



AGENTS OF CHANGE

NEWSLETTER: 014

Winter 2018

WE CAN NOT THANK YOU ENOUGH...

The charity has been working in Romania since 1990. Our mission is to help those suffering mental and physical disabilities and psychiatric conditions who live in the remote County of Botosani, Romania. Each year we make life more bearable for many of the people who live in depressing state institutions where care is minimal. We also support those in the community who often have multiple un-met needs. We concentrate on developing our patients' life skills in an environment of acceptance, kindness, respect, safety, and share good food and warmth. We believe we make a real difference to the quality of their lives. The charity costs £100,000 a year to maintain in all its aspects with up to one thousand beneficiaries. If you would like more detailed information about how we spend this money, and also about our work, history and philosophy please ask us.

Alison Butcher

MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY IN ROMANIA

Our emphasis is as ever on this vital work. However we have developed new strategies, whereby the majority of what we do is now based in the isolated health institutions where “care” is not an understood word. Each day of the week our Romanian trained

staff go to visit these locked-in “hospitals and rehabilitation centres”. We provide activities, especially music and singing and dancing. This is most popular as one staff member, Larisa Onciu leads the music as she is a professional singer and has won awards all over Eastern Europe for her traditional interpretations of popular folk songs. This is even more remarkable as she was born blind. Her other skills are that she is a qualified nurse with a specialism of physiotherapy, balneotherapy and massage – all very popular with our beneficiaries.

Art programmes are also carried out in the places where we work, such as painting, artificial flower making, hand loom work, and other crafts. Without our input these creative events would not take place. There are no budgets for the development of the beneficiaries unless we provide everything through your most generous donations.



Two ‘street girls’ sharing a coffee with us.

The distances are often great to get to these places, some being one hundred kilometres from our base in Podriga. It is worth the travel in our two seven-seat cars which with fuel need a total of £5,000 to run each year. A large need with increasing costs, especially for maintenance and petrol.

However when the weather and time of year is clement we take beneficiaries out on picnics and walks in the beautiful countryside, and visits to the lakes, churches, and monasteries.