



## COMMUNITY ACTION ROMANIA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear friends

At the recent meeting of trustees, we had a wonderful opportunity to have an extended catch up with Danny and Sarah in Romania. They will preparing their own video or newsletter very shortly which we will make available to you. In the interim I am sure you would like to know what they have been doing and in particular how the Covid19 virus has been affecting them.



Like many countries Romania went in to lock down in March, initially the lock down was much more severe than in the UK. If you wanted to leave your village to go to the shops you had to get permission from the police and say what route you were taking, what time you would be travelling and which shops you would be visiting. This gave a whole new meaning to planning your shopping trip. Anyone travelling into Romania was also put into a hotel in quarantine and many of the hotels were not the most pleasant to stay in. The situation is a bit better at present and travel is possible, but like the UK schools are operating partly in the classroom and partly online.

For the lower school/kindergarten in Carand there are further complications as it is currently being renovated and the children have had to move into the middle school, increasing the numbers there. Several old classrooms that had not been in use had to be upgraded and the charity has been able to support this work buying white boards and materials for the teachers.

The church initially was not able to meet and so Danny and Sarah, with some funding from CAR and a personal gift, were able to get a new laptop, camera and other equipment that enables them to record and broadcast services. Although the church is now able to meet in small numbers, they are still getting around 900 people looking at their stream, which is amazing. They still need some more equipment, like microphones and cables but things are going well. They have also used this time for some renovations and painting of the church. You may have seen on the facebook site they have also purchased an illuminated notice board for outside the church to say what is going on and time of services. Regrettably Sarah has not been able to run Sunday School as the space and materials they have does not allow for social distancing and meeting. Sarah has been able to continue the ladies group meeting online when they cant meet in person.

Sadly there have been a number of deaths which Danny has needed to attend or officiate and in some cases this has been difficult where over 100 people have turned up (against regulations) at the grave side.

In the community, Danny has been able to use the tractor to collect wood from the forest for the church, himself and those most in need (funded by CAR). Danny and Sarah have also been delivering the food bags for Adopt a Friend. More recently this has been Danny only to reduce the risk of Covid19.



Again these visits have been much more restricted with the food bags left in the courtyards of houses and then social distance observed as many are some of the most vulnerable in the community.



On the personal side, thanks to donations from Willesborough Baptist Church, Danny and Sarah have been able to build a driveway into their house which enables them to get their cars off the road and give access for the tractor when needed.

They have also been able to put fencing up in their garden and build a sizable fire pit so the youth can meet and enjoy time together.



While Covid19 may have given some people the opportunity to reduce work and spend time at home for Danny and Sarah the workload has increased

exponentially. At the same time it has not been possible for them to have a holiday or a break. They managed just one night away so far this year, please pray for strength and energy for them and their children. Toby now has a drum kit and is having lessons and Ella has just got a bass guitar so they are becoming quite the musical family

### **Charity news**

We are always thankful for our sponsors and donors, many of whom have supported the charity over many years. While it seems harder for us to raise funds than it used to be, our small charity continues to be blessed. Sadly Leighton Middle School who have supported the charity for more than 10 years cannot support us this year but we will draw on our general fund this year to support childrens work in Carand.

We are really looking for others with a heart for mission and Danny and Sarah who would be prepared to join us on the charity. No special skills required we just ask you to join us with promoting and praying for the work. We only meet three or four times a year and at the moment these are mainly on line. If you would like to know more please contact Roger or Lynn for an informal non-committal chat.

As mentioned Evan Gough, our current treasurer, has announced his wish to resign from that post, although he will continue as a trustee. At present he will continue in this role temporarily, while we seek a replacement. If you know of anyone please give Roger a call

### **Appeals**

Before making any appeal, we want to acknowledge the phenomenal generosity of all our individual supporters, churches and schools, without whom little of the work we do would ever be achieved.



We do want to place before you a number of key financial needs:

1. Our current restricted funds for children's work (arising mostly from a school in the UK) will meet less than half of what is needed to support schools work.
2. We have created a fund to cover emergency needs and cover Danny's costs when he transports people to hospital. This is currently approximately £1000 per year. If you were able to make either a small one off donation or contribute monthly through standing order we would be grateful.
3. More families are needing support through our Adopt a Friend scheme.
4. Funding for church equipment to support their streaming of services and on line meetings.

### **Prayer Requests**

While money is important we acknowledge the Lord is our provider so your prayers for our work including the team here and in Romania are really appreciated.

Please pray for:

- Protection from Covid-19 for the team;
- The continued availability of food for Adopt a Friend;
- Time and strength for the team as they grapple with the new routines, paperwork and technology that are now part of daily life;
- Funding for children's work and the emergency fund.

With our grateful thanks from all the Community Action Romania Team in the UK, and from Danny and Sarah in Romania,

Roger Edwards, Chairman, & Lynn Edwards

Community Action Romania

For more information do visit our website [www.communityactionromania.co.uk](http://www.communityactionromania.co.uk) and stay in touch via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/200681983374737>

Alternatively contact us for more information on email [comactrom@gmail.com](mailto:comactrom@gmail.com) or one of the UK team. We can forward your email from the above address to any of the trustees.

- Roger (Chairman & Trustee) and Lynn Edwards (responsible for 'Adopt a friend') 5 Wilson Close, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. TN24 0HX
- Evan Gough (Treasurer & Trustee), 20 Chancellor Court, Broomfield Road, CHELMSFORD, CM1 1RY. Tel: 01245 259116
- Andrew Golba, 19 Ledbury Gardens, Cusworth, Doncaster DN5 8LS
- Rob & Katy Foot, 55 Brooklands Drive, Leighton Buzzard. LU7 3PE