

# WHITE CROSS MISSION



*A Charitable Trust Registered in England No 1021176*

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**February 2006**

To all friends and supporters and visitors to our website

This year, 2006, will, hopefully, mark an important change in the direction of our work with the young people in our care. Everything we are doing now is to be designed to help them live fulfilling, independent lives. We want our whole project in Romania to become self-sufficient, and to this end we have introduced an individual achievement programme for each young person, to ensure that they are all able to look after themselves and the animals and develop the farmsteads sufficiently in order to survive. Graham and Liz are designing and supervising the whole programme.

The young people themselves badly need to be better integrated into the lives of the villages in which they live, and several of them will need to find jobs outside of their lives on the farms. The housemothers are to be encouraged to help make this possible.

We have purchased a beautiful piece of land on which to build a Guest House. It is a wild flower meadow in a really lovely position. The Guest House is to be run as a Retreat and Conference Centre and the guests will be cared for by some of our young people. The food that will be served in the restaurant will be bought from the farmsteads and the profits made from this project will, eventually, pay the salaries of the housemothers. We want to open the Guest House in May 2007 and we will be running art, poetry and music courses, as well as nature trails and religious retreats.

Please look out for our programme when it is announced. Travel to Romania is getting cheaper all the time and we will make it easy for you. The countryside is stunning and I'm sure you would have a marvellous time if you came and visited.

We have decided to build the Guest House entirely from logs and to include log cabins and caravan stands among the trees. The cost of the building is to be £106,000 and, in addition, we must pay for the paperwork and permissions, the bore hole and water pipes, the drainage pipes and the septic tank. We need car parks and pathways laid, and the Guest House and cabins will need to be furnished. A total of £160,000 should complete the job. To date we have raised £22,000 and I am anxious to raise the rest very quickly now.

We have worked it out that a donation of £12,000 would mean that the donor, be it an individual, a business an organisation or a club, could name a bedroom or a cabin after themselves or a loved one. We already have one bedroom to be named after David Hensinger of Oxford, Maryland, USA who, tragically, died at the helm of his beloved yacht last September. Cornwall farmer Arthur Jelbert is raising money for a room to be named after his wife, Jenny, who also tragically died last year. It is a wonderful way to remember someone. Hopefully people will find peace and contentment staying in the room, and our young people, who have suffered so much in the past, will all benefit because their future will be secured. Every donation, however small, will be greatly valued.

If you would like to donate please make a contribution either by post to White Cross Mission, 52 Gwel-an-nans, Probus, Cornwall TR2 4ND, Or through your bank to HSBC, Truro branch, Sort Code 40-44-34, account number 01256106, account name White Cross Mission, Or directly through our website at [www.whitecross.org.uk](http://www.whitecross.org.uk)

While we are raising money for our Guest House we still have to pay the salaries of the housemothers and look after the young people. This costs us in the region of £100,000 a year.

As you can see this year is going to be a very expensive one but we must make the effort: the future of our young people depends on it. We are desperate for your help. Please do what you can. If you give us money we want to be able to thank you properly. So, if you are transferring money into our account please don't remain anonymous and don't forget to let us know whether your donation is for the Guest House project or our farm homes. Write to us and let us know what you have done.

Alongside the programme of the White Cross I, personally, have been trying to help my adopted daughter, Ana, and her family. Her story and that of the White Cross in Romania is to be illustrated on BBC 2, *A Seaside Parish*, at 7pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Please watch if you can. If you want to help with Ana's fund please mark your donation accordingly.

I'm off to California next week to preach at Montclair Presbyterian Church near San Francisco and, the following week, to the congregation at St Mary's by the Sea. Our American friends have been very generous in the past and I am looking forward to seeing them all again.

Our Friends' Groups in Maryland, USA, Redruth and Camborne, and Newlyn (Cornwall) have all been very active recently and made substantial donations. Everybody is most grateful to them for all their hard work.

For those of you who remember Tomi from the orphanage at Bratca, I'm sure you will be pleased to know that he has started at Oradea University and is doing well. Also, Atilla, who was adopted by John and Rose in Weston-super-Mare has just passed his driving test and bought his first car. Congratulations to them both!

Lastly, an advance notice of our Golf Day at St Austell Golf Club. This year it is to be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September and to enter a team of four will cost £100. If you can sponsor a team or a player or donate a prize please contact Frankie Cox on 01872 510594.

The young people are thriving thanks to the love and care of the housemothers and thanks to your generosity and prayers. Please don't ever stop!

Thank you so much. May God bless you all.

With good wishes,

*Pat*