

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

Recognised Charity in Jersey, Britain AJC No 227 ~ Humanitarian Aid to Eastern Europe  
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Mustard Seed Jersey newsletter ~ Dec 2017/ Jan 2018



### ***Finally they arrived in Romania!***

*We thank so many people for their help with the 3684 Christmas shoeboxes we sent to Romania - especially we thank the National Trust of Jersey letting us use their premises for packing at the old Les Freres Chapel. We thank our collection places - the Parish Halls and Les Quennevais Sports Centre. We thank Condor Ferries Freight & Morvans-Fils in St Malo.... We thank all our wonderful volunteers who transported, checked, loaded in Jersey & St Malo..... We thank each person who donated, packed.....*



It was an incredibly challenging Christmas shoebox appeal. Although 25 people set out from Jersey to distribute the Christmas shoeboxes, only 2 managed it, due to delays caused through strikes in St Malo and sadly the Beaulieu Convent School group aborted their planned trip after their flight was cancelled.



In one of the poorest schools in the city of Oradea, the children had not received Christmas shoeboxes before and they were incredibly excited!

*This school has asked for our help, saying that their priority need is **WINTER-WEIGHT SHOES** (many of the kids were in summer shoes in temperatures below freezing).*



*After the **SHOES**, the school's next priority request is that we should help them with **SCHOOL TABLES AND CHAIRS** (for children age 8 and over) and **CRAFT MATERIALS**.*





After we left, the Romanian social workers worked hard to distribute all the remaining shoeboxes to those in need before Christmas.



People often think of Christmas shoeboxes as being for children only. Just over a quarter of our shoeboxes were for needy adults.

In Romania there are a number of impoverished pensioners, some elderly & some sick, all struggling to survive. To each a shoebox is very special and very precious.



On each winter aid consignment, we always include hundreds of blankets, many of which are hand made, mainly knitted, some crocheted. All are very much appreciated.

**WE SAY A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR KNITTERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY HARD WORK & LOVE.**





Here are some comments from the team from St Pauls Church who visited Romania:

"It was a really eye-opening experience going to Romania"



At the bread distribution, some recipients immediately ate the bread, as they were so hungry.

"A mix of emotions"



Unfortunately due to the delay St Pauls Church group could not distribute Christmas shoeboxes. That did not stop them from having a full and challenging programme, including playing "Sleeping Lions" with the homework club.



"Seeing such extreme poverty was a big shock"

It was shocking that people lived in the house with the broken roof.



"Although we could not understand, we could tell they were glad we were there"



Buying the contents (5 trolleys full) then packing food parcels.



Prayer was answered for this lady. During their visits, the group from St Pauls Church offered to pray with people for their needs. They prayed for this woman and since they returned to Jersey funding has been provided for needed medical assessment & treatment.



Neil from St Pauls (previously one of Mustard Seed Jersey's drivers) remembered the Benedict family from his last visit. Their home was demolished and they have lived in a portcabin provided by Jersey. Their prayers have been answered and they now have a new opportunity for employment and a permanent home in Hungary.

"I feel heartened by the great work the social workers are doing"



"I'm crying thinking of him - having met him, we would love to sponsor him"

So said a member of the group when she saw this photo. She had said she wanted to support a needy pensioner through Mustard Seed Jersey's Adopt-A-Granny Sponsorship programme.

We are guided by the Romanian social workers as to which of the pensioners are most needy.

Details available from Mustard Seed Jersey by letter or email or phone or from the website [www.mustardseedjersey.co.uk](http://www.mustardseedjersey.co.uk).



## Looking back over 2017



We sent 2 aid consignments to Romania - approx. 24 tonnes. In the summer load were over 60 bicycles which made a huge difference to the recipients.



But in the summer we closed Casa Mabel our residential home for the elderly, because new requirements and fire regulations meant we could not run it legally anymore. So with great regret we closed it in July 2017.

Our sponsorship programme continues to flourish, sponsoring needy elderly and medical pensioners.



During 2017 thanks to funding from Robert Hall Foundation and St Pauls Church we were able to extend the homework club in the centre of Oradea to 4 afternoons a week, funding a teacher & paying travel costs for volunteer assistants as well as meals for the children and materials.



One of our biggest achievements for 2017 was 900+ shoeboxes that were packed for teenagers (12-16 is always the least popular age-group) - twice as many as 2016, so we had enough - fantastic!

## Looking ahead to 2018.



We plan 3 aid consignments to Romania in 2018 -

The first in March hopefully to include the requested items [Please see The Wish List].

The 2<sup>nd</sup> in the autumn, & the 3<sup>rd</sup> in December (including Christmas shoeboxes), using a Romanian haulier for all the trips.

*We have found things are getting more difficult regarding rules and paperwork requirements for sending humanitarian aid to Romania, but with God's help and wisdom we hope to continue as long as we are needed.*



We plan to continue our aid collections at Holme Grown Farm Shop car park in 2018.

During 2018, we hope to continue our sponsorship programmes and to raise funds to complete the Changed Lives building project.

### The Wish List for the March Trailer

For the school:

Winter-weight shoes for  
children aged 8+

School chairs & tables (suitable  
children aged 8+)

Craft materials

General:

*Bicycles*

*5 cars (these would be a huge help to social workers struggling to deliver bags of food etc on bikes/buses also very helpful for needy families in distant villages)*

For Casa Mabel as a holiday  
camp site for needy kids:

Indoor Games

Outdoor sports equipment &  
games

Watersports, canoes, etc

*If anyone can help with any of these larger items, please contact Rose on 482637 / email [mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk)*

## WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY IN 2018

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, and St Lukes Church (churches open during their various 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 Jersey as the beneficiary at dress down days, etc.

**SPONSOR** a needy child or family

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

Plan ahead to pack **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES** (check 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](https://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 ....**

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