

## ***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 2021**



## **Mulțumesc (thank you)**

for making it possible that Mustard Seed Jersey gave 2905 Christmas shoeboxes, also food, winter fuel and medical help to those in Romania who most needed that support.

Note from Rose the founder of Mustard Seed Jersey:

*"In 2020 it was the first time for 25 years that I did not spend time in Eastern Europe in December distributing Christmas shoeboxes. At one stage we had thought the Covid pandemic would mean we could not send Christmas shoeboxes, but in spite of many people facing problems themselves during 2020, the generosity was incredible! We received a good number of shoeboxes and almost twice the hoped for amount of money donated for various needs.*

*As schools were online in Romania in December it meant distributions had to be house to house and we say a huge thank you to both ALEX and NELU for all their work to get the shoeboxes, food, winter fuel, etc into the hands of those most in need".*



Alex spoke of how the schools helped them to arrange the distributions. He spoke of young & older people rushing out of their houses when they realised what was happening.







Most of our Christmas shoeboxes are for children, but this year approx 850 boxes were for adults, including pensioners, some are regularly assisted through our sponsorship programme.



While many distributions took place outside in the villages, some were able to gather inside to receive their shoeboxes and food parcels. It took much careful planning.





In Romania, Mustard Seed Jersey chooses to work with smaller charities and trusts. Nelu shared these 2 true accounts about children's joy.



Nelu (the AVS social worker) explained about this picture:  
At a food parcel distribution in a very poor village, this girl was very upset. So Sebi gave her the knitted toy in the photo.  
At one time Sebi's family were homeless, now they are part of our Changed Lives project. He was excited when invited to go to help at a food parcel distribution.  
Sebi took the knitted toy saying to Nelu that he wanted to give it to someone to help them feel happy. When Sebi noticed the little girl crying he gave her his treasured doll and was thrilled when she started to smile.

At the first bread distribution of December 2020, Nelu noticed a boy without winter shoes, wearing little more than slippers.

We made this need known on Facebook and we are delighted that a couple of our followers provided funds to purchase some winter shoes and socks.



For the boy it was a dream come true to be able to go to the shop and choose his own brand new shoes.

*Our motto is  
YOUR HELP MAKES A DIFFERENCE*



2020 was dominated by the spread of Covid 19 & resulting implications. Thanks to people's compassion and generosity, Mustard Seed was able to send funding in the spring to help purchase food for needy families, affected by the Covid crisis. After our Christmas appeal we were able to help provide bread, food parcels, winter fuel and meet medical needs.



Above: Distribution of food parcels during Covid crisis.  
Below: December 20 Food parcels distribution.  
Opposite: Bread distribution & Briquettes for heating.





## HIGHLIGHTS of 2020



Above: One of the many beautiful hand-made blankets distributed in Romania. We say a big THANK YOU to all who knitted and crocheted hats, blankets, scarves, etc.

*Below: Agape collecting their share from our 1<sup>st</sup> aid consignment of 2020.*



The Covid crisis meant our planned 3 aid consignments to Romania became 2, and the first one was in early autumn.



There are so many people we need to thank for making it possible for us to continue this work. We thank God for his help and ask his blessing on generous businesses including CondorFerries Freight, Ferryspeed, MorvanFils in St Malo, Calin the Romanian haulier, Raul Freitas Landscapes, our landlord Vernon Helie, the Parish Halls, Les Quennevais Sports Centre, and countless others who offer help ..... Then there are the amazing volunteers who run the charity, collecting, sorting, doing admin, packing, loading, fundraising ..... And those very generous people who give money, goods, time ..... To each and everyone we do say

**Mulțumesc (thank you)**

## OUR PLANS FOR 2021.



We plan to continue to support our various projects during 2021. We believe one of the most important ways we can help is through funding for education as this often empowers young people to escape the poverty cycle. As of the start of this year we support 2 homework clubs & assist with 5 young people's education.



We aim to continue to help out approx 80 vulnerable pensioners through Adopt-A-Granny our sponsorship programme  
*Please ask for details if this is of interest to you.*

All going well (Covid permitting) we plan 3 aid consignments for the year: in the spring, the autumn and December.



*We have had requests for laptops and tablets, that young people can use to access online schooling. Some of the poorer ones have been much disadvantaged. Nelu was able to help some using the equipment from his computer club but more is needed. ....*

**BREXIT – For several years we have anticipated the likely implications. We will finally know the reality when we send our 1<sup>st</sup> aid consignment of 2021! So please keep in touch with us through Facebook and other means.**

**Because of the need (made more acute by Covid) we plan to continue sending relief aid consignments through 2021.**



## **WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY IN 2021**

**DONATE your surplus** good quality clothing, bedding, footwear.  
At the time of printing the only drop off point is the packing loft at Cardiff House, La Ruelle du Coin Varin, St Peter JE3 7EJ.

We anticipate accepting **general aid from January – August.**

Depending on accumulation of aid, we will stop accepting general aid sometime during September and then focus exclusively on Christmas shoeboxes. We will advise on Facebook, the website, the answer-phone & loft door as to the cut-off date for general aid.

**SUPPORT** our book stalls at Rozel Bay and St John's Village.

**SUGGEST** that Mustard Seed Jersey benefit from a fundraiser event.

**SPONSOR** a needy child or family

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

**HELP COVER SHOEBOXES** ready for the Christmas appeal

**PLAN to PACK A CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX** (info available by September)

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 POSTAGE STAMPS** for us.

Organise a **FUND-RAISING EVENT** (please contact us before).

**POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS** for packing, loading, fund-raising, collecting, etc – please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

If you need more information please contact Rose either by phone (01534 482637) or by email to [mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk)

**Keep up to date**

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

through our website [www.mustardseed.org.je](http://www.mustardseed.org.je)

**MANY MANY 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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