

heart response



... responding to the cry of the orphan and the widow

Newsletter 2 /Spring 2014

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'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this, to look after orphans and widows in their distress..'(James 1:27)

Note from the Secretary

First I want to personally thank everyone who has donated to Heart Response so far, it seems that we have come a long way in a short time, and this is down to the commitment of supporters and of course God guiding us and providing for us.

But it is still early days and I hope and pray that we can continue to grow so much more and help so many more people. Heart Response has only just burst out from its seed and if we want to keep growing we need to place our roots deep in Christ, and we need you to pray for God to guide us. This is true in our own lives as well, we must remember to keep coming back to God in prayer and worship in every circumstance of life, planting our roots in Him and asking for His guidance in everything for He has big plans for each and every one of us.

Every big tree was once a small seed, it just needs the right nurture to grow, when we place our lives in Christ's hands we will be like trees planted by the stream, growing and serving where God wants us to serve. We have already seen God at work in events we've held and the amazing response we have had to them, and it is so exciting to think that He has plans for Heart Response, plans that will make a difference now and for eternity. And that is true for each of us as well. God has created you for a purpose, for a special role that only you can do. So dig deep, reach out to God and cherish your relationship with Him first and foremost and He will not let you down.
peace and love, Jo x

Charity Mission Statement

Heart Response is a Christian charity set up to follow Jesus' example of selfless love and support marginalised women and children.

Heart Response aims to respond practically, financially and prayerfully to Christian ministries, primarily in Romania, serving the needs of desperate women and children in their society.

Heart Response seeks to raise awareness of the people and projects they support, highlighting the difficulties, but also sharing stories of hope and encouragement.

Good Samaritan Church

This charity currently supports the ministries of the Good Samaritan Church in Ocna Mures, Romania. These include Sanctuary Orphanage, Gypsy children feeding programmes and work with women in local prisons.

Visit

Natasha Lillington and Tish Robberts visited Ocna Mures at the end of November. They stayed for just over a week and had an amazing experience spending time with the children at the orphanage and also visiting the feeding programmes. They had the privilege of taking a suitcase full of Christmas presents for the children donated by the very generous people of Dorchester.



Help fill a Suitcase Campaign

A big thank you to everyone who donated to our suitcase appeal, we not only filled the suitcase but also sent nine boxes of gifts to Sanctuary Orphanage. When the boxes safely arrived in Romania, the children had an English tea party and were each given a present as a special treat. Other gifts were saved for Christmas, to give to both the children in the orphanage and those on the feeding programme.



Hampers for Widows

Recently donated money has been used to buy food hampers for 27 widows in and around Ocna Mures, helping them through the winter. These are women who struggle every month, having to decide whether to spend money on food, medicine or bills so these hampers made a big difference, and they were all very grateful.



The following message was sent from Mimi Gatea, who oversees the work with women in and around the area of Ocna Mures:

"We are so happy to let you know about the great joy and a big smile you put on our widows from the all three churches . They were amazed and overwhelmed by your generosity! Let me tell you, because of your giving hearts these women had food on their table for Christmas time and for the days after!! These women have little money every month , money that almost all of them spend on medicine, or they have to decide between medicine, bills or food . Most of the time they have very little to eat. I am telling you all this just to let you know how happy you make them and how grateful they are for what you did for them. Thank you and may God bless you all."

Quiz

John Sisson's quiz (How well do you know Dorchester?) sold at Dorchester Tourist Information Centre raised £268 – thank you to everyone who took part. We are spending this money on postage for the next batch of parcels.

Fundraising Events

Coffee Morning

Saturday 26th April 11am – 1pm
Stratton Village Hall

Quiz Night

Monday 28th April 7.30pm onwards
Durnovaria Wine Bar, Dorchester

Hula Hopping Taster Session

Saturday 3rd May 11am – 1pm TBC
Weymouth

If you would like to hold a fundraising event on behalf of 'heart response' please do get in touch – We would love to hear from you!

Special Thank Yous

Thanks to all those who have donated clothes, toys, shoes etc. Without your donations sending parcels wouldn't be possible.

Thank you to everyone who has hosted a talk – it's been great to have the opportunity to explain about the charity and meet so many lovely people in the process.



Prayer Requests

Please pray for the different ministries of the Good Samaritan Church, especially the orphanage and feeding programmes. Please pray that God provides for them and that they continue to trust in Him.

Please remember the workers involved in these ministries, who work extremely hard. Pray for energy and strength for each one.

Please pray for vulnerable women in and around the area of Ocna Mures. So many women live in extremely poor conditions. Some are trying to raise children alone because husbands have died or are in prison and others are much older and are not in good health with no NHS to support them.

Please pray for the new projects in woodwork, mechanics and sewing that have been set up to teach the children skills for work.

Please pray for 'heart response', that all the work we do would be for the Lord and that it would always be for His glory. Pray that we would be led by Him with regard to the work that needs doing and that He would clearly show us the way forward.

Become a 'Friend of heart response'

If you would like to receive regular information about heart response and get involved with fundraising or donating you can become an official 'Friend of heart response'. Please contact us for more details.