



Padest, High Street, Sennybridge, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8PG
Tel: 01874-636575. Mobile: 07910939716
Website: www.reachingromania.com
Charity Registration Number: 1081605

ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2024

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

We are pleased to present our Annual Report on the Charity's activities and performance for the above period.

We are a Christian Charity, established in 2000 overseen by a Board of Trustees who serve on a voluntary basis. We continue to provide physical, emotional and financial support and give spiritual hope to those in need. Our work covers meeting the basic needs of elderly people with limited and in some cases no pensions to supporting minors in Children's Homes, homeless people, a Christian Centre & Music School, 2 Educational Projects, residents at a Care Home plus individuals and families with specific needs.

Romania still bears the legacy of its Communist past which ended 34 years ago. Whilst it is a country of natural beauty and welcoming homes many people still live in poverty, especially in rural areas. It still has the lowest health budget in Europe which reflects on the well-being of the people. Corruption and red-tape add to the problems that Romanians face daily. The 1st round of the December 2024 General Election was nulled due to allegations of Russian interference.

We are led to respond to the desperate needs of the people and give thanks that God has provided us with sufficient funds to maintain the projects throughout the year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT:

The Charity is governed in accordance with its Constitution and complies with the legal requirements set out by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Trustees during the year were:

Christine Woods – Chairperson

Irene Phillips – Secretary

Emanuela Calinescu - Treasurer

We have a duty by law to include with this report details of our policy on recruitment of Trustees which is attached as an Appendix. During the year we had hoped to be in a position to appoint new Trustees onto the Board but sadly God has still not yet provided us with any suitable prospective applicants. Please pray that He will touch the hearts of the right people. It would be healthy for the Charity to introduce younger fresh faces with a new vision and ideas.

OBJECTIVES:

As per our Constitution, the Charity's objectives are: to relieve poverty and distress, to advance religion and education.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

This report focuses on the main activities undertaken by the Charity in line with guidance from the Charity Commission for England and Wales on **public benefit**. As Trustees we are always mindful of the Charity's aims and objectives and use wisdom and discernment in all our decision making.

With God's provision we continue to make a difference to the lives of the sick, the disabled, the vulnerable and many poor disadvantaged people with exceptional circumstances. We demonstrate God's unconditional love in all that do.

In addition to the £26,747.00 funding benefiting our projects (an increase of 15% on last year) we ensured that everyone we support received a Christmas gift. We also provided food parcels at Christmas and Easter to families who needed them. We always aim to improve the quality of life of those in need. Irene visited all the projects in June to meet with the leaders, assess needs as well as working on the “front line”. She remains in regular contact with the teams in Romania to ensure that we continue to fulfill our aims and objectives.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Widows Mite Project:

Numbers fluctuated during the year as we lost some of our dear widows and gained others in desperate need. On average around 38 people were supported in the States of Arad and Timisoara – some younger than others. Our leader Ramona has a real heart for this Ministry. She keeps in regular contact with the widows, prays with them and assesses their often changing needs. She radiates the love of Jesus and the ladies so look forward to her visits. She often goes the extra mile in providing love and care. Irene had the pleasure of spending 2 days with Ramona in June out on the field meeting several of the new widows as well as many who have benefited from the program over many years. It was a blessing to pray for the needs of each one.

During the year they all received monthly food parcels and supplies of winter wood or heating allowances. Sadly 9 of the widows receive no pension and so they often need additional help with prescription costs, essential building maintenance, sanitary items, disability aids, reading glasses, appliances as well as transportation for hospital visits. Members of Ramona’s Church also help with second hand clothes. Most of the ladies have given their heart to Christ since joining the programme. We sent out bulk supplies to make up Christmas gifts together with crocheted blankets.

San Nicolau Mic “Jesus Generation” Bible Centre and Music School:

The Charity fully funds the running of this Ministry which goes from strength to strength under the dedicated leadership of teachers, Marius and Elena Aslau supported by their little daughter Jazgul. They have an amazing ability to connect with and build relationships with the 45 children based on love, respect and humour. The well organised Programme runs on a Saturday and is a mixture of Praise & Worship, Bible teaching and how to apply it to everyday life, music lessons (keyboard, guitar, drums, mandolin, violin and accordion plus theory) a fellowship meal followed by fun time before reluctantly leaving at around 8 pm. The children are transported to and from the Ministry by Marius at the minibus wheel with the help of other volunteer drivers with cars. During the week the couple also run courses on a range of topics e.g. “Marriage” and “Relationships” as well as providing a counselling service for both parents and children. Marius continues to write Music and makes videos with the Children. You can Google “Jesus Generation” Arad to enjoy a true flavour of this Ministry. Together with their small team of volunteers they maintain the building to a good standard and have now established a larger safe playing area for the children.

We supplied a good stock of fillers for their Christmas gifts and they also kindly made up all the gifts for the Vinga children. Irene and Wayne had the pleasure of joining in their Christmas Programme via Zoom.

Children’s Homes: “Osana”, Timisoara, “Caleb”, Ianova and “Tabita” Arad

We continue to support 3 Christian Homes which provide a safe and stable environment where abused, neglected and traumatized children find healing, discover hope and experience God’s unconditional love thanks to the dedication and hearts of the Management Teams and their caring staff. Each Home employs a Children’s Social Worker and Psychologist who support the children with their past traumas. Some children do have contact with parents. Support and encouragement is given with their education and homework is supervised. All the children are brought up in the Christian faith and taught life skills. Funding goes towards their education, health care, food & clothing and some outings. We provide update reports for our Sponsors. They all received funding towards Christmas gifts for each child and staff member.

We currently have 6 monthly sponsors for the “Osana” Girls Home in Timisoara and the “Caleb” Boys Home in a farm setting in Ianova both run by the “Mana” Association. Major renovations are still not complete at “Osana” in preparation for a fresh intake of vulnerable girls via State programs. During the year 6 young boys were cared for at

“Caleb”. They benefit greatly from living out in the countryside and caring for the farm animals which helps them with the healing process.

During the year the “Tabita” Children’s Home run by the “Debra” Foundation cared for 15 minors, many of whom are siblings. They are mixed ages and genders. We have a long association with this Children’s Home spanning 20 years. Their management team and staff provide a caring home and staff often go beyond the call of duty to support these children, sometimes in challenging circumstances. The bulk of their essential day-to-day funding comes from a Charity in Germany. However, during the year we provided funds to help with educational equipment day trips etc. During the year a new Director was appointed (another Marius) who is doing an amazing job and keeps in regular contact with us.

Please pray for the staff and children of all 3 Homes.

Vinga Children’s Program:

Unfortunately this program remains suspended due to lack of a leader. When she is well enough to travel, Irene is keen to revisit the community and discuss the situation with parents and children with a view to re-establishing a Ministry. We maintain links with the families in this poor community and we ensured that all the children received Christmas gifts.

Educational Projects - Asociata “Copilul din Mine”, Arad & “Light and Hope Ministries, Hunedoara

During the year we supplied £4,400.00 to help with the above Projects providing new school bags filled with stationery, shoes and winter coats for children from poor families. The CDM leader, Mihaela works closely with 3 schools in the area as well as supporting children at the “Tabita” Children’s Home and supplying food parcels for around 40 families. Mihaela again obtained a large quantity of filled shoe boxes from Austria to distribute around her Ministry. Unfortunately she has not yet been able to purchase land to build a Day Centre. L and H Ministry leader, Summer runs a Children’s Program and an “After School Club” for around 150 children supplying a daily meal and help with homework. She also supports poor families in a variety of other ways, dependent on their needs. We supplied funding towards Christmas gifts and filled pencil cases for the commencement of the autumn term. CDM in return supplied school bags for some of our disabled cases and children of poor families.

Homeless Project:

It is so pleasing to note that a team of around 20 people from a Baptist Church in Arad are now visiting on a regular basis with Ministry and Meals. We give thanks for God’s provision. However, we continue to provide Christmas gifts of bags of fruit, filled toilet bags, hats, scarves, gloves and socks to 60 people (a mixture of men and women) at the Night Shelter in Arad.

Residential Home in Oradea:

In January 2024 our attention was drawn to the plight of 56 residents at a private Residential Home who had little food and no heating. Our good friends Dani and Lavi Luca assessed the situation and we also spoke to the lovely Christian lady who was visiting her neighbour there on a weekly basis and providing whatever help she could afford for the residents. She sent us many pictures of the residents in desperate need. We immediately packed supplies of hats, scarves, gloves and purchased socks for each resident and put out an appeal for extra warm throws whilst purchasing many ourselves. We also dispatched sanitary items and pillows with supplies of food, soap and bed sore sprays being purchased in Romania. We ensured a food fund was available so that our Christian contact could buy ingredients to continue to cook weekly for the residents.

Support of disabled people in Arad:

Iasmina: now aged 17 has spina bifida and other medical needs. She receives sponsorship via the charity for her medical expenses & personal needs. She is excelling at her new Baptist school after being bullied at the previous one. She continues to use a walking stick and is only reliant on her wheelchair for longer distances. Mum, Andrea’s depression is much improved since they were awarded by the State the tenancy of a small ground floor apartment with disabled facilities. Funding helped them purchase bedroom furniture. They were thrilled with the gifts Irene made up for them both.

Abel Cristian: Now aged 7 and physically and mentally disabled is also sponsored via the Charity. He was born into a poor family and his parents planned to abort him. His Christian aunt and uncle successfully applied to become his legal guardians and we give thanks that he was placed in a loving Christian home. They maintained his contact with all the family and in the autumn of 2022 his mother successfully legally applied to have him return to her care. She has another son and an older daughter and granddaughter. His aunt and uncle did not oppose her request and remain in daily contact with Abel and visit whenever they can. Due to his disabilities his behaviour is often very challenging. Sponsorship funds have helped towards his sanitary needs, clothing etc. We are pleased that his loyal and trustworthy Aunt and Uncle have agreed to take charge of his funding. They give us feedback on his needs, what they have purchased and costs etc. We receive regular updates and photos from Nelu and Cati who also purchased Christmas gifts from funding we supplied.

Nicu: aged 26 is registered blind and lives in a small apartment with his 7 year old daughter Delia. His partner left the family several years ago and he receives limited support in caring for his daughter. We periodically help with food, clothes etc. and Irene always makes up a bag of Christmas gifts for Delia

Dorothea: aged 26 is physically and mentally disabled. Her parents lovingly care full-time for her and it is a huge responsibility. She loves music and dancing. We provide funding for sanitary items, clothing etc. plus suitable Christmas gifts.

Mioara: in her 40's has learning disabilities and mental health problems. Sadly her condition deteriorated to the extent that she is now a long-term patient at a Psychiatric Hospital in another State.

Other families being supported:

Ileana & Gheorge: This couple in their 60's live in a shack in a field. They have no running water and one light only run from a car battery. Ileana has now retired from her cleaning job and they have taken a huge cut in income due to her reduced pension. However she still manages to plant a large garden for fresh produce and to preserve for the winter. They are very poor and through the Luca family we provide regular food parcels and do what we can to meet other needs through our provision of additional funding. In December we replaced their obsolete fire with a new one to provide warmth and cooking facilities. They were also very grateful for their Christmas gifts which Irene made up.

Luciana and Maria: Luciana is aged 14 and lives with her grandmother, Maria in small poor quality accommodation accessed via a courtyard in the city of Arad. Her father died in prison and her mother abandoned her. Luciana was diagnosed with cancer and went through intensive chemotherapy – we give thanks that she is now cancer free and has returned to her studies. Her grandmother suffers with back problems and really struggles financially. We periodically help with food parcels and it was a joy for Irene to make up their Christmas gifts. Copilul din Mine, whom we fund also now provide support to the family.

Food parcels:

In addition to those mentioned above we bought Easter and Christmas food parcels for around 10 extra families living in poverty. Due to changes in some poor communities with some families moving out of the area we have reduced the number of food parcels that we have provide especially as we are relying on the help of Ministry leaders and trusted friends to do the extra work in the absence of Irene being able to visit due to health problems.

Christmas Monetary Appeal:

The Appeal raised £3,508.00 which was apportioned around the Ministries so that Project leaders could purchase suitable Christmas gifts for children and adults. However, we were able to also help by dispatching bulk items from our Charity base to certain Ministries to help towards making up gift bags with heavier items like toothpaste, soap and chocolate being purchased in Romania. The money raised also helped with food parcel purchase and transportation costs.

.

FUNDING:

During the year we worked hard at raising funds: which included Irene's speaking engagements, a Coffee Morning, Afternoon Tea, a "Cawl" meal, a Light Lunch, a Quiz and Curry Night, a Sponsored Walk and a Sponsored Marathon run by our friend, Andy Hoskins.

Other income very gratefully received included monthly sponsors, financial support from several churches, "one-off" donations, Charity Box income plus Gift Aid. Ideally we need more monthly sponsors.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A separate Statement of Accounts has been prepared.

COMMUNICATION:

We make self-funded trips to Romania to meet with leaders to monitor and assess the needs of the projects that we support. Irene last visited in June and is currently unable to travel due to on-going health problems. Adina and Mike also visited some of the Ministries later in the year whilst visiting family in Arad. However, outside of visits we are in regular contact with our team leaders via What's App Facetime and Email. During the year we received regular updates and photos of Ministry activities as well as prayer requests.

We also maintained regular contact with our supporters in Wales via Whats App, Email, telephone or in person. We also provided update reports for our regular sponsors of the Widows Mite Project, the Children's Homes and disabled cases.

We produced 2 newsletters during the year and provided regular update reports for the Brecon Presbyterian Church Newshare, the Presbyterian Church Body Mission Bulletin and the Hirwaun Crucible. Irene continues to update the journal and events pages of our current website. Unfortunately our website administrator, despite being supplied with all the relevant information and photos was unable to proceed with writing a new website and we were disappointed that "Sgor Web Design" of Aberdare who were recommended to us had closed their books to new customers. We are currently looking for a new company to undertake this work which is a priority.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS:

Thank you to everyone who supported God's work in any way during the year enabling us to bring the love and light of Jesus into the lives of many in need. We extend our thanks also for the servants' hearts of all our leaders and teams in Romania who share our vision – all for God's Glory.

Please continue to pray: that God will provide us with the right additional Trustees and Web Designer and that we continue to receive sufficient financial provision to be able to maintain our current projects and any new ones that God may plant in our path.



Statement of Accounts – 1st April, 2023- 31st March 2024

Registered Charity Number: 1081605

Summary for Year ending 31/03/24

Summary for Year ending 31/03/23

Funding Categories	Income	Expenditure	Balances	Income	Expenditure	Balances
Income	Y/E 31/03/24		Opening Balance £7,219.70	Y/E 31/03/23		Opening Balance £7,999.31
General Fund	6,302.75			4,562.23		
Ramoth CC – Wayne's caretaker wages	1,680.00			1,680.00		
Charity Boxes	34.70			120.80		
Sponsored Events	1,955.00			1,727.00		
Jesus Generation	1,175.00			660.00		
Child Sponsorship & Children's Homes	2,445.00			2,380.00		
Adult Sponsorship	0.00			50.00		
Educational Projects	0.00			0.00		
Consignment transportation costs to Romania	200.00			550.00		
Christmas Appeal	3,508.62			4,872.64		
Widows Mite Project	2,540.00			2,480.00		
Residential Home	0.00					
Coffee Mornings	3,570.36			1,863.33		
HMRC Gift Aid refund	1,915.20			2,390.92		
Total Income	£ 25,326.63		Plus Income	£23,336.92		Plus Income
Expenditure	Y/E 31/03/24			Y/E 31/03/23		
Jesus Generation		4,670.58			3,796.54	
General Fund		1,777.33			2,494.76	
Child Sponsorship & Children's Homes		5,372.09			4,903.48	
Adult Sponsorship/Support		700.00			1,570.00	
Widows Mite Project		9,000.00			6,000.00	
Educational Projects		4,400.00			3,800.00	
Newsletters, stamps, stationery, web registration etc		404.29			215.00	
Insurance, Audit & Bank Charges		425.00			556.53	
Christmas Gift Items		134.52			315.22	
Residential Home		228.00				
Consignment Transportation Costs to Romania		465.00			465.00	
Total Expenditure	Y/E 31/03/24	£27,576.81	Less Expenditure	Y/E 31/03/23	£24,116.53	Less Expenditure
			Closing Balance £4,969.52			Closing Balance £7,219.70



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity name

REACHING ROMANIA

On accounts for the year
ended

31/03/24

Charity no
(if any)

1081603

Set out on pages

1 - 2

Page 1 of 2 Page 2 of 2 Page 3 of 2 Page 4 of 2 Page 5 of 2 Page 6 of 2 Page 7 of 2 Page 8 of 2 Page 9 of 2 Page 10 of 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

06/06/2024

Name:

NR LYND HERITAGE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

COMPANY DIRECTOR

(if any):

Address:

5 WOODLAND WAY,
HROUGHERIG. NORTHERN TyDFIL
CF48 1SQ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

All in order
Hailish