

Charity Registration Number: 1053406

**OPERATION ROMANIA TRUST
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Trustees

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Deed of Trust and those holding office during the year were:

Mr C Beckhurst - resigned 31 December 2024

Mrs C Boreham – appointed at our meeting on 8 April 2024

Mr D Millidge – resigned 31 December 2024

Mrs M Millidge – resigned at our meeting on 8 April 2024

Mr R Purdom (Chairman)

Mr K Varney

Miss M Wilkinson (Treasurer)

Carol Boreham – welcomed on to the Board of Trustees at our meeting on 8 April 2024.

Colin Beckhurst and David Millidge announced their intentions to stand down as Trustees, to take effect from the end of 2024.

The Board accepted their resignations with sadness after their years of service.

Risks

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to those risks.

Reserves policy

The Trustees' policy is to hold in reserves a minimum of 4 months average operational expenditure plus designated amounts for known projects for the reporting year.

However, the Trustees had to rethink this in light of a change in income due to one of benefactors having to stop his generous payments at the end of 2024.

Our yearly General fund income, without further legacies, is likely to show a deficit of circa £4,000. In order for the Trust to continue its commitment for the next 3 years we plan to maintain a higher figure than our operational reserve.

This is to be reviewed yearly.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity are the relief of poverty, the advancement of health, education and training and the advancement of the Christian religion within the Republic of Romania by the provision and distribution of medical and other aid and supporting and encouraging Christian Churches.

Operation Romania Trust (ORT) is a local charitable trust based in the South of England.

The trustees work with and support a team in Oradea, which is in North West Romania near

the Hungarian border. This team is known as Alfa & Omega (A&O) and has five members. The team in Romania also work with a team from Holland.

At the Trustees' Meeting in December 2023, the Trustees set a budget for 2024, as follows:

• A & O salaries	£1800	
• Boga Camp	£2500	
• Ladies' week-end	£500	
• Men's week-end	£500	
• Back to School	£1580	(to be added to the £420 from the Garden sale)
• Bank charges	£150	
• Computer support	£85	
Total	£7115	

The Trustees met four times in 2024.

Achievements and Performance

In spite of some ongoing restrictions the team in Oradea continued to supply food boxes to 52 families. As in previous years, families received money for transport to and from school. 8 students were supported throughout the year. Medicines were purchased for 3 families.

The team leaders in Oradea continued to provide a home for a female student who, having completed her studies at the Christian University in Oradea, started a job in Oradea but then moved to another part of Romania to start a new job and also announce her engagement. This story is a real triumph and is an encouragement to all who are part of this work.

The annual Boga camps for children were also held in the summer and ORT supported one of the camps financially. There were three camps. One of the leaders sent a report to ORT, outlining the success of the camps and the reward for all those involved in the camps, whether physical presence or financial support. In her report she wrote the following:

'I'm very thankful to God to share that we successfully completed all three weeks of the children's camp. We, along with the children, had a truly blessed time. Organising these camps involves a lot of hard work. Finding leaders and kitchen helpers is one of the hardest tasks. However, we clearly saw God's help during both the preparation and the three weeks of the camp itself.

The usual inspection from the health department (SANEPID) was the first of the inspections. At the beginning, the inspection caused us a lot of stress, but in the end, the inspectors were kind and only asked me (Ani) to renew my hygiene course and to ensure we used enough chlorine to disinfect the dishes. Anyway, overall, the camp was spotless.

We had a lot of stress when, on the Saturday before the third week of camp started, we had an unexpected inspection from the fire department. Although we had anticipated this might happen due to a guest house fire last winter that resulted in several fatalities. But, thanks to God, the inspectors were very polite and informed us of improvements we needed to make, issuing a small fine of 200 lei (for which they really apologised) This was a pleasant surprise, as inspections are usually far from polite or nice.

We also had a visit from the police department, where officers (two ladies and a man) talked to the children about the dangers of drugs, abuse, and bullying. The children were excited to see the police car up close and learn about its siren, loudspeaker, and lights. The officers asked the children how the camp is and what they have learned. They were impressed that each child could recite at least one Bible verse from memory.

As usual, we held three weeks of back-to-back camps, starting with the 13-18 age group, hosting 33 teenagers. Despite the hot weather, we had a great time together. We went to the river to cool off in the mountain water and had fun with water balloons and a water slide, which Anca and Timi gifted. Although we had to do a lot of laundry afterward, the teens had a blast and everything was worth it.

One memorable moment was a girl, who was attending camp for the first time. Grig had to drive early in the morning to their village and bring them to the bus in Oradea. On her second day of camp she asked me why they have to go home in a week's time. When I explained that there are other kids that would like to come too she said: "but I would like to stay 2 weeks! Could I" It is very hard when you have to say "NO".

Another was when a boy who had recently lost his father, was thrilled to attend camp. When I told him he could come, he said, "I'll start packing right now." This happened a week before the camp. At the end of the week, he couldn't stop crying, which is unusual for teenagers.

In the second week, we had 35 children aged 10-13. To accommodate everyone, we had to place four girls in three beds in some three rooms, which they were okay with since we had informed them beforehand. Unfortunately, one girl, Daria, couldn't attend due to hand, foot, and mouth disease, and her mother sent me a heart-breaking picture.

This group also had the usual conflicts but quickly made friends and enjoyed playing together.

The last week began with a group of 31 children aged 7-10, and the fun began!

This last group was filled with sweet children, which helped us push through the tiredness. A new practice we started was having someone pray with the children in each room after our evening prayer time. They loved this and it helped them relax and fall asleep more easily.

We know all of this was made possible by your prayers and those of others who supported us. We thank you all for being a part of this journey. We also want to express our gratitude to everyone who contributed financially to this project, giving these children moments of joy and relaxation in their challenging lives.

These weeks may seem short and insignificant, but we have already seen the positive impact they have had on the children's lives.

The team were able to host the Ladies' week-end in the Boga campsite and ORT were able to support this week-end financially. This was much appreciated by the 30+ women that came. The ladies arrived on Friday morning. This gave them an extra day to enjoy and we had a team of people to help. It was nice to welcome all the ladies on Friday and see them rejoice as some of them haven't met since last Boga camp years ago. Also to hear their words of gratitude to us as to say thank you for organising this event for them.

In the report back to ORT Trustees, the leader wrote:

About a year ago, in September, we had our women week end and by God's grace we manage to have another one this year, early October.

As always many ladies were asking about this possibility as we were visiting sponsored families. We're asked if we could have / organize a week-end time for women again, as it

was always a moment of encouragement, relax and get strengthen in faith by others testimonies as well as a good opportunity for many of them to catch up news about each other's life.

So we started the Boga week end having 28 ladies with us and we were so glad for them that they were able to come.

Daily program was: mornings, ladies were coming for tea, coffee and wafers sweets or biscuits and had a nice time chatting till the breakfast was served, then the morning meeting with worship and little sermon. After that they had free time also coffee tea or water with sweet snack and they continue their discussions until lunch was given and then some could have little walks or just seat outside and enjoy the nature and fresh air.

They had the opportunity to talk to us. These women had a chance to socialize and boy they need to talk. Here are some of the stories we learn.

One lady which had her life under so much pressure, told us that she feels she would just run away from home and from this life. She, herself had breast cancer. Her husband has diabetes due to it his eye sight is almost gone and lately has been discovered to have also bowel cancer. Her son has also cancer in a very critical way. There is so much suffering going in her life and she couldn't stop talking and thanking us for being able to flee home and have this time of rest both mentally and physically. We asked what her husband said of her leaving him for these days, all by himself and she reply that he insisted her to come as he could feel she is so exhausted and needs a break. And, of course, if she collapse mentally/physically then he is in even bigger trouble.

Another lady who also suffers of severe diabetes who lost the sight of one eye as she had a retina replacement that went wrong, who had a lot of trouble with her husband who was both alcoholic and womanizer, was extremely thankful that she could come to a fellowship with other ladies and socialize as she is almost separated by the world around in her little dark apartment with not so many people visiting her and being overweight half blind and hardly walking. Actually Nelu and Ani brought her with them to Boga as she couldn't come in the bus like the other women due to her low mobility.

Another lady that we used to help in the past had her own sad story. She isn't that old but she had cancer in private parts that required major surgery then treatment and then she tried to work for couple of years but her health crumbled and having severe health problems she had to go in sickness pension. She is a single mother for years and had a very hard life. Now she was also blessing, thanking and rejoicing that we invited her to come as with her little sickness pension she wouldn't dream to go anywhere and be treated like that with good food nice place and great company.

Another lady comes from another troubled family. Her husband suffers of depressive mind for long time and he is not able to work a regular job. Their daughter is also depressive ...her brother-in-law committed suicide not long ago ...She was so thankful to be among people, women who could pray for her and she could share her fears and thoughts with.

An opportunity to just be as normal as possible.

Another lady, a Christian, having mobility problems, being widow for couple of years from a husband who was violent and destructive, with whom she couldn't spare any money to have

her own place, told us that she is living in very small room rented not far from the church so she could walk to it every time there is a church service said to us that she wants to thank you , the sponsors and us for offering such a great opportunity for an old sick lonely

Christian to enjoy fellowship and be encouraged by other ladies who are having their own trouble life and carry on.

It is very hard to describe all the positive feedback we had from all these ladies and not only their gratitude and joy. They all bless those involved in this project beginning with those that offer to donate money in order to make all this possible and ending with us.

We also like to thank God first for helping us to carry one this good work also thank you and sponsors involved in making this possible.

God will reward the blessing that was given to these women in suffering and the opportunity they had to enjoy a glimpse of better life.

The Back-to-School project was another way in which ORT is able to continue to support the work. ORT sent out the money to buy the school bags and the contents of those bags. 60+ packs were purchased. The team in Oradea linked in with the schools so that relevant equipment was put into each bag. Children and young people in primary and high schools would benefit from their particular bag. ORT have many photographs of happy, smiling children and young people as they received their school bag. There were also pictures of some happy mums. ORT sponsored the purchase of these school bags. Our annual coffee morning in one of our local churches raised money to help with the purchase of these 'goodies'.

At the end of this reporting year ORT had 52 families being sponsored plus 8 students. There are three families being sponsored for help with medicines.

Through the year the Board has produced four Updates, keeping our many supporters informed of the various projects the team are supporting. These Updates were focused on the Team in Oradea and the work being done by the team. Both were appreciated by the supporters as they were given an insight into those on the team who are doing the ongoing practical work of the charity.

ORT were invited to take the morning service in two local churches. Both these churches have supported the work in Romania since its beginning and their support is much appreciated.

The Board is aware that we haven't been able to go out to visit the team in Romania. Health issues prevent such visits at the moment. However, the Board Chair and Treasurer are in regular contact with the team leaders there and we ensure regular reporting of the work being done so that we can validate the work and the financial input from ORT.

The Board has continued to be aware of their responsibilities for various policies and a number have been updated during the year.

This annual report of activities demonstrates the public benefit of the various aspects of the work - providing much needed food for families in Oradea and the surrounding villages; enabling children to go to school; supporting students in secondary and higher education.

Financial Review

The Trust is grateful to all those supporters who have regularly given to the work.

The main sources of funding were:

1. Sponsorship money for families, many of which are gift aided
2. Other gifts from supporters
3. Annual coffee mornings
4. Gifts from churches.
5. Legacies received – the Trustees are in discussion with the team in Oradea as to projects to be covered by the legacy money.

Receipts during the year amounted to £50,403 (2023: £48,238) including a legacy of £12,707 (2023: £nil). The money expended during the year amounted to £44,958 (2023: £48,344).

2025

The ORT Board has agreed to support the sponsorship scheme.

ORT needs to add new Trustees to the Board but this is proving difficult at the moment. We will continue to try.

The Trustees are grateful to everyone who has supported the ORT Mission and we look forward to the next year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees


R Purdom (Chairman)

15.4.2025


ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2023 £
Cash funds				
Lloyds Bank - Current account	643	-	643	5,588
Lloyds Bank - Sponsorship account	-	14,277	14,277	11,887
Lloyds Bank - Deposit account	17,076	5,644	22,720	14,720
	<u>17,719</u>	<u>19,921</u>	<u>37,640</u>	<u>32,195</u>
Other monetary assets				
Gift aid recoverable	125	265	390	283
	<u>125</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>283</u>

The accounts on pages 8 and 9 were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15.4.2025

and signed on its behalf by:



R Purdom (Chairman)



Miss M Wilkinson (Treasurer)