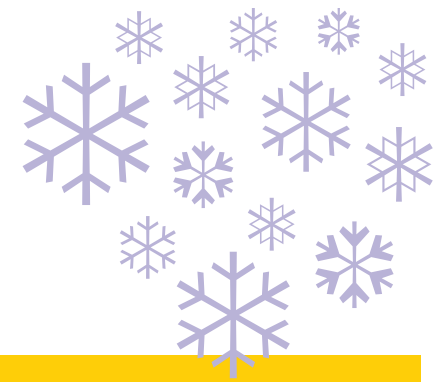




Newsletter FEBRUARY 2011



On behalf of Romanian Relief, we would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year. We are thrilled and humbled by your continual support of all our work and 2011 is possibly set to the most exciting year yet for us.

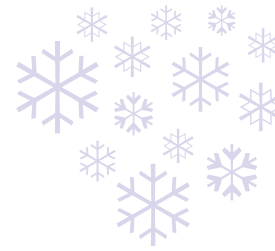
This spring, we will be realising what has been many months of hard work and combined efforts with the launch of a fantastic new medical clinic in the Tinca region. Approximately

half a mile from our established Safe Homes project, this clinic is a first for Romania and we are sure it will have a huge impact on preventing abandonment. Additionally (and it goes without saying), we are looking forward to boosting and enriching the lives of so many children and adults this year. We feel honoured to witness the changes that take place in the hearts and minds of so many brave young individuals.

Safe Homes

Safe Homes renovations were completed in December and the homes are looking great! Our children are really enjoying and benefiting from the extra space and new therapy facilities, which arrived just in time for the season's numerous school plays and Christmas parties. We would like to thank everyone who donated Christmas presents for our children, these all contributed to a fantastic and fun filled Christmas packed with smiling happy faces and lots of gift sharing.

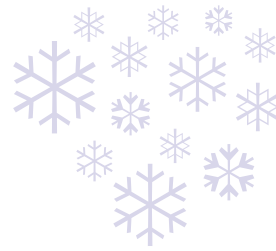




A BIG Thank you goes to....



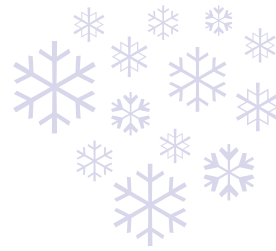
This January, the wonderfully talented London-based illustrator and artist Miss Swanne visited our Safe Homes to adorn the walls with her beautiful illustrations. Our therapy centre was brought to life with her exceptional work and has really helped transform each room into an artistic escape that the kids are visibly delighted with. Check out more of Miss Swanne's work here: www.missswanne.co.uk



Toddington middle school

In December Toddington middle school collected shoe boxes filled with toys, sweets, toiletries and other exciting surprises for us in their Christmas appeal, which were then distributed to our school project and underprivileged families across Oradea over Christmas. Everyone who received them were truly thrilled to receive them, and as you can see they brought a smile to many faces.





Maternity hospital

Winter is an especially challenging time at the maternity hospital because sadly, more babies are abandoned. During December and January we had up to 30 babies in one section. But within the last few months, we have produced and distributed hundreds of baby packages, which has given many young mothers the courage and confidence to come back and take their babies home.

Romanian Relief continues to raise funds to enable us to place some of these abandoned children into foster care, otherwise we fear they will spend most of their lives living in hospitals and state institutions.

Positively, we have received generous funding to double our contraception programme in 2011, meaning we can assist twice as many women and make a significant difference in minimising the abandonment rate.





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2nd chance school

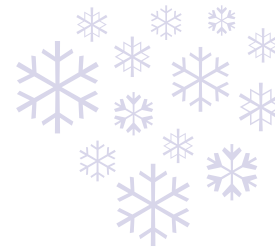
2nd Chance School facilitates a return to the classroom for those who have bypassed education through lack of routine, guidance, support or structure in their lives. Our classroom has now been running for 4 months and has proved an extremely hard project to run. Patience and perseverance has been required by all our (saintly) staff, most of whom have encountered plenty of alcohol related issues within the classroom. A lack of attendance has also been commonplace, perhaps because the lives of those in 2nd Chance School have been previously so chaotic and unstructured. Worse still, some of the children have been raised, quite literally, in rubbish tips and have no comprehension of responsibilities or obligation.

Our staff have pulled out all the stops and even conducted daily visits to ensure attendance figures remain high. But in the last few weeks, we have had a slight break through with nearly 90 per cent attendance every day. We have also had 3 new children join our class in January which is encouraging news.





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Fundraising

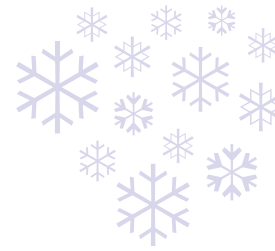
All Romanian Relief charity work is carried out on donations from individuals; we rely completely on your kindness.

If you fancy being a bit more creative, organizing your own unique event is a great way of supporting Romanian Relief. We rely on independent financial contributions from fund raisers to help maintain our ongoing projects. Luckily there are hundreds of fun ways you can raise money, whether it's a sponsored event, organizing a charity pub quiz, holding your own fashion party or a simple delicious cupcake bake off!

If you are interested in holding your own fundraising event please contact us. We would love to help you with fundraising ideas and provide some Romanian Relief materials to help you advertise your event.

Please contact info@romanianrelief.org for more information.





Birthdays

If you would like to buy a child in our care a birthday gift this year, please contact us for further information on how you can do this

info@romanianrelief.org, or donate through our website and we can buy a gift directly on your behalf. We have so many children to buy gifts for throughout the year, we really do appreciate your input – as do our birthday boys and girls!

Thank you for your ongoing support
The team at Romanian Relief

