

Mustard Seed [Jersey]

Jersey Charity Commission No 107 ~ Humanitarian Aid to Eastern Europe
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Mustard Seed Jersey Newsletter ~ January 2024

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“Спасибо”

This is Russian for “Thank you” and is often used by the Ukrainians – pronounced similarly to Paseebuh or Pseebuh

“Mulțumesc”

This is Romanian for Thank you

These words were heard frequently as the Christmas shoeboxes from Mustard Seed Jersey were distributed in Romania and Ukraine.

(Children in photo above are from Ukraine)

Pictures from the shoebox distributions in Ukraine – mainly in the Cernauti area of the country.



We sent 1500 shoeboxes directly to Ukraine and some were distributed in areas affected by the war, though most were given out in the south of the country near where it borders Romania.



Some of the 1500 shoeboxes we sent.



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Pictures from distributions in Romania. Some of the 2150 recipients of shoeboxes were Ukrainian refugees.



The smiles, looks of anticipation, and the concentration when opening the boxes say it all.



One of our sponsored pensioners receives a box (larger than a shoebox) packed by her sponsor.

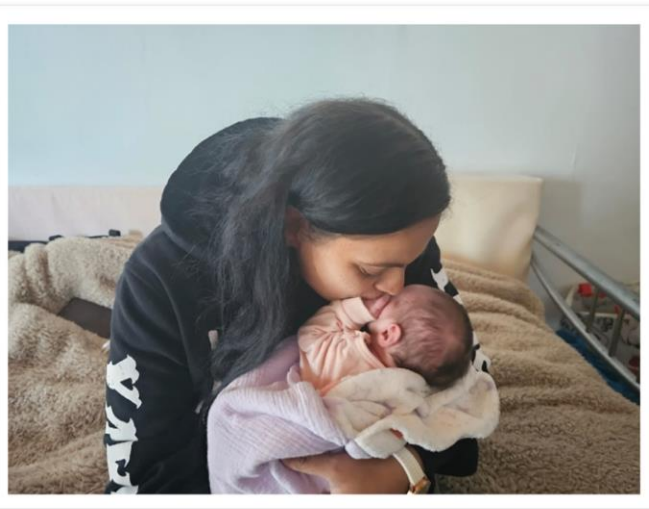


Of the 2150 shoeboxes sent to Romania, over 1600 were for children, with approx 500 for adults

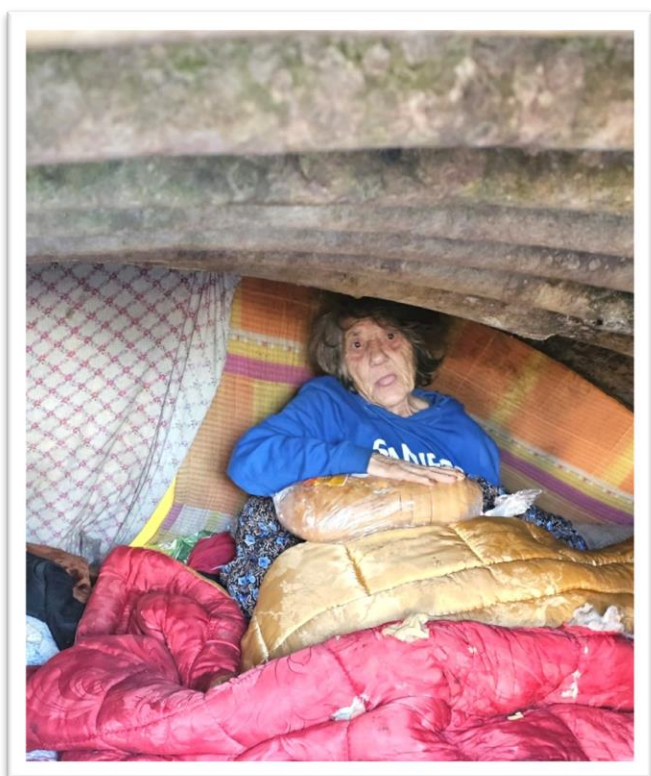
Some special memories from 2023:



When one of our supporters saw this picture on Facebook she told us she recognised the distinctive hand knitted hat, which she had knitted.



An amazing response to our appeal on Facebook resulted in funding to assist this young mother who is herself an orphan and living on the streets. Thanks to people's generosity she now receives money each month to help her look after her very small daughter.



What a difference the money from Jersey makes! When this woman (living in tent) received a loaf of bread she said through lack of money she had not eaten for 4 days



Once again the ladies in St Martin who knit and crochet made a huge number of blankets (Photographed in St Martins Church).
TO ALL OUR BLANKET MAKERS & KNITTERS THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOU HELP .

LOOKING BACK OVER 2023 THANKFUL FOR WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED



3 aid consignments – 2 to Ukraine and 1 to Romania –

The picture above shows loading in Jersey; the goods are then shipped to St Malo and collected by a haulier.

The picture below shows the unloading in Romania.



Many thanks to our VOLUNTEERS who make this possible.

And to Raul Freitas Landscapes, Condor Ferries, also Morvan Fils in St Malo and the volunteers in Romania & Ukraine.



Aid collections in Jersey.



Our bookstalls at Rozel & St Johns Village continue to raise funds.



One of our sponsored pensioners received briquettes for heating.

CONTINUING TO LOOK BACK OVER 2023 THANKFUL FOR WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED



A year ago we learned many Ukrainians had no light due to the war. Our good friend Nelu was able to organise the purchase of solar panels and thanks to people's amazing generosity we were able to fund solar panel light for 80 families.



As always the highlight of our year is the joy the Christmas shoeboxes bring not just to children but to pensioners who sometimes tell us they never received a gift before.



At the end of the Christmas appeal we shared the available money for food, bread, winter fuel, medical needs between Ukraine, the MSR outreach to Ukrainians refugees & the poor in Romania, & the AVS outreach to the poor in Romania.

It has continued to be a challenge to decide how to best use Mustard Seed resources in the face of so much need.

Another challenge has been the logistics of actually getting the goods to Ukraine and Romania. We appreciate your prayers for wisdom for the way ahead

LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE

Our most exciting news is the planned visit of Alex from Romania and Toader from Ukraine to Jersey in March. Toader is involved in distributing the aid from Jersey including to areas near the front line.

Please check out our Facebook page and website for details as we finalise the programme for them. If anyone is unable to access this information online and wants to support then please write to us providing your name and address in the 2nd week of February and we will send details by post.



This recent photo and others like it of our Changed Lives project shocked us all. It appears that following fresh building work nearby, the site where the Changed Lives porter-cabins are now floods badly after 2 days rain. We very much hope to be able to assist with this as it is clearly an unexpected emergency need.



Aren't these knitted hats fun & gorgeous!? Can we encourage our wonderful knitters and makers of hats, scarves etc to continue.

There are many uncertainties so we ask that you keep yourself informed of any changes we may publicize, especially regarding possible restrictions on relief aid items.

Often giving or raising money is the most helpful.



WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY IN 2024

As there may be changes please keep in touch as we anticipate there could be restrictions on the aid we can send.

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 plan to accept **general aid from January – August.**

Depending on accumulation of goods, we will stop accepting general aid before or during September and then focus exclusively on the 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

KNIT blanket squares or hats, etc for the Christmas shoeboxes.

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 – please get in touch

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

Keep up to date

through Facebook www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy

through our website 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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