



Newsletter 2017

Dear Friends,

Once again, our newsletter has been written entirely in Romania by the staff of our sister charity "A New Life Foundation" (Fundatăia O Nouă Viață), usually just abbreviated to "ONV". The only input we have had is to translate and format it for printing here.

Thanks to the sale of the farm at the end of 2015 together with substantial legacy income here in the UK, we are happy to report that charity is in a good financial position, and with your continuing help our work for at least the next ten years is assured. The construction of the new day centre – entirely funded from donations made in the UK – shows our level of commitment to the future.

Our partnership with the local authorities is increasing, and whilst this involves many hours of negotiation, patience and compromise, we are confident that this will only get better in the future.

Fundraising in Romania continues to be a priority, and we are looking forward to some exciting events this year, including an opera gala in Bucharest.

We would like to wish all our supporters a happy, peaceful and successful 2017.

The Romanian Challenge Appeal Trustees

Sally, Bill & Nigel



"A New Life" Foundation – Annual Report for year ending December 31st 2016

From the very beginning, the Foundation has had a goal of transforming the lives of its disadvantaged beneficiaries, together with support of people at risk in the wider community. 2016 was no different.

We offered smiles, joy and the fulfillment of dreams, as we exist because of those dreams and the things we have done through them.

We also continued in 2016 with the annual program we started way back in 1997 with such wonderful results – and we have initiated yet more new projects.



2016

- Foundation O Nouă Viață gained a further official license, this time for houses for people requiring a minimum of protection – LF/0005168
- A provisional license was granted for 1 year for the new day centre.
- A completely new building was constructed for our vocational day centre.
- We signed a contract of collaboration with the Bethany foundation to work together on "Integrated solutions for the social inclusion of children and young people with disabilities"
- A new project in partnership with the local "Petru Mușat" secondary school "Educational support for failing pupils"
- Installation of new central heating boilers at Casa Emmanuel.
- Continued with the volunteer program with both local and foreign volunteers.
- Community support through the outreach program
- Fundraising with the sponsored walk in September
- The march " Every which way is normal" organised on the occasion of the international day of the disabled.
- Lobbying and advocacy for the Foundation's beneficiaries



The 4th Annual Sponsored Walk for “O NOUĂ VIAȚĂ”

This year, the walk was held exclusively in support of our house Casa Emmanuel which is part of our long term cooperation with the Belgian charity "Blijdorp". The house was built in 2002 and is used by the local authority in Suceava for the care of 17 children with very severe mental and physical handicaps, as well as providing respite care for families with children with severe problems.

We started from in front of Emmanuel house, and the route took us through the countryside by the village of Moara, eventually reaching the ancient Hagadir monastery.

The walk was set in motion by the president of the Foundation, Nigel Squibb, who came over from England specially for the event.

About 200 people took part in the event, coming from every walk of life, and we wish to take them all for their solidarity and the spirit of camaraderie they gave on the day. Some €12,000 was raised, all of which will be spent on Emmanuel house.



“We are not able to change the entire world but we are able to change the world of some people, and that is our desire“

“Sponsored Walk for O NOUĂ VIAȚĂ”,
was supported once again this year by
the Suceava Chamber of Industry and
Commerce, together with the Suceava
Monitor newspaper and the Mayor's
offices of Moara and Siret

Together with us there were representatives
from just about everywhere in the country –
some people had come considerable
distances to be with us - commercial
companies, public institutions, private
individuals, pupils and teachers from the
Petru Musat school and the Latcu Voda
technical college in Siret , beneficiaries from
the psychiatric hospital in Siret, together
with people with disabilities cared for by the
Foundation.

We thank all the sponsors and donors who
responded so positively to our invitation and
through whose generosity have made
possible this event and the on-going
activities of the Foundation at Casa
Emmanuel.



Vocational and Social Day Centre

Since 2008 this project has supported the social inclusion of adults with mental health problems. These people are profoundly affected by changes in legislation and the attitude of people in the wider community caused by ignorance and lack of knowledge about mental health together with government prioritisation of other pressing issues.

The activities of the day centre are orientated towards the integration of the beneficiaries into a level of life appropriate to the community of which they are part.

In the year 2015-16, following the farm sale, the centre relocated temporarily to the parish hall of the Siret Catholic church, operating there on a provisional local government licence.

During this time, the Foundation has constructed a new purpose built centre which will be inaugurated in February 2017.



- The day centre supplies a whole raft of services, individually tailored to the needs of the beneficiaries. Our workshops cover such things as :
- Counselling and personal development
- Development of physical skills
- Gardening and cooking
- Vocational counselling
- Artistic activities (music / painting)
- Counselling to reduce risky behaviour (alcohol, drugs, begging)
- Social activities (Shopping / socialising / walks)
- Sexual education and birth control
- Informational activities (Lectures / Magazines / Books / Crosswords)
- Physical activities (Excursions / rambling)



Holidays and Free Time

We all enjoy a well merited holiday at the seaside or in the mountains!

Other activities include excursions and in Suceava county as well as rambling in the countryside around Siret.

Summer sees us in the swimming pool, winter the skating rink. Whether rambling or simply going for a walk, free time is so important for relaxing or socialising.



COMMUNITY PROGRAM

The community program was started way back in 2003 in collaboration with the Siret Mayor's office. It is designed to support vulnerable people and their children within the community.

DROP-IN PROGRAM

Since January 2003, under the auspices of the O Noua Viata Foundation, we have supported a group of adults aged between 23 and 35, all originally from the Psychiatric Hospital for Children in Siret (Spitalul de Copii Neuropsihici Siret)

The Foundation organises monthly meetings, offers medical and legal support as well as help with finding work and a place to live.

Links with Official Bodies

Siret Couty Council

General Direction of Welfare and Protection of Children

Partnership Agreement “ Blijdorps – O Noua Viata ”

Suceava – Emmanuel House

Partnership Agreement “O Noua Viata” Siret (Our houses in Siret, excluding Neptune House)

Chronic Psychiatric Hospital Siret

Donation Contract allowing free use of Neptune House, Siret

Program of activities for residents in Neptune House

Neptune House residents involved in activities at the vocational day centre.

Siret Mayor's Office

Official partnership with the activities of the Foundation

Collaboration to identify and support people requiring care services in the town.

Support of the Foundation's drop-in program

LATCU VODA Technical College SIRET

Collaboration in diverse social programs

PETRU MUSAT General School SIRET

Participation with the Foundation on educational, social and community projects.





Volunteers and Visitors

BRUCE VAUGHN

Once again, Bruce came together with his family for a whole month to support the Foundation's gardening and horticultural programs. Beneficiaries were invited to work in the polytunnels with vegetables and flowers. Bruce also took them on some local excursions. Bruce – many thanks indeed!

IAN and PAULINE SWANCOTT

Volunteers from many years ago, Ian and Pauline visited us this year.

ROMANIAN VOLUNTEERS

We were delighted to welcome local volunteers who came to help with our programs.



3 DECEMBER 2016

International Day of the Disabled



The march "Every which way is Normal".

This is the fifth such march in Siret to mark the International day of the Disabled. The march route took us past the Catholic church, the Mayor's office, to the roundabout by the police station, along the esplanade "House of Culture".

The purpose of the march is to raise public awareness of people with disabilities in order to prevent their exclusion and marginalisation from society, and to promote acceptance and integration.

We thank the more than 200 people who took part with us, including representatives from the Petru Muşat general school, the Laţcu Voda technical college, the Mayor's office, the Chronic Psychiatric hospital in Siret, the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches, , The Alma Mater/ Amadeus complex in Siret , The "School for life" Foundation in Siret, other Foundations and members of the public.



We would like to thank from the bottom of our hearts all our supporters, donors, volunteers, and everyone else who has helped us during the year.

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