

Who are we?

Vis de Copil (A Child's Dream) is a small charity working in Arad, Romania with street children and vulnerable families.

Winter 2016



VIS DE COPIL



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Client story...

Ionuț has been coming to the Secret Garden since he was a baby. He comes with his granny who is in reality his mummy, having brought him up since he was abandoned as a baby. As a small child, Ionuț drove everyone crazy with his constant crying, sometimes for hours on end. As he grew older we wondered whether he would ever settle down, but we persevered and over time Ionuț responded to the love, attention and discipline. His screaming eventually stopped to the delight of his granny /mummy and everyone else! Ionuț is now in school and with a wonderful teacher he is learning well. He still comes every day for homework club and all day in the school holidays and is a lovely, sociable wee boy.

Randy & Beki

On December 2016 my wife and I went to Arad Romania to spend a month working/volunteering at Vis de Copil.

Vis de Copil is a Christian ministry that cares for the Roma people in and around Arad



Romania. The task of showing unconditional love to the Roma people can be a challenging one, but the staff at Vis de Copil do just that in many ways. It should be noted that they do so without ignorance or naiveté. They have been around for 16 years and really gotten to know those they are serving.

Vis de Copil provides food, showers, laundry facilities, clothes, hygiene products, children's programs, and gift "shoe boxes" at Christmas time. Inventorying, sorting and distributing the shoe-boxes were the majority of our task there.

Looking back at our time there, we are grateful,

For me, I learned a lot about caring for people that cannot repay and may or may not be grateful. We saw a lot of that in a month...

Recent donations...

We have had a large donation of clothes from another of the local charity called Asociatia Sirinia. We are also expecting a donation of new born baby supplies from Ireland from the Jacket Off Your Back. We also would like to thank Fiona Kelly and Road of Hope for the Christmas gift boxes that brought so much joy to the children.

Christmas Hope



Christmas is the busiest time as families try to prepare for the holidays and the cold, we are asked for clothes, food, wood and gifts.

The stress shows on the face of the mothers as they struggle to feed children and warm homes. It exposes the vulnerability of life.

The season of advent is a period of waiting, of tentative hope. Mary must have also felt the same vulnerability as she gave birth, surrounded by shepherds in a stable. Yet this vulnerable and miraculous child was born to give hope to the world. This is the hope that we celebrate.

Christmas Parties

The Christmas parties were a great success this year as we again had 4 days of parties. The first 3 for poor families from Arad and surrounding areas and the final day a party for the homeless people.

For the children's parties we had pizza, a very special treat and played games and sang Christmas carols and then for the children we had presents that were kindly supplied by a small charity in Ireland called Road of Hope.



In collaboration with the church Ekklesia who come to the centre twice a week, we provided a 4 course sit down meal. Soup and dessert was provided by the volunteers from Ekklesia, the sarmale (stuffed cabbage rolls) were supplied by Millenium catering (free of charge) and the snacks, main course and drinks by us. In total we had over 250 people in the centre. Many thanks to West Glasgow New Church, PCF Romania Projects, Ekklesia, Road of Hope, Humanity at

Winter

The winter was harsh this year with temperatures dropping to -16 with a wind chill of -26. For those who live in shanty huts there is the constant struggle to find fuel for the fire.

For the homeless, the state heating pipes provide some warmth as you huddle up to them, or a makeshift tent is built around the pipe to capture some of the warmth for sleeping.

While the blanket of snow and frozen river make for pretty winter scenes, the cold also kills. The local police have been trying encourage homeless people to use the night shelter. Unfortunately one of our regulars was sleeping in an abandoned house and died from hypothermia.

The Municipal Council has asked us to help with food for the night shelter who have up to 80 people a night, we are more than happy to help in anyway we can.



Help needed / prayer points

- Pray for our continued renovation work
- In this cold period we are making food for up to 150 people a day, we are always in needs of supplies.
- We need long term volunteers for our programs in spring and summer, if you are interested contact us via Facebook.



Str. Ludovic Szentay Nr. 15 Arad, Romania, 310 100.

0257439481

www.achildsdream.co.uk

or find us on Facebook 'visdecopilarad'