

# SMILES April 2004 Sreport



**Welcome** to the report of the work that God has given us the privilege to be involved with through the Smiles Foundation and in which you are partners with us.

You have received this Report because of your previous interest or support of Nia & The Smiles Foundation and we thank you for all that this has enabled us to do in Romania, Armenia & Honduras. We would ask, however, that if you no longer wish to receive this information, that you contact us so that we can remove you from our mailings and be responsible with our administration costs. If electronic mail would be preferable for you, please be sure to give us your current e-mail address.

April 2004 was a significant point to reach for the Smiles Foundation. Since incorporation, we had operated under the auspices and relative protection of Nia's International Music Ministry and April was the date of Nia's semi-retirement from music ministry with her upcoming marriage in June this year. We were now largely "on our own" with the previous support given for administration, promotion and staffing greatly reduced.



In preparation of such a major change, our Chief Executive – Kevin Hoy – had made approaches to expand the Board of Trustees so as to broaden the accessible advice and support for the Charity. Thrilled with the response, we are delighted to now have 6 Americans and 5 Europeans on the Board, plus a new Secretary to the Board, Beth Lyon – a solicitor working in Leicester, England.

**The Board now comprises; In Europe:** the founders Kevin Hoy and Nia Jones plus Peter Little and Joe Hyland from Belfast (NI) and Mircea Toca, our team coordinator in Romania.

**In America:** where the Smiles Foundation operates within Global Music Ministries, Mark & Sheryl Jones (AZ) Greg Wright (WA) Wes Patten & Larry Wilson (TN) and Rev Dr. Scott Suskovic (NC).

With all the challenges facing Smiles this year, we ask you to pray for the Board of Trustees, that they will have wisdom and discernment in helping to guide and control the continuing amazing developments Smiles has produced in such a short time. For all that Kevin and Nia have done to establish and pioneer the ministry we thank them. We pray Nia's future life will be as successful and blessed as her ministry has been and we pray for Kevin, in his very demanding role as Chief Executive of such a fast growing Charity.

**Nia is** committed to doing two tours a year for the next 2 years at least. So our major UK Concert tour will be September/October each year and February/March in America. We are currently planning this September/October in UK when we also have the first ever visit of the Tileagd Community School choir who will join Nia for some of her tour. Don't miss this special opportunity to see the Gypsy children of Tileagd singing with Nia and their own special pieces along with testimonies of life since Smiles got involved. If you would like your Church to host a concert please contact us immediately to discuss options.

The 2005 American tour will also start to be scheduled soon, so again – let us know your interest and we'll be pleased to count you in. Nia's concerts are always a major encouragement, inspiration and challenge for World Missions.

“ My 17 years in full-time ministry has been an experience and blessing beyond my wildest dreams. Some of the most memorable moments of my life have been during Mission Trips developing and fulfilling the work of Smiles. Although I'll be doing less concerts, I will be continuing to pray and give financial support to Smiles. Please join me in continuing to support this great work of God. ”

**Nia**





**With Kevin** spending less time on the road for concerts, he is already scheduled to be in Romania nearly 5 months this year. The work is growing rapidly as the charity attempts to meet the needs of the poor, sick and often forgotten people of the former communist state. Much of those 5 months in Romania is spent leading Mission Trips. Last year 173 people joined Smiles Mission Trips and the testimonies and impact of those trips is astonishing.

One has already taken place this year when 13 people visited Romania in early April. On June 12th we begin the first of 5 trips this summer with over 120 people joining us for Construction projects, Medical help, Social work, Delivery of Food, Children's work including Summer Bible School and a fun programme of Crafts, Art and Sports based at our own Tileagd Community School.

There are still places available so don't delay any longer. Flights are available for as little as £120 and trips of 7, 10 & 12 days in Romania begin at £473 per person all inclusive. This is an experience to change your life. Just a few days devoted to serving others and you'll never be the same again. Call us today and check the options for joining us in Romania. You'll never regret it.

“ Kevin – Thank you, we are forever changed because of Smiles – In His love, Alan & Carrie, Phoenix AZ ”



The past 6 months has seen the new **Smiles Mission Centre** being built at our Operations Centre in Cihei, a 54 bed facility with dining facilities, recreation room and conference area. All our Mission trips stay at this facility which is also available for independent groups to rent for Retreats, Youth work, Conferences and Mission trips arranged outside of Smiles. If your Church, School or Organisation would be interested, contact us for further details.

Many on the 2003 Mission teams helped work on the Cihei centre. It was finally finished at Christmas and the staff moved into their new offices in January and are thrilled with the facilities. The apartment above the offices is used by Foundation staff; Dr Ema Buzle, Maria Cimpoaca and the third bedroom awaits the arrival of Sarah Urwin who moves to Romania this summer to take up the position of Field Rep for Smiles with particular responsibilities during Mission trips and contact between our supported families and their sponsors.

In April 2002, we had 6 families supported as and when possible with food. These initial families were met during a small Mission trip of 12 British supporters. Having seen the need, our target was to support 80 families by September 2002. Now, 190 families receive food packages every month to help feed their children as economic difficulties make life extremely hard for the parents.

The impact on families who receive assistance in this way from The Smiles Foundation gives many heart-warming stories, but one mother recently told Mircea of her son's new ambition :-

“ He would like to work for Smiles and deliver food to the poor people like you do. ”

**We currently have 35** families with no sponsor at all and we pray that monthly support will be found for them very soon. The basic cost of the food package is £20 a month but as inflation puts pressure on the amount of food it can buy plus the medical cost of providing treatment for the sick within the families, we need to double up sponsors so as to have £40 a month to meet the needs of the families more effectively and meaningfully.

If you currently support a family and can increase the support please let us know. If you want to begin supporting a family, send the bank standing order form for £20 minimum so we can first have every family supported and then improve the level of support, especially to the larger families.





**Dr Ema Buzle** joined the Foundation full-time a year ago and the challenge has been demanding, both physically and mentally.

Ema has done a wonderful job meeting the medical needs and sharing God's love to the sick and often the dying. Our concern for her own health under the strain of serving the medical needs of 1,000 people has led us to employ an

additional doctor from April '04. Dr Claudia Micula has been qualified for 2 years – is a good friend of Ema's with a similar heart for the poor. We have stepped out in faith with this appointment and trust for the annual costs of each doctor for salary, transport and expenses totalling £15,000 each to be covered by support of individual gifts or monthly sponsorship towards the Medical project.



In May, we have 2 graduations within the Smiles Romanian team. Sami Pripon graduates from Oradea State University as a Social worker and will continue his great contribution to the Social Assistance Smiles offers our families.

**Sami - What are your hopes and dreams?**

“ I would like to see all the families have a good social balance, be able to support their family financially. In families that are not Christian, I have another vision – to show them love, the love that God has showed all of us. ”



**Also in May**, Maria Cimpoca – Kevin's PA in Romania and Director of Operations, graduates from Emmanuel University with a degree in International Management.

We are proud of both Sami and Maria and thank God for them. We are delighted they can soon look forward to 100% concentration on Smiles work for the future!

**The School in Tileagd** continues to be the pride of the city as the Mayor, Councillors and residents realise the enormous difference the School has made to the community, particularly the relationships between Romanian and Gypsy.

Children from 6 -14 who couldn't read or write are now producing work of the highest calibre and we are so proud of them. At Christmas and Easter the entire school gave presentations to visiting Mission trips and not a dry eye could be found in the house! The children continue to need sponsorship at £35 a month. In September, we will have new children wanting to come to school and a sponsor is needed for each one. If you can help personally or as a School, Club, Group whether at Church or Work, complete the sponsor form now and give a child the opportunity to fulfil their potential.



At Tileagd Community School, we don't just provide professional education in the essentials of reading, writing and maths – but as a private Christian Foundation – we teach about life, the life God intended for us and about a God who loves us. We pray the children will leave TCS better educated to provide better hope for the future, but more important is that they leave knowing Christ died for them and offers Eternal life for them as Real Hope for the future. Please help us in our Mission.

**Mission Trip Dates to Romania 2004**

12th June - 24th June • 26th June - 3rd July • 3rd July - 16th July • 24th July - 5th August  
30th October - 11th November • 12th December - 19th December

**Option of 7, 10 or 12 Days**

**WILL YOU JOIN US?**



**Meda & Yuri's story:** A young gypsy boy, by the name of Victor, was begging in a subway in Oradea back in April 2002, the meeting brought about a pizza dinner with Kevin and the Smiles team and events which could only have then been dreamed of. Following further visits to Romania, another meeting with Victor, his family and the Gypsy Village in Tileagd where

they were living, led to many things including the founding of the Tileagd Community School which opened in September 2003. For the first time, children of the village, who had previously not been able to receive any education, were attending school. But then, the ultimate reason for Smiles' very existence... January 2004... Victor's parents, leaders of the gypsy village, came to personally know the Saviour and made a public confession of faith. Please pray with us for this special family and the very difficult situations in which they are living, as they look to lead the Gypsy Village and come to terms with their new found faith.

**Bratca Hospital** is a Special place for Smiles. We have supported the patients who are long term residents of this orphanage style psychiatric hospital for nearly 2 years now. The changes in the quality of life for these patients has to be seen to be believed which it is by every Smiles Mission trip who are the only visitors to ever take time to travel to Bratca and share God's love and compassion with such sick young people.

Each year, Smiles commit to supplying Bratca with £6,000 of food / £3,000 of wood for fuel / £600 towards the costs of a visiting specialist doctor and other repair and maintenance costs for bathrooms and toilets. A basic minimum budget of £10,000 and if you can help with these costs, please support today.



**Smiles** is extensively involved with Building projects and residential housing. The increasing number of families facing eviction is alarming and even with 25 residential properties having been sponsored, we are finding it difficult to meet all the needs. Families are living on the streets and there is no social welfare programme to help.

Kevin has just returned from 3 weeks in Romania during which time two families needed housing due to eviction. Our Mission team were involved in re-housing one of the families. Only this morning he received another call from Romania about a mother, father and young child needing housing having spent the night at the railway station. They had been evicted earlier that day. We are urgently trying to raise funds

for an Emergency Housing Unit (EHU) to care for such families who come to us already evicted. The cost has been £2,500 to purchase the land and now £11,500 for stage one of the building.

**We also** need additional houses to be sponsored at an average cost of £3,000 each plus renovation costs. Then we will move families from our EHU once they are stabilised and properly assessed for the best location and placement. This is an urgent area of need to be met so that fewer families spend nights at the railway station or in an animal barn as another family did 2 weeks ago until Smiles moved them into one of our sponsored houses.



**Adriana and Mihai Ciopasiu** have also now joined Smiles to head up the Outreach project in the village of Gepiu. They will work with the young people of the village aged 11 years and up. Many of these children stop attending school at 11 as there is no High School in the village and parents can't afford to send them to the city to finish their education.

Adriana and Mihai will provide education for life – both practically in working the land for vegetables and creatively with crafts that can be sold to help provide a living. They will also educate for life through the Gospel. Adriana is a theology graduate and her husband Mihai an accountant. Both have dedicated their lives to God's work among the poorest of families in Gepiu. The first year costs will be operating expenses of £6,500 and the building of a Day Centre budgeted at £24,500 which will be essential for working with the children. If you can help, please use the enclosed form for your gift.

Our newest project is the opening of a **Nursery and Pre-school in Tileagd** which we hope to do in September, subject to funding. The building and land is available to purchase at £16,500 and building renovations and additions of a bathroom block will cost a further £12,500. This is a tremendously important community need in Tileagd and we pray there will be support to enable us to purchase, build and operate a facility for 0-5 year olds this September.

If you want further information on any specific aspects of the projects please contact us. Otherwise please rally support locally, be creative in fund-raising ideas and help us continue changing lives, making Smiles for those in great need.

Longer term projects for which we are still raising support is the **Alpha project and new School and Medical Clinic in Tileagd**. The Alpha project will provide care for post-institutionalised young people, forced to leave State orphanages at 18 years old. Each housing unit with 4 young people will cost £10,000 to build. Our initial aim was to build 4 units and home 16 young people.

The new school building and medical clinic now has full plans drawn and initial budgets are in the region of £400,000. We need £100,000 banked to begin building and currently we are £30,000 towards it. We need lots of people, schools and companies to support the effort and help us raise the £100,000 needed to begin 'breaking ground' and providing the beacon of light for Christian Education and Service in Tileagd, Romania.



## The Smiles Foundation "Wish List" – Can You Help?

Please pray with us for God's provision of the items that the projects have requested. If you can help with all or part of a request, please let us know.

### School Wish List

Outside Play Equipment (slides, climbing frames etc + soft landing areas)	£2500	Large 7m Parachute	£150
Computer + printer for each classroom (3)	£3000	Games Equipment (Football nets, netball/basketball posts, rounders, padder tennis, +balls of various sizes)	£1000
Storage facilities (Bookcases, lockers, cabinets)	£1500	Secure Outside Store (Large shed/garage size)	£1000

### Nursery Wish List

Outside Play Equipment (8 section Wormy tunnel, Little Tikes Playground)	£500	Giant abacus x 2	£180
Wooden playcube	£300	Noah's Ark	£65
Little Tikes classroom offer (Playhouse, Slide, Sand/water table, Activity gym, car + free kitchen!)	£320	Mural Max Colorado Set	£90
		3.5m Parachute	£70

### Therapy Project

<b>Play Leader:</b>		3 team members x £400	£1200
Annual salary	£2200	Trainee therapists attending professional conference: 2 x £350	£700
Romanian books and games (one-off)	£100	Equipping play therapy and counselling rooms at Phase II school	£500
Toys, books and paper to give away (annual cost)	£100	Equipping mountain retreat centre to provide breaks for children and young people	£6000
Therapy training and supervision each year:			

### Family

<b>Pobai family from Apateu</b> Father is sick with heart problems, so has to retire. Needs help to finish work on the house. <b>Cost £400</b>	<b>Ardelean family from Nojorid</b> Bought furniture with Bank loan. Now both parents are sick and not working so can't pay the loan. Need £20 a month repayment help or pay off the loan. <b>Cost £180</b>
<b>Hanza family from Giris</b> 6 members in the family – very poor. Started room addition on their house 3 years ago. Still need materials to finish the job. <b>Cost £350</b>	<b>Burlo family from Darnisaora</b> Eldest daughter wants to work in the city as no employment in her village. Can't afford transport or clothes for work until salary received. Needs some initial help. Either £20 a month for 5 months or one gift of £100

### Medical

Kolman family – Stomathologic treatment - £340	Santai family – Ophtanologic Control - £25
Barbos family – Glasses - £15	Coma family - Prothesis for Ear treatment - £220
	Mut family – Blood tests - £45

Tools for the Job - **Bricks** - Sacks - **Books** - CDs  
 Last year we launched the Brick Books for people to help us with raising funds for our Building Campaign. Our target is £250,000 and so far £50,000 has been raised. If you have a Brick Book – please continue working hard to get the bricks sponsored and send us the funds regularly to help towards the projects detailed here. If people ask you why they should sponsor a brick – give them a copy of this report, then see if they will support with a £10 donation. You may find they do a lot more!

If you would like a Brick Book to help with our Capital Fund-Raising – give a call.



**With Nia's** reduced concert work, we would like to make available CD's and Cassettes for you to sell at Church to specifically raise funds for a Smiles project of your choice. All the profit will benefit Smiles 100%.



If you think you can help with just a minimal pack to sell in your Church, contact us for details.

We have 3 new promotional resources to explain briefly, but complete details will follow in the next couple of months.

**At Christmas**, we want to give every child supported by Smiles a Sack of Gifts along with the message of Christmas in their language. Each 'Sack of Smiles' will



be packed in Romania and delivered before Christmas by our Romanian team and by Mission trippers in December. Contents will include winter clothes, school supplies, toys and some sweets of course and each sack filled can be sponsored for £30.

After Christmas you will receive a picture of your sack being delivered to your nominated child. Either sponsor a 'Sack of Smiles' now or ask us for further details.

**Roger Day** attended his first Smiles Mission trip last Christmas. He and his wife Christine have already been back for a second trip in April. Roger has also written a book of his experience and is donating all the proceeds from selling the book to Smiles Projects. Due to be published in June, please order a copy or more to sell locally and we can enjoy raising funds for important projects.



Also in June we will be publishing booklets of 'Making Smiles'. These will be books of 25 smiling faces from our Tileagd School and Gypsy community. Each book will have 25 photo's to be sponsored @ £1 each. You can buy a book for a £1 – get the children sponsored and send Smiles £25 for each book. We're producing 3,000 books in the hope of raising £75,000 towards the new School equipping costs.

Order your resources now and enjoy raising funds to both make Smiles and give Hope for the future.

We appreciate so much your support for the work. The gifts we receive every day whether £5 or £5,000 are humbling to us who strive each day to serve God in this area of the world. Every gift is crucially important to continue the work and please be assured no gift is ever taken for granted and every penny spent is done so with care and consideration to the sacrifice made by you the donor. Please continue to do all you can in personal support and in raising awareness locally that others might join our effort in reaching the poor and sick for Christ. 'They will know we are Christians by our Love'.

**Thank you for sharing your love with so many.  
 Keep in touch with us.**

**The Smiles Foundation**

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