Mustard Seed [Jersey]

Registered Charity in Jersey, Britain ~ Humanitarian Aid to Eastern Europe

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Coordinator: Rose Helie-Pallot

June / July 2017

Report by Rose Helie-Pallot on her trip to Romania in June 2017:



Thank you to all who donated bicycles

When I was in Romania early in June I met a number of beneficiaries who had received bicycles sent over on Mustard Seed Jersey's May aid consignment.

For some having the bike means a far easier and quicker journey to work each day. I received comments including: "It makes so much difference not to have to walk each day" & "Having a bike means I can travel further to work and get a better paid job".

A group of adult orphan young women were using the bikes and learning to ride them, already one had sufficient competence and confidence to cycle to work. In the homework club the top prize for sustained effort is a child's bicycle.

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There were countless other encouragements, signs that Mustard Seed's continued help to the Bihor county of Romania is proving effective:



At the Changed Lives Project it was great to see the homeless now living in porter-cabins or our old converted aid trailer.



In spite of her health problems and years of homelessness she is thrilled to have a home.



The most delicious strawberries I tasted - grown by people living at Changed Lives site.



It was very satisfying to see how one of our sponsored families are well on the road to becoming fully self supporting, having made good use of opportunities given to them and developed a small business selling produce.



Meeting with the young orphaned women we first met and helped in 2000, now they are self supporting and independent, but always pleased to see us.



It is with great sadness that I tell you that when I was in Romania Alex, Sergio, Violeta and I made the decision to close Casa Mabel effective from July 15th. This was with the full agreement of the Mustard Seed Jersey Trustees.

When it opened in 2009, Casa Mabel was way ahead of the care and safety provision that the Romanian government required for homes registered for the care of the elderly. It has been very successful, much appreciated by residents and their families, and on the county website it was the residential home with the best feed-back in the Bihor county. BUT an insurmountable problem came into being at the fire inspection earlier this year.

It seems that without warning, new laws were passed regarding requirements for residential homes for the elderly. Alex, Sergio and Violeta made enquiries to see if there was any possibility of some modification that would enable Casa Mabel to comply with the new requirements. But after seeking advice they came to the conclusion that it wasn't possible. When I was in Romania the sad decision was taken.

We hope and pray each of the 20 residents find good new and happy homes & that the staff find suitable new jobs.

WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY:

We like to hear from <u>POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS</u> as often we need help with <u>PACKING</u>, <u>LOADING</u>, <u>FUND-RAISING</u>, <u>COLLECTING</u>, etc If you want to assist in any way please contact Rose either by phone (482637) or by email to <u>mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk</u>

<u>DONATE</u> 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, St Marys Church and St Lukes Church (churches open during their normal opening hours).

<u>Support</u> our aid collections (details in media or our answer-phone)

<u>Support</u> our book stalls at Rozel Bay and St Johns Village.

Suggest Mustard Seed 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** (check on Facebook & website)

Remember Mustard Seed Jersey in your prayers

If you shop at the <u>CoOp</u> please use our divvy number **321340**

Put your <u>loose change</u> in a **collecting box** for Mustard Seed

Save your <u>used **stamps**</u> for us.

Organise a **fund-raising event** (please contact Rose before).

Keep up to date

through Facebook <u>www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy</u> through our website <u>www.mustardseedjersey.co.uk</u>

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

The Mustard Seed Jersey Trustees:

Bill Norman; David Vasselin; Hilary Lambert

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Founder and Co-Ordinator: Rose Helie-Pallot (482637)