

# ***Mustard Seed [Jersey]***

Registered Charity in Jersey, Britain ~ Humanitarian Aid to Eastern Europe

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Newsletter December 2014 / January 2015



**THANK YOU TO ALL who made it possible to send over 3100 Christmas shoeboxes to Romania AND who gave money so we can buy bread and food parcels, throughout the winter, while the weather is coldest and the need is greatest.**



Seeing the joy (sometimes amazement) on the children's faces made it so worthwhile.



Most of the children took their shoeboxes home to open at home.



Most shoebox distribution was in schools, but a few were taken to children's homes.



Clutching her shoebox tightly.



The hat seems to fit all right!



Shoeboxes given to children in Mustard Seed's homework club.





All pensioners on Mustard Seed's Adopt-A-Granny programme received a Christmas shoebox. In Cefa they receive monthly food parcels. In December each had a food parcel and shoebox.



The monthly food parcel is extremely important to this frail old lady so she struggles to the distribution with her walking stick, afraid she might miss out in spite of our assurances that we will deliver!



Smiling contentedly at her Christmas shoebox in the lounge at Casa Mabel. Casa Mabel is Mustard Seed's residential home for pensioners – each pays as much as they can afford and are subsidized from Jersey.

*But the most challenging shoebox distributions were in the state run homes for young people with learning difficulties. We were privileged to be asked in - but no photos were allowed. Of the 7 homes we visited, 4 were excellent but in two (due to shortage of staff we believe) the young people appeared bored and poorly supervised; in those homes some of the Jersey team felt threatened & intimidated. In the majority of the homes there was a higher staff ratio and we were able to interact happily with the young people, with no problems.*

### Mustard Seed's Appeal for a needy family

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> the 1<sup>st</sup> team from Jersey met the Benedict family, firstly at the bread distribution run by Fundatia Increderea. The family is made up of 3 people, a married couple and his brother, all have serious health problems and are unable to work full time and cannot afford medication. Their landlord had kindly allowed them to live rent free in a partly built house. In November this house was demolished by a vehicle, forcing them to live in a tiny leaking shed behind the house.

"So later on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> we went to deliver them a food parcel. It was damp and cold and our hearts went out to them having so little space and no heating in the tiny leaking shed.

As a result we asked the Jersey media to help us raise £3000 which would purchase a basic container style unit of accommodation, providing it with solar panel lighting and a wood-burning stove; Nelu (the social worker) already had a suitable site.

It was an amazing response - over £11,000. We were able to immediately purchase a wood-burning stove and Nelu the social worker has placed the order for the home due to arrive in January (Not arrived or been installed at time of printing).

Of course £11,000 means we can assist more families in dire need of accommodation. Watch the media for details".



The demolished house, where they had lived, free of charge.



The tiny freezing leaking shed where they lived after the accident.



The wood burning stove can be used for heating & cooking.

## Photos from the December distribution trips

*A group of packer volunteers were in Romania from December 2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>  
Students from Beaulieu Convent School were there from Dec 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>*



Shopping for contents of food parcels.

Then packing food parcels.



Providing pizza as a special treat for the children in the youth club.



Unloading the aid trailer, including medical equipment from Jersey for Oradea hospital.



Distributing blankets to those in need - **THANK YOU TO ALL OUR KNITTERS**



## LOOKING BACK OVER 2014 (What happened to those wish lists?)



In 2014 we sent an estimated 36 tonnes of aid in 3 consignments to Romania, mainly clothing and bedding, also hygiene items, wheelchairs, etc. We continue to send a variety of items, including computer parts & crafts used in FI's youth club.

*Building on the success of 2 homework clubs in Cefa (which we assist but are not totally responsible for), we started a homework club in the city through FI, this is benefitting 12 of the poorest children, giving each a nutritional meal.*

Through our pensioner sponsorship programmes we assist about 75 beneficiaries; we also assist them with basic medical checks and first aid items.

*Over 200 Welcome boxes for trafficked victims.*

We continue to support our kindergarten in Cefa.

### ***What happened to those wish lists in our last newsletter?***

#### Casa Mabel Wish List in December 2013 / January 2014

- ★ Dish washer - **YES sent in autumn 14.**
- ★ Replace some tatty bedroom furniture - **YES some**
- ★ Chairs with washable seats - **YES some**

#### Nelu's Wish List for F.I January 14.

- *Firewood for poor families* **YES** – Jan 14 & Dec 14
- *Bread money* **YES** - funded Jan-Apr 14 & Dec 14-Mar 15
- *Assist poorest children with school expenses* **YES** started March 14 – with funds till June 15.
- *More trailers for homes!* **YES!** (see page 4)

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015

- ✓ We plan 3 aid consignments to Romania providing the aid is donated and the needed help is available:
  - One in the spring
  - The second in the early autumn
  - The third in December with Christmas shoeboxes, blankets and general aid.
- ✓ *We plan to continue our aid collections at Holme Grown Farm Shop carpark.*
- ✓ We hope to pack up "Back to School" packs for the children on our various education programmes to be sent over to Romania on our spring and autumn aid trailers.
- ✓ *We aim to be flexible & respond to needs that may arise if it is within our power to do so.*



Enjoying the luxury of crayons and paper



Aid collection at Holme Grown

### Alex's Wish List (Mustard Seed Romania)

- ★ 2 Chain saws (one heavy duty)
- ★ 50 cc scooter (needed for a family)
- ★ Funds to buy wood burning stove (needed for a family) [£200]

Vineyard Wish List  
More toys (bikes, scooters, etc) for their kindergarten.

### Nelu's Wish List for F.I.

- *Enough money for extra firewood in February 15 for poor families.*
- *Funding for homework club to continue after June.*
- *Craft materials and activities for youth club.*
- *Generator*
- *Water pump*
- *Water tank*
- *Solar panel units for 6 families to give them light*

## **WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY**

We are always keen to hear from **POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS** and need help with PACKING, LOADING, FUND-RAISING, COLLECTING, etc  
If you want to assist in any way please contact Rose either by phone (482637) or by email to [mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk)

**DONATE** your surplus good quality clean clothing, bedding, footwear, toiletries, stationery, medical apparatus, educational equipment, computer parts, hygiene items, bicycles, household items, etc.  
Check the answer phone on 482637 for details of our collection places – at time of printing they are All Saints Church (opposite the General Hospital), St Peters Church, St Marys Church and St Lukes Church – all during their normal opening hours.

**Support** our aid collections (details in media or our answer-phone)

**Support** our book stalls at Rozel Bay and St Johns Village.

**Suggest** Mustard Seed as the beneficiary at dress down days, etc.

Pack a **Back to School Box** or Welcome Box (details on website)

Sponsor a pensioner through our **Adopt a Granny** scheme

**Sponsor** a needy child or family

Plan ahead to pack **Christmas shoeboxes**

Remember Mustard Seed Jersey in your **prayers**

If you shop at the CoOp use our divvy number **321340**

Put your loose change in a **collecting box** for Mustard Seed

Organise a **fund-raising** event (please contact Rose before).

### **Keep up to date**

through our website [www.mustardseedjersey.co.uk](http://www.mustardseedjersey.co.uk)  
through Facebook [www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy](http://www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy)

### **THANKS to all who support in any & every way: practically, prayerfully, financially ....**

Special thanks to Condor Freight, Sutton Transport, Sarl Garage Godard (in Brittany), BAG (transport in Germany) and others.

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