



Children
in Distress



Annual Report 2014

Registered Charity Number: 1001327. Scottish Registered Charity Number: SCO 39383

Report Contents

Chairman's Report	4
Chief Executive's Report.....	6
Board Report.....	9
The Annual Review.....	16
Education, Social Welfare & Support Programme.....	45
Welfare & Donations	48
Partner Programmes	49
Financial Overview	53
Auditors Report.....	61
SOFA	63
Balance Sheet	64
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	65
Charity Information	72

Children in Distress delivers best practice in the production of accessible information.

If you require an accessible version please contact Children in Distress on **0141 559 5690** and we will be happy to help you.

Statement from Margaret Radford



“When you read the mission statement for Children in Distress and then see, hear and experience the work they have done and are currently doing, often in difficult circumstances, it automatically leads you to coin the phrase ‘It does what it says on the tin’. To them a mission statement isn’t just words, it is words that lead to action through dedication and commitment and accomplishes this extremely well. The love and care afforded to each child is limitless and the lengths to which they go to provide it are also limitless and, through this, each child is given and shown respect and dignity. On top of this they are also providing role models for the Romanian people hopefully to follow one day.

“Though distances by many miles ‘our children’ are very special to us, they become part of our families. To be given updates and photos are important to us but to be given the opportunity to spend precious time with them is just that, precious. The Supporters Tours provides us with this blessing and privilege and at the same time allowing us to show the carers that we really do care - not just for ‘our own child’ but all the children, for all children are special.

“A child never asks to be born, it only ever asks to be loved. Children in Distress knows how to reach out and show that love and I and my family are proud to be involved with them.”

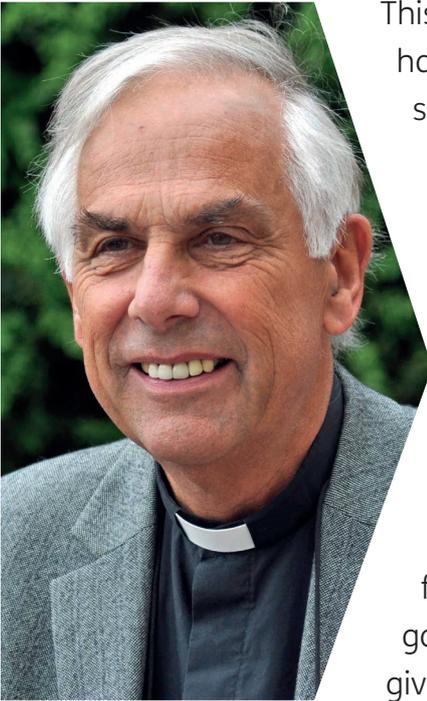
Margaret Radford

September 2014

Chairman's Report

“The desire for our children’s well-being has always been the most universally cherished aspiration of mankind. There is no task more important than building a world in which all of our children can grow up to realize their full potential, in health, peace and dignity.”

Kofi A. Annan



This has been an exceptional, if challenging, year for the Charity. We had the joy of celebrating in Bucharest with nearly sixty donors, supporters and friends, twenty five years of service to terminally and incurably ill infants and children; the handicapped and less-abled; those who are abandoned and destitute; the poor, the lonely and the unloved. In a prayer service in the Chapel at St Laurence, we prayed for the children of its hospice, those who lived and died there peacefully with dignity and we gave thanks for the volunteer nurses, carers and staff who gave them joy and held them when their time had come. We shared time with the little band of survivors and a new generation of residents, who now live on at St Laurence. With friends from the local community and expat supporters, we gathered in the beautiful Anglican Church of the Resurrection, to give thanks for a quarter century of commitment and dedication

and for the lives of so many children who prospered as a result. Those on the tour saw the work carried on today in each of the hospices, the amazing multiple therapy programmes delivered in the Charity’s child development centres and in the School for Children with Autism and we saw at first hand the life changing education and welfare programme encouraging hundreds of children to achieve their full potential.

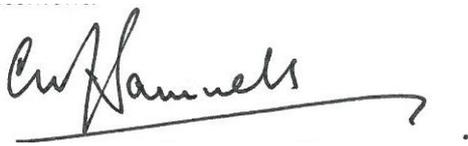
The charity has come a long way from those first aid and welfare convoys to a beleaguered nation and its people, but we are still true to our Founding Director’s original vision of bringing “help, hope and hospice care” to children who need it most. The charity has evolved and adapted to address the changing needs of children today. However, it sad to share that for the first time in a decade, we are being asked to consider sheltering a new generation of infants touched by the HIV virus. Children who once again are abandoned and have nowhere to call home, children left in hospital wards and orphanages unsuited to their care and development. >>

Chairman's Report *continued*

These days there are so many calls on the generosity of those who support our work, and falling donation income is a matter of ever present concern, which focuses our activity and demands that the Charity is as efficient and effective as possible. My colleagues and I remain concerned at the ongoing media storm which continues to demonise particularly Romanian migrant workers for their presence in the United Kingdom. We are concerned as to the adverse impact of this publicity on the children who suffer as public opinion is manipulated in this way.

My fellow Trustees have asked that I express our appreciation to Dr Derek Lockstone and his wife Colleen, who over twenty years have played a significant role in shaping and ensuring the medical best practice across the charity and offered good council as member Trustees. Since their resignation and retiral, their ever present courtesy, kindness and exceptional good counsel is missed not only by their colleagues, but by our project care teams whom they so helped and encouraged.

Finally the Trustees record our appreciation for the dedication and devoted service to Children in Distress given by the Chief Executive, the admin team, the project and programme teams, those working in our thrift shops and all who in any capacity work to help deliver our Children in Distress mission of care.

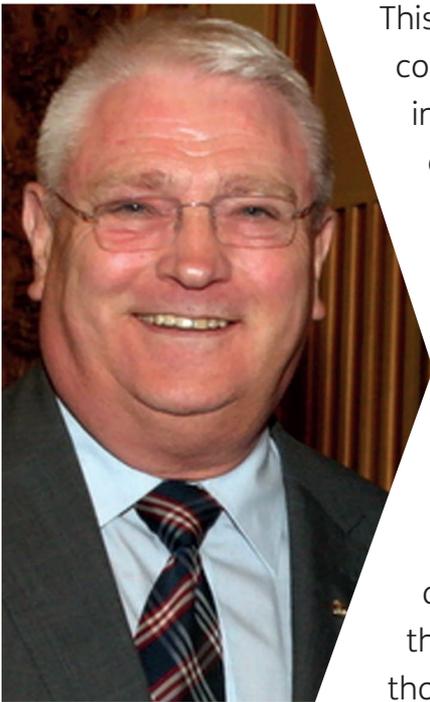
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cannon Christopher Samuels". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long horizontal stroke that ends in a small arrowhead pointing to the right.

Cannon Christopher Samuels, Chair of Trustees

Chief Executive's Report

"If you shift your focus from yourself to others, extend your concern to others, and cultivate the thought of caring for the well being of others, then this will have the immediate effect of opening up your life and helping you to reach out."

Dali Lama XIV



This has been an important year for the charity. Our projects have continued to deliver significant benefits to the children and families involved and contribute significantly to child development, education, welfare and paediatric palliative and respite care services of Romania. The Trustees have continued to invest in the education and personal professional development of the project teams and in the improvement of the buildings and facilities from which they operate. Our colleagues in Copii in Dificultate and PositivPlus assisted with the development of the community based initiatives undertaken by the newest member of the Children in Distress Charity alliance, Ajuta, Speranță și Hospice (Help, Hope and Hospice) further diversifying our ability to deliver our mission of care and meet the needs of a new range of incurably or terminally ill children or those who need assistance to maximise their potential. This new

alliance of children's charities also makes possible and more credible joint applications for national and international funding, thus decreasing dependency on grant aid solely from the UK

Our common goal remains to deliver sustainable, cost effective care and meet the growth in its demand, whilst continuously improving the quality of our services. We made notable progress towards that goal in the year and I am confident that Children in Distress and its partners will make further progress in the years to come, delivering ever improving short, medium or long-term care to the children who need it. For a variety of reasons the charity has experienced a consistent last quarter reduction in donation support over the year. This may be due to the age profile of its donors, to adverse press publicity with respect to Romanian migration or simply to the increasing demand on the donor's pound from other natural disasters and the economic pressure of five years of austerity in the United Kingdom. Whatever the cause, this is placing increasing pressure on the financing of the charity and on the projects and children they support. >>

Chief Executive's Report *continued*

The key area at risk is the provision of quality paediatric palliative hospice care, which is by its very nature labour intensive and requires professional skill sets and expertise which are in relatively short supply in the labour market, particularly in Bucharest. The hospice projects have experienced relatively high levels of labour turnover and have responded with Personal Professional Development, induction and skills training for new appointees, which adds considerably to the operating costs.

This year, Children in Distress began its twenty-fifth year of service to the children of Eastern Europe, its work evolving from delivering welfare aid to hospitals in Brasov and Bucharest to that of a highly valued care provider partner that innovates care services and delivers a range of much valued projects, all of which complement the existing impoverished social welfare provision for children offered by cash strapped Child Protection Departments. Much has changed in the world, particularly in Romania, since those early days but much remains the same, and the need and demand for the charity's services remains as strong as ever.

During the year the CID Alliance continued to grow to address the ever present need for third sector specialised paediatric care, which results from the hard realities and closures resulting from the economic austerity imposed on Romania's medical and social welfare services. Demand for new child placements in hospice care remains robust and that for child development and welfare services has steadily increased. In addition, a new generation of body positive infants and young adults seek homes as local authority care provision is run down.

CID's specialist multiple therapy child development centres also experience strong demand for the specialist services delivered there and the peripatetic physiotherapy service delivered in partnership with the Child Protection Department of Bucharest Sector 1 looks to be expanded.

The matched programme operating in Arges County also has had considerable success addressing the obvious need and delivers cost effective therapy solutions directly to the family home. This programme is particularly popular with the families involved.

An interim extension to a European Union funded POSDRU grant helped the community education and welfare education programmes assist children for a further year. This funding will terminate in July 2015 and already preparatory work is being undertaken to present a case for continued funding for this exceptionally popular and effective early intervention programme which has radically reduced school refusal and truancy.

The ongoing success of Children in Distress was facilitated by a host of dedicated volunteers who, over many years, shared their nursing, medical, educational and therapy skills, which helped hundreds of infants and children with incurable or terminal conditions to maximise their potential and to seize life's opportunities. >>

Chief Executive's Report *continued*

Volunteers in the United Kingdom underpin all that we do, giving generously of their time, in fundraising and in the provision of donated goods that have helped clothe generations of children over the last twenty five years. I and my colleagues would like to register our appreciation for the significant contribution made by volunteers and supporters to the work of the charity. Each and everyone, be they gathering funds and knitted goods to feed and clothe the poor and the most needy, helping in our thrift shops or acting as local ambassadors focusing attention on the work of the charity in their communities, has helped the less abled maximise their potential. Children in Distress would never have achieved so much without its volunteer base and its extended family of support, in churches and organisations across the United Kingdom.

This annual review intends to demonstrate the practical impact of generous giving at a time of great economic uncertainty. It shares the financial uncertainty that the charity faces and the efforts being made to secure the charity's future and the future of its care and welfare programmes. Over a decade ago the charity, as an initial member of the Fundraising Standards Board, committed to an ethical fundraising policy. We have never contracted professional street encounter donor recruitment or used paid telephone-marketing contact calls to pester existing donors. We simply share, when we can, the detail of our work and what can be achieved with the help and support of the friends of the charity. On behalf of CID UK's Trustees and all of UK admin team and the Directors and care staff of Copii in Dificultate (CIDRo), PostivPlus and our new partner Ajuta, Speranță și Hospice (ASH) - Help, Hope and Hospice, may I thank all our child and charity sponsors, donors, volunteers and dedicated colleagues who make up our care and admin teams. Thanks to your kindness, dedication and hard work we can continue to look ahead with tempered optimism to providing a brighter future for Romania's children in distress, the disabled, incurably or terminally ill, the abandoned or simply those who remain the poorest, most disadvantaged and socially excluded young people and families in Eastern Europe.



Alisdair Barron MBE, Chief Executive

Board Report

Trust and Charitable Company Status

The charity is constituted as an international, non-political, not for profit charitable company and is governed by a declaration of trust signed in 1990, subsequently amended by a deed of trust in 1992 and an incorporation document in 2010.

Charity Registration

Children in Distress is a charity registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales with charity registration number 1001327, and in Scotland is registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator, with the registration number SCO 39383. The incorporated charitable body is registered as a charity with both the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Office of the Charity Registrar in Scotland and to act entirely as a non-profit making organisation.

The Charity's Structure, Governance and Management Principles

The charity is overseen by a Board of Trustees which, with recent resignations, now comprises nine non-executive Trustee/Directors who each serve without payment having, on a voluntary basis, foregone the reimbursement of UK travelling expenses. Two are perhaps fortunate to be assisted by independent local support group donations, which make personal donations covering any additional costs incurred on their behalf. However, it is acknowledged that whilst acting for or on behalf of Copii in Dificultate, PositivPlus or Ajutor, Speran i Hospice (ASH) - Help, Hope and Hospice as project consultants, medical advisors or charity training consultants, Trustees may opt to be partially reimbursed for travel expenses and accommodation costs. The Charity's Trustee/Directors normally meet five times each year for board meetings and also meet on other occasions as required, and frequently use the immediacy of ICT to communicate to review strategy and performance with other members of the Board, the Chief Executive, administration and project management teams in the field.

Directors are normally elected to serve for a three-year period and may be reselected for a further terms of three years. >>

Board Report *continued*

Members of the Board recruit, interview and select new directors and appoint where candidates demonstrate the necessary skills, identified in the Board's periodic skills audit, which clearly complement existing expertise and can positively benefit the charity's operation and future development. Once appointed, Directors are given a comprehensive induction and provided with all the information they require to fulfil their role including best practice guidelines on the role of Trustees and charity law. All of the existing Directors have served three years or more and have long experience of being a charity trustee.

Members of the Board receive comprehensive monthly financial statements and management reports and full Board papers are circulated in sufficient time before Board meetings. Further papers and background information are available to all Directors on request. Board papers include minutes of committee and sub-committee meetings and the chair of each committee is normally available to offer a verbal report on committee proceedings at the full Board meeting. Individual non-executive Directors are allocated specific personal responsibility for monitoring aspects of the charity's activity in specific operational areas, acting as chair or participating in sub-committee of the Board. The main board authorises all key expenditures and the Board's Management Group meets or is consulted as required. The designated board sub-groups meet quarterly to co-ordinate and review the performance of the charity in their designated area of expertise. Each board sub-committee reports points for action as a regular part of the board meeting agenda and each committee and sub-committee has its decisions ratified by the full Board.

The Corporate Finance, Information Technology and Audit Group reviews accounting principles, policies and practices adopted in the annual accounts and discusses with the auditors the result and scope of the audit. The members review the performance of the finance systems and the performance of the auditors. The committee meets at least once a year and the Chief Executive and accountant are ex-officio members. The Advisory Group which deals with medical issues and medical audit reports has been merged with the Board for practical purposes and, to save additional administration costs, matters of concern are dealt with by the full Board acting in committee.

Responsibility for certain matters is delegated to other Board committees:

- » Board Management Group
- » Finance, IT and Audit Group
- » Governance and Legal Advisory Group

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees, mindful of their responsibilities, are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity and the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In the preparation of these accounts, the Trustees have:

- » Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them.
- » Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- » Safeguarded the assets of the charity and made every effort to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.
- » Stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- » Prepared the financial statement on the going concern basis unless it was inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.
- » Given approval of the charity's strategy, business plan and activity consistent with its charitable objectives, capital expenditure and financial statements.
- » Pursued the appointment and membership of an appropriately skilled Board.
- » Considered all aspects of 'Risk Assessment and the Management of Risk'.

The Trustees confirm that appropriate policies and internal control procedures are in place in order to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material mis-statement or loss. These include:

- » Comprehensive financial policies, practices and procedures, which are kept under constant review.
- » An annual qualitative comparison of our procedure against the internal controls self-checklist for charities.
- » A minimum twice-yearly internal audit of cash handling and other financial procedures within the office administration,
- » Comprehensive system of annual budgets approved by Trustees and quarterly financial reporting of actual against budget.
- » Regular forecasting of predicted budget and cash flow.
- » Monthly monitoring of income, cash and reserves and periodic review of the reserves policy.
- » Periodic review of the charity's risk registers.

Board Report *continued*

The Chief Executive, when the Board is not available for immediate consultation, is in regular contact for advice to the Chair of the Board and/or members of the Board's Management Group; he is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity and manages the staff on behalf of the Trustees. He is also the Secretary to the Board.

The Charity's principal office is in Glasgow and has an in-country administrative headquarters in Bucharest. The charity has a number of key partner organisations both as part of the Children in Distress Charity Alliance and as other in-country NGO's with which it co-operates to deliver its programmes. These partners are identified and discussed as part of the report.

The Charity continues to work closely on a range of initiatives with the Romanian National Authority for the Protection of Rights of the Child and The Family, the Ministries of Education, Health and Labour and the Family; the EU funded POSDRU Programme Administration, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to Romania, and other NGOs operating in the fields of autistic spectrum disorders (ASD), paediatric hospice care, disabilities, child development, physiotherapy, speech therapy and communication, education and welfare. The Charity's teams advocate best practice, promote social welfare and civil society, co-ordinate effective activity and effort to influence longer-term strategies to improve paediatric care, the rights of those with disabilities and to relieve poverty in the countries in which we work.

The Charity raises funds through donor appeals, and complies with best practice as outlined by the FSB (Fundraising Standards Board) of which it is a member. It operates an e-Bay charitable trading account and three charity thrift shops operated as a wholly owned commercial operation. The thrift shops sell donated second hand goods and equipment offered by donors, and quality clothing and goods offered as surplus to need by manufacturers and retailers. The shops in Guisborough, Kirkbymoorside and Shildon provide a base from which to publicise the work of the charity and collect donations, whilst delivering help and assistance to the local community. Further details of the trading of the thrift shops are set out elsewhere in the report.

Risk Management and Assessment

The Trustees review the major risks under headings of Governance and Management, Operations, Financial, Environmental/External Factors and Compliance with Law and Regulations, which the charity may face whilst operating in the UK and in delivering its care services in the field. Activities are subject to a risk review as part of any initial project assessment. An 'At Risk' Register was compiled using guidance provided by the Charities Commission. The resulting risks were assessed and ranked as to likelihood and impact. >>

Board Report *continued*

For the charity, major risks are seen as those that have significant effect on:

- » Operational performance including donation funding, staff and volunteer risks,
- » The delivery of agreed aims and objectives,
- » The needs, care and protection of children in residential and community based programmes and the anticipation and management of expectations of the present and future supporter and donor base.

On a regular and ongoing basis the Board members review and rank the risks and have satisfied themselves that existing or new control systems were then identified to mitigate each of these risks and were documented in the risk register. The Trustees examine all operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that systems are in place to mitigate the significant risks. The charity works to have in place control actions and monitoring processes that will mitigate our exposure to major risks. Where appropriate and deemed affordable, risks have been covered by insurance. The Board recognises that, in some areas of the charity's work, there has to be an acceptance and prudent management of risk to achieve the charity's stated aims and objectives.

The Trustee Directors bring independent judgement to bear in the issues of strategy, performance, key appointments and policies and have in mind an ethos that is central to ensuring adequate risk assurance.

- » Regular monitoring of key risks and the development of flexible action plans
- » Risk identification and assessment is inherent in the operational procedures
- » A clear structure of delegated control
- » Regular review of key systems and procedures through internal audit
- » Maintaining reserves in line with policy
- » Regular reporting on risk management to the Board

Public Benefit

In drafting this report the Board have considered the guidance from the Charity Commission for England and Wales on public benefit when reviewing the charity's current aims and objectives, planning future activities and reviewing the grant making policies for the year ahead and have taken due regard to the issues of public benefit contained in the Charity's Act 2006. »

Board Report *continued*

The Charity's core activities for public benefit can be broadly defined as:

- » Palliative and respite care for infants and children with genetic or birth disorders or those touched by HIV/AIDS
- » Paediatric Developmental Care for infants and children with disabilities arising from accident, infection, genetic disorders or birth defects
- » Advocacy Education and Training including public education and personal professional development and re-skilling
- » Social Welfare and support mainly in poverty relief for families and children in direst need

These are delivered by medical, nursing and care staff in the charity's hospices and childcare services complexes or alternatively with and through partner organisations, either through training services or grants provision. The work of our partner organisations is based on contract agreements, which are closely monitored, and quality audited in line with internal standards and particularly significant where the charity can promote the delivery of synergistic cost effective quality services without additional staff resources, in other areas or sectors of the country. The audit teams of the Charity's Advisory Group carry out annual audits, and agreed care services are delivered against closely monitored objectives reported on a monthly basis, maximising the value to everyone involved.

Fundraising Policy And Practice

The Trustees of Children in Distress ten years ago took the decision, after investigation and assessment, not to consider commercial street solicitation for support or financial donations or donation in kind. They offered a commitment to existing donors that they would not be pestered by cold canvas calls from marketing houses or receive telephone calls soliciting increased subscription or additional regular monthly giving. As early members of the Fundraising Standards Board, the Charity in its fundraising has always adhered to the best practice guidelines recommended by the organisation. The Charity simply shares the detail of projects and project initiatives and what can be achieved with the help of any donation made in terms of an appeal, and does so clearly in writing. In doing so, the Charity respects the expressed wishes of donors and supporters in relation to direct contact by mail.

Statement from Glynis Bonshor



“As a charity I think Children in Distress is amazing... So much is given from so little; the way all is shared with those who need it most. The way the children are so much loved as cared for; the way the staff fight for them to get the best. All in a country that is still trying to work out what to do with sick and disabled folk.

I would love to see 'copies' of St Margaret's and St Andrew's being provided by the Romanian people for the Romanian people.

On my third visit, I was remembered by some staff, on my fourth it was "here you are again". I have wondered whether it would be better to send the fare and 'board' costs to CID as a donation rather than travel, but after my latest visit I feel that it is important for the staff to see that the child sponsors, like me, not only

support 'their' children, but really care about them, want to know what is going on their lives and are desperately saddened when 'their special child' moves on or dies. To 'us' in the UK they are part of our family, and we are privileged to be part of their lives, however long or short a time it might be”.

Glynis Bonshor

April 2015

The Annual Review

Children in Distress was set up in the early 1990s in response to the crisis in paediatric care services exposed following the Popular Revolution that swept Romania's communist regime from power. The Charity pioneered the treatment and care provision for those infants and children who had been infected with the HIV virus and endured associated life threatening opportunistic infections. The Charity set up the first paediatric hospice offering respite, palliative and end of life care for children living with full blown AIDS.

Children in Distress and its sister Foundation, Copii in Dificultate, now provide hospices for infants and children with life threatening conditions as a result of accident, infection, genetic disorders and birth defects. They pioneer life-changing multiple therapies for those with disabilities and pioneer education and welfare for those living with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. PositivPlus, another member of the Children in Distress Charity Alliance, provides sheltered independent living and terminal care for young adults living with HIV and AIDS.

Educational opportunities are offered to children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and training is made available to educational, medical, nursing and therapy professionals to develop and improve the quality and opportunity for care available throughout Romania. A complementary range of medical and social welfare programmes provide remedial therapies, food, clothing, educational material and opportunity to those suffering disability, discrimination and disadvantage.

In the year ending September 2014 our hospices, respite and residential care centres offered shelter to almost 50 infants, children and young adults the majority of whom were abandoned or taken into care by social services because of dire family circumstances, poverty, unemployment, homelessness, discrimination or abuse. With the increasing closure of local authority placement centres, twelve youngsters found a new home in St Laurence. However, funding pressures within the responsible social services departments meant that the majority were removed and relocated within six months. A number of longer-term residents from both St Margaret's and St Andrew's Hospices had sufficiently recovered or matured to the point where transfer to more suitable care facilities was most appropriate in their long term care plan. We can report that only three children died whilst resident in the hospices.

Independent family living centres, like St Laurence, are essential not only for the Romania body positive generation but for a wider range of children who, with current legislation, severe budget cuts, and the allied failure to promote and fund foster care and adoption, have little hope of knowing the benefits of a normal family life. >>

The Annual Review *continued*

For the first time in a decade the care team at St Laurence has been asked to consider opening a house solely dedicated to up to ten infants with HIV, who need a home care provision that is more appropriate than their current care provision in state hospitals and the isolation experienced in local authority placement centres.

Children in Distress remains committed to transforming the lives of the disabled, the different and to the most marginalised children and young people by providing a range of peripatetic, in-community care, recovery and rehabilitation services delivering specialist therapy, family support, education services and opportunities for peer group socialisation.

Apart from the two hospices and independent living centres, the Charity operates two child development centres with a range of multiple therapies, educational and social learning opportunities. These care for children from birth to late teens, offering them the most appropriate tailored rehabilitation therapy.

At St Michael's School, the Charity continues to provide special education, specialist therapy and support for children with a range of Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The school provides day education; counselling and practical training for parents; a peripatetic home-based therapy service for children together with multidisciplinary assessment; specialist expertise in applied behaviour analysis (ABA) and Picture Exchange Communication Systems (PECS). The school's educational psychologists work in partnership with the Ministry of Education to trial best practice in the education of those with ASD and to train teaching and support staff from across the wider education and welfare spectrum in how to inspire, educate and deal with children and families living with autism.

Some four year ago, the Charity pioneered a programme designed to reduce truancy, and school refusal and abandonment, in association with a number of schools in Bucharest, the Child Protection Department of Arges County, the Association Vasiliada and the Commune of Sarulesti. That programme addressed specifically the cultural challenges of the Roma approach to education and the challenges faced by children of families dismembered and disrupted by poverty or feeling abandoned in extended family care, by parents living overseas or working abroad.

The project was exceptionally successful and drew attention to the issues involved. However, the funding stream was disrupted by ever-changing POSDRU priorities. A reduced scheme has been maintained to continue momentum and to retain the expertise developed in the first phase of operations. This was given interim extension funding which lasts until July 2015. The present programme demonstrates the continuing need: it provides food, education and family support for children living in extreme, often rural poverty, many of them from the marginalised Roma community. >>

The Annual Review *continued*

It aims to prevent children abandoning primary school at an early age and break the poverty cycle many families have been living in for generations.

Children in Distress consistently advocates at Romanian local, national government and EU level for the social and economic inclusion of these marginalised children, young people and their families. Sadly there is a great deal of acute rural poverty in Romania where parents are often unable to support their children in school. Many children live in poor housing conditions and are deprived of food, education and medical care. Their parents may themselves be illiterate or have not interest in education because of extreme poverty, or simply have other life priorities. These families are often dealing with the effects of alcoholism and, consequently, high incidences of domestic violence.

Education can change the lives of generations yet unborn and, significantly, each year in education reduces the chances of living in poverty by up to 5%. CID Ro's St Helena's Education programmes are designed to help children remain at school, graduate into high school education and enhance their employment prospects. The programme uses innovative and engaging teaching techniques with strong emphasis on support, especially for those who may have missed periods in school. The programme has a potential list of rural villages and communities that wish to partner new programmes in the year ahead. However, that will depend on future POSDRU funding. We congratulate the staff of CIDRo and their partners for gaining grant aid to expand the programme until July 2015 to Bucharest, Ilfov and Craiova counties. We wish the exceptional team of educational psychologists and teachers well with future triennial applications for this worthwhile programme.

In all, 250 children have benefitted for this education and welfare programme in the report year.

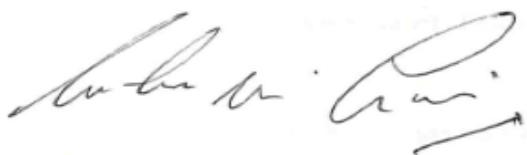
Objectives For 2014-2015

- » CID intends to manage its operations and cash flow budgets wisely and will continue all on-going programmes whilst implementing a programme of continuous improvement in service and care delivery through personal professional development for the staff involved. In addition to this the homes and recovery and training.
- » Hospices will review their operations and facilities and will continue to accommodate new children to replace those who require more appropriate care.
- » CID UK will seek new partnerships and alliances to better deliver its mission of care in Romania and the adjacent countries where opportunities for expansion exist.
- » CID will continue to apply best practice in its fundraising and commercial operations as advised by the Fundraising Standards Board (FRSB) and the Charity Retail Association (CRA) of which it is a member. >>

The Annual Review *continued*

- » CID will seek through a tailored grant application to fund and expand its school truancy, refusal and abandonment programme with applications for European Union POSDRU triennial funding diet commencing June 2015.
- » CID UK will continue to support the setup of ASH - Help Hope and Hospice as a charitable association registered in Romania to offer a wider field of care for infants with terminal or life threatening illnesses.
- » CID will continue its emphasis on personal professional development for staff in the employment of CIDRo PositivPlus and of Ajuta, Speranță și Hospice (ASH) - Help Hope and Hospice, stressing best practice in physiotherapy and speech therapy for children with physical handicap or disabilities, and education and counselling for young adults facing discrimination or poverty.

The report will now reflect on the activity bases in each of the complexes and centres in which it delivers projects, programmes, education and welfare initiatives.



Cornelius McGill, Trustee, Member of Board Management Group

St Andrew's Complex of Children's Care Services - PITESTI

Housed in a completely redeveloped former School for the Deaf, St Andrew's is unique in being jointly funded and fully integrated in the social care service of the local county Child Protection Department. It is a beacon project that demonstrates the quality of care and offers a complete range of welfare services in addition to its role as a hospice.

The residential unit has some sixteen beds and has, over the last ten years, demonstrated both the best in palliative care and the rehabilitation and development opportunities for children with severe physical, educational and developmental handicaps. The building was designed to offer children excluded from state schools by reason of HIV or physical disability access to education and training. The St Andrew's complex also offers a range of integrated community based outreach services and offers a peripatetic therapy, child development and psychological counselling services from a community services building within the compound which are delivered across the rural areas of Arges County.

St Andrew's Residential and Respite-Care Hospice for Children with Disabilities is dedicated to the care of children with special needs, aged between one and eighteen years of age, living with incurable, debilitating or terminal conditions such as spastic tetraplegia, microcephalus, hydrocephalus, spina bifida, and cerebral palsy or terminal conditions resulting from accident, infection or birth defects. The aim is to ensure appropriate life care for those with the severest conditions by providing quality medical, rehabilitation, psychological support and social welfare programmes and services. St Andrew's Hospice not only offers specialised paediatric care and support but also assists families with children living with chronic conditions by offering periods of respite care, ensuring that their children can, in the main, continue to live and be cared for at home in a family setting. The centre cares for children, who come from socially and financially challenged family backgrounds, often where the parents are unable to provide the appropriate medical and nursing care and welfare necessary and vital for their children. St Andrew's works closely with local and national paediatric hospitals, local and state medical services, and the Child Protection and Social Work Departments of Arges, Bucharest, Teleorman and Valcea Counties. Every child who is cared for at St Andrew's receives a comprehensive medical assessment on admission from which derives a comprehensive treatment, therapy and/or rehabilitation programme which is intended to reduce pain or relieve their condition, prevent medical complications and facilitate their longer term personal development. >>

St Andrew's Complex of Children's Care Services - PITESTI *continued*

Project Achievements 2014

- » Managing the limited operational budget astutely.
- » Receiving new admissions to replace those children who require more appropriate care.
- » Continuing local support to ASH - Help Hope and Hospice which offers a wider field of care for infants with terminal or life threatening illnesses.
- » Repairing and redeveloping electrical, bathing, plumbing and heating systems in the centre's buildings.
- » Identifying appropriate accommodation for one resident requiring renal dialysis (Alexandru Moroaca)
- » Increasing the number of disabled infants and children in peripatetic home-based therapy programme.
- » Adapting to international standards the wheelchairs access points within the centre grounds.

Objectives For 2014-2015

- » To involve or re-establish contacts with birth families and encourage visits and regular contact;
- » To share the care team's expertise and experience by offering education and training opportunities for care workers and colleagues from the state health and welfare sector and other care institutions across Arge Country;
- » To create a sustainable local community help network by recruiting community based volunteers;
- » To continue the process of patient recovery and rehabilitation to allow placement in the most appropriate care settings for the child's care needs and improving health status;
- » To increase the number of children enrolled in the at-home peripatetic therapy programme;
- » To help reduce the number of children placed in long term residential care.

Claudia Walking Tall

Many of the children placed in St Andrew's have complex medical conditions. However, the aim is always to maximise their potential and to allow them to lead as normal a life as possible. One such child is Claudia. She first came to St Andrew's almost ten years ago, having been born with Klippel Feil Syndrome, which manifested with a left club foot, thorax dysmorphia and severe scoliosis leaving her with a complex short upper body deformation which puts her health at risk. Claudia has always been encouraged to make the most of life and she has learned never to give in. Like any nine-going-on-ten-year-old, Claudia listens attentively to stories, reads books, adores poetry, and drawing and is always ready to play when she can. She is very self-aware and scrupulous in her personal hygiene, eats daintily and is particular about her clothes which she hangs or folds and puts away in her drawer ensuring they are all perfectly colour co-ordinated.



The hospice care team fought hard to ensure that Claudia, a bright girl, did not suffer discrimination and was simply relegated to a special needs kindergarten but was treated as any other child ready for education. From day one in the local kindergarten, Claudia has been readily accepted by her classmates as a special girl who needs just a little extra love, support and understanding to overcome her differences. Having grown up with her, they now accept her just the way she is and ensure that, now they are all in elementary school, she is neither picked on nor bullied by others. Not surprisingly, Claudia is naturally very shy, so the Centre's team has had to work with her to develop her confidence and communication skills with adults and other children so she can express her feelings and views and participate in group activities.

In the past, surgical intervention to help with her spine was considered but rejected after extensive medical tests by a specialist surgical team based in Germany. Today her motor and physical development is assisted by a comprehensive physiotherapy programme designed to stimulate and improve her balance, tone the upper body and paravertebral muscles to increase her strength and to correct the way she walks. She uses physical exercise to strengthen her abdominal and ribcage muscles, has passive-active mobilisation for her left foot, and carries out cane, wall bar and breathing exercises and activities using a range of therapy equipment. A result is that her positive psychological and physical development is excellent and Claudia is active and quite determined to stay 'ahead of the game'. Her future looks brighter every day and, with planned therapy in place, she will make steady long term progress. >>

St Margaret's Children's Services Complex & Hospice

The original success of St Laurence as a children's hospice led to the opening of St Margaret's Hospice in Bucharest, initially as a street children's project, which then evolved into a residential unit for infants and children with short life expectancy as result of accident, infection, birth, developmental or genetic malformations. The Hospice has an enviable reputation for its respite, palliative and end of life care dealing with the most severe cases, and its nurses are perhaps the best trained and experienced paediatric nurses in Romania. The Hospice has twenty respite, cum long term palliative end-of-life care beds all with a multiple waiting lists. The Hospice has been home to well over one two hundred children since opening its doors. Some have recovered sufficiently to return to family or foster care, a few to alternative local authority care. Sadly, however, many died after a period of loving sheltered care and passed surrounded by those who cared for them.

As a complex offering an on-site range of child focused services, St Margaret's is one of the few centres of its kind in Romania. St Margaret's Hospice offers the highest standard of treatment and care to infants and children in need of the respite, palliative care and the end of life care it provides. It allows children to live life to the full commensurate to their ability and, when the time comes, to die with dignity, enveloped in tender loving care. For many children, the centre also offers, through its resident and multidisciplinary peripatetic care service, the opportunity to maximise their potential and to lead a decent, fulfilled life for however long that may be. St Margaret's is where many children find not only comfort and care but, for the first time in their short lives, a real family and a deal of mother love. The trained care professionals are not simply medical or care specialists but caring people, friends, parent substitutes, in addition to their professional roles as doctors, nurses and carers; fellow residents become the brothers, sisters and friends some children would otherwise never know. For all of the children, St Margaret's feels like home. Their every physical need and emotional wellbeing is taken care of by a multidisciplinary team of experienced specialists, all of whom are dedicated to working with children and each of whom is committed to their care.

The children are very closely monitored and treatment and individual recovery plans are individually tailored and the Centre's care team is always proud to report what their joint multidisciplinary team approach can achieve. >>

Project Achievements 2014

The CID team achieved all the goals they set for the 2013-2014 report year:

- » Maintaining high quality standards of care;
- » Constantly adapting and improving the centre's facilities according to children's needs and current care standards;
- » Identifying, where necessary, parents and families and maintaining close contact relationships to ensure a positive and harmonious overall development of the children;
- » Ensuring the closest possible collaboration with doctors and specialist medical professionals to provide the latest treatments to improve the children's health and condition of life; constant communication with otorhinolaryngology (ENT) specialists, ophthalmologists, resident physicians in order to periodically re-evaluate the children's diagnoses and maintain their health status at a satisfactory level;
- » Identifying and delivering appropriate staff professional training and development programmes;
- » Acquiring and improving independent life skills;
- » Establishment of a community support network.

Objectives For 2014-2015:

- » Maintaining all the goals that the team achieved in 2013-2014;
- » Maintaining high quality standards of care;
- » Evaluation and analysis of each child's development;
- » Continuing to follow all procedures in order to have more children admitted at the centre;
- » Improving the standard of life and reaching maximum developmental potential for each child, according to their diagnosis;
- » School integration and educational programme provided according to each child's specific needs;
- » Informational activities and building of our community's awareness regarding the issues children with severe disabilities face every day in order to identify volunteers and establish a network of intra-community help.

St Margaret's Children's Services Complex & Hospice

continued

The children placed at St Margaret's normally have the most profound and complex conditions and often the children have been abandoned as being beyond care by their parents and the medical profession who can see no potential for recovery. One such child was Cristina Caparu who has benefitted enormously from her dedicated care and her recent 'liberation'.



Cristina is a child with the broadest and most welcoming of smiles. She is adorable, with bright blue eyes and blond hair and a beaming smile which cheers anyone who meets her. She came to the notice of Children in Distress in late 2012, having had a rough start to life. She was born in July 2011 after a very difficult birth during which she suffered prolonged oxygen deprivation. Her congenital hydrocephalus has been compounded by global developmental and motor retardation and her vision was impaired by a pronounced strabismus. Cristina's delivery team and subsequently the surgeons who operated to insert a hydrocephalus shunt considered her condition as so severe as to be beyond help. Regrettably her mother, overwhelmed by these multiple medical problems, abandoned her within days of her birth.

In the infant's ward at St Margaret's, Cristina has been showered with affection and care by ever-diligent nurses and maternal assistants. Her health has improved immeasurably and her condition is now stable.

She is a lovable and readily loving child, who is very fond of attention and hugs. She laughs and reacts positively when people talk to her and she has found that making noise certainly gets everyone's attention. Cristina's care plan involves considerable input from her physiotherapists,. With constant stimulation her reflexes have improved considerably, as has her balance. She has learned to sit, kneel and walk albeit with assistance. Her walking has been helped greatly by the orthotic equipment, including specially designed shoes, which were made possible through a fundraising initiative by the congregation of the Glebe Methodist Church. Within a few weeks of her having her orthopaedic shoes, splints and other aids and commencing her exercise programme, Claudiu Constantin, her physiotherapist registered a marked improvement in Cristina's mobility and ability. >>

St Margaret's Children's Services Complex & Hospice *continued*

Recently Cristina was given a new specially fitted and adapted wheelchair. This has made a radical difference to her wider mobility and independence. She has been liberated and is now able to catch up and play with equally wheelchair-bound fellow resident, Nicoleta, and the other brothers and sisters who make up her St Margaret's family. The philosophy of the St Margaret's care team centres on making life as normal as possible for infants and children who are terminally or incurably ill. In Cristina's case that is about maximising her potential. The care team at St Margaret's are immensely grateful to the Rev. June Hurn, Mobility Advisor to Children in Distress, her contacts specifically at Kent Mobility and the many supporters who help them 'liberate' children like Cristina.

St Laurence Hospice & Centre for Independent Living

Children in Distress pioneered the opening of paediatric hospices in the Balkans with the opening of St Laurence, Cernavoda, as a hospice for infants and children touched by HIV and AIDS. Opened in 1991, St Laurence Hospice was, in its day, the only beacon of hope and provider of care services for hundreds if not thousands of infants and children in Romania who were HIV positive or living with AIDS. Children in Distress, working with the Baylor Clinic, pioneered the introduction of antiretroviral medication for children, and their life expectancy increased almost immediately. Nursing care was initially provided by a team of volunteer nurses and carers from the UK since local professional staff were too frightened to offer the children the physical nursing care, personal contact, love and care they needed. The volunteer staff faced the continuing care and loss of children who came to the hospice with almost no hope for life. In 2006 Copii in Dificultate (Children in Distress Romania) was set up to encourage local expertise and devolve responsibility for the improvement and delivery of services provided to the residents; a range of educational and training initiatives were introduced so that children could be helped, learn and acquire new education and life skills and the ability to lead a more independent life albeit still in a 'sheltered' family environment.

Over twenty years have now passed, infants and children have grown to precocious teenagers and now into young adults, who still have range of ever pressing personal needs. These Children in Distress still helps to address through PositivPlus, a Romanian Charitable Association, specifically registered to meet the needs of the survivors' group of young adults who had grown to adulthood in the care of Children in Distress and others who have since joined them but who also need help and assistance in living with the challenge of the HIV virus. The goal of PositivPlus is to provide care services and social integration of the young people who live with HIV infection, suffering from a variety of challenges and disabilities, and to help those with late diagnosis HIV who come from disadvantaged and dysfunctional families. PositivPlus operates the residential campus in what was the volunteer nurses' accommodation of St Laurence Hospice, using the former nurse's homes as individual family homes. One of the key challenges the care team faces is the need to deinstitutionalise newer residents who find the freedom and responsibility of independent living, albeit in a family setting, initially difficult to deal with. The care team applies a very successful programme of support that helps newer residents, just as it helped those members of the resident survivors' group when they graduated to independent living. >>

St Laurence Hospice & Centre for Independent Living

continued

PositivPlus provides sheltered independent living conditions tailored to individual need and to the intellectual capacity and physical ability of the residents, all in a safe and secure environment, which is accessible, functional, comfortable and family oriented. PositivPlus provides secure homes which have been specially adapted to the needs of their community so that the residents have access to all possible resources and facilities (health, work, culture, social activities).

The objectives of PositivePlus also include offering protection and care to a new generation of youngsters who are HIV positive or coping with AIDS, who are in distress, who come from families unable to cope with their diagnosis or those who need help to develop their personality as adults, or to ensure their right in terms of the current regulations and legislation which is there to assist and protect them.

It does so by offering a range of on-site services:

- » psychological counselling and social counselling
- » residential services - housing for a limited period of time
- » medical support
- » education
- » socializing and leisure activities
- » professional counselling;
- » information;
- » community integration;
- » Education and training for leading an independent life in the community

The young adults cared for in Cernavoda come from across Romania. Their number can vary due to whether the resident settles in their new home or if their responsible local provider of adult social service is prepared to support them in their placement. At the beginning of 2013, six new young people joined the community from Bucharest's Sector 3 General Department for Social Works and Child Protection. In March 2014, a further resident was transferred from the General Department for Social Works and Child Protection Sector 1 Bucharest. Sadly in June 2014, one of the newer residents group died from an opportunistic infection as his personal condition was more advanced than had been identified when he joined the community.

This instability in the numbers of residents impacts on staffing provision and determines the associated funding providing a range of additional services. »

St Laurence Hospice & Centre for Independent Living

continued

At the end of September there are fifteen (15) young adults resident in independent and supported living, a few of whom need the assistance of a carer. A high degree of mutual self-help and peer group assistance is encouraged, with the more abled young people actively encouraged to assist those in greater need.

PositivPlus flexibly provides staff to meet the demands and needs of the residents albeit within the constraints of the available operations budget. The Centre's Psychologist/Project Manager can call on a team of a medical nurse, 3-4 carers, a part-time accountant, a social worker, a part-time handyman/electrician responsible for building maintenance and a volunteer physiotherapist. The residents also have access to a local GP, to the Cernavoda and Constanta General Hospital, the Consultants of the Baylor Clinic as well medical and specialised national and local clinics. The annual operating budget of PositivPlus is currently seventy-five thousand pounds (£75000) Sterling, of which eighty-five percent (85%) derives directly from governmental subvention funding and subsidies and some fifteen percent (15%) comes from local donors and the contributions of residents who, from their different personal allowances, help pay for utilities and building cleaning/maintenance.

The main objectives established by the PositivPlus care team who provide services is meant to ensure a harmonious development of the youngsters:

- » Acquiring key competencies according to each person's diagnosis and level of development;
- » Diminishing anxiety manifested towards other people;
- » Improving communication and the youngster's ability to build healthy bonds and relationships with other people;
- » Improving communication with members of our community;
- » Adapting and improving emotional and behavioural responses;
- » Avoiding the risk of social isolation;
- » Maintaining and developing independent life skills and abilities;
- » Participating in house activities and chores so that they become responsible adults;
- » Responsible management of money and time;
- » Learning various computer skills;
- » Improving self-image and self-trust.

Project Achievements 2014

- » Resident were helped to acquire skills based on their diagnosis and level of development. Several individual and group meetings were organised to help them be more aware of their diagnosis, understand the importance of taking their medication and maintain a healthy lifestyle, thus decreasing the risk of further complications;
- » To decrease anxiety with strangers, specific relaxation exercises were organised at group level and individually; short meetings with visitors were scheduled and the youngsters learned how to react and get involved;
- » To improve their communication skills and ability to form healthy relationships, a set of rules were established and the team and the youngsters decided various sanctions when rules are not followed; themed discussions were organised and residents were encouraged to express their opinion; cases were discussed to improve understanding of individual's problems and the importance of mutual support; they learned how to offer help in dealing with various responsibilities and house chores; daily meetings were established allowing everyone to provide information about daily activities;
- » To improve their communication with the local community, residents were encouraged to get involved in various activities and manifest a positive attitude towards others and to use socially acceptable behaviours throughout various social situations. Moreover, they were supported to express their own feelings and views;
- » To avoid the risk of social isolation, the youngsters were actively supported to establish interpersonal relationships, to build friendships and participate in activities in their community;
- » To maintain and develop independent life skills, the residents were involved in house activities and chores planned at the centre and participate in other activities to increase their independence;
- » To be more responsible about house chores, a timetable was drafted and each task was given to a youngster, according to his or her level of development;
- » To be more responsible about their money and time, residents were introduced to budgeting and monthly allowances and were accompanied during their trips at the post office where they cash their allowances; they were asked to draft a list of monthly expenses and to budget and to act in responsibly;
- » Study classes in practical computing skills were organised;
- » To improve their self-trust and image, individual and group sessions were organised centred on personal development, and their competencies, skills and abilities were presented so that they become more aware of their value to others. >>

St Laurence Hospice & Centre for Independent Living

continued

Objectives For 2014-2015

To carry out planned maintenance and roof repairs to ensure renewal of the necessary licensing and environmental approvals. Renewal of the licences for the provision of services;

- » Identify and welcome new residents ;
- » Improve the services through staff professional development and training;
- » Improve the level of personal development of each resident;
- » Manage budgets through active budgeting and cash flow management;
- » Access European Union funding for labour market integration of HIV/AIDS youngsters.



Becoming a **Better Man**



Although St Laurence has long been a safe haven for a generation of infants and children living with HIV and AIDS, the care team has looked to offer secure accommodation to young adults who need a home in which they can grow and prosper.

Daniel Ion Gheorghe joined the community in December 2009. He was a very angry and disturbed young man. He had lost his mother when he was twelve and his father had disappeared. He then was passed through a series of state residential homes and special schools, ending with the Bambini in Emergenza Foundation at Singureni in Giurgiu County.

He had never finished school or his studies in ecology and environmental studies. He arrived with George Ungureanu and they currently share the same house. Upon arrival he was diagnosed as being HIV positive with slight left ear deafness,

perhaps due to a perforated eardrum, with chronic nodular prurigo, dermatitis; he also had congenital astigmatism, a speech disorder, behavioural, anger management and aggression issues, and a degree of psychological retardation.

In discussion, as he settled in it became clear that, although Daniel had abandoned school, he truly wanted to graduate.

Throughout early 2010 the social work team researched the local schools and colleges and finally succeeded in enrolling him at Constanta County, Black Sea Technical College, to study the same subjects as when he attended as a part time student at the Calugareni Vocational school. For the next three years, hail, rain or snow, he was up early each morning for the 90 kilometre round trip and he didn't miss a single class. He studied hard and participated in all the curriculum activities. He graduated with distinction.

His other great ambition was to visit his mother's family village to meet his relatives, so during the summer of 2010 he travelled to Ilfov County to meet with his maternal grandmother, his uncle and cousins. Sadly he returned in tears. The grandmother he so longed to meet had died and his uncle and his sons turned him away angrily, accusing him of returning home to claim his inheritance. >>

Becoming a Better Man *continued*

Although deeply disappointed Daniel has focused on learning to cook and has become quite competent. He has learned how to manage his time and his finances efficiently and he confidently travels independently.

With therapy he has also learned to control his anger and now communicates well to express any problems. He now behaves and reacts rationally rather than in a knee jerk, emotional way.

From his medical and social work records it has become clear that Daniel had early communication problems and did not speak until he was almost eleven years of age. Over the last few years he has worked hard to improve his pronunciation and modulate his tone of voice and he talks calmly and has now eliminated his previous exaggerated body and hand movements. He is relaxed and can communicate freely with everyone, where in the past, at times only his friends could understand him.

He became a trusted friend and confidant for all the others in the community, who can always count on his help and support. Daniel is pleased with his life these days and he considers that he has changed a great deal and all of his positive features are a result of the hard work and input from St Laurence's team and he always thanks God for his good fortune in meeting them. He is proud of himself and of the man he has become and he considers that St Laurence, one of many centres he experienced, is the place where he can live as a confident independent human being and not like just another adult on social welfare.

St Nicholas Child Development & Physiotherapy Centre Bucharest

St Nicholas Child Development Centre was set up initially to answer the need for a range of therapy services for terminally and incurably ill children resident with St Margaret's Hospice in Bucharest. The team of therapists went on to address the needs of children in the community whose development or physical achievement was impaired as result of accident, infection, birth defect or genetic or developmental disorders. Without professional assessment and appropriate therapy interventions and constant encouragement and support, many children with disabilities, learning difficulties or handicaps will never maximise their potential; to master speech; be able to communicate clearly on a day to day basis with family, friends, in school or in the community with other children, teachers or future employers, or to overcome their mobility problems now or in the future.

In 2006, Children in Distress sponsored a community based project to address the needs of infants and children with developmental delay, with learning disorder disabilities, physical handicaps arising from orthopaedic and muscular disabilities arising from birth defects, genetic disorders, neurologic and motor syndromes, speech and language delay, such as spastic paraplegia, mental disorders, hydrocephaly, cerebral palsy, dyspraxia and other motor skills, dystonia, epilepsy, ataxic syndrome, autism, Engelmann syndrome, Williams' syndrome, and Down's syndrome.

The Centre also benefits from having a number of visiting paediatric consultants and therapist consultants from the United Kingdom and a well-developed network of contacts across Europe who help maintain the quality care standards and best practice in the application of therapy.

After an initial multi-disciplinary assessment, an individual treatment plan tailored to the needs of each child delivers a regular programme of therapy designed to maximise the child's potential, and minimise, and help the child and their family members cope with, their disability. Whilst their child is receiving appropriate therapy, parents receive appropriate professional counselling, guidance, advice, positive feedback and reinforcement.

The results can be quite spectacular, with children making seemingly remarkable progress in speech and language, mobility, manual dexterity and self-confidence. >>

St Nicholas Child Development Centre & Physiotherapy Centre Bucharest *continued*

Project Achievements 2014

- » Improved language and speech levels;
- » Improved motor skills;
- » Improved manual labour acquisitions for children with neurological and motor disabilities;
- » Improved level of independent life skills for the children: personal sanitary care and hygiene, self feeding and an ability to play independently and in a group context;
- » Increased communication abilities and improved levels of bonding with other children and adults;
- » Speech and language development and improvement of reading skills.

Objectives For 2014-2015

- » To maintain a close professional relationship with a variety of national and international consultants and specialists in speech and language therapy, physiotherapists, otorhinolaryngology (ENT) specialists, ophthalmologists and neurologists in order to provide a proactive holistic approach to the children's present or future health problems.
- » To maintain the highest quality standards of the children's care.
- » To improve the centre's facilities according to current European standards and best practice.
- » To establish and maintain a close partnership with parents to ensure the relevance of the diagnosis, therapy and treatment, to identify potential problems, manage expectations and offer positive consultation and feedback on their child's prognosis and future care.
- » To ensure continuing personal professional development training provision for each member of the team.
- » To Increase the number of beneficiaries.
- » To Improve the quality of life, and further help beneficiaries to learn independent life skills and how to live life to the fullest.
- » To promote the active participation of beneficiaries at all levels of everyday life.
- » To deliver social counselling and information meetings.
- » To train parents in order that they understand and apply working techniques adapted to their child's diagnosis and specific needs so that the recovery therapy programme is continued at home.

Matei M in Therapy



The needs of the children referred for assessment and treatment to the therapist at St Nicholas CDC can be complex and various. After the initial assessment the case conference determines, with the participation of parents, the most appropriate treatment plan and the timescales involved. This is revisited with regular reassessment and milestone reviews. Parents are expected to participate in therapy and reinforce the techniques by implementing them at home. The outcomes can be spectacular and many children achieve their treatment goals. Two such children are Matei and Sara,

who were referred with speech and language problems

Matei M came from a bilingual home where his parents freely used Romanian and German, an experience which led to delays in his speech and language abilities. His parents used to talk to him in German at home and at the kindergarten he had to speak Romanian. As result of this communication conflict, his normal development of his verbal skills was blocked and the child could not speak properly in either language.

When he was three year's old Matei's parents realised that he had problems and took him to speech and language therapy sessions. After six months and weekly two-hour therapy sessions, Matei finally developed and consolidated his speech and language ability. The parents followed the specialist's advice and spoke to their son in Romanian. He learned German at kindergarten for one/two hours per week. The child increased the frequency and fluency in the use of the Romanian language and today he can communicate and speak fluently in Romanian. As a result of his early exposure to a confusing complex linguistic system, Matei also experienced anxiety, acute shyness and was not very involved in the play learning activities and opportunities in kindergarten, refusing to cooperate with the teacher and interact the other children. Working with the CDC specialist has made a huge difference and he has now fully adapted to his kindergarten environment and his anxiety has reduced considerably. The CDC's team of speech and language specialists considers that parental love and affection and the therapists' expertise resolved Matei's problems in a relatively short time with considerable and positive results.

Sara in Therapy



Sara on the other hand presented a different range of challenges and almost learned to talk all over again. Sara T is an active five years old now preparing to go to school for the first time. Previously Sara would have struggled to adapt or integrate into such a school environment due to her speech and language problems.

When she was first seen by speech therapist Simona Tudorache, Sara was diagnosed with pronunciation and speech and language problems with polymorphic dyslalia. After three months of expert therapy and the dedicated support and

involvement of her family, Sara no longer faces problems and her dyslalia was completely corrected. She attended weekly speech and language therapy sessions, working to improve her pronunciation patterns and replaced or corrected mis-pronounced letter 'a' vowel sounds. The aim was for her to be made ready for normal entry to preparatory school which she has more than achieved given her hard work and the input from her therapists.

St Nicholas Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities and Community Therapy Service, PITESTI

St Nicolas Rehabilitation Centre for children with Disabilities and Community Therapy Service also provides peripatetic community-based rehabilitation and socialisation services. One team is based in the Community Services Building within the St Andrew's campus in Pitesti and cares for children across Arges County. The other team works from the St Nicolas Centre within St Margaret's complex of Children's Services in Bucharest and works to deliver services across Bucharest Sector 1. These activities are developed to address each child's individual diagnosis and take place either on a one-to-one basis or in a group context. Each child is involved in a comprehensive therapy programme, tailored to their specific needs, defined by a multi-disciplinary assessment carried out by the team of specialists. Rehabilitation activities can include speech and language therapy sessions, training and educational activities, physiotherapy or occupational therapy sessions or psychology or counselling.

This peripatetic home-based rehabilitation therapy delivers physiotherapy, motor therapy, manual skills rehabilitation, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and psychological counselling in the patient's family home, special equipment required being transported using the centre's minibus. Most of the children involved came from deprived, sometime somewhat chaotic and financially challenged home backgrounds. The therapists provide treatments and therapies for children diagnosed with spastic paraplegia, mental disorders, hydrocephaly, cerebral palsy, dyspraxia and other motor skills, dystonia, epilepsy, ataxic syndrome, autism, Engelmann syndrome, Williams' syndrome, and Down's syndrome.

Project Achievements 2014

- » Active team involvement with each of the children and their families in assessment and delivery of their individual treatment plans, periodic evaluation and review and interfacing with the local health and welfare authorities.
- » Minimisation of the discrimination experienced by those living with disabilities.
- » Active team involvement in raising awareness of the issues of disability and the problems faced by children with disabilities in order to identify and establish a healthy community support network and select volunteers. »

St Nicholas Child Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities and Community Therapy Service, PITESTI

continued

- » Active team role in the continuous training of specialists dedicated to the recovery of children with disabilities through training programmes and seminars organised together with specialists and members of the Arges County care community.
- » Children learned or developed their motor and perception skills and abilities related to shape, size and colour.
- » Children improved their basic motor and fine skills; their cognitive, logical and mathematical skills and abilities; learned their body parts and how to differentiate right from left side; learned life skills, self-feeding, dressing and undressing on their own and basic hygiene.
- » Specialists trained parents to continue the rehabilitation therapy at home.
- » Children improved their respiratory function, blood circulation, adaptation to effort and mobility.
- » Most children can write, speak grammatically and have improved their communication skills.

Objectives For 2014-2015:

- » to improve language and speech levels;
- » to improve motor skills of children with neurological and motor disabilities;
- » to improve independent life skills: sanitary and personal hygiene habits, self-feeding and how to play independently and in a group;
- » to increase communication abilities,
- » to increase the number of beneficiaries;
- » speech and language development and improvement of reading skills was achieved by 80% of children.

Children referred to the St Nicholas community therapy team, based in the Community services building at the St Andrew's, Pitesti, come from a range of social backgrounds and situations. The therapists work closely with parents and carers to achieve the best possible outcome for each child. »»

St Nicholas Child Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities and Community Therapy Service, PITESTI

continued

Cristi was born in 2003 and, at the age of one, he was placed with a foster family. The foster parents were concerned that he did not behave as they would have expected a child of his age and developmental stage. As he grew older the problems intensified as he failed to develop cognitive understanding and the family was advised to seek help and therapy. He was referred to the team at St Andrew's who identified Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (attention deficit, hyperkinetic disorder).

Cristi began therapy when he was four years old. The specialist noticed his inability to relate and his constant restlessness. His language acquisitions were poor combined with a cognitive delay: he could not pronounce words, did not understand what was explained to him (even when the specialist used simple words), he failed to respond even to his name, his play was chaotic and, when asked to cooperate, his reaction was negative.

The therapy sessions aimed at basic learned behaviours, co-operation with others and language development. Gradually, he improved his receptive language but still he could not utter sounds. Step by step, tasks were increased in complexity and his knowledge expanded. Although the pronunciation lessons were quite intense, he seemed unable to pronounce sounds and words. At the age of seven, Cristi was going to the kindergarten and his level of involvement in various activities was good. Following considerable therapy input sessions, Cristi had made progress but he still manifested polymorphic dyslalia. He participated in group activities and the therapists stimulated and helped him through games and activities to interact with other children and cooperate with adults.

At the age of nine, Cristi started going to school and he got accustomed to this new environment. During 1st and 2nd grades he needed constant help and learning support to write and read. Cristi is now in 5th grade and his overall progress is marked. He participates in all the school and educational activities, uses textbooks, has excellent recall and is relatively good at maths. However, his level of attainment is slightly below what would be considered the norm for a boy his age. Cristi can talk normally and he is a happy child who likes to make jokes. He developed normal relationships with his classmates and he is very attached to his foster parents who dedicate their time to help and support him.

St Michael's Day School & Centre for Children with Autism

St Michael's Day School Centre for Children with Autism is dedicated to children aged between three and fourteen years of age who live with autistic spectrum disorders. The team of specialists includes psychologists, special needs teachers, a social worker and a physiotherapist. They apply the latest methods and techniques meant to speed and improve the rehabilitation and education of children who face autism: applying ABA, TEACCH and PECS methods to deliver positive results and ease the social and school reintegration of children.



The St Michael's Centre team maintains a close relationship with the children's parents and families to provide up to date information and feedback about their child's progress. Moreover, the Centre's facilities are periodically improved according to the best standards and research outcomes in the field of autism so that the diagnosis, evaluation and recovery services provided to children are constantly improved and address all aspects of their special needs.

St Michael's School currently has a roll of ninety-two infants, children and young people in a range of classes and condition, diagnosis, assessment and review and community based services. The majority of those enrolled come from six counties - Braila, Constanta, Dambovita, Galati, Prahova and Vrancea.

The team carries out diagnoses of referred children suspected of being on the autistic disorder spectrum; they assist parental self-help groups based in towns across Romania and provide an educational resource to assist the education of school and kindergarten staff involved in caring for children with ASD. They are active in presenting reports on their work and research papers at conferences and seminars across the Balkans thus sharing detail of what can be achieved to assist the education, development and social integration of children living on the spectrum and to support their families in their care. >>

St Michael's Day School & Centre for Children with Autism *continued*

Project Achievements 2014

- » The team led and presented research papers at two major international conferences as well as delivering a training programme for school teachers and professors and other staff working with children with autistic spectrum disorders (ASD).
- » The team developed a series of counselling and education sessions for parents and family members involved in the care of pupils attending St Michael's classes.
- » St Michael's remains the only centre in the Balkans accredited in the training and in the use of ABA, TEACHH and PECS techniques.
- » The curriculum was flexed to improve and develop children's abilities and skills enabling them to lead independent lives.

Objectives For 2014-2015:

- » Based on current legislation of specialised integrated schools that provide health, education and social services for children with ASD, St Michael's team carries forward proposals to establish a specialised public institution dedicated to providing a complete range of educational and therapeutic services for children with autistic spectrum disorders.
- » To increase the socialisation and integration skills for children currently in St Michael's school classes.
- » To provide training and counselling for families to continue the therapy programme at home
- » To organise weekly socialisation activities: walks, park visits; group activities with all beneficiaries within the gymnasium, with different group activities for each school class.
- » To organise courses and seminars to inform and train personnel found in schools and kindergartens that are currently educating, assisting in the care, recovery and integration of children with autistic spectrum disorders.
- » To offer training and counselling for families so that they continue the therapy programme at home.
- » To inform the community about the issues of children with autistic spectrum disorders and undertake lobby and advocacy campaigns in order to reinforce and apply the laws in force.
- » To initiate and propose new legislation and regulations dedicated to people with autistic spectrum disorders.

Teo - Seeking Opportunity and Acceptance



The story of the children attending St Michael's School and those who go through the diagnosis and assessment process when referred to the team is in the main very similar.

Teo is eight and a half years old and at first glance seems to be a normal and just quite energetic little boy. When he was three years old, he was diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder. Initially, the neuropsychiatrist determined that he only had a language delay problem and prescribed a treatment. Although Teo followed the treatment, there was no significant improvement and the parents sought a second opinion. A doctor at the Alexandru Obregia Hospital diagnosed autism and recommended where help might be available. The parents also carried out extensive research to develop some understanding of the condition.

Teo started ABA therapy sessions at St Michael's when he was three and, within a year, made spectacular progress, much to the delight of the parents.

Teo's education and training has put enormous financial and social strain on the family. They greatly appreciate the input from the team of therapists at St Michael's, but have real concern for his future as the state institutions seem incapable or unwilling to make any contribution to date. Teo has also attended a state kindergarten over the last two years and, with the support of his therapist, he has managed to adapt and integrate and become increasingly independent. He is now a student in the first grade at a normal school and he is no longer needs constant supervision, just a little intermittent guidance, from the therapists at St Michael's.

Although his parents have become 'experts' on autism, they have had to find additional financial help to assist with his therapy sessions as their joint monthly income was not sufficient. They and Teo have faced discrimination in school from fellow pupils and more particularly from the parents of his classmates. Sadly they do not only have to deal with ignorance but have to deal with professional incompetence as when, recently, a senior specialist psychologist asked, "how long Teo had been deaf?" His parents intend to battle on, fighting to achieve Teo's rehabilitation, total integration and acceptance by the community and society. They haven't lost hope that maybe someday Romanian society will be more supportive and aware of cases like their son's.

Statement from Nigel Richardson



Having now visited the centres run by Children in Distress on a number of occasions and seen the quality of the work carried out, and the personal commitment of all the staff, you cannot fail to be impressed by what you see. They achieve so much with so little and the good will it generates is enormous.

I was only too happy to play my part in the Shoebox Appeal 2014 delivery process and saw at first hand grinding rural poverty. The children are so grateful to receive the gift and the warm winter clothing and boots we had taken to them, as so many of them are living in distressing and dreadful conditions.

Children in Distress, particularly in its education and welfare programmes, offers these children and their families help hope and the opportunity of a better life.

Nigel Richardson, Former Mayor of Kirkbymoorside

Education, Social Welfare and Support **Programme**

Education & Training

In conjunction with our partner organisation Fund-a-Physio, Ely and a host of volunteers, doctors, therapists, nurses, psychologists, teachers and lecturers both here in the UK and in Romania, Children in Distress has been able to empower students and change the attitudes of care staff to deliver the best possible care and current best practice. The sharing of experience of our work, through insight training and practical workshops training events and conferences, presenting our mission, has been significant in improving medical teaching and the delivery of care services for children throughout Romania and in changing the attitude and approach of those caring for them.

Professional Students Practical Work Experience And Access Training

For a further year, in association with three key universities and a number of local authorities, Children in Distress brokered and agreed an educational training protocol offering two thousand psychology, physiotherapy and social work students, over the next three years, access to practical work experience as part of their education and training. The aim is to introduce insight and expertise to the education curriculum and improve the attitude and expectation of students entering professional treatment and care.

In addition, the Charity has developed, in partnership with the St Macrina Foundation and the University of Bucharest, a project entitled: “Performance and Competitiveness in transitioning from school to the first job”.

The project is aimed at the transition process from school to an active life and is centred on the consolidation of theoretical knowledge and practical skills, which can be used when getting into employment together with the development of the social competencies needed by future social workers. This has been delivered through

- » Project activities;
- » Developing internships;
- » Counselling and professional orientation activities;
- » Personal development activities for students.

Project Achievements 2014

- » Social work students improved their degree of self-knowledge associated with their professional profile.
- » Were able to use and adapt the knowledge acquired during faculty years when faced with real situations and beneficiaries, also made use of specialized tools when working with disadvantaged social categories, and developed their communication skills and abilities and their approach.

Objectives For 2014-2015

- » to increase the degree of professionalism of student/graduate in social work studies;
- » Increase the degree of adaptation and integration on the labour market;
- » Develop professional competencies and skills that provide the highest level of qualification;
- » Develop human resources with a high degree of competitiveness able flexibly to manage the critical transitioning process from school

CiD Ro's **Intern Experience**

The practical impact for the students can be enormous. Andreea, Catalina and Alina are students in the third year at Sociology and Social Works Faculty of University of Bucharest. In January 2014 they decided to begin their internship at the Children in Distress Foundation – Social Works and Support for the reintegration of Children with Psychological and Social Problems Department. At the beginning of their internship, the three students found it difficult to adapt and apply the theoretical information acquired during their faculty years to assist the social work team and actively participate in the work of the department as volunteers. Although working in a child centred organisation, they were very focused on the prison system and drug addiction.

The senior social workers gradually involved the students in the activities at the Centre, presented each resident's case and outlined potentially beneficial approaches. Under their guidance and supervision, little by little the interns developed their professional practice skill and then made use of the theoretical knowledge acquired during their years of study, to support the children on their case load.

Welfare & Donations

Over the last ten years, each year some ten thousand children, young people and senior citizens have been given hand knitted sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves and knitted cot, pram or bed blankets to keep them warm in winter. Innumerable other gifts of clothing have been distributed to destitute families and in emergency relief.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Since its launch fifteen years ago well over half a million children and senior citizens have benefitted from the generosity of donors in the United Kingdom and have had the joy of a gift at Christmas. The gift boxes have gone mostly to the poorest of the poor, the forgotten and destitute or those in hospitals or institutions, across the Balkans, Eastern Europe and the Moldovan Republic. In 2014 the team collected and dispatched over 7000 boxes and assisted in funding in the weeks before Christmas the shipping of over three tons of donated warm winter clothing blankets knitted goods, wheelchairs and medication.



Medical Equipment, Mobility Aids, Medicines, Vitamins And Dressings



Due to the generosity of donors, over many years Children in Distress has been able to clothe the poor, offer them vitamins and warm winter bedding, provide mobility and therapy equipment, provide wheelchairs, computer systems, medication, drugs, sterile dressings and a range medical equipment to change the lives of infants, children, adults and senior citizens when needed. The charity enjoyed an exceptional in-kind donation from Bioforce (UK) Ltd, which was shipped and distributed to children across Romania.

Partner Programmes

CID funded care projects and programmes are delivered in close partnership with Funda-Physio-for Children in Distress, Ely and through Copii in Dificultate and PositivPlus, our main Romanian sister foundations, and four other strategic partners; the Child Protection Department of Arge County Council, Commune of Sarulesti, the Fundaia Vasiliada and St Macrina's Centre. All of these partners are annually assessed and reviewed as having the compatible and comparable childcare aims, objectives and interests.

Children in Distress, working together with Copii in Dificultate, is recognised as an innovator, provider and advocate of best practice and the highest standards of care. They remain the only NGOs invited by the Ministries of Education, Labour and Health and the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights, to assist and implement the national curriculum for children with autism and care standards for children with disabilities.

Ajutor, Spornata & Hospice (ASH)



ASH provide help, hope and a dignified life to those who come from vulnerable groups (children, single parent families, disabled people, who suffer from chronic or incurable diseases, in receive unemployment support, without monthly incomes, without jobs, with limited training and qualifications, people without life partners or families, who are assisted through social welfare programmes and who are destitute)

The aim of the Association is to improve the quality of life of the vulnerable people through the development of specialized services, offered by a multidisciplinary team of professionals who work with and for various social categories who deal with social exclusion, adapted to community needs, accessible and easy to apprehend by all beneficiaries.

The Association ASH-(HHH) is intended to touch a larger group of beneficiaries. The planned activities are established in accordance with the codes of the classification of Economic Activities in the European Community intended to satisfy the requirements of the European Union grant funding allocated to Romania for the period 2014 -2020. >>

Partner Programmes *continued*

Project Achievements 2014

- » As a newly set up charity, ASH – HHH was looking for visibility, to find partners for future EU funded projects.
- » To reach out into the community with a new “Christian Solidarity” initiative in partnership with the clergy and congregation of Bucharest’s Serban Voda Parish. This project is approved and endorsed by the local General Department for Social Work and Child Protection in Sector 4.
- » To set up a partnership project with the General Department for Social Work and Child Protection of Sector no. 2 to improve the activity of a Child Development Centre operated by the local authorities of Sector 2. New equipment and therapy techniques were used in order to increase efficiency and satisfy better the beneficiaries.
- » To address the needs of senior citizens using Christmas Shoeboxes received from Children in Distress

Objectives For 2014-2015

- » To continue to find new project partners, develop the existing partnership and try to extend the network of volunteers.
- » To achieve self funding status for projects delivered by the Association
- » To follow and study the governmental announcements, the grant aid guidelines and submit project proposals once prepared.

Partner Programmes *continued*

CID Ro

This Romanian registered Foundation is one of the few NGOs recognised since 2008 as a Romanian Service of National Utility. The CIDRo Foundation last year delivered professional courses leading to certification in Applied Behavioural Techniques, ABA for teachers from the Ministry of Education and therapists from the charity's St Michael's School for children with autism located in Bucharest. They also co-ordinate the workshop and professional work insights programme set up and agreed for students in psychology, social work and therapy with the Universities of Bucharest, Cluj and Timisoara. As the lead organisation in the POSDRU education/truancy programme, the CIDRo team carry the considerable burden of recording and reporting on a monthly basis the operation and achievements of this very successful project.

Once again, in this report year all the main complexes and centres of services and all the projects of Copii in Dificultate were re-accredited and fully licensed by the Romanian Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection. The CIDRo management team has been particularly active throughout this year, seeking local funding to help provide and assist in funding projects and services and additional activities not funded directly by Children in Distress. We are pleased to include an outline of their achievements.

PositivPlus

A sister charity that delivers care for young adults living the HIV infection or AIDS - its work is comprehensively detailed elsewhere in this report.

Fund-A-Physio, Ely

Fund-a-Physio, Ely is a complementary volunteer support group and partner organisation that helps Children in Distress delivers its commitment to paediatric physiotherapy, child development therapy and continuing professional education. Primarily it provides financial support for the work of Mrs Alyth Hughes, CID's Consultant Physiotherapist. Over the last year alone, Fund-a-Physio, Ely has assisted Alyth Hughes to visit Romania four times on consultant's tours and funded the professional insight training of two Romanian therapists.



Since its foundation, this exceptional and active volunteer group has supported many exceptionally successful therapy care for over 500 children, deftly balancing fundraising and sponsoring the delivery of practical training and care for a number of young physiotherapy professionals and students. >>

Partner Programmes *continued*

Funding is generated from a host of well-attended locally based fundraising activities made to interested groups across Southern England. Their events are often supported by the Lantern Dance Group, the successful Ely based PHAB dance group.

The Trustees would like to express their thanks and appreciation to everyone involved, particularly to the organising committee led by Gillian Hodge, a very active and experienced former Superintendent Physiotherapist at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge. The team is already planning a twelve-month programme of fundraising activities and projects for support.

Christmas Shoebox Campaign 2014 'Love In A Box' Volunteer Organising Group



The Trustees would like to acknowledge the achievements of the Christmas Shoebox team, who once again made sure that over seven thousand five hundred of the poorest of Europe's children were not forgotten at Christmas. The volunteers' group, with the active support of the charity's management team, started the collection campaign earlier and Mission Relief, the charity's logistic partner, collected and delivered for onward in-country distribution some 7800 boxes before Christmas 2014. These were distributed to children from no.284 kindergarten; no.62 school and no.1 special school for deaf children. With the help of Slobozia and Calarasi Diocese, Child Protection and Social Works

Department from Bucharest, Saint Macrina Association, Vasiliada Association, Fundatia Paraschiva other partners and CID's volunteers, boxes were delivered to remote and poorest villages in Calugareni Giurgiu, Buzau, Slobozia, Pitesti, Curtea de Arges, Calarasi, Vaslui, Dolj and Severin. In addition, the Christmas transport carried an additional and exceptional load of boxes of over three tons of donated goods with a consequential saving on logistic costs.

Individual donors, schools, local businesses, Rotary and Lions Clubs throughout the United Kingdom were involved in this exceptional project. This initiative generated £8500 to fund additional related projects. However, the actual donations and contributions generated by the team included many thousands of pounds of gifts in-kind, donated by way of warehouse space, transport vehicles and fuel, these exceptional gifts of in-kind donations from a range of commercial sponsors all of which, if not donated without cost, would have cost well in excess of £25,000. We record our particular thanks to Preston of Potto and the congregation of the parish church of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry Low Green, Great Ayton Middlesbrough who made the packing and warehousing of so many boxes possible.

Financial Overview 2013/ 14

Our Income & Expenditure

The Board has authorised a fundraising strategy, which pursues trust and grant-making trusts donation income and aims, as a priority, to move the charity over the next three years to a situation where it is consequently less dependent on individual one-off donations to help sustain its work. However, this is tempered by the current financial situation and the realities of donation funding. Individual donation income had held up well in the seventh year of recession. The trend in donation funding and associated gift aid recovery is increasingly down. However, the greatest change on-year is the marked reduction in legacy income by £66,000.

They have also determined that the charity should diversify its income base and, for this reason, has continued the role of part-time Funding Development Manager for Scotland and Northern Ireland based within the charity offices, targeted to develop the charity's applications to Grant Making Bodies and Trusts. The home based Funding Development Manager Northern England will continue to focus on local regional and grassroots fundraising, retail and e-commerce opportunities and the development of a network of volunteer support in the year ahead.

During the reported year, the charity raised almost £459,177 by way of voluntary giving individual donors, grant-making trusts, Gift Aid and corporate donations and a further £104,531 through its thrift shops trading and commercial trading activities. In addition the charity benefitted from donated goods, services and facilities valued at £330,080 (down £23,574 on the previous year).

All of this income was dispersed in the current year, or earmarked for project support.

As reported, very little of the income was regarded as restricted funds for particular projects and will be dispersed to those projects in the financial year ahead. We record that project support costs continue to be contained, reflecting the growth of contribution of POSDRU funding contributions in Romania, increasing grant aid and project support from European Union funds and Romanian national and local government agencies.

The thrift shops held their own in trading terms despite redevelopment disruption and winter weather closure, and the donation of stock goods held up well so they therefore maintained their contribution to the charity. Their input is now only marginally short of the reported comparable UK charity shop contribution. The Retail Advisory Group action plan with greater emphasis on e-trading is already addressing this slight underperformance in the high street and the Board accepts that the shops provide a well of goodwill and a much needed if limited presence on the high street. >>

Financial Overview *continued*

It is also felt that, in difficult times of austerity, the shops offer a tangible benefit to the communities in which they operate, providing a social service and support to some sections of their community that otherwise might not be available.

Volunteers continue to be the mainstay of the shop operation and we are proactive in their personal training and development.

Our fundraising activities are continuously undertaken both to encourage donations and to attract interest in legacies. The costs of all aspects of fundraising have risen on-year, which represents the added costs of campaigns. A new legacy gift campaign has had immediate impact providing a substantial response in the first few months of the next financial year. The added costs also included investment in printing and the development costs of the charity website.

The international value of sterling fluctuated throughout the reported year. Accordingly, the charity managed exchange rate revaluations from 4.5-5.5lei to the pound sterling. However, we have managed the impact on transfer costs.



In-Kind Donations

This year, we record with grateful thanks once again the level of corporate and individual in-kind donations. We record our appreciation for all these gifts, ranging from thousands of individual hand knitted items to essential vitamins, medical therapy equipment and specialist wheelchairs.

The generosity of schools, individuals and corporate donors allowed us to provide ???, in addition to basic school equipment, for schoolchildren in the poorest rural areas of Romania. In-kind donations also made it possible to ship and distribute an exceptional range of essential but otherwise unavailable therapy equipment, wheelchairs and mobility aids.

The Handcrafters' Guild has mobilised the groundswell of goodwill and kindness amongst handcrafters groups and individuals up and down the UK from individuals and groups who are willing to offer a range of knitted and hand produced goods for shipment to children and families in need and to help through sale to generate much needed funds.

Financial Overview *continued*

Donor Income Development

To develop the charity's family of support and increase the donor support base, the Board took a positive decision to revert to the more traditional direct person-to-person contact through those church and related organisations that have supported the work of the charity so well in the past.

In the North of England this has been supported by a comprehensive programme of talks and presentations, which has successfully generated increasing interest in recent strategically placed appeal advertising and a general and increasing online interest in the charity's website www.childrenindistress.org

An Appreciation Of The Contribution By Volunteers

The report emphasises the importance of volunteers to the success of the charity and its mission of care. For years the Trustees have debated how best to record the exceptional contribution that volunteers make to the work of the charity and without which this charity would never thrive. We have considered but rejected trying to value in monetary terms the contribution that volunteers make, having found that both difficult and inappropriate. We therefore record the hours of selfless work time donated in our thrift shops; in promoting the charity in churches, chapels, schools and colleges across the UK; in all aspects of our Christmas 'Love in a Box'; in the work of our Handcrafters' Guild and in endeavour and special local appeals; in medical, nursing and therapy guidance, advice and assessment; in teaching and training and generally making this little charity the powerhouse of care that it has become.

Specifically, with regard to the advocacy, education, training and personal professional development aspect of our work particularly in Romania, we especially record our appreciation of the exceptional support in time donated by medical consultants, doctors, therapists, educationalists and trainers as part of the training workshop programmes and personal professional development initiatives delivered by the charity throughout the year.

We have calculated that volunteers have generously donated, at a conservative estimate, over 35,000 volunteer hours, which equates to almost five years of volunteering. This contributed greatly to the success of our mission of care this year, and which would have been far beyond the means of so small a charity if funds had been required to cover the assessable costs.

Financial Overview *continued*

The Handcrafters' Guild

The Children in Distress Handcrafters' Guild was founded in September 2010 in the hope of bringing together all CID's 'crafty' supporters. There are 135 registered members and members groups, although in reality there are many more members because in many cases one person will register on behalf of a group of knitters. There is a standing call for new members and knitters and Jane Russell, the Funding Development Manager who assists with the Guild, is awaiting the return of many application forms requested by supporters.

Members receive a bi-monthly newsletter with news of other members and events, patterns, occasional discounted offers of craft materials and other relevant articles.



In the Guild's year, members have supplied 19,840 items of knitting, crocheting and sewing for the children in Romania. They are also very proactive in supplying goods to sell at fundraising events held in Bucharest as well as in the UK. Members have most recently supplied an array of goods to be sold at the Easter and Winter Bazaars in Bucharest and to assist the Fund-a-Physio presence at the Gift and Food Fair, held in Ely Cathedral each year.

Thrift Shop And Commercial Activity

The key commercial activity of the charity focuses on the three thrift shops where volunteer staff led by a staff manager continues to raise local financial support and generate interest in our work. The thrift shops also play active roles in their Guisborough, Kirkbymoorside and Shildon communities offering value-for-money support to those living on a limited income in straightened times. For the thrift shops, it has been a very encouraging trading year since, with the economic crisis, has come an increased footfall. There have also been a number staffing changes and increasing competition in the high street. However, all the shops have benefitted from continued strong stock donations, all of which continues to make a significant impact on the trading viability and returns. The Kirkbymoorside shop trades well despite competition in the small marketplace, while the Shildon shop has been turned round under its new management and the Gisborough shop has been redeveloped by the building's owner and now offers bright new premises.

The performance of each of the shops is closely monitored and the hard work of the managers and volunteers is greatly appreciated.

Financial Overview *continued*

Investment Policy

With limited funds available, the policy of the charity is to prudently maximise direct charitable expenditure whilst paying due regard to the development of an effective operational reserve. The Board are resolved therefore to invest income prudently in relatively accessible short to medium term investment accounts, which offer respectable investment rate returns. Regrettably, the charity has never held the excess funds to allow for the share and bond investment strategy developed by their advisors. Accordingly, the charity does not hold stocks, shares or bond capital reserves and retains the unrestricted cash reserve funds in short, flexible term investment accounts. The charity has also seldom been able to hold large reserves of cash on account.

We regret to record that, because of capital investment and capital investment in the Romanian estate and additional activity across a range of initiatives, the reserves held on account have risen only slightly.

Although not part of the Children in Distress operational reserve, for total clarity and financial transparency, we record that, in addition, a further two months operating costs are retained in the operational account of Copii in Dificultate, as part their operational and banking reserve. This prudently is held in medium term deposit to maximise the investment return, which is slightly higher than in the UK. By local legislative requirement, the CIDRo. Directors also hold just over one month's total human resource wage and benefits costs. The current financial crisis and the impact on donation income continues to defer the development of a suitable share portfolio reserve as a part of the effective implementation of the charity's longer term development strategy.

Ethical Investment

Members of the Board closely review the charity's ethical investment policy and strategy, which identifies the most appropriate and financially efficient means to invest funds in stocks and shares of organisations whose aims and objectives are not at variance with the ethical values of the charity.

The Trustees are guided and advised in these matters by independent qualified investment analysts and banking professionals.

Financial Overview *continued*

Reserves Policy

The term “reserves” (in accordance with the SORP 2005 definition) is used to describe our income funds that are freely available to help us meet our objectives. In this case, “free reserves” are represented by the “total funds” under our control less “restricted funds” and “tangible assets” as per the balance sheet contained within this report.

The reserves policy reaffirmed by the Trustees in May 2010 remains in place. However, they have long expressed their intent to see a full six months operational costs held in a financial reserve. Realistically, with limited interest returns, and little real investment in our bank reserves, earmarked funds and continuous project developments this reserve is available on account in the charity’s bank in both the United Kingdom and Romania. However, it may be closer to four rather than six months operating costs and we have yet to achieve the Board’s desired reserves objective in this financial year.

The Trustees continue to recognise the importance of building a buffer in free reserves in order to secure uninterrupted care for the children we support. This also remains a priority. However, they will continue to act with prudence and discretion but remain primarily committed to answer the needs of children in distress drawn to our attention wherever possible.

FRS 17 Pension Benefits Disclosure

The charity makes a financial contribution to private personal pensions for eligible employees based in the United Kingdom. Disclosure of FRS 17 pension liability provisions is not applicable in this financial statement.

The charity has in place a programme to comply with employee automatic enrolment for pension purposes and will shortly be in consultation with all those entitled with an offer. Others have waived their rights to stakeholder pension provision.

Statement Of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. >>

Financial Overview *continued*

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- » select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- » observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- » make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- » prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

A resolution to reappoint The Kelvin Partnership will be put to the Trustees at their Annual General Meeting to be held in July 2015.

By order of the Board.



Cornelius McGill

Trustee, Member of Board Management Group

Financial Income and Expenditure

Income September 2013

£950,157

Income September 2014

£870,852

Down

£79,305



Expenditure September 2013

£942,637

Expenditure September 2014

£852,611

Down

£90,026



September 2013

£77,209

September 2014

£95,448

Up

£18,239



Auditors **Report**

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of Children in Distress

We have audited the financial statements of Children in Distress for the year ended 30 September 2014 on pages 63 to 71. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities set out on page 58, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. >>

Auditors Report *continued*

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Trustees to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- » give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2014 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- » have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- » have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 1993 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- » the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements ; or
- » proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- » the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- » we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

The Kelvin Partnership Ltd

Statutory Auditor

Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Chartered Accountants

The Cooper Building, 505 Great Western Road

Glasgow, G12 8HN

Date: 14th July 2015



Children in Distress Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 September 2014

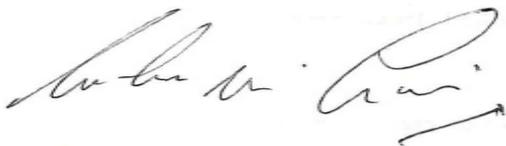
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	30.9.14 Total Funds £	30.9.13 Total Funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	766,257	-	766,257	848,654
Activities for generating funds	3	104,521	-	104,521	101,433
Investment income	4	74	-	74	70
Total incoming resources		870,852	-	870,852	950,157
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	253,412	-	253,412	247,840
Charitable activities					
Direct charitable expenditure	6	569,647	-	569,647	665,411
Support costs		6,621	-	6,621	6,795
Governance costs	9	22,931	-	22,931	22,591
Total resources expended		852,611	-	852,611	942,637
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		18,241	-	18,241	7,520
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		77,207	-	77,207	69,687
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		95,448	-	95,448	77,207

Balance Sheet

Children in Distress Balance Sheet at 30 September 2014

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	30.9.14 Total Funds £	30.9.13 Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12	4,790	-	4,790	7,190
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Stocks	13	-	-	-	1,750
Debtors	14	20,518	-	20,518	17,710
Cash at bank and in hand		98,360	-	98,360	74,720
		118,878	-	118,878	94,180
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(28,220)	-	(28,220)	(24,163)
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		90,658	-	90,658	70,017
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		95,448	-	95,448	77,207
NET ASSETS					
		95,448	-	95,448	77,207
FUNDS					
	16				
Unrestricted funds				95,448	77,207
Restricted funds				-	-
TOTAL FUNDS					
				95,448	77,207

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 14th July 2015 and were signed on its behalf by:



Cornelius McGill

Children in Distress

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2014

1. Accounting Policies

Accounting convention - The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources - All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended - Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Allocation and apportionment of costs - Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis inclusive of any VAT, which cannot be recovered and have been apportioned to cost categories as follows:

	Costs of generating funds	Direct charitable expenditure	Support for direct charitable expenditure	Governance
Wages and salaries - dependent on employee activity				
Legal and professional fees	-	-	100%	-
Bank charges	30%	60%	-	10%
Book-keeper	-	-	-	100%
Audit and accountancy	-	-	-	100%
Telephone	30%	50%	10%	10%
Hotel and travel expenses	10%	80%	10%	-
All other expenditure	80%	-	10%	10%

Tangible fixed assets - Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings - 20% on reducing balance

Motor vehicles - 25% on reducing balance

Computer equipment - 33% on cost and 33% on reducing balance

CID Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2014 *continued*

1. Accounting Policies - continued

Stocks - The donations of second hand goods to the charity shops for resale are not valued or recognised as stock. Other donated goods which at the year end have not been utilised by the charity, are valued on the basis used for income recognition and are carried in the balance sheet at that value.

Taxation - The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund Accounting - Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Gifts in kind - Gifts of clothing etc received and given to overseas projects are included in the financial statements at market value at the time of export. Items donated for resale are included in shop income when sold and no value is placed on stock at the year end. Donated services are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grant Making - Funds transferred to Romania are shown as grants payable to support the projects there. This reflects a change made some years ago in the approach to supporting operations in Romania where an agreed monthly transfer is made to be administered locally across projects. This gives more independence and reflects the actual position of the Romanian operation.

2. Voluntary Income

	30.9.14	30.9.13
	£	£
Donations	227,513	219,813
Gift aid	199,431	199,816
Legacies	32,233	98,425
Donated services and facilities	307,080	330,600
	<u>766,257</u>	<u>848,654</u>

3. Activities for Generating Funds

	30.9.14	30.9.13
	£	£
Shop income	<u>104,521</u>	<u>101,433</u>

CID Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2014 *continued*

4. Investment Income

	30.9.14	30.9.13
	£	£
Deposit account interest	74	70
	74	70

5. Costs of Generating Voluntary Income

	30.9.14	30.9.13
	£	£
Shop wages	27,435	25,771
Shop rent and rates	25,663	25,840
Shop heat light and insurance	3,561	5,104
Shop repairs, sundries and telephone	145	470
Shop motor expenses	7,825	9,403
Printing, appeals, advertising publications and exhibitions	41,770	37,022
Salaries - fund raising	25,314	25,401
Wages and salaries - UK	73,628	70,650
Pensions	3,823	3,823
Rent and rates	20,724	20,602
Insurance	840	848
Postage, stationery, copying, advertising and computer costs	10,124	10,215
Motor expenses	3,724	3,724
Telephone	1,409	1,627
Legal fees	-	444
Equipment leasing	4,515	4,621
Hotel and travel expenses	365	528
Sundry expenses - UK	627	516
Depreciation	1,920	1,464
Loss on sale of assets	-	(233)
	253,412	247,840

6. Charitable Activities Costs

	Direct costs (See note 7)	Direct costs (See note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£
Direct charitable expenditure	569,647	-	569,647
Support costs	-	6,621	6,621
	569,647	6,621	576,268

CID Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2014 *continued*

7. Direct Costs of Charitable Activities

	30.9.14	30.9.13
	£	£
Staff costs	21,037	20,186
Gifts in Kind	285,830	310,600
Grants	210,262	289,292
Travel and subsistence	11,646	7,327
Carriage and general transport	8,712	7,110
Transport and warehousing	23,000	20,000
Telephone	2,817	3,255
Hotel and travel expenses	2,919	4,225
Bank charges	3,424	3,416
	569,647	665,411
	569,647	665,411

8. Support Costs

	Management
	£
Support costs	6,621
	6,621

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management	30.9.14	30.9.13
	Support costs	Total activities
	£	£
Pensions	477	477
Rent and rates	2,590	2,575
Insurance	105	106
Postage, stationery, copying, advertising and computer costs	1,266	1,276
Motor expenses	466	466
Telephone	470	542
Equipment leasing	365	528
Hotel and travel expenses	78	64
Sundry expenses - UK	240	183
Depreciation	240	183
	6,621	6,795
	6,621	6,795

CID Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2014 *continued*

9. Governance Costs

	30.9.14 £	30.9.13 £
Auditors' remuneration	5,604	5,751
Wages and salaries - UK	10,518	10,094
Pensions	477	477
Rent and rates	2,590	2,575
Insurance	105	106
Postage, stationery, copying, advertising and computer costs	1,266	1,276
Motor expenses	466	466
Equipment leasing	564	578
Bank charges	1,023	1,021
Sundry expenses - UK	78	64
Depreciation	240	183
	22,931	22,591
	22,931	22,591

10. Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 September 2014 nor for the year ended 30 September 2013.

Trustees' expenses - There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 September 2014 nor for the year ended 30 September 2013.

11. Staff Costs

	30.9.14 £	30.9.13 £
Wages and salaries	157,932	152,102
Pension costs	4,777	4,777
	162,709	156,879
	162,709	156,879
The average number of employees during the year was as follows	10	10
	10	10

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 in the year ended September 2014 nor for the year ended 30 September 2013.

CID Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2014 *continued*

12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 October 2011 and 30 September 2014	4,000	15,900	45,390	65,290
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 October 2013	4,000	10,960	43,140	58,100
Charge for year	-	2,240	160	2,400
At 30 September 2014	4,000	13,200	43,300	60,500
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30 September 2014	-	2,700	2,090	4,790
At 30 September 2013	-	4,940	2,250	7,190

13. Stocks

	30.9.14 £	30.9.13 £
Stocks	-	1,750

14. Debtors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year

	30.9.14 £	30.9.13 £
Other debtors	20,518	17,710

CID Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2012 *continued*

15. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year

	30.9.14 £	30.9.13 £
Trade creditors	14,886	10,178
Taxation and social security	2,594	2,241
Other creditors	10,740	11,744
	28,220	24,163
	28,220	24,163

16. Movement in Funds

	At 1.10.13 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.14 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	77,207	18,241	95,448
	77,207	18,241	95,448
TOTAL FUNDS	77,207	18,241	95,448

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	870,852	(852,611)	18,241
	870,852	(852,611)	18,241
TOTAL FUNDS	870,852	(852,611)	18,241

Charity Information

Patron United Kingdom

Rt. Rev and Rt. Hon Archbishop
David Hope, Lord Hope of Thornes KCVO PC
Maria Popa (Patron CIDRo)
Florian Chilian(Patron CIDRo)

Goodwill Ambassador Romania

Mrs Amalia Nastase

Trustees

Canon Chris Samuels (Chair of Trustees)

Board, Trustee Management Group, Ex-officio Committee member all charity committees

Dr Victoria Amadi

Board , Advisory Group

Colleen Lockstone Resigned March 2015

Board , Advisory Group

Dr Derek Lockstone Resigned March 2015

Board , Advisory Group

Robin Dunn

Board, Advisory Group

Mrs Christine Henderson-Docherty

Board, Trustee Management Group,
Governance and Legal

Mrs Alyth Hughes

Board, Chair Advisory Group, Vice President
Copii in Dificultate, Trustee PositivPlus,
Governance and Legal

Rev June Hurn

Board, Board Copii in Dificultate, Trustee
PositivPlus

Cornelius McGill

Board, Trustee Management Group

Sir Neil Thorn OBE TD DL

Board, Governance and Legal. Life President

Mr Harry Ward

Board, Advisory Group

UK Administration

Alisdair Barron MBE

Chief Executive, Presedinte Copii in
Dificultate, Chair PositivPlus, Ex-officio
Committee member of charity committees

May Biggam

Funding Development Manager

Calum McCallum

Administrator

Allan Gallacher

Charity Accountant (Part time)
Finance and Audit

Melanie Jukes

Shop Manager – Shildon

Tracy England

Shop Manager – Guisborough

Sandra Kinloch

Administrator

Jane Russell

Funding Development Manager - North
England

Ruxandra Tivadar

Administrator

Gill Wilson

Shop Manager Kirkbymoorside

Charity Information *continued*

Legal Advisors

Brechin Tindal Oatts
48 St Vincent Street
Glasgow G2 5HS

Auditors

The Kelvin Partnership
The Cooper Building
505 Great Western Road
Glasgow G12 8HN

Investment Advisors

Bell Lawrie White
48 St Vincent Street
Glasgow G2 5TS

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland
10 Gordon Street
Glasgow G1 3PL

National Westminster Bank Plc

133 High Street
Ilford
Essex IG6 2AJ

Barclays Bank Plc

93 High Street
North Allerton
Yorkshire DL7 8LF

Public Relations Advisors (Romania)

Next PR
Constantin Sandu Aldea 96
Bucharest Sector 1 Romania

Children in Distress

Registered Office

Suite 30
Ladywell Business Centre
94 Duke Street
GLASGOW G4 0UW

Tel: 0141 559 5690

Fax: 0141 559 5694

Email: admin2@childrenindistress.org.uk

Web: www.childrenindistress.org