

VISION

Spring 2020



Emergency Appeal

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

Children
in Distress



Please Help Us

The corona virus is having a major impact not only on how we provide our care services but how we fund them.



Dear Supporters,



All Charities are under similar pressures in the current situation. Many funding streams and opportunities for raising revenue are curtailed. Those caring for vulnerable groups of people are subject to special requirements to provide for and protect the individuals in their care and themselves.

Children in Distress is no exception and our staff in Romania and the United Kingdom have risen to the challenges with great spirit, enthusiasm, and dedication.

At present our staff in Bucharest are required to be resident on site at St Margaret's for lengthy shifts. They must be fed and be provided with Personal Protection Equipment. There are special requirements for hygiene and travel. Payment for the extra hours worked is required.

The office in Glasgow is closed and the

staff are all working from home.

The shops in Yorkshire are closed and the Managers furloughed.

These pressures, against a background of a fall in regular income, are resulting in increased costs. In Romania there is no local or central government support for care homes in the Charitable Sector.

We are aware that there are casualties and bereaved amongst our supporters to whom our hearts go out. Many supporters in the UK and Romania have responded by personal initiatives and increased giving already.

Please help Valentina and Tina and their teams to meet all the extra demands imposed by the current situation by removing the anxiety of financial pressure.

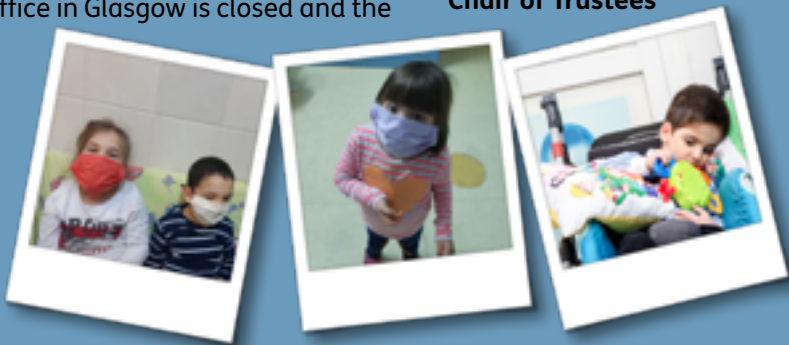
Please contribute anything that you can through the channels advertised in this special edition of Vision.

Be vigilant, stay safe – it is not over yet.

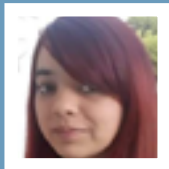
Best wishes,

Harry Ward

**Harry Ward
Chair of Trustees**



Dear Fundraisers,



For the last 7 weeks we have watched as our way of life has completely changed due to the global pandemic, Coronavirus (Covid-19).

We are no longer allowed to work in the office, socialize, spend time with friends, family, and refrain from going outdoors unless it is essential.

Not only has this affected us within our everyday lives, but also within our Children in Distress life.

As the Admin/Fundraiser, part of my job is to help raise funds to help support our children in Romania, and with Coronavirus this has been impossible.

Scheduled events such as the London Marathon have now been postponed until October 4th, 2020 which now conflicts with the Glasgow 10k and half marathons. Our wonderful group of CID Little Helpers have had to cancel their summer fundraising events for CID as they are still all on strict lockdown. This is a huge blow for CID and the little helpers, and an important stream of fundraising has come to a halt.

Not all doom & gloom!

We have however learned to take the time to check in on each other more.

To call, email and video chat with our amazing colleagues, friends, child sponsors, donators, supporters, and family. We have been supporting each other by asking, "How you are" and unlike in the past this is no longer a passing remark, this now

means so much more to the people we contact, whether it be by email or phone.

To help people deal with this awful pandemic, we have been posting daily updates on our social media platforms and keeping everyone up to date on how our wonderful children in Romania are all safe and well. We added instructions on our website on how to join our Facebook page and even called some of our veteran supporters to give them step by step instructions and we could not be prouder of how well they have done.

Resources

Our dear friend, Paula Martin, has set up her very own Just giving page for the 2.6 Challenge, and we wish her all the very best.

Our amazing CEO Valentina Zaharia has requested donations instead of birthday gifts this year.

And we have our very own just giving page to help with donations.

Even in what feels like the loneliest and scariest time we are facing; we have seen people giving what they can to help support us in caring for our children in Romania.

We know how hard this is, we are going through this with you and we would like to thank everyone who has already supported us. We do not know what semblance of normality we will ever get back to, but we do know one thing....

With your help we will continue to provide the best medical care, educational support, and love to all of our children in our hospices in Romania.

Thank you all so much

L Connelly



**TO DONATE TO ANY OF THE ABOVE RESOURCES
PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINKS BELOW:**



Paula Martin 2.6 Challenge:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showRO-FundraiserPage?userUrl=PaulaMartin&pageUrl=1>



Valentina's birthday gift:

https://cid.galantom.ro/fundraising_pages/view?fbclid=I-wAR0CT_c06xQGgW_XFYsSw-EraCQMR5DCNBcFAT-vmS6VnMxvxLW2qB8yaAT0&id=12312&&lang=en

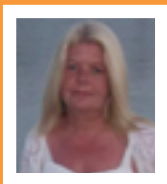


Sharing is Caring

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/SharingisCaring>



Dear Friends,



I think you would agree that these last few weeks have been a very challenging time for everyone both personally and professionally.

We've missed friends, family and getting together. We are now realising just how much human contact means to us and here at Children in Distress things are no different. Social distancing has become the norm.

Dealing with the daily operational running of the charity under these circumstances has certainly been a challenge, but staff at CID are committed to making it work.

As our three charity shops are in lockdown and staff furloughed, our three managers, Tracy, Melanie & Marie are missing their little family of volunteers. They are also worried for them.

That is why before the lockdown became official, to ensure the wellbeing of all them, managers took the heart wrenching decision to ask them not to turn up at the shops for their volunteer shifts.

On one hand this was a difficult decision but knowing that the precautions would help them stay safe from this terrible virus, they knew they were doing the right thing.

They are all desperate to get back into their respective shops and meet up again for a natter & a cuppa.

"The Glasgow" Office had its own challenges. Setting up staff to work remotely took planning and strategic organizing, but again the office staff, Edward, Julian & Lesleyann rose to the

challenges.

All communication is done by email and meetings are now held on face-time; technology has helped to make the transition easier.

Our daily updates on our Facebook page keep them updated on how our children are coping with lockdown and how our wonderful staff, who have sacrificed their home & family lives, stay in the hospice to keep our children safe. Not one refused or questioned the situation, they simply rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in.

But what about the part of our CID family who are not technically savvy. Well we thought of that also. We found an old phone, got a new SIM and Edward now calls some of more remote and vulnerable supporters for a chat. They now look forward to their weekly call and are so pleased to hear a friendly voice on the other end of the phone.

We could not be prouder of all of them.

Of course, we still have a tough time ahead and losing our shop income has had a devastating effect on us.

Our focus has not changed in 30 years, "To cure, sometimes; to help, often; to comfort, always."

These words have never meant more to us than they do today.

With so many others out there in the same situation, we know how hard it is, but again we call on you, our loyal supporters, to dig as deeply as you can to help keep these wonderful little human beings stay healthy and safe.

No matter how large or small, every penny you donate to Children in Distress, goes towards the care and safety of our children. We really could not do

this without your continued support.

So please,

If it's that latte you can't get out for,
donate it.

Can't get to the hairdressers, donate
it.

Saved on petrol because you can't get
out, donate it.

Every single penny you donate means
everything to us.

Remember:

The reason we are all staying in just
now, is so when we do all meet up, no-
one is missing.

Stay Safe.

Tina Connelly

Operations Manager.



An Emergency Appeal During the COVID Crisis



During my 20 years with CiD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been the most difficult and scary challenge we have faced.

As with all of you, within a few days our lives changed completely. In Bucharest, face masks and gloves were legally required, with large fines for those who did not comply. There was no more shaking hands or giving hugs. All offices, restaurants, malls, cinemas and shops were closed; smaller food markets, pharmacies and petrol stations were the only commercial operations allowed to remain open. The Romanian government imposed a country-wide lockdown, meaning that everyone was required to stay home except when going out to buy food or medicines, protected in masks and gloves. People arriving in Romania were required to quarantine for 14 days. Similar measures were taken two weeks later in Britain.

I know these conditions are familiar to all of you. No matter where we live, we all have been impacted. Together, we have all gone through the shock, tragedy and grief caused by the virus. Sadly, CiD has lost at least one supporter to the virus, and others we know contracted the virus.

More focused on CiD's care operations and structures, we closed our Bucha-

rest and Glasgow offices in order to protect our staff, with staff working from home and in virtual contact. We closed our three charity shops in Guisborough, Kirkbymoorside and Shildon, England, for safety reasons; a strong source of income thus was eliminated. Of course, our most serious challenge has been to keep our sick children at St Margaret's (Bucharest) and St Andrew's (Pitesti) hospices safe from the virus. These children, because of their very serious underlying illnesses, are highly susceptible to the virus. We also are concerned with the well-being of the physically healthy children we serve at St Christopher's after-school care center in Curtea de Arges. We closed St Christopher's for the duration as we felt it safer for the young people to stay home rather than gather at the center since social distancing would be impossible given the number of children St. Christopher's serves.

Of course, we cannot shut St Margaret's or St Andrew's because there is no safe and available place for the children to reside and receive their life-sustaining health care. The most expensive change is that nursing and care staff at St Margaret's and St Andrew's now stay at the hospices in 14-day quarantine shifts. The nursing and care staff are not allowed to leave during their 14-day shift. This means CiD has increased food and accommodation costs. In addition, CiD had to purchase, with only 24

hour notice, 12 beds for the St Margaret's hospice staff. Once a 14-day shift is completed, that staff returns home in special vans which we must provide, and there they remain in quarantine for 14 days before returning to the hospices for another 14-day quarantine shift. When they leave for home, another 12 arrive at the hospices for a 14-day shift, after a 14-day quarantine at their homes. Although staff are not working during their 14-day home quarantine, they remain on the payroll. This has dramatically increased our employee compensation obligations. These measures have been taken for the welfare of everyone at the two hospices, and it also keeps us in compliance with the regulations ordered by the Romanian government. Protecting our children continues to be the center of CiD's mission, and we have taken every precaution to keep them safe.

COVID-19 is not the only concern. Yes, the virus ended the income at the charity shops and increased expenses for

staff compensation, food, accommodation and transport. However, CiD's income already has been in decline since the Brexit vote and the eventual effectuation of Brexit, which occurred at the same time the virus hit. We are looking at solutions for expanding our network of supporters to the Continent and the U.S. In the meantime, CiD is struggling to keep afloat. Any contribution you can make is greatly appreciated. It can be a one-off donation or you can sponsor an individual child at one of the hospices. To discuss sponsoring a child, please contact Tina Connelly of our Glasgow office (although currently working from home.) Tina may be reached via mobile at **+44 (0) 75 46 74 14 46**.

Thank you for your continued (or new!) support. We value our connections with you during this crisis. May you and your loved ones be precautionous and healthy.

Yours,

Valentina Zaharia
Executive Director



How You Can Help

There are a number of ways you can donate and start helping our children immediately. If you need any support, please call us on **+44 7341 493888**.



Call us on **+44 7341 493888**

to donate by credit or debit card

We'll have a member of our team to take your call seven days a week, 9:00am to 5:00pm (UK time)

Donate online at

www.justgiving.com/campaign/SharingisCaring



By Bank Transfer

into Children in Distress' bank account

Our account is with the Royal Bank of Scotland

Account No: 10114023, Sort Code: 83-07-06

By Cheque

Make your cheque payable to 'Children in Distress' and send to:

Children in Distress, 94 Duke St, Suite 30 Ladywell Business Ctr, Glasgow G4 0UW.

You can also help by

-Sharing our Appeal on FaceBook or other social media

-Telling family and friends about our crisis

Thank you





Please contribute what you can
Thank you

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Glasgow G4 0UW

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Email: admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk

Registered Charity No. SC039383



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