

## **Community Action Romania (CAR)**

### **Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2017**

The main activities of CAR, i.e. providing relief to people in extreme difficulties and the extension of the Christian message in Romania, have continued through 2017. These activities were effected through CAR's counterpart, Pro Community Romania, which is a Romanian charity managing the aid in Romania.

Three of the trustees and several supporters of CAR visited Romania at different times during 2017, to encourage, support and observe our counterparts, and were pleased by the progress being made and the careful distribution of aid. In addition Danni Ispas from Romania visited the UK and did a series of presentations to supporters.

Looking back over 2017 it has been a year of challenges and delights. In January the Director of our Romanian sister charity suffered a heart attack and much of the work fell onto Danni and Sarah Ispas. In May Danni was ordained as a minister and he with Sarah will continue to support the charity and distribution of aid as previous. One of the significant challenges has been the increases in prices in Romania e.g. Wood for heating has increased by almost 20% meaning for most of our families winter fuel is now 3 months net wages.

In September we were able to supply all the children with the exercise books containing the syllabus in Romania. From 2016 these materials needed to be purchased by parents and amounted to approximately £30 per child; for some families on an income of less than £100 per month this would have been impossible. Once again we are thankful the amazing contribution made by the children of Leighton Middle School and we hope to provide desks, chairs and equipment in 2018.

Our work with children extended to fire prevention and emergency training and at Christmas 80 shoe boxes organised by the Romanian team were delivered to Moldova. The children of Carand did not miss out and a party held was held at Christmas.. A young person's club continues to meet on a Saturday to bring together young people for social interaction and support.

We continued to support 37 families during the year with basic food supplies distributed through the church and those most in need were provided with wood for heating over the winter period. In December all the families in the Adopt a Friend scheme again received a gift of some crockery, juice, coffee and chocolates, in addition to their normal food parcel. The charity was also able to fund a fellowship hot meal at the church for the AaF families, and for those that were too infirm to travel food was distributed to them where practical.

The Gym/health centre developed by the charity was renovated during the new year and it is hoped to supply additional equipment during 2018.

The fire engine donated through CAR and support vehicle remain in good service and attended more than 40 incidents including house, forest and field fires. Given the rudimentary heating in most houses, carbon monoxide detectors were supplied and a programme of installation in each house continues.

In September a severe storm hit the region and 1000,s of acres of forestry were flattened, a number of houses also suffered damage with one house losing its entire roof. The charity has been able to support local people both financially and with physical support in rebuilding.

The benevolent fund for use of the team in Romania in emergency situations continues to be an essential aid. Frequently the team last year faced urgent medical requests and on occasions were called upon to transport people to hospital/doctors on journeys in excess of 50 miles each way.

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 and our bank balances remain stable. It is worth noting that administration costs remain at a level less than 4% of total Payments.

The trustees Annual Report and Accounts were approved by the trustees

And signed on their behalf by ..... R N Edwards – Chairman