

School Aid Romania

8 The Willows, Mullaghmore Road, Dungannon, Co Tyrone, BT70 1QH

NI Charity Commission Number – 100954

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

THIS REPORT COVERS THE YEAR 1/4/23 - 31/3/24

Trustees who served during the year: Andrew Clifford, Mary Hogg, Jim McQuaid, Paul Carson, Glennis Doherty, Nicola McCreesh, Mrs Kelley McKenna.

Trustees on the date this report was approved: Andrew Clifford, Mary Hogg, Jim McQuaid, Paul Carson, Glennis Doherty, Nicola McCreesh, Mrs Kelley McKenna

Charitable Objectives:

Advance the education of children in Northern Ireland and Romania.

Provide and secure the provision of educational and recreational opportunities and practical assistance for young people and their teachers in Northern Ireland to come together in a non-sectarian context.

Relieve poverty and sickness among children in Romania.

Secure and provide, by joint ventures, material assistance to relieve the poverty and thereby improve the well-being of the young people of Romania.

Charity Activities and Review of Year

School Aid Romania was established in 1991 and is a Northern Ireland cross community school-based charity which aims to relieve poverty and deprivation in Romania. Each year Lower Sixth students from a number of schools travel to Romania over a number of weeks in January and February, spending a week in the city of Brasov. Before travelling the students are involved in a number of fundraising activities in their local communities. School Aid Romania appreciates the fundraising efforts of the students and is grateful to the continued support of their parents/guardians and local communities and businesses across Northern Ireland.

As each passenger is allowed 32kg luggage allowance the students take out a considerable amount of aid in their suitcases. This aid was sorted on the first full day in Romania. Some of it is given to the Nearly New shop in Harman. It proves very popular with the locals. Profits from the shop help sustain the SFR houses that we support.

Saturday 27th January 2024 started with a visit to the Sunshine Foundation homes, Casa Sfanta Maria in Brasov and Casa Sfanta Patrick, Irlanda and Donald in Harman.

Sunday 28th January 2024 began with the pupils going to the Christian Orthodox Church and the Baptist Church. In the afternoon there was a visit to the Old Peoples' home in Sacele.

Monday was another busy fulfilled day. There were visits to Dacia and Jibert Schools. On the visit to the schools each pupil was given a bag of food to take home. Thus, larger families received a proportionally larger amount of food. The students helped the smaller children carry the food bags to their homes. Rupea Orphanage was visited in the afternoon and the children were entertained in one common room. Before leaving Rupea, and remembering Eileen Moreland, groceries were delivered to a lady who lives in an alleyway.

Tuesday was a much more difficult day with visits to Timis Barza Mica and Anton. The pupils and staff struggle with this visit. The afternoon was spent in Chip/Dale and Tarlugeni visiting Children's homes. The day was finished off with a visit to the cash and carry.

Wednesday. Roxana's Special School, Kindergarten 34, Bradet Orphanage and School were visited by small groups in the morning. The afternoon is filled with visiting Rasnov, Zarnesti, Lunca and the Monastery with some pupils shopping in the cash and carry. The young adults from Casa Irlanda and Patrick were treated to a meal in the pizzeria where Adrianna who previously lived with them works.

Thursday began with a visit to Mina Una Mai village. Fruit was delivered to Vulcan Psychiatric Hospital. A visit to Codlea followed, meeting Ukrainian Refugees who have been taken off the streets as well as the children who are living there. The programme finished with the delivery of food and aid to the families in the poor village of Comana.

A substantial donation was made towards the purchase of a new mini bus for The Sunshine Foundation.

Forty students, four staff and a doctor took part in the 2024 programme.

The schools involved this year were:

St. Patrick's College, Maghera;

Methodist College, Belfast;

Jim McQuaid, Treasurer, visited Brasov in late February to complete the purchase of a new minibus for Sunshine Foundation.

During this visit he was able to spend £2345 on aid projects. This amount had been donated by Our Lady Queen of Peace P S in Glenravel.

Charity Commissions Public Benefit Requirement: The trustees in setting the objectives and planning the activities for the year have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide benefit to the beneficiaries.

Financial Review:

The financial report for the year was presented at the 2023 AGM and accepted and approved by the trustees. Brian Robinson Accountancy Ltd has carried out a review of these accounts and has completed an Independent examiner's report on the accounts.

Income for the year was £2,915 and expenditure for the year amounted to £3,081 giving an overall net deficit of £166 for the year.

At the year end funds at bank amounted to £15,420.

The Trustees can confirm that the charity does not hold any funds that were materially in deficit at the end of the year.

Signed on behalf of all Trustees by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim McQuaid", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim McQuaid

Jim McQuaid

Date: 08/05/2024