



School For Life

Newsletter Edition 21, May 2009

Registered Charity No. 1062953

Patron: Robert Carlyle OBE

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Școală Pentru Viață

Thank you for your interest in our charity, about to celebrate its 15th year! Every six months you can hear about the latest developments at the project in Siret, and our fundraising efforts in the UK and Romania to support the growth of the work that is changing the lives of many young people with special needs in Siret.

School For Life is a registered UK charity dedicated to funding young adults brought up in an orphanage in Siret, Romania (who now live in a Neuropsychiatric Hospital institution), providing special needs education, training and supported accommodation so they can develop the skills they need to lead fulfilling lives.

The school sessions are delivered in a building our charity has purchased and built in the community of Siret, northern Romania. Therapeutic sessions are also provided in the Hospital for the young people not able to come to our facility.

The money raised in the UK by School for Life is sent to our sister organisation in Siret, "Școală Pentru Viață", which is led and staffed exclusively by qualified people from the local community. The staff members include 2 Directors, 3 Teachers, 2 Teaching Assistants (formally orphans from the Institution), and a Medical Assistant. All funds received go directly to the project in Siret (except for bank

charges to transfer funds to Romania).

All other costs, including regular trips to Siret to support the project and feedback to the UK charity meetings, and all publicity, are met by the Trustees and School For Life Friends themselves. So more than 99p of every pound you have given goes directly to the children and young adults who need it. Thank you!



Siret has got talent! Dana lives in the SPV supported accommodation and is learning the mandolin. She grew up in the orphanage like all the other young people SPV work with.



Rodica and Lenuta are the Teaching Assistants who live in the SPV supported accommodation. During the Trustee's visit to the project in April, Rodica and Lenuta were busy preparing the ground for planting vegetables that they have learned to tend, gather, store and cook. This is something they would never have had the chance to experience if they had remained living in the orphanage.

School for Life raises funds in the UK through 120 people giving monthly standing orders, and other donations and fundraising events. This money is sent to Școală Pentru Viață. Every year we are at least £4500 short of meeting the budget requirements of Școală Pentru Viață. So we rely on your generosity in fundraising. Please help us meet this year's shortfall!

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Latest Update from Siret



After an initial tussle for the hoe, Sylvia Gurr (Trustee) gets down to the serious business of planting crops with Lenuta (Teaching Assistant, SPV)...

- On the last visit to Siret by Dave Emptage and Sylvia Gurr, Trustees of School For Life, a previous volunteer to Siret who is now working for the BBC, Tessa Dunlop, prepared an 8 minute report for the BBC World Service which will be aired on May 25th!



Viorica has a job in the local clothes factory and is very musical in her spare time.

- Dave and Sylvia have reported on the significant development of the young people living in the supported accommodation at SPV. they no longer require 24 hour support, instead having a member of staff on call and making telephone contact with the Director (Doina) every night at 10pm.

- Lenuta and Rodica are both Teaching Assistants for SPV. In addition, Rodica makes embroideries which she sells on a commission basis, and Lenuta has a number of local cleaning jobs and helps Radu at the next door carwash. She is a keen sports woman and can turn her hand to most practical jobs. Viorica and Dana both have jobs in the local clothes factory.

- Piped gas has come to Siret for the first time, and the heating system is being changed from wood-burning to gas. This will be easier for the young people to manage independently, and perhaps more cost effective as the price of wood in Romania rises.

Tessa Dunlop, Radio and TV Presenter, went to Siret to work in the Neuropsychiatric Hospital for Children in the early 1990's. There she met many of those of us who were involved in founding School For Life Romania and has been a regular contributor to our cause ever since. In April 2009, she returned to Siret after many years to investigate what had happened to some of the children that she had previously worked with.

**Hear Tess's story on BBC World Service, Outlook.
Monday 25th May at 12.30pm**

For those of you who missed this timing, for the following 7 days after broadcast you can hear it on BBC World Service, Outlook Programme website

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- The Director of the Hospital where the young people attending SPV school sessions live, called Tibi Rotaru, continues to plan for the closure of the outdated institution. He has submitted architectural plans for group homes to the Romanian Department of Health, but as yet no funding is available. Meanwhile, he is trying to raise £5000 to create a sensory room in the hospital. This resource is hugely needed, as the most disabled adults receive virtually no therapeutic input and there is no specialist equipment available at all currently.

- Tibi appreciates the ongoing work of SPV as the only provider of therapeutic sessions to the more disabled young adults in the hospital institution. He fully appreciates and understands the need for the young people to enhance social interaction, inclusion in the community, and being involved in activities.



School For Life/ Scoala Pentru Viata is currently the only provider of therapeutic activities for the more disabled young people living in the hospital institution. The Director of the hospital has the best interests of the young people at the top of his agenda, but the funding required to provide the resources needed are still not yet available from within Romania or the EU.



The AGM for School For Life Romania will be held on 26th September at 2pm at Dave & Anna Emptage's house in Lancaster. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Dave dave.emptage@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

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Fundraising ideas!

A supporter of School for Life recently put aside an amount of money to spend on holiday. Having not spent it all, they donated the surplus to School For Life!

Two supporters play bridge. Occasionally club competitions give cash prizes. As strict Methodists, they do not gamble, but accepted the prize money and donated it to School for Life!

Virtual presents are an environmentally friendly way of supporting the charity- no waste packaging, and you know the money is going to a great cause! If the giver is a tax payer, a gift aid form can be completed in the usual way and the Treasurer (and the taxman) will do the rest! Contact ejkeetley@hotmail.com.

Hand made cards have been donated by Carole Grant and Lesley Hunter to School For Life and can be ordered from ejkeetley@hotmail.com.



A range of hand made birthday, thank you, get well, congratulations, new baby, new home and blank greetings cards with 100% of the price you pay going to School For Life. £2 per card, designs may vary. Contact ejkeetley@hotmail.com.

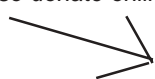
Surfing the net and support School For Life!

Do you surf the Internet? Websites pay the search engine every time someone clicks on a link. One company rebates some of this money to charity.

Go to www.everyclick.com, and type in School for Life Romania. Enter your details and sign up- set the everyclick page as your homepage, and everytime you use the internet, money will be donated to School For Life!

Or use www.easyfundraising.org - every time you buy an item online, by using this website you won't pay any extra for the item, a secure banking system is used, and commission will be paid to School For Life! Contact Keith Lownsborough, Treasurer for details of how you can help the charity with Money For Nothing.

You can also donate online



www.schoolforliferomania.org

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Financial advice and support School For Life!



Please consider using **Quotes4Charity CIC** (Q4C) the next time you, or your friends and family, need help or advice with remortgaging, life cover or home insurance. There's **no fee** to pay, and every time the service is used a donation is generated to charity. With an average UK remortgage raising in excess of £100, it's a great way to help us while getting the advice you need on your finances. Money raised via Q4C, when you mention our name, is *ring fenced for the minibus* until we have enough and any surplus funds after this will then go to the general running of the project in Romania.

*Miss DB who used their service said,
"Q4C were really helpful when I was buying my flat. As a first time buyer, I needed a lot of help to understand about mortgages and searches and to find a good solicitor, and Q4C provided me with everything I needed to know. I have already recommended them to my friends! It was great to do my bit for charity as well!"*

Check out their website for more details www.quotes4charity.co.uk or phone **0845 299 8630**

Online shopping and support School For Life!



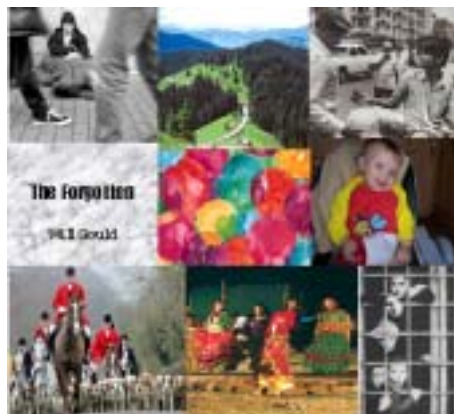
We have also recently joined **The Giving Machine**, which is similar to **Easyfundraising**, if you shop online via these sites and are signed up as a supporter to School For Life Romania the retailer will donate a % to us!! If you are an online shopper please remember School for Life Romania when you buy your pressies!!

Original Music and support School For Life!

"The Forgotten" by Will Gould (SFL Trustee), **on sale now!!** Already raised £140! Music inspired by Siret. £10 for a copy of this original album.

You can listen before you decide to buy a copy by placing this link in your search engine

<http://www.soundclick.com/bands/default.cfm?bandID=797688>



All songs written by Will Gould with the exception of the words for "I Hate Balloons" (written by Phil Withington) and Tigancusa a Romanian folk song rearranged for this album. All songs performed by Will, except for Tigancusa, sung by Will and Olivia Gould.

To order your album at £10, please email your enquiries to w.r.gould@leeds.ac.uk

financial report

by Keith Lownsbrough, Treasurer

The **cash balance** at the 1st May 2009 stood at £4519.43, with the Fund Raising Account at £108.62. The cash transferred to Romania in April covers the full budget until the end of August, and the additional £2000 we agreed has been sent in recognition of the need to increase salaries to meet the minimum wage. Our **monthly income** of Standing Orders currently stands at £1 672.50 per month, up from £1600.50 per month at September 2008, with £540 received per annum in quarterly or annual payments. Of this, £1 292 per month is given under the **gift aid scheme** giving a potential tax rebate of £4 372 next year (plus £373 in Gift Aid for individual donations).

cash requirement

projections, in £ sterling:

SPV staff & assistants	13 256
Taxes	7 698
Building costs	3 505
Petrol costs	1 080
Educational Resources	2 430
Other costs	531

Total **£28 500**

annual income

(less additional fundraising):

Standing orders	20 070
Tax relief	4 372

Total **£24 442**

We have agreed to send out £9 500 every 4 months whenever possible, with £5 667 minimum with the extra up to £9 500 if we have the money. In this way, we can give a definite level of support, with the emphasis on Romania to find the extra financial support. We can be sure of supporting the lower level, with the higher figure being raised by additional fundraising.

Recent **fund-raisers for 2008-2009** include:

£283 CAF online donation through the website, £17 Charities Trust Donation, £140 Will's CD, £372 Virtual Gifts, £85 Charity Choice, £785 unused holiday money, £218 Willerby Methodist Wives Group, £322 Carole Grant cards sales, £150 Wantage Methodist Church, £100 William Leith Baker Shop Collecting Tin, £20 Everyclick.com, £20 Easyfundraising.com, £40 Whinfell Duo Gig, £11 Moorgate Newsagents Collection Tin, £210 Rhythm for Romania, £50 Loyne School Video.

THANK YOU, as you can see fundraising is crucial!

School For Life Romania

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Trustees: Sylvia Gurr, Marianne Lownsbrough, Dave Emptage, Will Gould, Katie Goodier, Phil Keetley.

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