

Thank you for my shoebox!



This is one of the 3074 Christmas shoeboxes that was sent from Jersey to Romania in December 2018.

Mustard Seed [Jersey]

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THE JOY A SHOEBOX CAN BRING!



Joy at being given a shoebox
– sadly we did not have
sufficient adult boxes to fulfill
all requests for adults.



So much gratitude!



So much excitement!
Most children kept their boxes
to open at home.



Often we gave the shoeboxes
just before the children went
home from school.





In one village we saw very challenging conditions. (Yes it is a child clutching a shoebox at the window).



In this village, many homes had no electricity, no indoor plumbing ...



Some of the group from Beaulieu Convent School entertaining orphans.



Just after the consignment of shoeboxes left Jersey for Romania, 3 late shoeboxes arrived from Sark. Happily we were able to fit them into our luggage. So our final total for 2018 was 3077 Christmas shoeboxes.

OUR FOOD, WINTER FUEL & MEDICAL NEEDS APPEALS

Beaulieu Convent School kindly donated £2000 from their fundraising specifically for purchasing bread. As a result, we expect to be able to continue the bread distribution at least once a week 'til the end of the Winter, which will make a significant difference to each recipient's life.

TOTAL AMOUNTS RAISED

Winter Fuel £350+

Food, including bread nearly £4000

Medical Needs £450+



A grateful beneficiary holding his precious loaf of bread



Money used to purchase bricquettes for fuel.



Group from Jersey buying the food parcels contents at a huge cash & carry in Oradea.

It will be very hard to select who is to benefit from money for MEDICAL NEEDS:

Do we pay for cataract surgery to give the gift of sight? Money for diabetes medication? Asthma? Blood pressure? Other surgery?

Mustard Seed Jersey is best known for Christmas shoeboxes. But if a recipient lives in poor enough circumstances to justify the Romanian social workers recommending them for a shoebox, then they may need support throughout the year. The social workers help select the neediest for our sponsorship programme.



Known as "Mr Nelu", this is one of the most encouraging success stories of our Adopt-A-Granny Pensioner Sponsorship scheme. 2 years ago he was homeless and sick; he joined our Changed Lives project. A group from Jersey sponsored him. Now with an ID card and medication for his health problem, he has found permanent employment and moved on, no longer needing our help.

Not every person's story ends as happily as Mr Nelu's.

While we visited this housebound sponsored pensioner we felt more like crying than laughing!



We took the lady her Christmas shoebox and a food parcel. It was one of the poorest homes with a smokey wood burning stove. The little crippled lady was weeping; eventually we discovered her husband had died that day.

If you would be interested in sponsoring a pensioner then please contact us, either via our website or use contact details on front page.

LOOKING BACK OVER 2018



Once again we have received some wonderful knitted blankets, hats, scarves, etc to send to Romania.



Aid from Jersey was sent by road 4 times in 2018. 3 aid consignments by haulier (approx. 33 tonnes) and a car. Also we were able to help fund the purchase of several much needed vehicles in Romania.

Sadly due to lack of funding we were unable to continue to pay for a teacher in the Homework

Club in Oradea, but we hope we can provide some limited support using volunteers.



FINALLY

We thank so many people for their help throughout the year. For our Christmas appeal we thank the National Trust of Jersey for use of the Barracks at Greve de Lecq. We thank our collection places - the Parish Halls and Les Quennevais Sports Centre. We thank Condor Ferries Freight and Bowman Haulage & Morvans-Fils in St Malo.... We thank all our wonderful volunteers who transported, checked, loaded... We thank each person who donated, packed, prayed, collected ...

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019.



We do not know what Brexit will mean for the sending of relief aid to Romania. ***So our plans have to be extremely flexible at this stage.***

All going well we plan aid consignments in the spring, the autumn and December.



We still need to raise funds as the Changed Lives building project at is not yet complete. When complete this project should offer housing for up to 25 homeless people.

During 2019, we hope to continue our relief aid collections at Holme Grown Farm Shop.



There are some changes!

Please note:

NO TOYS

Unless small and suitable for Christmas shoeboxes

NO FURNITURE

Occasionally we may ask for specific items but please nothing else.

NO GENERAL AID IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

PLEASE CHECK with us after our first (spring) aid consignment to be sure if we are continuing to send aid overseas.

WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY IN 2019

As there is uncertainty over the implications of Brexit please check with us as to what is happening before donating aid.

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

DONATE your surplus good quality clean clothing, bedding, footwear.
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 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

Remember Mustard Seed Jersey in your **PRAYERS**

If you shop at the CoOp sometimes 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 (especially after the 1st aid trip of the year)
through Facebook www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy
through our website www.mustardseedjersey.co.uk

Support Christmas shoeboxes – but we suggest you do not plan ahead until after our 1st aid consignment after Brexit.

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

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