

## ***Mustard Seed [Jersey]***

Registered Charity in Jersey, Britain ~ Humanitarian Aid to Eastern Europe  
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Mustard Seed Jersey newsletter ~ Dec 2016/ Jan 2017



Thank  
you for  
my  
shoebox

*"The coming of the Christmas shoeboxes is the most eagerly awaited event of the year" - one Romanian head teacher told us.*

*We thank so many people for their help with the 3127 Christmas shoeboxes we sent to Romania - each donor's box made a child or adult so very happy. We thank the Constables and Parish Halls and Les Quennevais Sports Centre for allowing us to use their premises as collection places. We thank Condor Ferries Freight, Ferryspeed, Morvans-Fils in St Malo.... We thank all our wonderful volunteers who transported, checked, loaded.....*





Sometimes children opened up their shoeboxes while we were in the classrooms.



At some schools the children took their boxes home unopened to open at home with their families.



Each child's shoebox contained a toothbrush and toothpaste. We thank those dentists who helped us achieve this.



Pensioners trudged through the snow to collect their shoeboxes. We sent approx. 900 boxes for adults, we were short of boxes for men this year.



## More about our trip in December with the Beaulieu students



On our first day the Beaulieu students purchased food and then packed food parcels.

We gave out food parcels to the poorest of the poor on a number of occasions.



Each winter Mustard Seed raises money for bread. This winter we can afford one bread distribution per week. Over 100 beneficiaries are helped, small households all receive 2 loaves & extra for larger families.



The Beaulieu students were able to fund much needed medical treatment for this man.



Spending time with residents affected by dementia.

*"We thank Beaulieu Convent School not just for the money they raised (which is very very much appreciated), but for the compassion, love and respect the students showed to all they met. It really was 'doing small things with great love' as Mother Teresa recommended".*

## *A Home for Christmas*



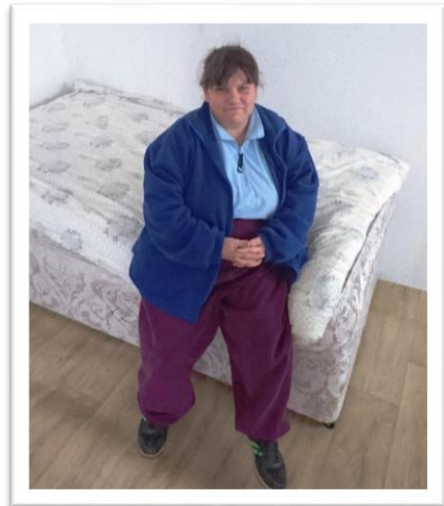
On Christmas Eve, the social worker wrote:

“Today just one day before Christmas, through the generosity of a sponsor in Jersey, we could offer a warm home to 2 homeless persons”.



The older woman Florica was tricked out of her house 4 years ago and since then she has been homeless living on the streets.

Sadly this kind of deception happens too often when vulnerable people are tricked into signing papers.



The younger woman Otilia grew up in an orphanage and has been struggling to find anywhere to live and often ended up on the streets.

“They are so very thankful and cannot believe that this miracle has happened”, wrote the social worker.

Now on our Changed Lives site there are 2 portercabins our old trailer, this new home, so altogether we are housing 12 people.

Soon we trust we will complete the conversion of our second trailer with 2 more units of accommodation. And finally the permanent building which is partly built, ready to fit with doors and windows, offering more housing and communal washing facilities.



## More News from Romanian Projects

### Birth of a child



16 years ago Mustard Seed Jersey started a project we called "Nicus' Girls".

The girls had grown up in the Romanian orphanage system.

Since 2000, more charities have been involved.

It was a huge thrill when Nadia married and moved to USA.

Just before Christmas she gave birth to her first child.

Not all the young women we have assisted over the years are such a success story, but wherever possible we keep in touch and give them Christmas shoeboxes.



### Food for the hungry TINATHON

In November 2016 some of our beneficiaries benefitted from 2000 tins from Jersey from Shelter Trust's annual Tinathon appeal in May. We deliberately sent the tinned food to Romania at the start of the winter.



Due to various changes and commitments we will not be involved in Tinathon in 2017.



## Looking back over 2016



We sent 3 aid consignments to Romania - approx. 30 tonnes. With the May consignment we donated our now elderly trailer for conversion into housing. For subsequent consignments we used a Romanian haulier. *In May 2016, we first heard of Romania's new import tax on building materials, carpets & toiletries if sent as relief aid. [Inevitably this tax impacts on Christmas shoebox contents]*



*We expect this will be the last carpet we are able to send to the kindergarten.*



Fast progress on our Changed Lives building project, under Nelu's supervision.



We have received wonderful knitted blankets and computers to bless the Romanians with.



Our sponsorship programme continues to flourish, sponsoring needy elderly and medical pensioners and also education for children from impoverished families.



## Looking ahead to 2017.



We plan 3 aid consignments to Romania in 2017 - in late spring, autumn, & December (including Christmas shoeboxes), using a Romanian haulier.

**BUT with uncertainty over the implications of Brexit once Article 50 is triggered and present poor £ exchange rate we have to say these plans are only “pencilled in” and may need to be amended.**



Again we plan to send Christmas shoeboxes for children and pensioners, also money for food parcels, bread & firewood for

the poorest of the poor in Bihor county of Romania next winter.

*We need to raise a further £13,000 to complete the Changed Lives building project at Cihei.*



During 2017 we hope to continue our aid collections at Holme Grown Farm Shop carpark.

*Through donations we hope to continue to support the most vulnerable through “Adopt a Granny” & child sponsorship programmes, our extended Homework Club, also general distribution programme.*

Without doubt our continued help is making a difference.

We thank each one of you for your support for truly:

**“Your help makes a difference”**

# WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY IN 2017

We are always keen to hear from **POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS** as often we 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, stationery, computer parts, bicycles, etc.

Check the answer phone on 482637 for details of our collection places – at time of printing they are the packing loft at Cardiff House, also All Saints Church (opposite the General Hospital), St Peters Church, St Marys Church and St Lukes Church (churches open 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.

**Sponsor** a needy child or family

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

Pack a **Back to School Box** (details on website under Projects)

Plan ahead to pack **Christmas shoeboxes** (check on Facebook & website)

Remember Mustard Seed Jersey in your **prayers**

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

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

Save your used **stamps** for us.

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

**Keep up to date**

through Facebook [www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy](http://www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy)

through our website [www.mustardseedjersey.co.uk](http://www.mustardseedjersey.co.uk)

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

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

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