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heart response



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

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

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter 2020

We trust this newsletter finds you all safe and well following another eventful few months as we continue to face the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our lives. We hope you enjoy reading this update, hearing how we were able to help and encourage our friends in Romania at this difficult time, and our plans to continue reaching out and supporting the widows, orphans and gypsy communities that so desperately need our support.

Pause for Thought

I love this quote by Mary Kay Ash

"Aerodynamically, the bumble bee shouldn't be able to fly, but the bumble bee doesn't know it so it goes on flying anyway."

How many times have you felt you would like to do something with your life, but have listened to the negative views of those around you? I wonder what we would be able to achieve in life if we ignored those negative voices. So let us do what we were born to do and not what people say is possible. If you feel called to do something follow the example of the humble bumble bee and just do it!

**Thank you for your continued support allowing Heart Response to reach more and more vulnerable people in Romania.
May God Bless You.**

Good Samaritan Church

We support the ministries of the Good Samaritan Church in Ocna Mures, Romania. The Good Samaritan church run Sanctuary Orphanage, gypsy children feeding programmes and work with poor widows and women in local prisons.

Finding Hope Ministries

We also support Finding Hope Ministries based in Sibiu, Romania. They work closely with gypsy communities in the area and also run four children's homes, three in Romania and one in Moldova.

Charity Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Heart Response has been unable to organise our usual fund-raising events. Without those of you who opted to support us through a monthly standing order we would not have been able to respond to the emergency need of those we support in Romania. We would like to say a huge thank you, you are such a blessing. With our Christmas Appeal season fast approaching we have been reviewing how we can raise some funds for this. So far we have come up with various ideas such as an on-line quiz, a sponsored walk that you can undertake in your own time, a grand prize draw, and a Christmas Gift Catalogue where you can choose what you want to support. We will be sending out further information about this via email very soon.

Food Drops for Gypsy Communities

As lockdown came into force in Romania, Heart Response were able to respond to appeals for help from The Good Samaritan Church in Ocna Mures, and Finding Hope Ministries in Sibiu. Both were desperate to support the poverty stricken communities they work with whose ability to source food had become very difficult due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial support from Heart Response in April meant both missions were able to distribute food to the most vulnerable in the poorer communities in their areas. Thank you for your continued support of Heart Response which ensures emergency responses like this are possible. Please see below how our funds made a real difference in the lives of these people.

Good Samaritan Church, Ocna Mures



Finding Hope Ministries, Sibiu



News from The Good Samaritan Church - Ocna Mures

We have had a recent update from the team in Romania.

"From this week we are able to go and minister to the children from the feeding programmes, not just by taking food for them but we can teach the word of God and pray with them and their families, we can only meet in small groups of 20 children because of the virus, the restrictions mean we can not take any child with a fever and we must disinfect all the children's hands, we are trying to do this. We keep the distance too, if not we can be penalised. We are now feeding over 450 children and elderly every week from Monday until Friday."



Throughout lock down Rachel Lewis, one of the Heart Response team, has continued to send Birthday cards and gifts to the children in the Sanctuary Orphanage. See the photos below from the the team in Ocna Mures as the children receive their gifts from Heart Response.



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.

A Special Thank you... to our knitters who have worked tirelessly throughout lockdown. Your knitted items will arrive in Romania just in time for Winter.

**Heart Response
Facebook Page**



An Update For Your Group

We would love to come and speak to your group and update you on all that we've been doing lately. Please give us a call if you'd like to book a short talk.



If you would like to hold a fund-raising event on behalf of Heart Response please get in touch: we would love to hear from you!

Prayer Points:

Please pray for the needs of all the ministries Heart Response Supports.

Ocna Mures Mission Leaders: Pastor Nico and Caprice remain in the USA due to travel restrictions. Please pray Pastor Nico will be able to visit Romania soon to encourage the church, up until lockdown he had visited Ocna Mures every few months, which was a blessing. Please also pray for Bill and Rave Akers as they lead the mission, pray for strength and wisdom, especially at this time of uncertainty

Sanctuary Orphanage: Please pray for good health and protection for the children, the workers and their families. The children have been off school for months due to restrictions, so workers are under a huge amount of pressure. The government have set strict guidelines only allowing the children to leave the orphanage in certain situations, which has meant the children have been very frustrated having to stay in the same surroundings for so long.

Widows: Please pray for those who are sick and suffering with little healthcare, especially as restrictions make it difficult for the church to visit and offer emotional support. The church is still distributing food, but many are lonely and value the personal contact which isn't possible.

Feeding Programmes: These are currently closed due to restrictions, but workers are starting to visit the villages and run basic programmes outside for groups of up to 20 children. These programmes are often the only structure and education children in these poor communities receive. Pray the Lord would meet each child in their situation and they will know His presence in their lives.

Sibiu Finding Hope Ministries: Please pray for the leaders Nathan and Anca Merrill, and the many rescued children they support in their three children's homes. The children have had a difficult summer due to the restrictions, causing similar frustrations to Sanctuary Orphanage. Pray also for the gypsy outreach team and the families they work with who have struggled to find food over lock down. Heart Response was able to facilitate some food drops, but times are harder than normal for these communities.

Your Support

Financial contributions are always needed, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters again and again, but the needs are ongoing. If you feel you'd like to set up a standing order to Heart Response our bank details are as follows: **Account No: 00023888** **Sort Code: 40-52-40**

Prayer Support: Please consider whether you can commit to praying for a specific child regularly. Do get in touch if you feel this is something you could do.

Practical Support: We always need hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers and blankets. If you have any other items of clothing that you think may be useful for us to send please get in touch, but bear in mind these need to be in good condition.

Become a 'Friend of Heart Response'



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