

# **Mustard Seed [Jersey]**

Registered Charity in Jersey, Britain ~ Humanitarian Aid to Eastern Europe

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Newsletter December 2013 / January 2014



In Jersey a 4 year girl packed her first Christmas shoebox. She was delighted it was her own daddy who drove the lorry carrying this and all the other 3270 Christmas shoeboxes. It was very special for him to present that shoebox to a little 5 year old girl in Romania.



Mustard Seed's motto: YOUR HELP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

*It meant this little girl received a Christmas gift this year.*



We can see and measure progress and improvement. In previous years, at this village school, the distribution took place out in the yard. But now a new gym has been built.



Sometimes the children opened their boxes in school while we were still there.



"We saw children kissing their shoeboxes".



Mostly the children took their boxes home unopened, holding them very carefully.



We packed 2038 shoeboxes for children – that is 2038 happy kids in Bihor, Romania.



*Once again students from Beaulieu Convent School came to Romania to assist with the outreach and distribution. Quickly they were challenged by the plight of the poorest of the poor and were able to see the difference that funding from Jersey is making.*



This photo shows the bread distribution to the poorest people in the city of Oradea.



The students prepared hot tea and sandwiches to distribute to the homeless who were sleeping rough in the city of Oradea.



The students packed up food parcels for the repatriated victims of people trafficking.

**Food Parcel Contents:**

Rice	Flour	Sugar
Oil	Pasta (several)	
Pate	Seasoning	
Semolina (or similar)		
Tinned Fish (luxury)		

**"42% of Romania's population live in poverty" one of the Romanian social workers told us.**



Approximately 150 people in need are able to collect a hot meal from Caritas in the centre of Oradea, during the week.

## Mustard Seed's outreach to the young



Mustard Seed Romania have a kindergarten in Cefa for the disadvantaged gypsy children, to prepare them for school.



Then there are Homework Clubs to support the children when they move to the village school. *As a result some of the young people obtain high enough grades to attend high school or vocational school. Where needed we assist with funding as we are able.*

**We believe education is vital to break the poverty cycle.**

**We consider it is a good investment for the future.**



Mustard Seed Jersey assists FI (a Romanian trust) with the youth club / homework club that they run in Oradea.



For the last 13 years ago Mustard Seed has offered sheltered apartment for young women as they left the state orphanages. One of them Maria got married in October. She and Rovin live at Cefa and often visit Casa Mabel.



Thanks to a specifically allocated donation this house is being built in Cefa. It is to be a home for homeless young women; it should be finished during 2014.



## Mustard Seed's outreach to the elderly

### Adopt a Granny Sponsorship



It was so important to this pensioner to collect the Christmas box from her sponsor and to receive her monthly food parcel, that she came on her zimmer frame. She lives in the village of Cefa.



In Oradea, more pensioners (including medical pensioners) are assisted through FI. Often they care for the grandchildren.

### Casa Mabel



In 2009 Mustard Seed built and opened Casa Mabel, a residential home for needy elderly women.



One of the carers is an orphan who had been assisted by Mustard Seed years ago.



Each resident at Casa Mabel is sponsored through the Adopt a Granny scheme to help towards the cost.



In October 2013, Mustard Seed sent this elderly trailer to Romania carrying 12 tonnes of relief aid. But on this occasion as well as donating the contents, the trailer itself was donated. It has been converted into 2 units of living accommodation, suitable for 4 people – not luxurious, but infinitely preferable to having nowhere.

*Immediately the trailer was ready, a young man moved into one unit. The other side is for this grandmother and her granddaughter, who had been sleeping wherever they could find shelter. The authorities were about to put the young girl into care.*



*Volunteers worked hard to make it ready.*





## LOOKING BACK OVER 2013



In 2013 we sent 3 aid consignments to Romania. Our first one was very difficult as the volunteer driver came off the road damaging the trailer and writing off the borrowed tractor unit. Amazingly the French company Sarl Godard continue to lend us a unit free of charge.

*In the late summer working with Total Sport we collected over 3000 shoes. These were **greatly** appreciated in Romania as they arrived at the start of the winter.*

We have continued to pack Welcome Boxes for repatriated victims of people trafficking. The social worker tells us that often the Welcome Box is the first gift the victim has ever received in his or her life!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2014

# We plan 3 aid consignments to Romania providing the aid is donated and the needed help is available:

One in the spring

The second in the early autumn

The third in December with Christmas shoeboxes, blankets and general aid.

# We plan to continue our aid collections at Holme Grown Farm Shop carpark.

# We plan to pack more Welcome Boxes to be sent over to Romania on our spring and autumn aid trailers.

### Casa Mabel Wish List

- Dish washer
- Replace some tatty bedroom furniture
- Chairs with washable seats

### Nelu's Wish List for F.I.

- ❖ *Money for firewood for poor families*
- ❖ *Bread money*
- ❖ *Assist poorest children with school expenses*
- ❖ *More trailers for homes!*

## **WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY**

We are always keen to hear from **POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS** and need help with PACKING, LOADING, FUND-RAISING, COLLECTING, etc  
If you want to assist in any way please contact Rose either by phone (482637) or by email to [mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk)

**DONATE** your surplus good quality clean clothing, bedding, footwear, toiletries, stationery, medical apparatus, educational equipment, computer parts, hygiene items, bicycles, household items, etc.  
Check the answer phone on 482637 for details of our collection places – at time of printing they are All Saints Church (opposite the General Hospital), St Peters Church, St Marys Church and St Lukes Church – all during their normal opening hours.

**Support** our aid collections (details in media or our answer-phone)

**Support** our book stalls at Rozel Bay and St Johns Village.

**Suggest** Mustard Seed as the beneficiary at dress down days, etc.

Pack a **Welcome Box** (details on website)

Sponsor a pensioner through our **Adopt a Granny** scheme

**Sponsor** a needy child or family

Plan ahead to pack **Christmas shoeboxes**

Remember Mustard Seed Jersey in your **prayers**

If you shop at the CoOp use our divvy number **321340**

Put your loose change in a **collecting box** for Mustard Seed

Organise a **fund-raising** event (please contact Rose before).

### **Keep up to date**

through our website [www.mustardseedjersey.co.uk](http://www.mustardseedjersey.co.uk)  
through Facebook [www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy](http://www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy)

### **THANKS to all who support in any & every way: practically, prayerfully, financially ....**

Special thanks to Condor Freight, Sutton Transport, Sarl Garage Godard, BAG (transport in Germany) and others.

*Thanks to Paperclix for their help printing this newsletter.*

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