



COMMUNITY ACTION ROMANIA

Newsletter April 2022

Dear friends

Since our last newsletter we have had several online meetings organised for you with Danny and Sarah in Romania and I hope you have been able to join us.

In this letter I want to cover both a formal report on the last year but also bring you up to date with the latest actions the team are taking not only in keeping the normal activities going but now, in addition, in supporting the Ukrainian refugees.

First the report on 2021

Regrettably, because of travel restrictions under Covid-19 only one visit to Romania was undertaken by trustees, but regular communication was maintained via WhatsApp and zoom to encourage, support, and observe our counterparts (PCR). The Romanian team also attended the three trustee meetings via Zoom to formally report on progress. In addition we invited supporters to informal meetings with the team via Zoom

2021 continued to be a very trying year significantly impacted by covid restrictions both here in the UK and in Romania. Sadly, the last year has seen several deaths in the village and Covid restrictions (like here) has seen the schools closed for significant periods and frequent curfews with no travel allowed other than to shops. Even then, if travelling out of the village, you needed to supply the route, timings, and shops you would visit to the police and get authorisation. Thankfully, this eased a little towards the end of 2021

The church has been able to reconvene in the latter part of the year

All things considered, it is remarkable what was achieved given the circumstances:

- One of the richest blessings of the past year was the purchase of the minibus for the work and church. This has made such a difference at bringing some of the elderly and infirm into the church and family gatherings (when allowed). For one lady who had been house bound for three years there were many tears of joy as she was able to travel in the minibus to go to church. In addition, the ability to transport the food relief to the remote families and support youth outreach has really been outstanding.
- We have been able to organise for Danny to be put on a formal contract in Romania working for Pro Community Romania (our sister charity) thus ensuring he is covered for taxes, health insurance and pension contributions. A special thanks to all those that have made donations to make this possible
- One of the consequences of the church not being able to meet physically has been the further development of the technology and equipment in the church to be able to broadcast their services through Facebook. This continues and can be seen at 8:30 every Sunday morning, frequently with Danny and Sarah leading and now with Tobi on drums and Ella on bass. [biserica betania carand - search results | Facebook](#). They are regularly getting over 300 people on line and their Christmas service, even though they met in church, had nearly 1000 views.

Greetings and thanks from Danny and Sarah





- Despite travel restrictions the team has provided food aid and compassion to over 34 families each month. A hot meals service is also provided on an informal basis to a few local people in need, a few days each week.
- Using the tractor and funding from the charity we were able to supply wood to the church and several families in need. This is however becoming more difficult as the political situation in Romania essentially means you can only collect a small amount of wood per person each year, this makes it hard for Dani to bring for himself and for others. The charity is working with Danny and Sarah and local officials to see if dispensation can be granted for charitable purposes.
- The 4X4 Jimny continues to be an asset, frequently having to assist people stuck in the forest or where there has been an accident in recovering cars from ditches.
- Contributions continue for medical expenses to those in need.
- At the beginning of the school year, we provided the school manuals that the children needed to be able to do their learning more efficiently.
- While it was not possible to undertake a Christmas meal for the isolated and poor in the community due to Covid, extra food was provided to each family plus their annual Christmas gift, and together with the youth of the church gave and delivered presents to all the children of the village on Christmas eve.
- Provision of a benevolent fund for use of the team in Romania in emergency situations to provide essential aid. Frequently the team last year faced urgent medical requests and on occasions were called upon to transport people needing to reach hospital or doctors. We also helped with funeral costs of a family who suddenly lost their mother and were struggling to handle the costly process.
- Direct support to fund Pastor Daniel, Vetuta, Danny and Sarah to be able to support the church and community full time.
- We also provided the church with a multifunctional printer to help the charity and church with printing ability rather than having to pay someone every time printing is needed.

Developments in 2022

With a border over 600 Kilometres with the Ukraine, Romania is seeing first hand the trauma being experienced by refugees. Community Action Romania, working through Danny and Sarah, have been able to supply aid direct into hospitals and churches in the Ukraine.

As here, the cost of living has sky rocketed and while we have seen some price increases in the UK the rises have been shocking in Romania. Petrol for example is double the price it was 6 weeks ago.

Over the last 8 weeks Danny and Sarah have organised four trips of aid to Ukraine via Alba Ulia, supplying:

- Antibiotics
- Asthma inhalers
- Insulin
- Iron tablets
- Vitamins
- Pain relief
- Saline solution
- Antiseptic
- First aid kits
- Personal hygiene



- Food
- Clothing
- Toys for children
- Sanitary towels
- Incontinence pads
- Dental hygiene



Fortunately Lynn and I were able to visit Danny and Sarah in March and help them with one of their aid trips. They are working with other churches (in Alba Ulia) where aid is consolidated and then shipped in convoy into the Ukraine. From left to right – Me, Lynn, Florin, Danny, Sarah and Sam with Alex (Danny’s sister behind the camera)



If you have missed some of the videos of Ukraine support please visit our dedicated page on the website [Romania support for Ukraine | home \(comactrom.com\)](http://Romania support for Ukraine | home (comactrom.com)) . ***We are still actively collecting donations to support the work with Ukraine and would really value your continuing contributions.***

We are only able to continue this work thanks to our partners Pro Community Romania and their unfailing efforts.

We are always thankful for our sponsors and donors, many of whom have supported the charity over many years. While it seems harder for us to raise funds our small charity continues to be blessed.

For more information do visit our website www.communityactionromania.co.uk and stay in touch via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/200681983374737>

Alternatively contact us for more information on email comactrom@gmail.com or one of the UK team. We can forward your email from the above address to any of the trustees.

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