

WHITE CROSS MISSION



A Charitable Trust Registered in England No 1021176

52 Gwel-an-nans, Probus, Cornwall TR2 4ND, UK
Tel: ++44 (0)1726 884344/ 07775700893 (mob)
Email: wcm@whitecross.org.uk
Secure donation site: www.whitecross.org.uk

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Dear Friends & Supporters of the White Cross Mission

I start to write this letter at St Austell Golf Club. The last of the competing teams in our White Cross Golf Day has just left & now we have a little while to wait before the final team arrives back. Thanks to Frankie Cox, who organised the day, 14 teams have entered this year &, if the rain holds off, they should have a great afternoon.

I came back from Romania the day before yesterday, with Ana & my grandson Yan, aged 3. It's a long journey but we made it in good heart & were glad to be home – until we came to open the luggage & I realised that I had picked up someone else's bag instead of mine! And, to add insult to injury, there was a message already on my answer phone asking me to return the bag to Bristol the next day! So, yesterday, I set off again to take it back & pick up mine. I was certainly relieved to get back home last night. And no, before you ask, I didn't speed. Would I dare?!!

Mary Ann Hensinger, from White Cross USA, met us in Budapest and came with us to Romania. It was an important weekend for the village of Beznea, as they were celebrating 600 years of existence. So, Mary Ann was able to see everyone in national costume and watch the country dancing and listen to the singing and the poetry.



*Gabor & Cornelia
(Casa Sf Nicolae)*

The weather was glorious, as it often is in early September, and the colours of the fields and trees quite took one's breath away.

The young people in our farms were busy picking apples, walnuts and plums and, despite purple stained hands, they all looked healthy and well.

We are now approaching a period of change in order that some of our young people can go on, what is called, a Supported Living Programme.

Over the next year or so the young people in Casa Fericita, Trandafir and Sf Nicolae will gradually learn to manage their farms themselves and will, eventually, live reasonably independent lives with just one House- mother keeping an eye on them.

They will have employment at the Guest House, newly named Casa Delureni (House in the hills), on a rota basis, and the Guest House will purchase some of the produce they grow. We hope that, in a few short years, they will be ready to stand on their own feet and take responsibility for their own lives.

It is an exciting moment for us all.

At present there are 17 young people ready to take on this challenge. By moving a few of the others about, we intend turning Casa David into an intermediate house where young people who, we feel, will benefit from further 24/7 care, will be placed. Casa Sf Petru will remain as our special needs house.

Thanks to Graham, Liz and Jenny, we have an intensive programme of personal development, which is being followed by all our young people. A lot of work has gone into this programme and the difference it is already making to the young people's lives is considerable.

As for the Guest House itself, when we left Romania the building had reached the base of the windows. I am told that it will be completed before Christmas and then we can begin the fun of furnishing and equipping it before our opening day on 1st May 2007.

If you are reading this letter it is most likely that you are on our mailing list. If so, you could, if you wish, take advantage of our offer of a cut price introductory week's holiday. Arriving on 2nd May 2007 and leaving on the 8th you can be the first guests in our Guest House for only £300 full board and tours, plus your travel.

AND TRAVEL IS EASY!

You simply fly direct to Budapest and a taxi will meet you and take you straight to the Guest House. No complications. No visas. No injections. **EASY! EASY! EASY!**

Phone me if you are interested, on my mobile 07867577416, and I'll talk you through it.

We are offering this week to you all because we want our first guests to be sympathetic to the young people in their first week at work. They are bound to be nervous and you could put them at their ease and, hopefully, give them plenty of encouragement.

There are lots of courses and tours you could also book onto and some of you may be particularly interested in a retreat led by Bishop Bill in the last week of August.

The web site with all the details is www.casadelureni.com

Brochures should be ready in a week or so.

Well, the golf tournament is over now and the various teams have won their prizes and eaten an excellent meal. A total of £1,500 has been raised thanks to Frankie and the generosity of St. Austell Golf Club, the sponsors and all the players. It has been a very good day.

We have to go on fund raising. Although we have raised enough to build the Guest House, we still have to equip it and advertise for customers. We need to purchase a really good 15 seater minibus for the Guest House and we still have to pay the House-mothers and teachers until the profits of the Guest house are sufficient to take over.

So, please don't feel unwanted. We still need you!!

Above all, as you know, we need your prayers. Thank God we have an army of you praying for us every step of the way. We are very grateful. You have got us through some very tight scrapes!

The Annual General Meeting this year is on Wed 18th October at 7.30pm in the Lychgate room at Kenwyn Church, Truro.

The annual service of the Order of San Lazar is also at Kenwyn, in the church, at 3.00pm on Sun 26th November.

If you are able to attend, please do. We love to have you with us on these occasions.

With all good wishes.

God bless.

Pat

R: Elemer & Claudia in National Costume (Casa Sf Nicolae)



R: The entrance to Casa Delureni & craft shop

