

OPEN HANDS

England & Wales · Charity number 1136482

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 2010-06-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Millbank Cottage
Horringford
Newport
Isle Of Wight
Po30 3AP

Phone 07738426472

Email office@openhandscharity.eu

Website www.openhandscharity.eu

Activities

Objects: A THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY IN ROMANIA AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES BY PROVIDING: GRANTS, ITEMS AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS IN NEED AND/OR CHARITIES, OR OTHER ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO PREVENT OR RELIEVE POVERTY FOR ORPHAN AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN, AND AMONG THE ROMA COMMUNITYB TO RELIEVE POVERTY (OR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP) AMONG THE ROMA COMMUNITY LIVING IN ROMANIA AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES BY PROVIDING HEALTH, HOUSING, ADVICE AND EDUCATION

Activities: Open Hands works among the most vulnerable & disadvantaged children in Romania. The charity works by the Christian ethos to see love in action and transforms lives with a Day Centre which cares and educates children from extremely poor & marginalised homes. As well as a Family Support Program which offers education, health, home visits & housing support to impoverished children and their families.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ROMANIA
- Romania
- Ukraine

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£136,655	£109,259	-	-
2024-03-31	£120,588	£101,288	-	-
2023-03-31	£69,016	£93,222	-	-
2022-03-31	£83,774	£69,815	-	-
2021-03-31	£140,635	£83,668	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
REBEKKA SINGLE	Chair	
ANDREA VAN HOVEN		
Julie Horn		2023-07-18
Trevor Meadows		2023-10-29

OPEN HANDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1136482

Accounts

OPEN HANDS

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



Caladine

Chartered Certified Accountants

OPEN HANDS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity number	1136482
Trustees	Rebekka Single (Chairperson) Trevor Meadows (Treasurer) Andrea Van Hoven Julie Horn
Address	Open Hands Charity Millbank Cottage Horringtonford Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AP
Independent Examiner	J R Caladine FCCA Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF
Bankers	Co-operative Bank 78/80 Cornhill London EC3V 3NJ

OPEN HANDS

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Trustees Report

For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Status, Governance and Management

Open Hands is a charity registered in England and governed by its Trust Deed dated 21st May 2010.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Rebekka Single
Trevor Meadows
Andrea van Hoven
Julie Horn

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees. They meet regularly to manage the activities of Open Hands.

In memory of Trustee Ian Taplin

On 10th September 2023 our dedicated Open Hands Trustee and dear friend Ian Taplin suddenly passed away. Ian suffered complications from long-term health conditions that were only discovered a few days before.

Ian used the skills that he acquired as a former lawyer and accountant to help the charity. He was a man of integrity who gave security to the charity but more than that he became a friend and trusted personal advisor. Ian is being greatly missed by myself and the Open Hands team.

Objectives and Structure

Open Hands remains committed to providing valuable and on-going support for vulnerable children and their families living in disadvantaged areas, primarily in Romania. The objects of Open Hands, as documented in our declaration of Trust in May 2010 are:

- (a) The prevention or relief of poverty in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing: grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities or other

local organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty for orphan and neglected children, and among the Roma community.

- (b) To relieve poverty (or financial hardship) among the Roma community and their dependents living in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing advice and support in health, housing and education.

This report demonstrates how we have achieved these objects within the financial year 2024-25.

Open Hands is a registered charity in three countries: England, Germany and Romania. All funds raised through Open Hands Charity in the England or Open Hands e.V. in Germany that are not needed to meet local governance, operational needs or to meet our reserves policy are transferred to Fundatia Open Hands in Romania.

Public Benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Risk Statement

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

Trustees' Responsibilities

We are required as trustees to prepare financial statements each year which include the payments and receipts of Open Hands Charity for the year. The trustees are responsible for keeping accurate accounting records; this ensures that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

Open Hands Mission

Open Hands work is based on Christian values but welcomes persons of all beliefs and none. We work among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in Romania and our programs aim to transform their lives.

Open Hands founder Rebekka Single first travelled to Romania in 2008, where she was moved by the plight of children lacking love, care, and shelter. These children were isolated and highly disadvantaged, with no one to speak up on their behalf. In response to their needs, Rebekka established the Open Hands Charity in 2010 - first in England, and later, in

collaboration with founding members, in Romania in 2015. In 2021, Open Hands e.V. was also established in Germany.

Open Hands Vision and Values

Our vision is a world free of poverty and injustice. A world where every child in every community is valued and loved. A world where every child, regardless of their ability or background can access the resources to thrive and reach their full potential.

The work of Open Hands is underpinned by these core values:

Integrity

- We are committed to work transparently with all resources entrusted to us and strongly believe in being accountable to our supporters. We strive to keep our administration costs to an absolute minimum and our expenses in Romania are carefully budgeted and reviewed to ensure good stewardship.

Respect

- We respect the human worth and dignity of every person we serve. We believe that every person, regardless of ethnicity, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or beliefs is of immense value and uniquely gifted. We promote inclusiveness for all people we work with and challenge discrimination in all its forms.

Compassion

- We act with compassion and kindness and strive to bring unconditional love to those we are helping. We believe that every child needs to experience a loving and stable environment, where their emotional, material and social needs are met.

Empowerment

- We promote and support people's right to make their own choices, provided this does not threaten the rights, safety and legitimate interests of others.

Collaboration

- We empower families to be active participants, and to become involved, in decisions and actions affecting their lives. We build relationships and partnerships to ensure that children and families can access the services that they need. We work together with local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and families.

Holistic Approach

- We provide support that looks at the whole person, not just their immediate circumstances. We seek to cover all aspects of a child's life, including their physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing, as well as their family life, community and societal environments.

-

Where Open Hands Operates and What it Does

Open Hands' Fundatia main office is in Suceava, a city in the northeast of Romania. Our work, however, extends beyond Suceava to two key areas: the surrounding villages and the small town of Gheorgheni in eastern Transylvania.

We work with children and families in rural communities who face social exclusion and poverty, challenges often rooted in limited access to education and scarce employment opportunities. As a result, many families struggle to manage their meager financial resources effectively. Numerous parents have endured traumatic upbringings themselves and have lost hope, recognizing the near impossibility of meeting their children's basic needs without external assistance.

Open Hands is often the first point of contact for these families. We provide well-structured, sustainable, and long-term support aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty within these communities.

Achievements and Performance - 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Family Support (FS)

FS Aim - Education

Over the years our FS service has proven itself a successful tool in combating poverty. It offers children and their families well-structured, long-term support and provides a way out of poverty. However, change takes time, and families need to engage fully to see positive outcomes.

The Romanian Child Protection Service or family doctors frequently refer children and families who are in urgent need of support to us. Although we continue to add new cases and aim to help as many in need as we possibly can, a waiting list remains. We currently support a total of over 200 children in our programs.

The main aim of the FS service is to provide access to education for children. Depending on the child's age, this starts at the kindergarten level and leads up to the completion of

secondary school. Romania has a significant challenge with early school leaving, with the highest rate in the European Union. We know that if children leave school early, their employment opportunities may completely be diminished, or at best, they get very low-paying jobs. While higher levels of education correlate with lower unemployment rates. It is therefore our priority that the children we support through our FS service stay in education.

Although the government is implementing programs to address the early school leaving issue, the issue persists due to a number of social and economic factors. Open Hands is addressing these factors. The key challenges are to provide access to education, monitor a child's attendance, and keep them motivated to learn and continue their education.

Children and families who are being socially excluded and live in poverty need reliable and trustworthy partners. Our liaison workers build bridges between home and school environments; in addition to this, we provide further support at our educational Rainbow and Lighthouse centres. It is our goal to see every child, regardless of their ability or background, thrive and reach their full potential.

FS Home Visits

Home visits give us the opportunity to make sure children are cared for. Practical, hands-on FS for families living in remote or excluded areas involves providing families with material things, such as clothing, shoes and blankets. We also provide school supplies, hygiene products and food, according to each family's needs.

Additionally, families receive counselling and are advised and practical support in relation to welfare issues and health care.

FS Children with Disabilities

Our FS work involves the support of children with disabilities that we encounter within families and children's homes. Romanian legislation aims to protect the rights and interests of children with disabilities, particularly in social protection, assistance, education, and healthcare. However, we frequently meet children with disabilities that live isolated and marginalised lives, facing barriers to accessing the healthcare and educational services they so desperately need.

Open Hands workers take on the role of an advocate for these children and families to ensure that they receive their government entitlements. Parents are informed of their rights and the legislation in regard to disability. Children and parents are also assisted in gaining access to health care and education.

Children with disabilities are welcome and included in all Rainbow House and Lighthouse activities and are valuable members of the Open Hands community.

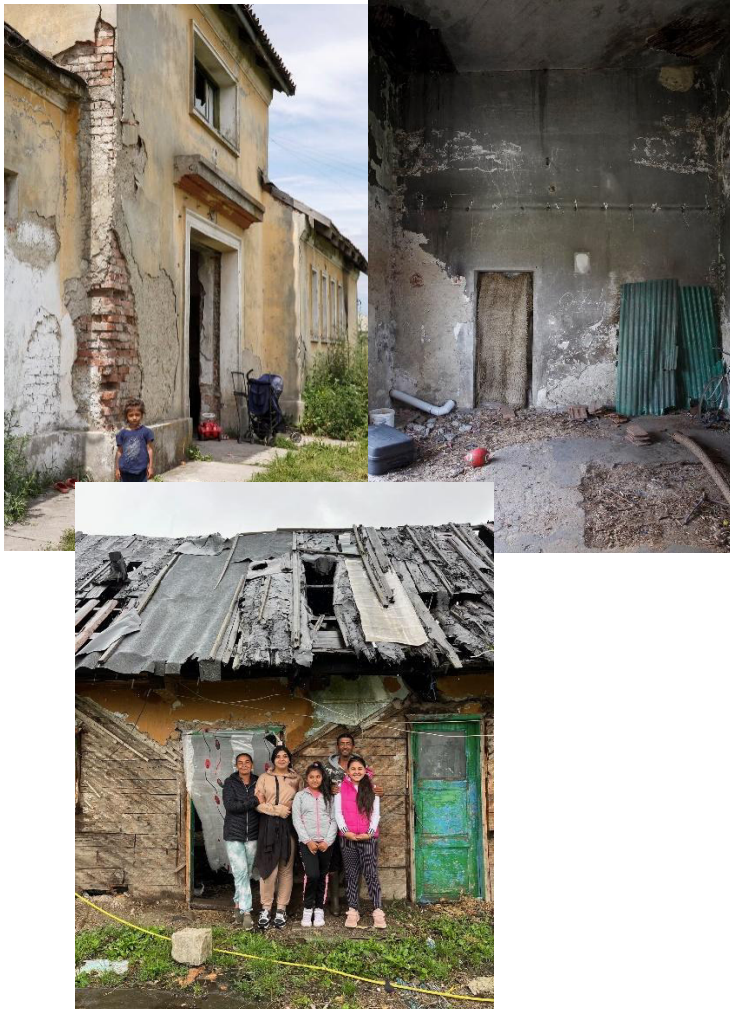
Birthdays

Many children we work with do not know when their birthday is, let alone having ever experienced the enjoyment and fun of celebrating one before. We want them to know how precious they are – this is why we celebrate each child’s birthday with a cake and special celebration.



FS Housing

As the homes that our families live in are usually dilapidated and small spaces, much work needs to be done to make these places properly habitable. Open Hands frequently assists families in renovating their homes, providing water access, building new roofs and sometimes re-building a home completely. All this work and much more is done in collaboration with parents. We are supported by some local authorities on these projects and sometimes local businesses help out as well, all with one aim - to create safer and humane living conditions for children and families.



Rainbow House (RH)

RH Care

Since its opening in 2016 the RH has been a safe place of consistent nurture and care for deprived children and their mothers. Over the years the children have come to see the RH as their second home where they find acceptance and rest. Up to this day it is the same children and new ones who come and enjoy the support the staff and RH has to offer. The RH team sets an example of what relationship-based and sustainable social work looks like, the outcome of which is seen in the positive development of the children.



RH Outdoors

Younger and older children continue to enjoy the outdoor space at the RH - we are fortunate to offer them a large garden and play area where they can, in the warmer season, play and unwind daily. The garden area is also used for sports such as football and other ball games, as well as large summer and birthday parties for the children.

RH Education

Due to their disadvantaged backgrounds the RH children are at high risk of remaining poor throughout their lives. To reduce this risk, we place a strong emphasis on education which entails kindergarten and school enrolment and attendance monitoring, as well as supporting the children's learning at the RH. Our RH manager is regularly in touch with schools to make sure that the children attend. She frequently advocates on their behalf and addresses any problems that arise.

A large percentage of the children we work with do not meet the developmental milestones of healthily developed children of a similar age. Due to a disadvantaged start in life, many RH children are less advanced in their development, some have diagnosed disabilities. Those with additional needs have been enrolled at the local special school.

Each of the RH children continues to develop at its own pace and we continue to see steady, overall improvements. It is a big achievement for many children when they learn how to read and write. All RH children and families receive regular visits at home from our family liaison worker.

RH Holistic Approach

We look at each child holistically to enable it to reach its full potential. We aim to ensure the physical and emotional well-being of each child, as well as taking their family and broader life in the context of their community into account.

By working with children in our programs, at school and within their home context, we get a clearer picture of what they need to thrive. Regular home visits allow us to see children in the context of their family and community life. Understanding the environment in which a child lives helps us to tailor our support, to meet their needs and improve their outcomes. It also enables us to connect and work with their parents, who are often vulnerable adults themselves, in need of support.



RH Teens

Over the past years our work with teenagers at the RH has evolved, placing a strong emphasis on the future-wellbeing of our young people. The teenagers meet twice a week with a mentor who guides them on topics such as identity, integration into Romanian society, education and physical health, as well as art and music. The mentor and our RH manager work with the teenagers at the Rainbow House or the Caritas base in the town of Gheorgheni. The teenagers are thriving in this program and have formed a strong group cohesion, feeling connected, having a sense of unity and shared purpose.

All along our family liaison worker continues to build bridges to the children's home environments and works intensively with parents to ensure holistic care. The program is another stepping stone for our Rainbow House young people towards a self-determined future.



RH Partnerships

Our initial partnership with the Caritas Youth 4 Change Program has been successful and Open Hands continues to work side by side with Caritas for the well-being of our teenagers and other disadvantaged teenagers in the area.



RH Summer

Children in Romania have a long summer holiday of around 3 months. During this time the RH remained open, apart from two weeks in August. The RH offered its usual services to the children and families. Various summer activities took place, such as traveling to the swimming pool in the nearest bigger town, BBQs and summer parties.



Two Lighthouse Programs (LH)

This year we continued to work with children at our two Lighthouse Programs, situated in the rural communities of Suceava county. Lighthouse No. 1 is based in the centre of the village in Ciprian Porumbescu and is part of a building that is connected with the local primary school. The space of the centre is comprised of three large rooms which are provided to OH by the local authority free of charge. Two rooms serve as classrooms while the third is used as a play and break room.

Lighthouse No. 2 is based in the rural community of Timpoceni. Due to the ongoing rebuilding of the primary school in Timpoceni OH is running its LH program at the near primary school in Capu Codrului. The school in Capu Codrului has been facilitating OH with the use of a classroom in which the LH is run for five afternoons a week.

The aim of our Lighthouses is to break generational cycles of poverty through education. The children coming to LH come from disadvantaged backgrounds; due to this they are mostly years behind in their level of learning in comparison to other children their age. LH is therefore a vital support as it aids their learning development immensely.

LH supplements the school curriculum and enables children to repeat and practise subjects like maths and Romanian. The programme encourages regular school attendance by only allowing children to come to the LH program who have attended school that day.

LH also broadens children’s perspectives by creating new opportunities and experiences, such as outdoor activities, arts and crafts and sight-seeing. LH is a very popular programme.

LHNo. 1 – Ciprian Porumbescu

Usually, the children come to the centre in Ciprian Porumbescu right after they finish school. At LH they first receive a hot and nutritious meal. The programme runs each week-day from 12pm until 4pm. LH works with a total of 35 children; 20 children in its primary Owl class and 15 secondary aged teenagers in their own class. As demand grew, we opened the class for the teenagers in September 2024 – the class is supported by two experienced teachers and our LH manager. Many friendships are being formed and strengthened at LH.

LH children, attending both classes receive support with clothing, shoes and school supplies. Each child’s birthday is celebrated together at LH.

LH offers advocacy and Family Support as part of its programme. Both our Lighthouses programmes operate in collaboration with the relevant local authority.



LHNo. 2 - Timpoceni

LH Timpoceni is run similarly to LH Ciprian Porumbescu. The children attend right after they have finished school and begin their programme with a hot meal. The programme runs 5 days a week in the classroom offered to us by the school. Our project manager runs the programme with a teacher from the local community. Together they work with 21 marginalised children of school age who all need additional support with their learning due to their disadvantaged backgrounds.

In addition to the 21 school-aged children, our project manager has enrolled and integrated a further 26 children from Timpoceni into the kindergarten – which is attached right to the school. Thus, enabling a total of 66 children from the community of Timpoceni access to education and ongoing support with their education.

We continue a positive working relationship with the head and the teachers of the school, who value our community work and educational input.



LH Summers

During the three-month long summer break, the LH staff organises a number of indoor and outdoor activities for the children. This year the children enjoyed various parties, such as a lemonade party, visiting restaurants, picnics, being on a steam train and hiking in the woods.



Support for Ukraine

Open Hands operates in Romania and the surrounding region. Our headquarters are based in the northern city of Suceava which is only a short drive from the Romanian-Ukrainian border. Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Open Hands has provided support and assistance to Ukrainian citizens entering Romania and to vulnerable children in Ukraine. Relief items were brought to children and adults who experience extreme hardships through sickness, disability, poverty or by living in an orphanage.

This has included support to children and young people in the Mahala residential institution in Chernivtsi region. In this context, Open Hands became aware of the work of Social Synergy to support children in and from the Mahala institution.

Open Hands is impressed by Social Synergy's dedication to supporting the most excluded children with disabilities. This year, we continued our support for children of Mahala orphanage by assisting the work of Social Synergy to finance staff who provide the therapeutic intervention and individualised care that the children and young people desperately need.

Aid Transports

This year two aid transports were made in April and October. Volunteers drove with Sprinter vans all the way from southern Germany to deliver warm clothing and shoes, toys, blankets, childrens' bikes, school materials, furniture and many other items to our Rainbow House in Romania. The donations are stored in a container at the RH and distributed throughout the year to the families and children that we work closely with.

Christmas 2024

Our Romanian team had a busy Christmas period once again, as 640 Christmas boxes were brought to households and schools, such as the local school for children with disabilities. As well as visiting children in need and delivering gifts to their homes, we held multiple Christmas parties at our Rainbow House and Lighthouses. Due to the growing number of children in our programmes, we held a number of Christmas parties at the centres. During the parties children were provided with a special Christmas dinner. We offered different art and craft activities; Christmas carols were sung and Father Christmas came and brought gifts.

In December 2024 St Nicholas Day was celebrated with all Open Hands children. The children had a celebration, received gifts and were visited in their community. Christmas gifts continue to brighten the children's lives. Some tell us that receiving a Christmas gift from Open Hands has been one of their happiest memories.



Financial Review

This year, our income held up well, enabling us to cover all activities on the ground in Romania and support the Mahala orphanage in Ukraine. As the cost of living continues to rise and the need for services in Romania grows, we continue to rely on monthly donations. However, these regular monthly donations do not cover the running costs on the ground in Romania. This deficit is covered each month by additional fundraising efforts and through one-off donations. We consistently continue to pursue the aim of balancing out our income and expenses.

There was a surplus for the year on operations of £27,396. Reserves carried forward were £95,029 as at 31 March 2025.

In the year 2021 we set up Open Hands e. V. in Germany until then our German based donors had donated to Open Hands Charity in England, as German donors migrated to donate to the Germany charity the income of Open Hands Charity in England inevitably dropped significantly as compared with previous years. However, the formation of Open Hands e. V. has enabled us to raise more funds in Germany itself, which in return immensely strengthens our work on the ground in Romania.

Since the formation of our Open Hands e.V. branch in Germany we have established a very close working relationship sharing one aim - a better future for the poorest children in Romania. Although both charities serve the same aim, they are separate entities and therefore accountable to their respective national authorities.

Thank You

As I reflect on the past year, I take great pride in all that we have accomplished together as a team — from the many skilled individuals on the ground in Romania who faithfully meet the daily needs of children and families, to the Trustees and volunteers in England and Germany whose commitment and dedication have been unwavering.

The continued impact of our work is sustained by the generosity of individuals, churches, companies, and charitable trusts, whose support enables Open Hands to thrive.

We are sincerely grateful for your ongoing partnership, support, and shared commitment to our mission.



Yours sincerely,

Rebekka Single

26 November 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OPEN HANDS***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025***

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Open Hands ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 19 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

**J R Caladine FCCA**

Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

8 December 2025

OPEN HANDS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts				
Donations	123,087	-	123,087	114,671
Interest	959	-	959	475
Gift aid	12,609	-	12,609	5,442
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total receipts	136,655	-	136,655	120,588
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Payments				
Projects and aid to Romania NGO	107,175	-	107,175	99,760
Travel costs	221	-	221	-
Insurance	431	-	431	431
Office costs	544	-	544	257
Accountancy and Independent Examination	888	-	888	840
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total payments	109,259	-	109,259	101,288
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	27,396	-	27,396	19,300
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash funds at 31 March 2024	67,633	-	67,633	48,333
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash funds at 31 March 2025	95,029	-	95,029	67,633
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

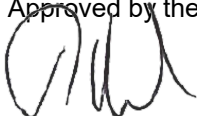
OPEN HANDS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash funds		
Cash at bank	<u>95,029</u>	<u>67,633</u>
Other debtors		
Gift aid receivable	<u>16,086</u>	<u>6,359</u>
Liabilities		
Accountancy and Independent Examination	<u>924</u>	<u>888</u>

Approved by the trustees 26 November 2025



Trevor Meadows
Treasurer

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as allowed under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 for small charities that are not companies.

1.2 Income and expenditure

All income and expenditure has been included when received and paid.

1.3 Funds

General unrestricted fund

The Charity operates an unrestricted General Fund that can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

2 Trustees

Trustees received no remuneration in the year.

In the year, Trustee Trevor Meadows was reimbursed expenses of £431 (2024: £431) for insurance payments.

OPEN HANDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1136482

Accounts

OPEN HANDS

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024



Caladine
Chartered Certified Accountants

OPEN HANDS

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity number	1136482
Trustees	Rebekka Single (Chairperson) Trevor Meadows (Treasurer) Andrea Van Hoven Julie Horn
Address	Millbank Cottage Horringford Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AP
Independent Examiner	J R Caladine FCCA Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF
Bankers	Co-operative Bank 78/80 Cornhill London EC3V 3NJ

Registered Charity Number: 1136482

Registered Office:

Open Hands Charity

Millbank Cottage

Horringford

Newport

Isle of Wight

PO30 3AP

Open Hands Trustees:

Rebekka Single – Chairperson and Trustee

Trevor Meadows –Treasurer and Trustee

Andrea van Hoven – Trustee

Julie Horn - Trustee

Trustees Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Status, Governance and Management

Open Hands is a charity registered in England and governed by its Trust Deed dated 21 May 2010.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Rebekka Single
Trevor Meadows
Andrea van Hoven
Julie Horn

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees. They meet regularly to manage the activities of Open Hands.

Trustee and friend Ian Taplin

On 10th September 2023 our dedicated Open Hands Trustee and dear friend Ian Taplin suddenly passed away. Ian suffered complications from long-term health conditions that were only discovered a few days before.

Ian used the skills that he acquired as a former lawyer and accountant to help the charity. He was a man of integrity who gave security to the charity but more than that he became a friend and trusted personal advisor. Ian is being greatly missed by myself and the Open Hands team.

Objectives and Structure

Open Hands remains committed to providing valuable and on-going support for vulnerable children and their families living in disadvantaged areas, primarily in Romania. The objects of Open Hands, as documented in our declaration of Trust in May 2010 are:

- (a) The prevention or relief of poverty in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing: grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities or other local organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty for orphan and neglected children, and among the Roma community.

- (b) To relieve poverty (or financial hardship) among the Roma community and their dependents living in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing health/housing/advice and education

This report demonstrates how we have achieved these objects within the financial year 2023-24, and we hope it will be an encouragement to our supporters and friends.

Open Hands operates in Romania through its locally registered sister foundation, Fundatia Open Hands (FOH). All monies raised in the UK not needed to meet local governance and similar costs or to comply with our reserves policy are transferred to FOH.

Public Benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Risk Statement

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

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Open Hands Mission

Open Hands was set up, and is run, by Christians who want to express their faith in Christ by showing his love in practical action. Our work is based on Christian values but welcomes persons of all beliefs and none. We work among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in Romania and our programs aim to transform their lives.

Rebekka Single first travelled to Romania in 2008 and was moved by the needs of children in the country who were still suffering from a lack of love, care, nurture, clothing and shelter. These children were of no importance to the wider communities in which they were living and had no one to be an advocate on their behalf. In 2010 Rebekka formed Open Hands Charity; she and her team have since become a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Open Hands Vision and Values

Our vision is a world free of poverty and injustice. A world where every child in every community is valued and loved. A world where every child, regardless of their ability or background can access the resources to thrive and reach their full potential.

The work of Open Hands is underpinned by our core values:

Integrity

- We are committed to work transparently with all resources entrusted to us and strongly believe in being accountable to our supporters. We strive to keep our administration costs to an absolute minimum and our expenses in Romania are carefully budgeted and reviewed to ensure good stewardship.

Respect

- We respect the human worth and dignity of every person we serve. We believe that every person, regardless of ethnicity, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or beliefs is of immense value and uniquely gifted. We promote inclusiveness for all people we work with and challenge discrimination in all its forms.

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- We act with compassion and kindness and strive to bring unconditional love to those we are helping. We believe that every child needs to experience a loving and stable environment, where their emotional, material and social needs are met.

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- We promote and support people's right to make their own choices, provided this does not threaten the rights, safety and legitimate interests of others.

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- We empower families to be active participants, and to become involved, in decisions and actions affecting their lives. We build relationships and partnerships to ensure that children and families can access the services that they need. We work together with local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and families.

Holistic Approach

- We provide support that looks at the whole person, not just their immediate circumstances. We seek to cover all aspects of a child's life, including their physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing, as well as their family life, community and societal environments.

Where Open Hands Operates and What it Does

Open Hands main office in Romania is in Suceava, a city situated in north-east of the country. However, our work is carried out in two locations: in villages around Suceava and in the small town of Gheorgheni, in eastern Transylvania.

We work with children and families in rural communities who suffer from isolation and poverty, typically caused by a complete lack of education and poor opportunities for work.

Because of this, many families struggle to manage their meagre financial resources efficiently. Many parents had a traumatic up-bringing themselves. They have lost hope, knowing it is almost impossible for them to meet their children's basic needs without help from outside. Governmental authorities often lack empathy when it comes to supporting poor families. Children have no positive role models in their families and so, left to their own devices, the poverty cycle continues for another generation when they reach adolescence and then adulthood. Open Hands is often the first and only support these families receive.

Our children's centre, the Rainbow House, is based in Gheorgheni - a town affected by high unemployment, depression and alcoholism. Many families here lead lives of complete desolation.

Most children and families we work with here are of Roma ethnicity and face severe hardship and destitution. Discrimination, lack of education, unemployment, homelessness, extreme poverty and hunger are part of their daily lives.

Achievements and Performance - 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Rainbow House (RH)



Care

We first opened the RH as a day centre in 2016, after witnessing the extreme deprivation that Roma children are exposed to living in the local slum. Since then, we have had the same children attending the RH program on a regular basis. The children are eager to come to the RH because our team lovingly cares for each child. The children are fed, washed, changed into clean clothes, helped with homework and do many fun activities, including trips to the cinema or zoo. Over the years the children have formed strong friendships and see the RH as their second home.



Space for Teens

Many children have come to the RH since we opened its doors in 2016. Since then, some of these children have come into their teenage years and require more specialised support. To meet their needs, we have developed a Teen Project which offers support throughout secondary school education. The project aims to support young people to become healthy, well-rounded, independent and responsible adults who make positive contributions to society. As the RH is very small in size, we have furnished a room in a portable cabin, which is situated in the garden of the RH. The teens can call this new space their own. It is separated from the smaller children and used for down time, workshops, meetings and home learning.

Partnerships

We are thankful for the opportunity to partner with the Caritas Youth 4 Change Program. This partnership involves a Youth Worker who works with our young people at the Rainbow House or the Caritas base on a weekly basis for two years.

The program aims to broaden young people's perspectives on different professions, which will help them to choose a career path that fits their abilities. Topics such as Roma identity,

music and art are also explored. The program is another stepping stone for our Rainbow House young people towards a self-determined future.



New Playground

The new Rainbow House playground is a colourful place of hope that brings the children much joy and distraction. It is an oasis in the midst of deprivation. Here the children find safety and happiness from their poverty grinding days.



Breaking the cycle

A strong emphasis is placed in supporting children on their educational journey. Each child develops at their own pace but we continue to see steady, overall improvements. Open Hands is making sure that all RH children are enrolled in some form of education; the younger ones are at kindergarten, those with additional needs learn at a special school and those that are able are integrated into the mainstream school in town. A large percentage of the children we work with do not meet the developmental milestones of a healthily developed child of similar age. Due to a disadvantaged start in life, many RH children are developmentally delayed or/and have a disability of some sort. For these children it is a big achievement when they learn how to read and write. Our RH manager is regularly in touch with schools to make sure that the children attend. She frequently advocates on their behalf and addresses any problems that arise. The Children usually come to the RH after kindergarten and school to eat and do their homework.

All RH children and families receive regular visits at home through our Family Support Program.

Summer

Children in Romania tend to have a long summer holiday of up to 3 months. During this time the RH remained open, apart from the month of August, and offered its usual services to the children and families. Various summer activities took place, such as traveling to the swimming pool in the nearest bigger town, BBQs and summer parties.

Family Support (FS)

Aim

It is our aim to see every child, regardless of their ability or background thrive and reach their full potential. FS provides a way out of poverty. It enables children and their families to escape its devastating effects. However, change takes time – particularly in view of generational poverty.

Hands-on support for families living in remote areas involves: providing children with food, clothing, school supplies and access to education, access to health care, parental counselling, and in some cases house renovations and access to drinking water by drilling wells.

New well

This year we were able to support Julia* (*name has been changed), mother of four to gain access to water. For years the family has been living in an isolated location, without neighbours and access to water. The existing well from which they once drew water did not function anymore and Julia relied on relatives to occasionally bring water. This situation

contributed to an overall decline of Julia's mental health. A woman who had gone through multiple traumas in her life already and as a result struggled to take good care of her children. Open Hands commissioned a company to drill a new well which now gives excellent water and is a great help to Julia and the entire family.



Holistic Approach

To help children reach their full potential we must look at them holistically. This means ensuring their physical and emotional well-being, as well as looking at their family life and their life in the context of their community.

By working with children in our programs, both at school and within their home, we get a clearer picture of what they need to thrive. Regular home visits allow us to see children in the context of their family and community life. Understanding the context in which a child lives helps us to tailor our support to meet their needs and improve their conditions. It enables us to connect and work with their parents who are often vulnerable adults themselves, in need of support.

Housing

Most families we first come in contact with live in overcrowded, dilapidated and unsanitary places. Alternative housing is often not available, and we therefore spend much time, money and effort to make existing homes properly habitable. Sometimes a new roof is needed, sometimes a home needs to be re-built in whole or part. Often windows and doors need replacing. Usually, homes need a thorough clean and fresh lick of paint. All this work and much more is done in collaboration with parents. We are supported by some local authorities on these projects and sometimes local businesses help out as well, all with one aim - to create safer and humane living conditions for children and families.

New Roofs

New Roofs

This year we provided new roofs for two large families living in the Roma slum. The slum is home to a community of around 400 people who live in over-crowded conditions with no sewage-system, showers or toilets. Decades of exclusion and a lack of access to inclusive education and other services have contributed to a strong social and economic decline of its inhabitants.

The families of Maya* and Ionella* (names have been changed) both lived in unsafe homes with dilapidated roofs, close to collapsing on them and their families. The lives of both these women are exemplary. While living with their own children in abstract poverty, they took in children who were abandoned and destitute to live with them.

Open Hands worked together with the husbands of these women and local builders to provide new roofs for these families. This contributed to a much safer living environments and overall improvement of these families well-being.



Support

The Romanian Child Protection Service or family doctors frequently refer children and families who are in urgent need of support to us. Although we continue to add new cases and aim to help as many in need as we possibly can, a waiting list remains. We currently support a total of 180 children in our program. Although provision is unique and tailored depending on the child's need, we typically enrol every child in either kindergarten or school and we provide clothing, food and hygiene articles. We support families in relation to welfare issues and health care needs.

children within their homes, in special schools, kindergarten and by liaising with specialist therapists. Open Hands workers also take on the role of an advocate for these children and families to ensure that they receive their government entitlements. Children with disabilities are welcome and included in all Rainbow House and Lighthouse activities and are valuable members of the Open Hands community.

Birthdays

Many children we work with do not even know when their birthday is, let alone having ever experienced the enjoyment and fun of celebrating one before. We want them to know how precious they are – this is why we celebrate each birthday with a cake and gift and most importantly their friends from the program.

Our Lighthouse Programs (LH)

We currently run two Lighthouse Programs in the rural communities of Suceava county. One Lighthouse is based in the village of Ciprian Porumbescu and the other in the community of Timoceni. The concept of Lighthouse is to break generational cycles of poverty through education. Lighthouse is a program designed to supplement the school curriculum and to broaden children's perspectives by creating new opportunities and experiences, such as outdoor activities, arts and crafts, sight-seeing and more. To encourage school attendance the children can only come to Lighthouse if they have been to school that day.

Lighthouse – Ciprian Porumbescu

The children come to our centre in Ciprian Porumbescu right after they finish school to receive a hot meal. The program runs each week day from 12pm until 4pm and supports up to 26 children with their education, creative learning, outdoor activities, day trips and more.

Children who attend classes also receive clothes, shoes and school supplies from Lighthouse. Birthdays are also celebrated with cakes and balloons.

We also offer advocacy and Family Support as part of the program. Both our Lighthouse programs operate in collaboration with the relevant local authority. The space of our centre in Ciprian Porumbescu is provided by the local authority free of charge to Open Hands. Thanks to a generous donation we were able to completely refurbish the classroom, kitchen, hallway and playroom this year.



Lighthouse Summer

During the long summer break, our staff organises a number of indoor and outdoor activities for the children. This year the children enjoyed being on a steam train and on a boat for the first time in their lives. We took them to eat out in restaurants and they learned and found joy in visiting museums and castles.



Lighthouse – Timpoceni

Our Lighthouse in the community of Timpoceni is currently still run at the local school of Capu Codrului. The school offered us the use of one of their classrooms and we started a daily program for the children after school. For this a local teacher was hired by Open Hands who works together with our project manager on a daily basis with 16 of the most marginalised children of the community. Due to the severe neglect and poverty the children experience, many suffer from developmental delay and struggle with their learning. We also provide food, as the children usually come hungry to the program.

Over three years ago the old school in Timpoceni was torn down and the mayor promised to re-build it. This promise is now finally taking shape with building work moving forward. Since the old school was torn down, Open Hands organised a bus so that the children from Timpoceni are brought to the nearby school of Capu Codrului to learn. We continue to establish a very positive working relationship with the teachers at the school.



Ukraine

Our headquarters are based in the northern city of Suceava which is only a short drive from the Romanian-Ukrainian border. Since the outbreak of the war Open Hands has been actively assisting Ukrainian refugees. Since the early summer of 2022 a part of the Open Hands team began travelling to Western Ukraine on a regular basis to bring aid to those displaced by war inside Ukraine. Relief items were brought to children and adults who experience extreme hardships through sickness, disability, poverty or by living in an orphanage.

This year we continued to deliver food and other vital items to an orphanage with 52 disabled children who were displaced by war and are extremely vulnerable, many suffering from malnutrition.

However, despite the great need, the greatest gift is not the material items we bring. It is our time. It is human contact. It is knowing that someone cares. There is, as Mother Teresa once said, a terrible hunger for love. We visit to ease the pain of loneliness. And we bring aid. In addition to that we raise awareness of the unacceptable treatment of children with disabilities in Ukrainian's orphanage system by meeting with local authorities and connecting with other NGOs.

Team Weekend

In March 2023 our first Romanian team weekend was held. The weekend took place in the tranquil countryside of Transylvania. We spent productive days during which our team spirit and vision were strengthened. We left the weekend refreshed and armed with new ideas and a stronger sense of togetherness.



Aid Transports

This year three aid transports were made in June, November and in March. Volunteers drove with sprinters all the way from southern Germany to deliver warm clothing and shoes, toys, blankets, children's bikes, school materials, furniture and many other items to our Rainbow House in Romania. The donations are stored in a container at the RH and distributed throughout the year to families and children in need.

Christmas 2023

Our Romanian team had a busy Christmas period once again, as 552 Christmas boxes were brought to households and schools, such as the local school for children with disabilities. As well as visiting children in need and delivering gifts to their homes, we held multiple Christmas parties at our Rainbow and Lighthouses. Due to the growing number of children in our

In December 2023 St Nicholas Day was celebrated with all Open Hands children. The children had a celebration, received gifts and were visited in their community. Christmas gifts continue to brighten the children's lives. Some tell us that receiving a Christmas gift from Open Hands has been one of their happiest memories.

Financial Review

At the time of writing our finances hold up and we are able to cover the costs of all our activities in Romania. We are glad that our donors faithfully continue their support and that new donors come to support us on a regular basis. As the cost of living continues to rise and the need for services in Romania grows, we continue to rely on monthly donations and face the challenge that our regular income does not cover our regular expenses. The deficit is covered each month by additional fundraising efforts and by one-off donations. It is our aim to continue to stabilise the foundation of our work by equalling out our income and expenses.

There was a surplus for the year on operations of £19,300, brought about by one specific legacy of £25,000. Reserves carried forward were £67,633 as at 31 March 2024.

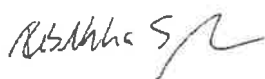
During 2021-22 most German based donors migrated to Open Hands e.V. with the result that the income of Open Hands Charity inevitably dropped significantly as compared with previous years. Since the formation of our Open Hands e.V. branch in Germany (2021) we have established a very close working relationship sharing one aim - a better future for the poorest children in Romania. Although both charities serve the same aim, they are separate entities and therefore accountable to their respective national authorities.

With Thanks

Finishing this report, I would like to mention how incredibly fortunate we are to have so many skilled and gifted people in our team. Our board of Trustees, our volunteers and our dedicated staff on the ground in Romania bring such a range of professionalism and experience to the charity. Their commitment and contributions to what we do are inspirational.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our faithful sponsors who believe in our work and enable it to flourish. Without their giving this work would not be possible. We receive support from individuals, churches and companies – all of whom keep our work alive with their large and small donations – I am immensely thankful.

Your sincerely,
Rebekka Single



30 November 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OPEN HANDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Open Hands ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 17 to 19.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



J R Caladine FCCA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF



OPEN HANDS

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024


	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts				
Donations	114,671	-	114,671	58,918
Interest	475	-	475	57
Gift aid	5,442	-	5,442	10,041
Total receipts	120,588	-	120,588	69,016
Payments				
Projects and aid to Romania NGO	99,760	-	99,760	88,467
Travel costs	-	-	-	717
Insurance	431	-	431	431
Professional fees	-	-	-	-
Office costs	257	-	257	2,792
Accountancy and Independent Examination	840	-	840	780
Bank charges	-	-	-	35
Other expenses	-	-	-	-
Total payments	101,288	-	101,288	93,222
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	19,300	-	19,300	(24,206)
Cash funds at 31 March 2023	48,333	-	48,333	72,539
Cash funds at 31 March 2024	67,633	-	67,633	48,333

OPEN HANDS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	<u>2024</u> £	<u>2023</u> £
Cash funds		
Cash at bank	<u>67,633</u>	<u>48,333</u>
Other debtors		
Gift aid receivable	<u>6,359</u>	<u>5,022</u>
Liabilities		
Accountancy and Independent Examination	<u>828</u>	<u>798</u>

Approved by the trustees 

Trevor Meadows
Treasurer

30 November 2024

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as allowed under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 for small charities that are not companies.

1.2 Income and expenditure

All income and expenditure has been included when received and paid.

1.3 Funds

General unrestricted fund

The Charity operates an unrestricted General Fund that can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

2 Trustees

Trustees received no remuneration in the year.

In the year, Trustee Trevor Meadows was reimbursed expenses of £431 (2023: £431) for insurance payments.

OPEN HANDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1136482

Accounts

OPEN HANDS

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023



Caladine

Chartered Certified Accountants

OPEN HANDS

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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Independent Examiner's report 14

Receipts and payments account 15

Statement of assets and liabilities 16

Notes on financial statements 17

OPEN HANDS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Charity number	1136482
Trustees	Rebekka Single (Chairperson) Trevor Meadows (Treasurer) Andrea Van Hoven Julie Horn
Address	Millbank Cottage Horringford Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AP
Independent Examiner	J R Caladine FCCA Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF
Bankers	Co-operative Bank 78/80 Cornhill London EC3V 3NJ

Registered Charity Number: 1136482

Registered Office:

Open Hands Charity
Rosevine
Wellgreen Lane
Kingston
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 3NS

Open Hands Trustees:

Rebekka Single – Chairperson and Trustee
Trevor Meadows – Treasurer and Trustee
Andrea van Hoven – Trustee
Julie Horn - Trustee

Trustees Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Status, Governance and Management

Open Hands is a charity registered in England and governed by its Trust Deed dated 21 May 2010.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Rebekka Single

Ian Taplin – passed away 10 September 2023

Andrea van Hoven

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees. They meet regularly to manage the activities of Open Hands.

Objects and Structure

Open Hands remains committed to providing valuable and on-going support for vulnerable children and their families living in disadvantaged areas, primarily in Romania. The objects of Open Hands, as documented in our declaration of Trust in May 2010 are:

- (a) The prevention or relief of poverty in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing: grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities or other local organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty for orphan and neglected children, and among the Roma community.

- (b) To relieve poverty (or financial hardship) among the Roma community and their dependents living in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing health/housing/advice and education

This report demonstrates how we have achieved these objects within the financial year 2022-23, and we hope it will be an encouragement to all our supporters and friends.

Open Hands operates in Romania through its locally registered sister foundation, Fundatia Open Hands (FOH). All monies raised in the UK not needed to meet local governance and similar costs or to comply with our reserves policy are transferred to FOH.

Risk Statement

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

Trustees' Responsibilities

We are required as trustees to prepare financial statements each year which include the payments and receipts of Open Hands Charity for the year. The trustees are responsible for keeping accurate accounting records; this ensures that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011

Open Hands Mission

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Because of this, many families struggle to manage their meagre financial resources efficiently. Many parents had a traumatic up-bringing themselves. They have lost hope, knowing it is almost impossible for them to meet their children's basic needs without help from outside. Governmental authorities often lack empathy when it comes to supporting poor families. Children have no positive role models in their families and so, left to their own devices, the poverty cycle continues

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Children with Disabilities

Part of our FS work is offering support to children with disabilities and/or special educational needs. Over the past year Open Hands workers supported children within their homes, in schools and by liaising with specialist therapists.

Housing

Most families we first come in contact with live in overcrowded, dilapidated and unsanitary places. Alternative housing of is often not available, and we therefore spend much time, money and effort to make existing homes properly habitable. Sometimes a new roof is needed, sometimes a home needs to be re-built in whole or part. Often windows and doors need replacing. Usually, homes need a thorough clean and fresh lick of paint. All this work and much more is done in collaboration with parents. We are supported by some local authorities on these projects and sometimes local businesses help out as well, all with one aim - to create safer and humane living conditions for children and families.

This year we built a large room with a bathroom for two teenage children in our Family Support Program. The family has been homeless in the past and it is the first time that the children have a room of their own, separated from their parents. The family of four used to live, sleep and eat in a room no bigger than 8m². Please see pictures below of the new room being build.



Birthdays

Many children we work with do not even know when their birthday is, let alone having ever experienced the enjoyment and fun of celebrating one before. We want them to know how precious they are – this is why we celebrate each birthday with a cake and gift and most importantly their friends from the program.

Our Lighthouse Programs (LH)

We currently run two Lighthouse Programs in the rural communities of Suceava county. One Lighthouse is based in the village of Ciprian Porumbescu and the other in the community of Timpoceni. The concept of Lighthouse is to break generational cycles of poverty through education. Lighthouse is a program designed to supplement the school curriculum and to broaden children's perspectives by creating new opportunities and experiences, such as outdoor activities, arts and crafts, sight seeing and more. To encourage school attendance the children can only come to Lighthouse if they have been to school that day.

Lighthouse – Ciprian Porumbescu

The children come to our centre in Ciprian Porumbescu right after they finish school to receive a hot meal. The program runs each week day from 12pm until 4pm and supports up to 26 children with their education, creative learning, outdoor activities, day trips and more.

Children who attend classes also receive clothes, shoes and school supplies from Lighthouse. Birthdays are also celebrated with cakes and balloons.

We also offer advocacy and Family Support as part of the program. Both our Lighthouse programs operate in collaboration with the relevant local authority. The space of our centre in Ciprian Porumbescu is provided by the local authority free of charge to Open Hands. Thanks

to a generous donation we were able to completely refurbish the classroom, kitchen, hallway and playroom this year.



Summer

During the long summer break, our staff organised a number of outdoor activities with the children, e.g.: visiting museums, salt mines, playgrounds, zoos, restaurants, castles and monasteries.

Lighthouse – Timpoceni

Our Lighthouse in the community of Timpoceni is currently still run at the local school of Capu Codrului. The promise of the mayor to re-build the school in Timpoceni has yet to be fulfilled. The old school was torn down over two years ago and a new one has not been built. Open Hands organised that the children in Timpoceni are brought to the nearby school of Capu Codrului to learn. We established a good working relationship with the headteacher and the teachers at the school. However, the children from Timpoceni currently study in the school's gym because there is no alternative space available.

Ukraine

Our headquarters are based in the northern city of Suceava which is only a short drive from the Romanian-Ukrainian border. Since the outbreak of the war Open Hands has been actively assisting Ukrainian refugees. Since the early summer of 2022 a part of the Open Hands team began travelling to Western Ukraine on a regular basis to bring aid to those displaced by war inside Ukraine. Relief items were brought to children and adults who experience extreme hardships through sickness, disability, poverty or by living in an orphanage.

We currently deliver food and other vital items to an orphanage with 52 disabled children who were displaced by war and are extremely vulnerable, many suffering from malnutrition.

However, despite the great need, the greatest gift is not the material items we bring. It is our time. It is human contact. It is knowing that someone cares. There is, as Mother Teresa once said, a terrible hunger for love. We visit to ease the pain of loneliness. And we bring aid. In addition to that we raise awareness of the unacceptable treatment of children with disabilities in Ukrainian's orphanage system by meeting with local authorities and connecting with other NGOs.



Open Hands Charity and Open Hands e.V. in Germany

Since the formation of our Open Hands e.V. branch in Germany (2021) we have established a very close working relationship sharing one aim - a better future for the poorest children in Romania. Although both charities serve the same aim, they are separate entities and therefore accountable to their respective national authorities.

Christmas 2022

In December 2022 we celebrated St Nicholas Day with all Open Hands children. All children received gifts and were visited in their community.

This year a charity from Austria organised the collection and the delivery to our Rainbow House of 400 Christmas Shoe Boxes. These gifts continue to bring much joy to the most disadvantaged children each Christmas. Children often tell us that receiving a Christmas gift from Open Hands is one of their happiest memories.

Due to the growing number of children in our programs, we held a number of separate Christmas parties for all children. All children and parents were also provided with a special Christmas dinner at home. Many different art and craft activities were held, Christmas carols were sung and Father Christmas came and brought gifts.

Other Aid Trips

In the summer of 2022, a lorry from Germany once again made its way to our Rainbow House in Romania to deliver warm clothing and shoes, toys, blankets, children's bikes, school materials, furniture and many other items. These are stored in a container there and distributed throughout the year to families and children in need.

The aid delivery was achieved with the support of HFN, a German humanitarian charity, specialising in aid trips for over 20 years. Their donations have been an enormous support to our work as we are able to provide all our children with school supplies, clothing and much more.

Financial Review

This year we have been under increased financial pressure. The cause is the war in Ukraine and the following high inflation. The rapidly rising costs of food and energy are having a profound impact on our staff, our projects and our children and families in Romania. For example, our costs in Romania have increased significantly. While most donors are faithfully continuing their support and new people have started to support us, we remain under constant pressure to fundraise in order to meet the need. At the time of writing our finances continue to hold up and we are able to meet the needs of children and families in Romania – although we are facing substantially more pressure.

During 2021-22 most German based donors migrated to Open Hands e.V. with the result that the income of Open Hands Charity inevitably dropped significantly as compared with previous years.

Thank You

Open Hands is led by a board of Trustees who bring a range of professionalism, skills and experience to the charity. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Trustees for their reliability, devotion, contribution and hard work for Open Hands Charity.

On behalf of Open Hands Charity, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of Open Hands dedicated staff in Romania and to the volunteers in the UK and Germany for all their hard work and dedication and for sharing the loving spirit of Open Hands by caring for Romania's most vulnerable children.

I would like to thank our wonderful sponsors who have enabled us to continue this vital work and who have stood with us through difficult times. Their giving has enabled us to continue our valuable work and I am very much moved by such commitment. Most of our donors are individuals but we also received support from a number of organisations. In the UK. These include Trinity Church in Lewes, Humanity@Heart Charity Shop and Blakell Europlacer Group. From my heart I would like to thank you for being so faithful in your support, especially during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,
Rebekka Single

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OPEN HANDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Open Hands ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 15 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



J R Caladine FCCA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

25 January 2024

OPEN HANDS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts				
Donations	58,918	-	58,918	83,774
Interest	57	-	57	-
Gift aid	10,041	-	10,041	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total receipts	69,016	-	69,016	83,774
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Payments				
Projects and aid to Romania NGO	81,431	7,036	88,467	66,399
Travel costs	717	-	717	1,431
Insurance	431	-	431	431
Professional fees	-	-	-	-
Office costs	2,792	-	2,792	716
Accountancy and Independent Examination	780	-	780	780
Bank charges	35	-	35	58
Other expenses	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total payments	86,186	7,036	93,222	69,815
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(17,170)	(7,036)	(24,206)	13,959
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash funds at 31 March 2022	65,503	7,036	72,539	58,580
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash funds at 31 March 2023	48,333	-	48,333	72,539
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

OPEN HANDS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
Cash funds		
Cash at bank	<u>48,333</u>	<u>72,539</u>
Other debtors		
Gift aid receivable	<u>5,022</u>	<u>10,026</u>
Liabilities		
Accountancy and Independent Examination	<u>798</u>	<u>780</u>

Approved by the trustees  .

Trevor Meadows - Treasurer

25 January 2024

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as allowed under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 for small charities that are not companies.

1.2 Income and expenditure

All income and expenditure has been included when received and paid.

1.3 Funds

General unrestricted fund

The Charity operates an unrestricted General Fund that can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

2 Trustees

Trustees received no remuneration in the year.

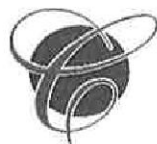
In the year, Trustee Trevor Meadows was reimbursed expenses of £431 (2022: £431) for insurance payments. Trustee Ian Taplin received reimbursed expenses of £nil (2022: £780) for accountancy fees.

OPEN HANDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1136482

Accounts

OPEN HANDS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



Caladine
Chartered Certified Accountants

OPEN HANDS

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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OPEN HANDS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Charity number	1136482
Trustees	Rebekka Single (Chairperson) Trevor Meadows (Treasurer) Ian Taplin Andrea Van Hoven
Address	Rosevine Wellgreen Lane Kingston Lewes East Sussex BN7 3NS
Independent Examiner	J R Caladine FCCA Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF
Bankers	Co-operative Bank 78/80 Cornhill London EC3V 3NJ

Registered Charity Number: 1136482

Registered Office:

Rosevine
Wellgreen Lane
Kingston
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 3NS

Open Hands Trustees:

Rebekka Single – Chairperson and Trustee
Trevor Meadows – Treasurer and Trustee
Ian Taplin – Trustee
Andrea van Hoven – Trustee

Trustees Report
For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Status, Governance and Management

Open Hands is a charity registered in England and governed by its Trust Deed dated 21 May 2010.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Rebekka Single
Trevor Meadows
Ian Taplin
Andrea van Hoven

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees. They meet regularly to manage the activities of Open Hands.

Objects and Structure

Open Hands remains committed to providing valuable and on-going support for vulnerable children and their families living in disadvantaged areas, primarily in Romania. The objects of Open Hands, as documented in our declaration of Trust in May 2010 are:

- (a) The prevention or relief of poverty in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing: grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities or other local organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty for orphan and neglected children, and among the Roma community.
- (b) To relieve poverty (or financial hardship) among the Roma community and their dependents living in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing health/housing/advice and education

This report demonstrates how we have achieved these objects within the financial year 2021-22, and we hope it will be an encouragement to all our supporters and friends.

Open Hands operates in Romania through its locally registered sister foundation, Fundatia Open Hands (FOH). All monies raised in the UK not needed to meet local governance and similar costs or to comply with our reserves policy are transferred to FOH.

Risk Statement

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

Trustees' Responsibilities

We are required as trustees to prepare financial statements each year which include the payments and receipts of Open Hands Charity for the year. The trustees are responsible for keeping accurate accounting records; this ensures that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011

Open Hands Mission

Open Hands was set up, and is run, by Christians who want to express their faith in Christ by showing his love in practical action. Our work is based on Christian values but welcomes persons of all beliefs and none. We work among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in Romania and our programs aim to transform their lives.

Rebekka Single first travelled to Romania in 2008 and was moved by the needs of children in the country who were still suffering from a lack of love, care, nurture, clothing and shelter. These children were of no importance to the wider communities in which they were living and had no one to be an advocate on their behalf. In 2010 Rebekka formed Open Hands Charity; she and her team have since become a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Open Hands Vision and Values

Our vision is a world free of poverty and injustice. A world where every child in every community is valued and loved. A world where every child, regardless of their ability or background can access the resources to thrive and reach their full potential.

The work of Open Hands is underpinned by our core values:

Integrity

- We are committed to work transparently with all resources entrusted to us and strongly believe in being accountable to our supporters. We strive to keep our

administration costs to an absolute minimum and our expenses in Romania are carefully budgeted and reviewed to ensure good stewardship.

Respect

- We respect the human worth and dignity of every person we serve. We believe that every person, regardless of ethnicity, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or beliefs is of immense value and uniquely gifted. We promote inclusiveness for all people we work with and challenge discrimination in all its forms.

Compassion

- We act with compassion and kindness and strive to bring unconditional love to those we are helping. We believe that every child needs to experience a loving and stable environment, where their emotional, material and social needs are met.

Empowerment

- We promote and support people's right to make their own choices, provided this does not threaten the rights, safety and legitimate interests of others.

Collaboration

- We empower families to be active participants, and to become involved, in decisions and actions affecting their lives. We build relationships and partnerships to ensure that children and families can access the services that they need. We work together with local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and families.

Holistic Approach

- We provide support that looks at the whole person, not just their immediate circumstances. We seek to cover all aspects of a child's life, including their physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing, as well as their family life, community and societal environments.

Where Open Hands Operates and What it Does

Open Hands main office in Romania is in Suceava, a city situated in north-east of the country. However, our work is carried out in two locations: in villages around Suceava and in the small town of Gheorgheni, in eastern Transylvania.

We work with children and families in rural communities who suffer from isolation and poverty, typically caused by a complete lack of education and poor opportunities for work.

Because of this, many families struggle to manage their meagre financial resources efficiently. Many parents had a traumatic up-bringing themselves. They have lost hope, knowing it is almost impossible for them to meet their children's basic needs without help from outside. Governmental authorities often lack empathy when it comes to supporting poor families. Children have no positive role models in their families and so, left to their own devices, the poverty cycle continues for another generation when they reach adolescence and then adulthood. Open Hands is often the first and only support these families receive.

Our children's centre, the Rainbow House, is based in Gheorgheni - a town affected by high unemployment, depression and alcoholism. Many families here lead lives of complete desolation.

Most children and families we work with here are of Roma ethnicity and face severe hardship and destitution. Discrimination, lack of education, unemployment, homelessness, extreme poverty and hunger are part of their daily lives.

Achievements and Performance - 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Rainbow House (RH)



Care

We first opened the RH as a day centre in 2016, after witnessing the extreme deprivation that Roma children are exposed to living in the local slum. Since then, we have had the same children attending the RH program on a regular basis. The children are eager to come to the RH because our team lovingly cares for each child. The children are fed, washed, changed into clean clothes, helped with homework and do many fun activities, including trips to the cinema

or zoo. Over the years the children have formed strong friendships and see the RH as their second home.



Emerging from Covid

The RH re-opened after a one-year pause, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, in March 2021. The long closure had been challenging for the entire team, but most of all for the children who see the RH as a place of respite, and a safe haven to recover from experiences of neglect, abuse and trauma. After the long pause it was moving to see how well the children remembered each detail of the RH program. They remembered every routine and all that they had learned and settled quickly back into the program. The RH was able to remain open throughout 2021-22, apart from the annual staff holiday period.

Space

Places at the RH have always been sought after, all the more so after Covid. Many families would like to send their children to get support here but our spaces are very limited as the RH is small in size and most children stay throughout their childhood. In order to have more space, we are converting the portable cabin in the RH garden. This will give us additional space for the older RH children. A large, wooden constructed pavilion has also been built, to use as an additional outdoor space in the RH garden.



Breaking the cycle

A strong emphasis is placed in supporting children on their educational journey. Each child develops at their own pace but we continue to see steady, overall improvements. Open Hands is making sure that all RH children are enrolled in some form of education; the younger ones are at kindergarten, those with additional needs learn at a special school and those that are able are integrated into the mainstream school in town. A large percentage of the children we work with do not meet the developmental milestones of a healthily developed child of similar age. Due to a very disadvantaged start in life, many RH children are developmentally delayed or/and have a disability of some sort. For these children it is a big achievement when they learn how to read and write. Our RH manager is regularly in touch with schools to make sure that the children attend. She frequently advocates on their behalf and addresses any problems that arise. The Children usually come to the RH after school to eat and do their homework.

Summer

Children in Romania tend to have a long summer holiday of up to 3 months. During this time the RH remained open, apart from a two weeks staff holiday, and offered its usual services to the children and families.

Family Support (FS)

Aim

It is our aim to see every child, regardless of their ability or background thrive and reach their full potential. FS provides a way out of poverty. It enables children and their families to escape its devastating effects. However, change takes time – particularly in view of generational poverty.

Holistic Approach

To help children reach their full potential we must look at them holistically. This means ensuring their physical and emotional well-being, as well as looking at their family life and their life in the context of their community.

By working with children in our programs, both at school and within their home, we get a clearer picture of what they need to thrive. Regular home visits allow us to see children in the context of their family and community life. Understanding the context in which a child lives helps us to tailor our support to meet their needs and improve the conditions in which they live. It enables us to connect and work with their parents who are vulnerable individuals and also in need of support.

Support

The Romanian Child Protection Service or family doctors frequently refer children and families who are in urgent need of support to us. Although we continue to add new cases and aim to help as many in need as we possibly can, a waiting list remains. We currently support 180 children in our program. Although provision is unique and tailored depending on the child's need, we typically enrol every child in either kindergarten or school and we provide clothing, food and hygiene articles. We support families in relation to welfare issues and health care needs.

Children with Disabilities

Part of our FS work is offering support to children with disabilities and/or special educational needs. Over the past year this work has developed and we have broadened our caseload to include many more such children within their homes, in schools or through specialist therapy.

Housing

Most families we first come in contact with live in overcrowded, dilapidated and unsanitary places. Alternative housing is often not available, and we therefore spend much time, money and effort to make existing homes properly habitable. Sometimes a new roof is needed, sometimes a home needs to be re-built in whole or part. Often windows and doors need replacing. Usually, homes need a thorough clean and fresh lick of paint. All this work and much more is done in collaboration with parents. We are supported by some local authorities on these projects and sometimes local businesses help out as well, all with one aim - to create safer and humane living conditions for children and families.



Birthdays

Many children we work with do not even know when their birthday is, let alone having ever experienced the enjoyment and fun of celebrating one before. We want them to know how precious they are – this is why we celebrate each birthday with a cake and gift and most importantly their friends from the program.

Education – Our Lighthouse Programs

Aim

Lighthouse is about using education to break the cycle of poverty that traps so many because their access to learning is limited or impaired through the disadvantages that they have been born into. Lighthouse is a program designed to counter these problems by offering a solid educational foundation to the poorest and most disadvantaged primary and secondary aged children through a series of initiatives in different locations designed to supplement Romanian state education.

Both our Lighthouse programs operate in collaboration with the relevant local authority.

Children who attend classes receive a meal from Open Hands, as well as clothes, shoes and school supplies. Birthdays are also celebrated with cakes and balloons at school.

Advocacy for poor families with local doctors, teachers and authorities is provided as part of the program.

Summer

During the long summer break, our staff organised a number of outdoor activities with the children, eg visiting museums, salt mines, playgrounds, zoos, restaurants, castles and monasteries.

Lighthouse – Ciprian Porumbescu

Our second Lighthouse opened in October 2021 in Ciprian Prumbescu. We are fortunate that the local authority provided a large space free of charge for Open Hands to use.

Support

The program runs each week day from 12pm until 4pm and supports 24 children with a hot meal a day, educational support, creative learning, outdoor play and workshops.



Lighthouse – Timpoceni

Our original Lighthouse program in Timpoceni was run within the village school and so within the home environment of children and families who attend school or kindergarten. However, the school building was unsuitable for the 60-70 children attending as there was a lack of space, the school only being 40 square meters in size. There was no drinking water and no toilets. It was therefore torn down around 2 years ago with the promise by the local mayor that a new, bigger one would be built. The mayor has yet to fulfil his promise. Meanwhile, Open Hands organised a mini-bus to take children to learn at a nearby school. We quickly established a presence at that school and work in collaboration with the teachers there.

School attendance was at times hampered due to COVID-19 with brief closures of the school. Our support was then provided in the form of regular home visits and by providing educational materials, food, clothing and other items.



Ukrainian Refugees in Romania

As the Open Hands headquarters are only a short drive from the Romanian-Ukrainian border we have been involved helping children and their parents affected by the war right from the start. Open Hands set up a stand directly at the border, welcoming the distraught mothers and children crossing into Romania by offering food and other items. The team gave emotional support, advice and transport to meet immediate needs of refugees.

While providing support the team also visited refugee shelters, helped to re-orientate families and brought aid and advice to those helplessly trying to navigate their way during a time of unimaginable loss and upheaval.



Open Hands Charity and Open Hands e.V. in Germany

In February 2021, we established our branch in Germany as a separate registered charity in the form of an association (known as a Verein) under the name of Open Hands e.V. The process had taken several years and we are pleased to have finally achieved this major milestone.

Since then, both Open Hands charities, in Germany and England, work closely together to achieve one aim - a better future for the poorest children in Romania. Although both charities serve the same aim, they are separate entities and therefore accountable to their respective national authorities.

Christmas 2021

In December 2021 we celebrated St Nicholas Day with all Open Hands children. All children received gifts and were visited in their community.

In Germany, trustee Andrea van Hoven collected and prepared 361 Christmas Shoe Boxes which were driven to Romania. These gifts continue to bring much joy to the most disadvantaged children each Christmas. Children often tell us that receiving a Christmas gift from Open Hands is one of their happiest memories.

Due to the growing number of children in our programs, we held a number of separate Christmas parties for all children. All children and parents were also provided with a special Christmas dinner at home. Many different art and craft activities were held, Christmas carols were sung and Father Christmas came and brought gifts.

Other Aid Trips

In August 2021, a 40-ton- lorry from Germany made its way to our Rainbow House in Romania to deliver warm clothing and shoes, toys, blankets, children's bikes, school materials, furniture and many other items. These are stored in a container there and distributed throughout the year to families and children in need.

The aid delivery was achieved with the support of HFN, a German humanitarian charity, specialising in aid trips for over 20 years. Their donations have been an enormous support to our work as we are able to provide all our children with school supplies, clothing and much more.

Covid 19 response

The year to March 2022 continued to be a challenging year for Open Hands, as for so many other charities. The Covid pandemic continued to impact the way our work was carried out in Romania. Whilst Open Hands followed government guidelines and protected its own staff, we put a response in place which enabled us to maintain a vital level of care for the vulnerable children and families we work with. Lack of contact with school and isolation at home both make disadvantaged children much more vulnerable to abuse and neglect. To prevent this, the team has been working tirelessly to maintain close contact with all children and their families.

Our response so far has been as follows:

- We found creative ways to continue to communicating with and supporting our families and children during this challenging time
- Our staff made more frequent home visits.
- We provided families with additional food, washing powder, hygiene articles.
- We provided clothing and shoes for the children
- We maintained constant contact with children's teachers, delivering printed learning materials to children at home, taking them back to teachers when completed. In this way we minimised the disruption to children's education.
- We required our staff to take necessary precautions e.g. wearing protective masks and gloves and keeping in line with government guidelines.

Financial Review

The cost-of-living crisis that has emerged from Covid and the Ukraine war have the potential to affect what Open Hands is able to do. For example, our costs in Romania have increased significantly whilst some of our donors are experiencing their own financial pressures. Whilst some donors have been lost, many others are faithfully continuing their support and new people have begun to support our work – so at the time of writing our finances continue to hold up and we are able to meet the needs of children and families in Romania.

During 2021-22 most German based donors migrated to Open Hands e.V. with the result that the income of Open Hands Charity inevitably dropped significantly as compared with previous years. The combined amount of money raised by both organisations in 2021-22 before costs was around £127,000.

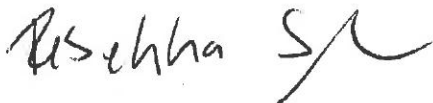
Thank You

Open Hands is led by a board of Trustees who bring a range of professionalism, skills and experience to the charity. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Trustees for their reliability, devotion, contribution and hard work for Open Hands Charity.

On behalf of Open Hands Charity, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of Open Hands dedicated staff in Romania and to the volunteers in the UK and Germany for all their hard work and dedication and for sharing the loving spirit of Open Hands by caring for Romania's most vulnerable children.

I would like to thank our wonderful sponsors who have enabled us to continue this vital work and who have stood with us through difficult times. Their giving has enabled us to continue our valuable work and I am very much moved by such commitment. Most of our donors are individuals but we also received support from a number of organisations. In the UK, these include Trinity Church in Lewes, Humanity@Heart Charity Shop, The Mary Weston Will Trust and Blakell Europlacer Group. From my heart I would like to thank you for being so faithful in your support, especially during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,
Rebekka Single

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebekka Single". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Rebekka" and the surname "Single" clearly legible.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OPEN HANDS***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022***

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Open Hands ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 15 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

**J R Caladine FCCA**

Caladine Limited

Chartered Certified Accountants

Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road

Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

16 November 2022

OPEN HANDS

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts				
Donations	76,738	7,036	83,774	129,415
Grants	-	-	-	600
Gift aid	-	-	-	10,620
Total receipts	76,738	7,036	83,774	140,635
Payments				
Projects and aid to Romania NGO	66,399	-	66,399	81,074
Travel costs	1,431	-	1,431	232
Insurance	431	-	431	431
Professional fees	-	-	-	129
Office costs	716	-	716	548
Accountancy and Independent Examination	780	-	780	720
Bank charges	58	-	58	89
Other expenses	-	-	-	445
Total payments	69,815	-	69,815	83,668
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	6,923	7,036	13,959	56,967
Cash funds at 31 March 2021	58,580	-	58,580	1,613
Cash funds at 31 March 2022	65,503	7,036	72,539	58,580

OPEN HANDS

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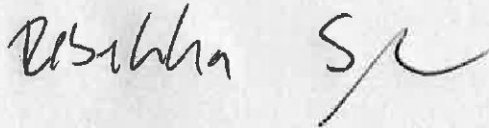
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
Cash funds		
Cash at bank	<u>72,539</u>	<u>58,580</u>
Other debtors		
Gift aid receivable	<u>10,026</u>	<u>3,323</u>
Liabilities		
Accountancy and Independent Examination	<u>780</u>	<u>780</u>

Approved by the trustees

Rebekka Single
Chairperson



NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as allowed under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 for small charities that are not companies.

1.2 Income and expenditure

All income and expenditure has been included when received and paid.

1.3 Funds

General unrestricted fund

The Charity operates an unrestricted General Fund that can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

2 Trustees

Trustees received no remuneration in the year.

In the year, Trustee Trevor Meadows was reimbursed expenses of £431 (2021: £431) for insurance payments. Trustee Ian Taplin received reimbursed expenses of £780 (2021: £720) for accountancy fees.

OPEN HANDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1136482

Accounts

OPEN HANDS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021



Caladine

Chartered Certified Accountants

OPEN HANDS

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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OPEN HANDS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Charity number 1136482

Trustees
Rebekka Single (Chairperson)
Trevor Meadows (Treasurer)
Ian Taplin
Andrea Van Hoven

Address
Rosevine
Wellgreen Lane
Kingston
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 3NS

Independent Examiner
J R Caladine FCCA
Caladine Limited
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Bankers
Co-operative Bank
78/80 Cornhill
London
EC3V 3NJ

Registered Charity Number: 1136482

Registered Office:

Rosevine
Wellgreen Lane
Kingston
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 3NS

Open Hands Trustees:

Rebekka Single – Chairperson and Trustee
Trevor Meadows – Treasurer and Trustee
Ian Taplin – Trustee
Andrea van Hoven – Trustee

Trustees Report

For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

Status, Governance and Management

Open Hands is a charity registered in England and governed by its Trust Deed dated 21 May 2010.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Rebekka Single
Trevor Meadows
Ian Taplin
Andreea van Hoven

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees. They meet regularly to manage the activities of Open Hands.

Objects and Structure

Open Hands remains committed to providing valuable and on-going support for vulnerable children and their families living in disadvantaged areas of Romania. The objects of Open Hands, as documented in our declaration of Trust in May 2010 are:

- (a) The prevention or relief of poverty in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing: grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities; or other local organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty for orphan and neglected children, and among the Roma community.
- (b) To relieve poverty (or financial hardship) among the Roma community and their dependents living in Romania and the surrounding countries by providing health/housing/advice and education

This report demonstrates how we have achieved these objects within the financial year 2020-21, and we hope it will be an encouragement to all our supporters and friends.

Open Hands operates in Romania through its locally registered sister foundation, Fundatia Open Hands (FOH). All monies raised in the UK and Germany not needed to meet local governance and similar costs are transferred to FOH.

In February 2021 we established our branch in Germany as a separate registered charity in the form of an association (known as a Verein) under the name of Open Hands e.V.)

Risk Statement

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

Trustees' Responsibilities

We are required as trustees to prepare financial statements each year which include the payments and receipts of Open Hands Charity for the year. The trustees are responsible for keeping accurate accounting records; this ensures that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011

Open Hands Mission

Open Hands was set up, and is run, by Christians who want to express their faith in Christ by showing his love in practical action. Our work is based on Christian values but welcomes persons of all beliefs and none. We work among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in Romania and our programs aim to transform their lives.

Rebekka Single first travelled to Romania in 2008 and was moved by the needs of children in the country who were still suffering from a lack of love, care, nurture, clothing and shelter. These children were of no importance to the wider communities in which they live and had no one to be an advocate on their behalf. In 2010 Rebekka formed Open Hands; she and her team have since become a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Open Hands Vision and Values

Our vision is a world free of poverty and injustice. A world where every child in every community is valued and loved. A world where every child, regardless of their ability or background can access the resources to thrive and reach their full potential.

The work of Open Hands is underpinned by our core values:

Integrity

- We are committed to work transparently with all resources entrusted to us and strongly believe in being accountable to our supporters. We strive to keep our administration costs to an absolute minimum and our expenses in Romania are carefully budgeted and reviewed to ensure good stewardship.

Respect

- We respect the human worth and dignity of every person we serve. We believe that every person, regardless of ethnicity, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or beliefs is of immense value and uniquely gifted. We promote inclusiveness for all people we work with and challenge discrimination in all its forms.

Compassion

- We act with compassion and kindness and strive to bring unconditional love to those we are helping. We believe that every child needs to experience a loving and stable environment, where their emotional, material and social needs are met.

Empowerment

- We promote and support people's right to make their own choices, provided this does not threaten the rights, safety and legitimate interests of others.

Collaboration

- We empower the families to be active participants, and become involved, in decisions and actions affecting their lives. We build relationships and partnerships to ensure that children and families can access the services that they need. We work together with local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and families.

Holistic Approach

- We provide support that looks at the whole person, not just their immediate circumstances. We seek to covers all aspects of a child's life, including their physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing, as well as their family life, community and societal environments.

Where Open Hands Operates and What it Does

Open Hands main office in Romania is in Suceava, a city situated in north-eastern of the country. However, our work is carried out in two locations: In villages around Suceava and in the small town of Gheorgheni, in eastern Transylvania.

We work with children and families in rural communities who suffer from isolation and poverty, typically caused by a complete lack of education and poor opportunities for work.

Because of this, many families struggle to manage their meagre financial resources efficiently. Many parents had a traumatic up-bringing themselves. They have lost hope, knowing it is almost impossible for them to meet their children's basic needs without help from outside. Governmental authorities often lack empathy when it comes to supporting poor families. Children have no positive role models in their families and so, left to their own devices, the poverty cycle continues for another generation when they reach adolescence and then adulthood. Open Hands is often the first and only support these families receive.

Our children's centre, the Rainbow House, is based in Gheorgheni - a town affected by high unemployment, depression and alcoholism. Many families here lead lives of complete desolation.

Most children and families we work with here are of Roma ethnicity and face severe hardship and destitution. Discrimination, lack of education, unemployment, homelessness, extreme poverty and hunger are part of their daily lives.

Achievements and Performance - 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Open Hands becomes a registered charity in Germany

In February 2021 Open Hands became a registered charity in Germany also. The registration process had taken several years and we are pleased to have finally achieved this major milestone. Both Open Hands charities, in Germany and England, will work closely together to achieve one aim- a better future for the poorest children in Romania. Although both charities serve the same aim, they are separate entities and therefore accountable to their respective national authorities.

Lighthouse Project

Lighthouse is a preventative program designed to offer a solid educational foundation to the poorest and most disadvantaged primary and secondary aged children. The program is about using education to break the cycle of poverty. Lighthouse is an initiative designed to supplement Romanian state education. We currently run one Lighthouse project in an isolated community called Timpoceni and plan to open another Lighthouse in the autumn 2021 in the community of Ciprian Porumbescu, Suceava county.

As with all Open Hands program, Lighthouse programs are set in socio-economically deprived areas. Given their highly marginalised position in society and the discrimination they suffer, it is no surprise that the majority of children accessing Lighthouse programs are Roma. Indeed, a UNICEF study (2019) shows that Roma children are six times more likely than other Romanian children not to complete secondary education.

Lighthouse aims to prevent school absenteeism and drop-out among those who take part. Lighthouse staff work tirelessly to bring about a significant improvement in each child's school attendance and their attainment – so that they will complete their education and have a better future.

Lighthouse Timpoceni

Governmental Covid regulations meant that the local school and kindergarten in Timpoceni remained closed between March and December 2020. As Lighthouse mainly takes place within the school, we had to put the project on hold just a few months after it had begun. However, in these months we witnessed exceptional first responses with the number of children coming to school doubling. We therefore continued, while the project was on hold, to build relationships within this community and provided educational materials, clothing and food to families in need. Keeping connected to families,

teachers, doctors and the local authority enabled us swiftly to continue with the Lighthouse project once the government re-opened schools in January 2021.

As there is a disproportionate number of children being absent from school in this community, we continued our efforts by focusing on the school attendance of children. Regular meetings were held with parents, teachers and the local authority to encourage children to come to school.

Before our involvement in the community children's school attendance was extremely low. By March 2021 we had managed to increase the number of children regularly attending school by around 60%. Attendance was encouraged by Open Hands giving out food, drink and clothing to those who participated in the school program.

Working in such a disadvantaged community drew our attention to children with special educational needs and disabilities. Our staff identified and made records of children with moderate and severe disabilities. Open Hands began working together with their parents and the health services to offer these children vital treatment and access their entitlements of social security benefits.

Well over a year ago, the mayor of the commune promised us that he will have a new school build. The current building of the primary school is unsuitable for the 60-70 children who now attend as there is a lack of space, the school only being 40square meters in size. Also, it has no drinking water or toilets. Whenever our staff have the opportunity, a meeting is held with the mayor to determine progress on construction. The existing building was demolished in May 2021. Meanwhile our staff is organising transport, so that children can be brought by bus to learn at a nearby school while construction work lasts.



Rainbow House (RH)

The Rainbow House is a small day centre which has the capacity to receive up to 25 children a day. We decided to open this centre in 2016 after witnessing the extreme deprivation Roma children are exposed to at the slum where they live on the edge of Gheorgheni.

The RH is a safe haven for these children, a place where they can recover from experiences of neglect, abuse and trauma. Here their needs are met and children are encouraged to discover their potential. The RH is loved by all children – it has become their life-line and place of respite.

Olga Kalusi, our Rainbow House manager, explains its function like this:

'The Rainbow House is like my second home. It is not a kindergarten or school. For the children and myself the Rainbow House means family'.



We continue to see steady improvements in children's educational outcomes. All RH children are enrolled in some form of education; the younger ones are at kindergarten, those with additional needs learn at a special school and others are integrated into the mainstream school in town. The RH manager, Ms Kalusi, is in touch with schools to ensure that children attend regularly and any issues are seen to and addressed. Children continue to learn and do their homework after school at the RH.



The RH remained closed, in line with government Covid 19 regulations, from March 2020 until February 2021. This was a trying period for the children who missed the program very much. We continued to work with the children and their families throughout the closure period by providing

learning materials, food and clothing to their homes, as well as liaising with their schools to keep children connected to the education system.



Family Outreach Program

Our work means that we often become aware of children and families who receive no help at all. Sometimes the Romanian Child Protection Service introduces families to us who, without Open Hands intervention, would have their children taken away into state care.

After assessing each family, we formulated a plan to meet the needs of both children and their parents. Over the past months Open Hands has committed to support a further 18 children and their families. Although the plight of each family is unique, the common problem is poverty and this we can solve together.

By coming alongside parents and listening to their story we can begin to understand their circumstances and make plans with them to improve their situation. By enrolling children in education and making sure that their basic needs such as food and clothing are met, we find a way out of poverty. However, working with families takes much commitment. To ensure commitment to each child we have developed a Child Sponsorship Program.



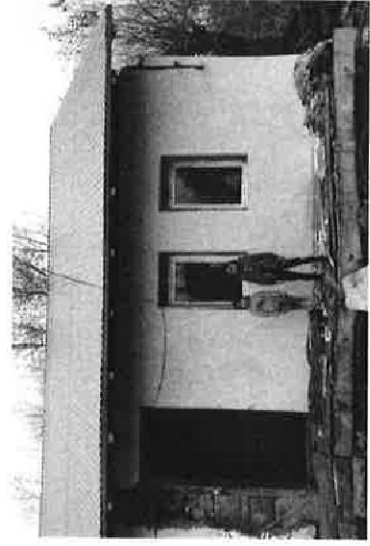
Case study of a new family in the OH Program:

Last year the Romanian Child Protection Service informed us of the severe neglect that 5 children were enduring. They communicated to Open Hands that if we do not intervene these children would be taken into care. We were moved by the plight of these children and the helplessness of their parents and began our work. The parents were relieved and grabbed hold of the hope that we gave. A partnership was created on the grounds that the children must attend kindergarten and school on a regular basis. The parents kept this agreement and started to send their children to school daily.

As mentioned in the report from last year, we covered immediate needs the children had and brought food, clothing and nappies for the little ones. The blackened mattresses were exchanged for clean, new ones; bedding was given and furniture and the inside of the small room that they all shared was cleaned and renovated. We also found sponsors for each child and thus secured long-term support for them.

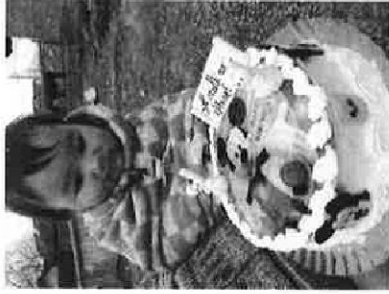
We found that the house, especially the roof, was in a very dangerous condition and we decided to renovate it. Open Hands managed to receive support from two local Romanian companies, the church, Child Protection and other NGOs from Romania and Germany. We are pleased of all that this family has achieved so far, as our work with them continues.





Celebrating Birthdays

At Open Hands we want every child in our program to feel loved and know their worth. We therefore continue to celebrate the birthday of each child in our program by visiting with a cake and a gift on their special day. These moments are very precious for the children, especially as it may be the first time in their life that someone remembers their birthday.



Christmas 2020

On 6th December 2020 we celebrated St Nicholas Day with all Open Hands children. Around 120 children received gifts and were visited in their community.

In Germany, trustee Andrea van Hoven collected and prepared 421 Christmas Shoe Boxes which were driven to Romania with Faithline. These gifts continue to bring much joy to the most disadvantaged children each Christmas. Children often tell us that receiving a Christmas gift from Open Hands is one of their happiest memories.

We were able to hold two big Christmas parties for 120 children from the Open Hands programs and provided all children and parents in the program with a special Christmas dinner.

The team did art and craft activities and sang songs with the children. Father Christmas came and brought gifts.



Other Aid Trips

In September 2020, a 40-ton- lorry from Germany made its way to our RH in Romania to deliver warm clothing and shoes, toys, blankets, children's bikes, school materials, furniture and other many items. These are stored in a container at our RH property and distributed throughout the year to families and children in need.

The aid delivery was realised with the support of the German humanitarian charity HFN, a charity specialising in aid trips for over 20 years. Their donations have been an enormous support to our work as we are able to provide all our children with school supplies, clothing and much more.

In December 2020, our friends and partners from the charity Faithline also drove with their lorry from Germany to Romania and delivered the 421 Christmas Shoe Boxes, along with items of furniture and other donations.

Covid 19 response

This became a concern to us towards the end of February 2020 and is ongoing at the time of writing this report. The year March 2020 – April 2021 was a challenging year for Open Hands, as for so many other charities. The Covid Pandemic impacted the way our work was carried out in Romania. Whilst Open Hands followed government guidelines and protected its own staff, we put a response in place which enabled us to maintain a vital level of care for the vulnerable children and families we work with. Lack of contact with school and isolation at home both make disadvantaged children much more vulnerable to abuse and neglect. To prevent this, the team has been working tirelessly to maintain close contact with all children and their families.

Our response so far has been as follows:

- We closed the RH from 12th March 2020 until February 2021; we also stopped working directly in schools which particularly affected the After School Program and Lighthouse Project as they take place in schools).
- We found creative ways to continue to communicate with and supporting our families and children during this challenging time
- Our staff are making more frequent home visits.
- We have provided families during lock-downs with additional food, washing powder, hygiene articles.
- We have provided clothing and shoes for the children
- We have maintained constant contact with children’s teachers, delivering printed learning materials to children at home when there are lock downs and taking that back to teachers when completed. In this way we can minimise the disruption to children’s education.
- We require our staff to take necessary precautions by keeping a distance, wearing protective masks and gloves and keeping in line with government guidelines.



Financial Review

The Covid Pandemic has forced Open Hands, as much as it has charities around the globe, to re-think and re-invent the services that we offer, in order to continue to reach and protect the most vulnerable children and families. We are thankful, that in this time of turmoil, our donors are faithfully continuing their support and that new people have begun to support our work – so that our finances continue to hold up and we are able to meet the needs of children and families in Romania.

The accounts show a surplus of £56,967 for the year, compared to £55 in the previous year. Closing unrestricted funds were £58,580(2020: £1,613).

Thank You

Open Hands is led by a board of Trustees who bring a range of professionalism, skills and experience to the charity. Due to Covid 19 the Trustees have not been able to visit Romania as much as they would have liked during the April 2019- March 2021 period; however, we are hopeful that this will soon change. I would like to give my sincere gratitude to all the Trustees for their reliability, devotion, contribution and hard work for Open Hands.

On behalf of Open Hands, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of Open Hands dedicated staff in Romania and to the volunteers in the UK and Germany for all their hard work and dedication and for sharing the loving spirit of Open Hands by caring for Romania's most vulnerable children.

I would like to thank our wonderful sponsors who have enabled us to continue this vital work. I would like to thank each one of them for standing with us. Their giving has enabled us to continue our valuable work and I am very much moved by such commitment. Most of our donors are individuals but we also received support from a number of organisations. In the UK these include Trinity Church in Lewes, Humanity@Heart Charity Shop, Blakell Europlacer Group, the Mary Jackson Trust and Just Trust. From my heart I would like to thank you for being so faithful in your support, especially during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,
Rebekka Single



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OPEN HANDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Open Hands ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 15 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



J R Caladine FCCA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

12 J May 2022

OPEN HANDS

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	<u>Unrestricted</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> £	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
Receipts				
Donations (from Germany: £64,746)	129,415	-	129,415	115,775
Grants	600	-	600	1,200
Gift aid	10,620	-	10,620	-
Total receipts	<u>140,635</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>140,635</u>	<u>116,975</u>
Payments				
Projects / aid - Romania NGO	81,074	-	81,074	115,461
Aid trips to Romania	232	-	232	436
Insurance	431	-	431	291
Professional fees	129	-	129	-
Office costs	548	-	548	-
Accountancy and Independent Examination	720	-	720	600
Bank charges	89	-	89	-
Other expenses	445	-	445	132
Total payments	<u>83,668</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,668</u>	<u>116,920</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	<u>56,967</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,967</u>	<u>55</u>
Cash funds at 31 March 2020	<u>1,613</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,613</u>	<u>1,558</u>
Cash funds at 31 March 2021	<u>58,580</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,580</u>	<u>1,613</u>

OPEN HANDS

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
Cash funds		
Co-operative bank account	<u>58,580</u>	<u>1,559</u>
Other debtors		
Gift aid receivable	<u>3,323</u>	<u>4,110</u>
Liabilities		
Accountancy and Independent Examination	<u>780</u>	<u>720</u>

Approved by the trustees 

Rebekka Single
Chairperson

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, as allowed under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 for small charities that are not companies.

1.2 Income and expenditure

All income and expenditure has been included when received and paid.

1.3 Funds

General unrestricted fund

The Charity operates an unrestricted General Fund that can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how the may be used.

2 Trustees

Trustees received no remuneration in the year.

In the year, Trustee Trevor Meadows was reimbursed expenses of £431 (2020: £nil) for insurance payments. Trustee Ian Taplin received reimbursed expenses of £720 (2020: £nil) for accountancy fees.