Spring/Summer 2016



Into The Light

Looking ahead

Welcome to our spring edition of 'Into The Light', firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you that have supported us over the last 18 years. Without your support we would not have seen lives and families transformed and the expansion of our work in Romania happen in the way it has! Because we care about you guys too and where your hard earned money goes we try to be good stewards of the money you give! So after much thought and prayer we have decided to only send out our news letter by email and make it available on our web site www.cryinthedark.org So if you know of anyone that might like to receive it this way and currently doesn't please let us know at

Info@cryinthedark.org and we will add them to our digital mailing list.

Well it has been a while since our last newsletter, therefore a lot has happened out in Romania through Asociatia Lumina our charitable arm.

Just a few weeks ago the foundations of the new Children's Hospice based in the city of Bacau were started and a blessing ceremony was held as the work began. So watch this space for further developments!

Over the last year our staff from Hospice Casa Albert have been training over 300 social workers in Hospice care and they came from all over Romania. This month we also held a two day Paediatric Hospice Care conference in Bacau where all the heads from Child Protection Services from all over Romania attended. Our community hospice care team from Casa Albert have really worked hard and have put us on the map!

We have gone from the dream of a young man named Albert who once said 'If I was sick or dying I would like to stay at a place like Casa Lumina' to a small rented office in Bacau in 2007 to the opening of Casa Albert our community hospice centre in 2010 to what will be the first dedicated children's in patient hospice unit in Romania! Which will serve the children and their families not just in Bacau county but three surrounding counties too! Opening mid to late 2017.

The last 18 years have been a roller coaster of emotions and experiences for me personally & I could not have travelled this road with out you and God. I believe that God knew exactly what he was doing when he called us all to help. Thank you.

I do hope you enjoy the other articles about the work of Cry in the Dark that you will find inside this newsletter, From Casa Lumina to Micro Gap and Summer mission to Rozi and Dani's wedding. Please if you have any questions about our work do not hesitate to contact either Beth or I at <u>info@cryinthedark.org</u>

> With Blessings Love and thanks Steve CEO/Founder. Cry in the Dark/ Asociatia Lumina.







Carmen busy with her quilling at home at Casa Lumina

Summer mission

This summer we have some brilliant groups lined up to spend time with us in Romania.

We will once again be joined for 2 weeks by students on the Young Leadership Award from The Manor CofE Academy in York. We have a mixed group of new and returning volunteers joining us for the first week in August followed by a brand new group of youth from Zion Baptist Church. We will be ending our summer with another new youth group

Casa Lumina

In May 2016 we will be celebrating 6 years since we opened the new buildings at Casa Lumina. Back in 2010 as a way of thanking our guests and supporters 2 of our staff members made beautiful cards with hand crafted quilled pieces on the front. After seeing how impressed the guests were with the art work the staff began slowly teaching some of our youngsters how to transform paper into beautiful art.

With a lot of patience and perseverance some of the youngsters have learnt how to make much more complex pieces and how to present them on greetings cards, they take so much joy and pleasure in their work that it is hard to describe it in words.

Since the summer of 2015 many people from other organizations who work with young people with disabilities have been visiting Casa Lumina to see how we do things. During one of these visits Carmen (pictured) said to the visitors "Come with me and I will show you how to make something beautiful for your home." Carmen began teaching them how to use the tools and paper to make a beautiful pattern. Carmen was so proud of herself that she had learnt to be so good at something that she could then teach it.

So over these last 6 year there have been lots of exciting changes and things learnt but we are so glad that our young people haven't just learnt a skill, they have learnt to be proud of themselves and to be confident in the skills they now have mastered.

> Mariana Cretu Director Casa Lumina

from Comberton Baptist Church.

We have a full program lined up for each of these groups and we would really appreciate your prayer support over the summer.

Here at CitD we value our summer volunteers and love the time we get to spend together! If you would like to bring a group to Romania in 2017 then please get in touch on <u>bethjohnson@cryinthedark.org</u> or check out our mission page on the website-<u>www.cryinthedark.org</u>

Micro Gap 2016

This summer as well as our summer mission teams we are going to be joined by 5 Micro Gap students who will be staying with us all summer! We have Jack (a returning gapper from 2015) Dan, Chloe, Katie and Hannah. These 5 are going to be spending 2 months serving our projects as well as learning Romanian, helping lead the groups and getting a brilliant cultural experience.

Joining the 5 we also have Megan who will be with them for their first month. Davey, Abie and Sean who have all spent lots of time in Romania previously will be joining them for two weeks as well.

It is set to be a fabulous Micro Gap and we can't wait to spend so much time investing in these brilliant volunteers over the summer.

Every year so far the Micro Gap has been different and exciting , so we can't wait to see what working with this group holds!

If you or someone you know would be interested in <u>Micro Gap 2017</u> then get in touch today—<u>info@cryinthedark.org</u>



A Summer Wedding

On the 27th of August CitD will be having their first ever wedding!

Rozi and Dani are young adults on our Hospice Casa Albert program and their dream is to be married! CitD want to make this dream a reality, so for the first time we will be helping to fund and organise the wedding!

We are asking you to come on this exciting journey with us and to help

make it possible by donating to the wedding fund! We already have a church, a reception venue and a brilliant volunteer photographer but there is so much more to organise, so we really need your help. We will keep you updated on all the preparations and of course the wedding itself!

Please give whatever you can to help make the **most beautiful** wedding for two deserving people! http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/CitDWedding

Thank you!



Did you know?

If you are setting up a **fundraising page** to raise money for Cry in the Dark, '**Virgin Money Giving'** is a much better way to raise your funds!

With 'Virgin Money Giving' we receive 100% of all gift aid and don't pay a monthly subscription!

'Just Giving' **take a %** of our gift aid and we pay a monthly subscription to be on their site!

From now on we ask that you please use 'Virgin Money Giving' so that more of what you have given comes to the work of Cry in the Dark. Thank you.



Meet the new board of trustees -

Since the New Year we at CitD have been busy building a new board of trustees and we wanted to introduce you to them. Everyone on our board has been involved in CitD in various ways over the years & shares the same passion for God's heart and the work in Romania. We are so excited to move forward as a team and pull on the skills and knowledge of our largest ever board!



Neil Curtis Chairman

Neil has been a board member at CitD for many years and has recently taken on the role as chair. Neil is married and lives in south London with his wife and son.

Tom Hassard

Tom is a

Romania

primary school teacher based in Colchester, he has been to several times before as a member of a team and as a team leader.

Mark Massey

Mark's the youth pastor at The Free Frinton Church where he lives with his wife & 3 children. Mark has been involved in CitD for years & has brought many groups to Romania.

Ffion Wiggins

Ffi lives in Bishop Stortford where she is an active part of her church, she works for Goldman & Sachs in the City and has supported CitD for many years.

Elaine Cornwall

Elaine is a Portage worker from Rayleigh & is highly trained in working with children with special needs, Elaine's been heavily involved in CitD since 2003.

Mark Etheridge

with us in

Romania.

Mark lives in Woodbridge with his wife where he has been involved in leading church youth groups. Mark has also spent time working

Pete Ling

Pete lives in Woodbridge where he works for the council. Pete has been involved with CitD since he was a teenager, visiting our projects & taking part in sponsored events.

What's coming up....

The Big CitD Quiz -

When: April 30th 2016 Where: Kings Café (above Aldi supermarket) London Rd Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start – Finish approx. 10pm – 10.30pm Teams: between 4 to 8 people Tickets: £5 per person. To book: registering your team is simple please Email: bethjohnson@cryinthedark.org Or call 07525763774.

Great North Run 2016

Sunday September 11th We have 10 places available in the 2016 Great North Run If you want to take part in 2016 we require a £60 deposit to hold your running place and then ask you to raise a minimum of £250 for our work.

The 3 peaks Challenge-

September 23rd-25th. Why not challenge yourself to the Yorkshire 3 peaks and help raise much needed money for CitD? Please email –steve@cryinthedark.org for more details

California dreaming -

June 16th – 24th 2017 After the success of Cali Dreaming 2015 we will be holding this event again in 2017 -It's a 620 mile bike ride from San Francisco to San Diego.

As a rider you commit to raising at least £800 for the work of CitD. This ride will challenge our cyclists and push them to their limits but all of them are committed and determined to complete it. If you want to be involved in California dreaming 2017 please email steve@cryinthedark.org

There will be many other opportunities to get involved with Cry in the Dark throughout the year, so please remember to check our <u>website</u> or our Facebook and twitter for up to date information and ways to support the work we are doing.



Become a <u>Prieten Sponsor</u> and build a friendship with one of our children or young adults on the Hospice Casa Albert programme! Help pay towards the cost of the care of a named patient and at the same time build a relationship.

You can write to your Prieten (the Romanian word for friend) and send gifts. You will also receive 2 reports annually with news of your Prieten.



I can help Cry in the Dark now...

I would like to make a one-off donation:

I enclose a donation for £_____ (please make cheques payable to 'Cry in the Dark')

I would like to become a 'Cry Partner' by giving a regular gift:

Standing Order instructions to your Bank

Please pay this sum to Cry in the Dark, Royal Bank of Scotland plc, 59 Streatham High Road SW16 1PN Sort code: 160093 Account no. 10025884

□£5 □£10 □£15 □£20 □£25 □ Other amount £_____ monthly.

Starting on (date) D D H H Y Y and thereafter until further notice.

Signature:

Please debit my/our account accordingly:

Account name: ____

Sort code: ____

Name and address of your Bank/Building Society:

Postcode:

Date:

Account no:__

Gift Aid: If you are a UK tax payer, your gift could be worth an extra 25%.

I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and wish Cry in the Dark to treat all donations I make from now on as Gift Aid donations. I pay income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax amount Cry in the Dark reclaims on my donations.

Signature:

Date:

My name and contact details

Email:

Tel no:

Postcode:

I would like to know more about...

fundraising

having CITD give a talk giving to CITD in my Will CITD's news

2 Rose Allen Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8WL E-mail: info@cryinthedark.org www.cryinthedark.org Registered charity 1071517

Child Sponsorship