

Summer 2018
Birthday Edition

cry
in the dark
compassion in action



Into The Light

CitD is 20 years old

Happy birthday to us!

Yes, this year it's Cry in the Dark's 20th birthday and you are all invited to our party!

You can find further details inside this newsletter.

Remember tickets are limited so please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to attend this brilliant landmark party!

We know that many of our supporters past and present are spread around the country and will be unable to attend but that's ok - we understand totally and thank you for the years of your support and know that you will be with us in spirit if not in person.

The years have not been without their challenges. It's always difficult working across borders and cultures but I believe God has always got us through and continues to do so.

We at Cry in the Dark believe that God uses anyone who loves and cares about the people we and God care about. Believers, non-believers, people of other faiths and those that just don't know: anyone who's prepared to help us with our work.

Compassion is something that we can all have. Sorrow plus action equals compassion. We are Compassion in Action. We like to think of ourselves as inclusive not exclusive!

As we celebrate 20 years we know there are some changes ahead of us. We say goodbye to our lovely Director at Casa Lumina, Mariana Cretu, who has worked tirelessly with our staff to love and care for the children who this year celebrate 18 years at Casa Lumina.

Last September we saw Hospice Lumina open in Bacau, the first dedicated children's Hospice of its kind in Romania. So, we are set to celebrate their first birthday too in September!

September is a month to celebrate a lot of things for us as a charity but again this has only been possible with your brilliant support that you have all given over the years.

We at Cry in the Dark thank you, and we thank God for you. Whether you believe or not we believe in you and thank you for believing in us.

La multi Ani. (As they say in Romania, 'the many years').

Steve Cooper
CEO/Founder



A 20 year journey

February 1998

Steve and three friends met the children in Dofteana for the first time. It was clear something needed to be done.

1998 –2000

Cry in the Dark was officially registered in September 1998 and between then and May 2000 construction work started on a new home for the children.

Casa Lumina– House of Light.

May 29th 2000

All 24 Children were brought home to Casa Lumina to start their new lives in a place of love, light and laughter.



2001

Steve first met Albert in 2001. He would later have a huge impact on the work CitD chose to carry out in Romania. Steve met Albert at the Baptist church next door to Casa Lumina.



2001-2004

Casa Lumina was the sole project of CitD and the children thrived and settled into their new home and new lifestyle. In 2004 we employed Mariana Cretu as Director and she worked with us right up until 2018 when she retired.

2003-2004

In 2003 CitD identified an urgent need for hospice care for children with life-limiting illnesses including HIV/AIDS.

The children in the State hospital were not being treated correctly, so the vision to open a hospice service was put into action.



May 2004

Albert lost his battle with HIV in May 2004, but before he passed away it was decided that the Hospice being built would be named "Hospice Casa Albert" Albert was told just weeks before he died and he was thrilled.

2004 onwards

Hospice Casa Albert began to be constructed, funded completely from supporters in the UK. Whilst building the Hospice we were putting together a team of staff and began applying for grants.



2007

A grant was won for community palliative care. A brilliant team was employed and they began serving the sick and dying children and young people of Bacau County.

2007-2009

The nurses worked in the community with some of the poorest families in the region.



2009

Over 100 volunteers came to Romania for the "Hard Hat Challenge" to extend Casa Lumina and add 12 bedrooms!



May 2010

The extensions at Casa Lumina were officially opened! And the 12 girls moved in!



Summer 2010

Hospice Casa Albert officially opened and we started offering Day long respite.



2013

We ran our first ever three-month "Micro Gap" which was a great success and we have been running these ever since alongside our summer mission groups.

Over the years CitD have welcomed thousands of volunteers to Romania to help with the projects. We hope this continues long into the future.

2015 -2017

In 2015 our Romanian arm won a grant to open the first paediatric Hospice in Romania. This was opened in September 2017: Hospice Lumina.



This is just a fraction of the main events that have happened in Romania over the last 20 years. We are overwhelmed by the work God has done through CitD in this time and we are so excited to see what the future holds. We look forward to continuing the journey with you, our amazing supporters. Thank you for being part of the journey.

Our 20th birthday prize draw

Would you love an opportunity to personally deliver hundreds of Christmas shoeboxes to the children and young people we work with here in Romania?



Well, you are in with a chance! The top prize in our 20th birthday prize draw is a free place on the coveted Christmas shoebox trip 2019.

We have four other amazing prizes to be won when the names are drawn on the 28th of September, but you have to be in it to win it!

To enter the draw simply follow the link and donate £20. You will then automatically be entered into the amazing prize draw which will be streamed live on Facebook on September 28th.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/cryinthedark/happybirthday>

California Dreaming
2019

SAVE THE DATE!

We are thrilled to announce that this amazing fundraiser will be back in September 2019! You will cycle from San Francisco to San Diego along the most beautiful coastal roads with an awesome team of people.

You will cycle 640 miles over seven days. It will challenge you but you'll have the best experience.

It will be a completely supported ride, so you don't need to worry about anything but pushing your pedals and raising the money.

If you're interested in taking part please register your interest and get further information by emailing steve@cryinthedark.org



A Volunteer's Story

Having heard a few stories about the work that volunteers do for Cry in the Dark, I felt reasonably prepared for my week ahead. However, I don't think I was prepared for the amount of love, care and happiness that I witnessed and felt. At all the places we visited I could see just how important the work is that Cry in the Dark does - singing, dancing, talking, drawing, playing and sometimes as simple as holding somebody's hand.

Visiting Hospice Lumina was one of many highlights for me; I met one of the smiliest young boys that seemed so content there. The building itself and the facilities were incredible and there was a real sense of calm and peace. Since booking the trip to Romania, I was already excited to help the charity in any way I could. After hearing Steve's story of how Cry in the Dark originated though, I was even more determined when we went back to Casa Lumina the next day to rip down a wall and tidy up the garden! I really wanted to make a difference for the children and felt I owed it to them. The children here are incredibly special people and this is a trip that I will never forget.
Kat Savage



Kat and Matt are pictured playing at Hospice Lumina



YOU'RE INVITED TO

Cry in the Dark's 20th Birthday

SEPTEMBER 28TH 2018 8PM @
ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE, COLCHESTER

BOOK TICKETS -
BETHJOHNSON@CRYINTHEDARK.ORG

Tickets £20 per
person

TICKET COST INCLUDES A CUSTOM
COCKTAIL, NIBBLES & EXCELLENT
ENTERTAINMENT .

