



The Smiles Foundation continues to grow at tremendous pace, but so do the size and number of projects we work to support. There have been so many exciting developments this past 6 months and we hope to share them all in these pages for your continuing prayerful and practical support.

## Smiles Mission Trips July & August 2003 Special Reports

Perhaps most exciting were the Mission Trips to Romania this past summer, when 135 people from the United Kingdom and America joined us for a multitude of challenging tasks. It was a truly remarkable experience with so much achieved and so many lives transformed – both for today and in many cases for Eternity.

So many projects needed support, both with physically hard work and with resources. The 135 people certainly worked very hard, whether on Construction, Food Distribution and Medical Care. The teams had also worked remarkably hard before coming, raising financial support for the projects being undertaken. More than £40,000 was raised prior to the trips and by the end of August, from those on the trips, a total of nearly £70,000 had been raised for support of the Housing Project, School, Family Care and Evangelistic Outreach.

## Life Changing



This was the most amazing response we could have dreamt of from the Mission Trips and now we are already planning for more Trips. Our hope is to take at least 200 people to Romania in 2004 to experience the 'Life Changing' impact of a Smiles Mission Trip.

### Team comments:

*"I bought a book of building brick vouchers and hope to come back next year."* Bea, England

*"Highlights? Everything, the whole mission trip was amazing."* Alison, Scotland

*"We are fired up and ready to fund raise."* Lesley & Keith, England

*Highlights – "meeting people we have met last year and hearing what a difference had been made."* Lynda, UK

*"I will raise, with my church, enough money to buy a house - promise".* Naomi, UK



*"The most significant highlight for me was hand-printing the children in the gypsy village to register them for school. As a school teacher, I realised that we were embarking on something that would change each child, and the entire village, forever."* Teri, USA

*"I enjoyed our nightly meetings – hearing about the days work & experiences. The gypsy village visits were certainly highlights for me."* Laura, USA

*"I want to be an ambassador, sell the bricks and desire to promote Nia & Smiles."* Darlene, USA

*"Until this trip i was unaware that Smiles Foundation was involved in such a vast number of projects, promoting positive educational, social and health aspects with a Christian ethos."* June, Northern Ireland

*"You can read about it but its not the same as being here and seeing it for yourself.... Hopefully I can come again."* Sarah, England

*"We've been able to change people's lives in many ways here. Being part of the medical team, visiting families – providing medical care. I collected a lot of medical supplies before coming... even in situations where I was unable to provide medical care, just letting the people know that we care and praying with them was an incredible experience."* Dr Danielle Onstot, USA



# VHS Video Available



We encourage individuals, families, Churches, Youth Groups, Mission Committee's and every other aspect of ministry wanting to serve overseas, to think and plan for a Mission Trip. The Smiles Foundation has now produced a VHS Video to introduce the Mission Trip opportunity and a leaflet is available for completion to obtain further details. Alternatively, to not miss out on this incredible experience – e-mail us your interest or questions: [info@thesmilesfoundation.org](mailto:info@thesmilesfoundation.org)

**Jefferson Ledgerwood - our prize draw winner from California, also gave us some thoughts following the trip:**

*"It had been a long year of the rat, (the rat race that is) for me here in the Los Angeles area and I was ready for a vacation. Well not just a vacation, but a time to get away seek God, serve his people and be refreshed by His spirit. I had in times past gone on two short term mission trips with YWAM but nothing like this. I was assigned to work, Parhida, a little village about 45 minutes outside of Oradea where Smiles has a house that needed a little work done before a family in need could be moved in... The heat was incredible the work was hard the fellowship was great and life was simpler. We made friends with our Romanian counterparts and we learned what it was like to not always know how to do the job. We were one in Christ, one in purpose and on a mission from God.... In this I saw again how God multiplies what we give to Him and how much more He gives us in return, which leads us to give more and to trust Him with a deeper understanding."*



Jefferson, Dawn, Nia, Kevin

## A Great Team



Dr Ema at work

**The increased staff team in Romania made managing the larger Mission trips more feasible. All the team did a superb job over the 5 weeks and we ask you to pray for them all as they continue to undertake the work on a daily basis in Romania:-**

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|--|---|
| <b>Team Co-ordinator:</b> Mircea Toca    | <b>Family Care Manager:</b> Sorin Andronic      |
| <b>Property Manager:</b> George Petrisor | <b>Family Care Assistant:</b> Josif Farkas      |
| <b>Foundation's Doctor:</b> Dr Ema Buzle | <b>Social Worker:</b> Sami Pripon               |
| <b>P.A. to Kevin:</b> Maria Cimpoa       | <b>Special Projects Admin:</b> Simona Popoviciu |
| <b>Accounts:</b> Ladia Andronic          | <b>School Principal:</b> Daniel Cojita          |

## Christian Community School



**Daniel Cojita was appointed Principal for the school on July 14th and joined by a teaching staff of 4, plus a further 4 school support staff, making 9 in total.**

The Mission Trips did a tremendous amount of work at the School site with extending and remodelling the former Tileagd Pentecostal Church – the building Smiles purchased in August 2002 when plans for the School first emerged. Now the dream was becoming reality and on September 15th 2003, the School will open for the first children who registered during the Mission Trip on July 20th. What an experience that was – 65 children aged 6-14 registering for school all to begin 'first grade' as none have ever been to school before, so none can read or write.



School building in progress

## Sponsor a Child for School

We are in urgent need for help with sponsoring these Gypsy children to attend school. £35 a month will provide them an education and hope for the future, for a life beyond begging and crime. We also have £15,000 of building costs yet to cover – so any help with the School costs will be greatly appreciated and a huge answer to prayer:



# CIHEI Operations Centre



Many on the Mission Trip also helped with work at the new Operations Centre in Cihei. This is the location of our new 3,000 sq.ft. warehouse which proved such a blessing during the Mission Trips. Cihei is also the site for our new offices and medical clinic for Ema. The apartment above the offices will be home for Family Care Manager Sorin Andronic and his family.



The Mission teams did a wonderful job of laying concrete floors, installing electrics, putting up ceilings, plastering, tiling, painting and so much more. As a result of their efforts, we hope to have the Centre operating by mid-September.

The next major project at the Cihei Centre will be the building of our Missions Centre. With up to 200 people a year on Mission Trips to Romania we want our own accommodation facility to avoid paying £50,000 a year hotel costs. Phase One will accommodate 28 people and Phase Two will add a further 24 enabling a total group of 52 to stay at the well equipped centre for all 2004 Mission Trips. This will be the first 'commercial' venture by Smiles which hopes to employ many local people and generate sufficient profit to assist running the administrative centre in Romania to ensure maximum support is available for the much needed projects in Family Care and Housing.



## Houses into Homes

Eighteen properties had been purchased by Smiles of which 17 have been sponsored. In August 2003, Smiles purchased a further 7 properties of which three have already been sponsored by members of the Mission Trip team. In addition to individuals and families, we had Churches and even a Sunday School class sponsoring properties, so providing a home for a homeless family is really within reach for everyone to be involved with. Please continue to think and pray about how you or your Church could be a sponsor.



## A New Beginning

The Alpha Project is moving ahead well. The main house for George and Magdalene to move into is about ready. They will provide the counselling care and oversight for the residents of the Alpha Apartments which we now need to build.

Each apartment will cost £10,000 and have 4 young people living there, having been forced to leave Institutional Care (Orphanages) at age 18. The Alpha Project aims to provide shelter and love while the young people learn crucial life skills, find work or obtain further education to give them a better chance in the future. Our aim is to build 4 apartments in the next 12 months and have 16 young people. That's a total building cost of £40,000 and we pray some will respond to help us with this project. Hopefully, Mission Trips next year will be involved with building the apartments.

## Stage 1 Complete - Now for Stage 2

**With stage 1 of the Tileagd Community School virtually finished and operating – we will begin to plan for the second stage of building the purpose built school, nursery and medical centre on land we have already purchased. We purposely secured enough land to also build a Church on the site which we pray will be possible when sufficient funds are raised.**



### Matthew 28 v.19

The Great Commission tells us to 'Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations ...' All our work in Romania is now beginning to bear fruit as many people begin to make commitments to Christ as Lord and Saviour. We now have the responsibility to 'disciple' these people and a Church and Pastor will be a crucial development in the near future.

**Please pray for provision of all these needs.**

# Smiles Capital Campaign

As Smiles continues to respond to the need for more homes for the homeless, a School, Nursery, Clinic, Warehouse and Alpha Apartments, we prayerfully face the challenge of a Capital need in 2004 of £250,000. We need your help.

To help you, help us to help Romania – we have a new initiative called 'Brick Vouchers'.

Some of us can sponsor a House for £3,000, an Alpha Apartment for £10,000 or a School for £100,000 but for many, that feels beyond our means. The Brick Voucher is where everyone can help the £250,000 capital campaign.

A Voucher Book has 100 Brick Vouchers – each needing a minimum of £10 sponsorship. That would be £1,000 per book and we have 250 books to get sponsored by Christmas. That will provide all we need for Capital building next year.



If you can help with getting friends, family and Church members to sponsor a brick for £10 and you believe you have 100 people 'to grab' – contact us immediately and we'll get you a voucher book. Very soon, you'll be providing the bricks we need to build that House, School, Nursery and Clinic. Go on –

**be a  
brick and  
sponsor  
one!**

As you can tell, there are so many needs we have on our plate that we really need your prayerful and practical support at this time. We hope you will attend a Nia concert in your area so as learn more and see through video the work Smiles is involved with. Better still, come on a Mission Trip and see the work first hand!

## Could you become a Smiles Ambassador?



We have a growing team of Smiles Ambassadors around the country who actively promote the work of the Smiles Foundation in their own churches and locality. They are able to introduce, explain and promote the work of the Foundation – our Mission and our Aims encouraging churches and individuals to support Smiles prayerfully and financially. If you would like to know more about the programme, please contact the office and we will be happy to talk with you.

***“It was thrilling to see people of this year’s mission trip coming forward to volunteer as Smiles Ambassadors as God touched their hearts by the great need they saw during their experience in Romania. They were moved to put their hand to work for Christ on their return and I am excited to be working with our “new recruits” over the coming months, but more ambassadors are needed to raise awareness of our work around the world.”***

**Margaret Macgregor**, Smiles Development Associate, UK & Ireland

We need your help with School Sponsorship, Brick Sponsorship, Family Sponsorship and a continuation of support for the Soup Kitchen in Armenia, Feeding project in Honduras and all the other projects detailed in our Smiles Brochure. If you don't have the current brochure, (second edition was published September 2003), then contact us and we'll send you a copy.

We wish we had more room, but do check the web-site for more information on all the projects cared for through the Smiles Foundation.



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