way to help CiD. They too can be a part of the CiD family.



Easter Gifts from the Heart

*Clothes will be purchased from Next Clothing, a longtime CiD sponsor. To support CiD's Easter effort, Next Clothing has given CiD a reduced price.

Easter Festivities

This year at St Margaret's hospice, the children will celebrate Orthodox Easter May 2, with Orthodox activities that the children know well and an introduction to new aspects of Western Easter celebrations. We will have Easter egg painting, decorating their rooms, and cookie baking. We're also adding two Western Eastern traditions. For the first time we will make an Easter parade to a nearby park with the children who can walk or ride in a wheelchair. In the park, for the first time, the children will have an Easter egg hunt. To comply with Bucharest COVID regulations, all children and attendant adults will wear masks in the parade and the park, and hand sanitizer will be used frequently. We will share

photos and video of these events. To help the children celebrate, you may wish to contribute to our Easter Gifts from the Heart program. The items you purchase will be bought in Bucharest and given to the children for their Easter festivities. You also may contribute to Easter dinners for our impoverished children at St Christopher's and their families. To help us make a joyous Easter, please visit our homepage: www.childrenindistress.org. Click on "Easter Gifts from the Heart" to select a gift to purchase online. **THANK YOU AND ALL BEST WISHES FOR YOUR SPRING AND EASTER SEASON!**

<p>Boys pants & shirt £20</p> 	<p>Girls – dress & tights £20</p> 
<p>Easter chocolate £5</p> 	<p>Easter gift pack (girl) £15</p> 
<p>Easter gift pack (boy) £15</p> 	<p>Easter dinner for 4 £25</p> 

DONATE TODAY

Donate

£

today

I wish to pay by cheque / postal order / or Mastercard / Visa / Maestro (please delete as appropriate)

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

Card No

Valid from Date..... Security No..... (Last 3 digits on reverse of card)

Expiry Date..... Maestro Issue No.....

Signature..... Date.....

Donate

£

monthly from today

OR

Donate

£12.00

and sponsor a child today

Account Holders Name:.....

My Account No.....

Bank Sort Code..... Starting Date.....

To the Manager - (Name and address of Bank)

.....

.....

Signature..... Date.....

Official use only. Please pay to the account of Children in Distress (Acc no 10101169) at
The Royal Bank of Scotland, 10 Gordon Street, Glasgow G1 3PL (Sort code 83-07-06)

Your personal details

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Tel No.....

Email.....

- To reduce the cost to Children in Distress, I do not require a receipt.
- I am a taxpayer and authorise CiD to reclaim the tax on my donations since 6 April 2000 and all future donations (unless I notify otherwise) as Gift Aid donations.
- Please send me more information on sponsoring a child. Sign-up to receive occasional email newsletters from CID



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