

Mustard Seed [Jersey]

Recognised Charity in Jersey, Britain AJC No 227 ~ Humanitarian Aid to Eastern Europe
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Mustard Seed Jersey Newsletter ~ January 2020



Mulțumesc (thank you)

We have many people to thank for the 3321 Christmas shoeboxes sent from Jersey, Channel Islands, to Romania in December 2019 – people who donated, packed, collected, checked, sorted, loaded the shoeboxes and the people who gave financially for Bread and Food Parcels, Winter Fuel, Medical Needs and general donations. Also we thank the Parish Halls & Les Quennevais Sports Centre for being our collection places, Richard Perchard for use of his shed for packing the shoeboxes, Condor Ferries Freight for the very generous discount, Ferryspeed, Morvan-Fils in St Malo and Calin from the Romanian haulage company.

The Christmas shoebox appeal is incredibly labour intensive, but very much the highlight of our year.



In some Romanian schools the teachers tell the children to take the shoeboxes home unopened.



Approximately three quarters of the boxes from Jersey were for children. But there is great need among some of the pensioners.



It is always exciting for children and onlookers when the boxes are opened in school. The boxes are almost certainly the child's only Christmas present.





“What’s in my box?”



The boxes were beautifully covered. Thanks to those who covered the boxes so carefully.



This year virtually all the photos we have are of younger children being given Christmas shoeboxes. We did pack over 850 boxes for 12-16 age range but we have few photos of those distributions.



Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with the time consuming task of checking and packing each individual box. Special mention of 23 volunteers from HSBC who gave either a half or whole day.

Once again we raised money for Food/Bread, Winter Fuel and Medical Needs. Again we were so blessed that Beaulieu Convent School students raised funds and helped with the distributions. Groups of students from Beaulieu have visited Romania in December since 2011. Many of the photos in this newsletter are ones that they have shared.



Relief on receiving 2 loaves of bread. Beaulieu students helped with the distribution.

Below a mother & son (both receiving tiny medical pensions) who live in a shed on the edge of waste ground receive a food parcel. *He needs physiotherapy but they cannot afford it.*



Wood purchased with donations to our Winter Fuel is chopped then moved to storage.

Nelu the social worker tells me he is anxious to obtain a new heavy duty chainsaw as the present one has done excellent service but now is "very tired" and needs replacing.



Antonio could not see at school till Mustard Seed's medical fund helped with eye test and spectacles.

During 2019 there have been many achievements to celebrate, though still more needs doing. Romania is in the EU now and without doubt there are huge improvements we have seen over the last 21+ years since Mustard Seed began visiting and assisting there. Now we work with fewer needy people but these are genuinely the poorest of the poor, with no chance of improving their lot without outside help.



Our most exciting medical project was assisting Iolanda an orphaned young woman who visited Jersey 3 times in 2019 for transformational dental work thanks to the generosity of Jersey Dental Care.



We hope it may be possible for others to benefit in future



In what was one of our former aid trailers we were delighted to see toilets had been plumbed in.



Inside our 2nd old aid trailer this previously homeless family have created a safe cosy home; the mother has found employment and the children attend school.

LOOKING BACK OVER 2019



We have continued with occasional aid collections at Holme Grown Farm Shop.



We changed our method of transporting the relief aid to Romania, now palletizing and transshipping, using a Romanian haulage company.



Many people knit amazing blankets, hats and scarves throughout the year which are then sent to Romania.



In the summer, thanks to islanders' generosity we were able to assist with repairs from storm damage in Cefa.

Thank you everyone for your help. Without your support we could not have achieved what we did in 2019.

Our motto;

YOUR HELP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020.



We plan to continue to support our projects during 2020. One aim is to somehow help those at the Changed Lives site to become self sufficient.



We plan to continue the regular help through our sponsorship programmes to benefit children's education, pensioners & families



All going well we plan 3 aid consignments in the spring, the autumn and December.

We have had requests for single bedding, towels, shoes, bicycles

BREXIT – it is impossible to predict the impact that Brexit may have on our future plans to send relief aid to Romania. It really is a case of wait and see and pray We hope to continue to send the aid as we can see there is still a need for this.

But please keep in touch with us, especially before buying for the Christmas shoeboxes.



Thank you

to the many people who assist us throughout the year. Especially to our permanent landlord Vernon Helie.

And to Raul Freitas Landscapes for use of forklift and other equipment.

And to Paperclix for the generous discount on tape and packing materials.

Thank you to all those who donate & the faithful volunteers And to the “prayer warriors” who pray for our work

WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY IN 2020

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 St Luke's Church and All Saints' Church (churches should be open during their various normal opening hours).

SUPPORT our book stalls at Rozel Bay and St John's 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 to **PACK A CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX** (but please check with us after Brexit has finally happened!)

Remember Mustard Seed Jersey in your **PRAYERS** – to receive an occasional prayer update by email, please contact Rose.

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).

We are always keen to hear from **POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS** as often we need help with PACKING, LOADING, FUND-RAISING, COLLECTING, etc

Keep up to date

through Facebook www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy

through our website www.mustardseed.org.je

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

Special thanks to Paperclix for their help printing this newsletter.

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