



## Christmas Newsletter 2014

Greetings once again from Romania with grateful thanks for all your wonderful support. Time has passed so quickly since our last update at Easter which was indeed a happy celebration. Seventeen of our seniors who otherwise would have been alone celebrated together in our centre. The spirit of companionship and friendship was a joy to experience.

Our children started school in September on the right foot as they shopped for shoes and school supplies. Our children within our English classes enjoyed a visit to the zoo. This in turn led to many teaching points which proved most valuable. Our older children are becoming a lot more confident and are eager to learn. One child who had been struggling with English at school suddenly blossomed. He proudly told his teacher about his Saturday sessions. She quickly commented that she hoped he would continue having such lessons!



Our seniors continue to enjoy their monthly meetings. Some have sadly left us but no doubt are celebrating with the Lord and others have joined us. The depth of community spirit and companionship continues to flourish.

Our creativity group goes from strength to strength. Our expat community here in Bucharest have injected a new lease of life into our seniors. They have created many beautiful items that amassed donations for the association. The wonderful venue at the Radisson hotel Bucharest was greatly appreciated. The manager Mr. Fol has been so supportive in numerous ways.

Our volunteers from abroad have been another source of joy. Our four volunteers from Ireland improved the lives of two of our families. Insulation re heating is currently benefitting one family who have a sick child. Another family is enjoying the cleanliness of their one roomed dwelling grateful to our Irish lads for repairing and painting. Mollie from Perth, Anne from Ireland, Cathy from

Canada and Theresa from the U.S. are currently busy wrapping gifts for our housebound, seniors and children. Most of these gifts have come to us via Heart to Hand Ireland who continue with their generosity to our needy. Without their support and that of Maureen Murray in Ireland and all our friends in England our mission could not function. We convey our thanks and appreciation to all who support them on our behalf. We are also grateful to IWA Bucharest, Expert Photography Group Bucharest, and OMV Romania for their wonderful support during the year.

Our thanks and appreciation also to Denis, Ana Maria, Alexandru and their team of helpers for their fantastic efforts for our children. Santa will soon be visiting our centre and our children will indeed be happy. We will recall the event with photos in our next update. We thank all our donors and look forward to meeting many of you when `Santa` arrives to our centre.

Please visit our website [www.ourladyofmercy.ro](http://www.ourladyofmercy.ro) which has a wonderful `New Look`. We now have English and Romanian translations.

We are happy to relate that we have housed four families who had not the possibility to provide housing for themselves. One family actually built their own house. The association helped with the building materials. We are currently investigating an option of housing for another family with four children. Mother is



undergoing chemotherapy. Their present living conditions are totally inadequate. Hopefully we will have good news for you in our next update. The family avail of facilities for personal hygiene and enjoy a relaxed hot meal on a weekly basis. The oldest child (13 years) takes responsibility for the younger children. She generally makes breakfast on arrival and will shower the younger children. This is also a further opportunity to develop the English language and culinary skills.

Our sick children are making good progress. Matei, now 19 months old (missing most the left side of the brain) is mastering the concept of allowing the right side to do the extra work. He obviously has a long road ahead and will need to continue with his intensive therapy. This would not have been possible without your support. Our child with autism is also making big strides. Moire,

our child with 'Krabbes' disease is now completely blind. She is fed through a tube.

We are supporting more families and are happy to relate that two of our teenagers have been successfully placed within the school system again after a considerable time of absence due to their home situations. It is wonderful to observe seeds of love and care blossoming. We are indebted to you. Be assured that you are remembered daily in our prayer. Our people send their prayerful wishes and appreciation, wishing you and your families a wonderful Christmas filled with peace, joy, expectation and a sense of the true meaning of Christmas enabling each one of us to be witnesses to the reality of the Christ child.

*Wishing you a very Happy Christmas  
and Happy New Year...*



Life is  
only for  
Love  
Time is  
only that  
we may  
find God

St. Bernard

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