

# Friends for Romania

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103089

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Registered** 2015-08-14

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** St Louis Grammar School  
Cullybackey Road  
Ballymena  
County Antrim  
BT43 5dw  
BT43 5DW

**Phone** 07955829030

**Email** [contact@friendsromania.com](mailto:contact@friendsromania.com)

**Website** [www.facebook.com/friendsforromania](http://www.facebook.com/friendsforromania)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The relief of poverty in Romania.

**What the charity does:** The prevention or relief of poverty

**How the charity works:** General charitable purposes, Relief of poverty

**Who the charity helps:** Children (5-13 year olds), Ethnic minorities, General public, Mental health, Older people, Physical disabilities, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£39,236	£39,240	£0	0

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Colm Morgan Ba Med Pgce		
Mr Eugene Marquess Bsc		
Mr Hugh Mussen Bed, Msc		
Mr John Heffron Bed, Msc		
Mrs Kathryn Toner Bed		
Ms Joanne Doherty		

**Friends for Romania**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103089

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# Accounts

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Friends for Romania

Statement of Receipts & Payments for Year End:

31 August 2025

	Current Year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current Year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current Year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
<i>Donations and gifts from individuals</i>				
Fundraising	34,453		34,453	20,982
Pupil travel money	4,783		4,783	
	<b>39,236</b>	-	<b>39,236</b>	<b>20,982</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Orphanages, Interpreters & Teachers	26,580		26,580	20,893
Fruit & Games	1,482		1,482	1,766
Villager Packs	4,127		4,127	3,981
Transport & Petrol	6,435		6,435	3,011
Insurances	-		-	593
Accountancy Fees	250		250	140
Bank & Foreign Exchange Charges	304		304	145
Sundry Expenses	62		62	24
	<b>39,240</b>	-	<b>39,240</b>	<b>30,553</b>
Asset / Investment Purchases	-	-	-	-
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(9,571)</b>

Friends for Romania

Statement of Assets & Liabilities - Year End:

31 August 2025

FUNDS RECONCILIATION	Current Year	Current Year	Current Year	Prior Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Total Funds brought forward 01.09.23	12,031		12,031	21,602
Surplus / Deficit this Year:	(4)		(4)	(9,571)
Total Funds carried forward 31.08.24	<b>12,027</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,027</b>	<b>12,031</b>
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>				
Danske Current Account			11,728	10,859
FX Card Account			125	1,172
Cash on hand			175	
			<b>12,027</b>	<b>12,031</b>
<b>Other Assets (Unrestricted Fund)</b>				
			-	-
<b>Liabilities (Unrestricted Fund)</b>				
			-	-
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>			<b>12,027</b>	<b>12,031</b>

This report was approved by the Trustees on 12 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

*E. Marquess*

E. Marquess (Oct 16, 2025 12:41:18 GMT+1)

Mr Eugene Marquess  
**Chair of Trustees**

**Friends for Romania**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103089

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# Accounts

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Friends for Romania

Statement of Receipts & Payments for Year End:

31 August 2024

	Current Year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current Year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current Year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
<i>Donations and gifts from individuals</i>				
Fundraising	20,982		20,982	-
Bank Interest	-		-	-
	<b>20,982</b>	-	<b>20,982</b>	-
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Orphanages, Interpreters & Teachers	20,893		20,893	
Fruit & Games	1,766		1,766	
Villager Packs	3,981		3,981	
Transport & Petrol	3,011		3,011	
Insurances	593		593	
Accountancy Fees	140		140	200
Bank & Foreign Exchange Charges	145		145	30
Sundry Expenses	24		24	10
	<b>30,553</b>	-	<b>30,553</b>	<b>240</b>
Asset / Investment Purchases	-	-	-	-
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>(9,571)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(9,571)</b>	<b>(240)</b>

Friends for Romania

Statement of Assets & Liabilities - Year End:

31 August 2024

FUNDS RECONCILIATION	Current Year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current Year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current Year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Total Funds brought forward 01.09.23	21,602		21,602	21,842
Surplus / Deficit this Year:	(9,571)		(9,571)	(240)
Total Funds carried forward 31.08.24	<b>12,031</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,031</b>	<b>21,602</b>
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>				
Danske Current Account			10,859	20,651
FX Card Account			1,172	951
			<b>12,031</b>	<b>21,602</b>
<b>Other Assets (Unrestricted Fund)</b>				
			-	-
<b>Liabilities (Unrestricted Fund)</b>				
			-	-
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>			<b>12,031</b>	<b>21,602</b>

This report was approved by the Trustees on 09 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

E. Marquess  
[E. Marquess \(Oct 10, 2024 11:18 GMT+1\)](#)

Mr Eugene Marquess  
**Chair of Trustees**

**Friends for Romania**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103089

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# Annual report

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## FRIENDS FOR ROMANIA : CHAIRMAN'S REPORT : 2023-24

After a four year hiatus in activity due to the Covid epidemic, we finally were able to resume fundraising and trips to Romania this year. A total of 27 students from St. Louis Grammar School volunteered to participate in the project. Planning for fundraising began in September 2023 and all students were assigned a target amount. Every student reached their target and several of them significantly exceeded them. As always our charity is grateful to the boys and girls for devoting so much time and effort into raising money.

We were offered the possibility of applying for a grant from the Turing Foundation but had to decline as the criteria set by the school were wholly inappropriate to the purposes of our charity. We may reconsider the funding source next year if the criteria are more appropriate.

The costs of the trips have greatly increased since 2020. Coach transport to Dublin airport has risen substantially and due to unavailability of our usual accommodation at Casa Elim in June, we were compelled to arrange flights and more expensive hotel accommodation via a travel agent. In order to make the trips available to students from all backgrounds we decided to pay for coach transport and travel insurance for all students from charity funds. We also decided to pay for summer ground transport in Romania from funds.

A group of four teachers and eighteen Year 13 students departed for Romania in February 2024. They purchased substantial quantities of aid and delivered it to the following institutions : Sunshine Foundation Centre, Bradet Disabled Centre, Bambi Children's Home, Timis Disabled Centre, Codlea Children's Home, Down's Syndrome Centre, Lizuca & Patrocle Children's Home, Daniel Children's Home and Chip & Dale Children's Home. They also delivered food packages to poor families in Mina 1 Mai village.

Two teachers and nine students traveled to Romania in early June. They purchased and delivered aid to the same institutions and village as the winter team except for Chip & Dale Children's Home and the Down's Syndrome Centre. In addition they delivered to Adrian's Disabled Centre, Sacele Junior School and a home for displaced mothers and children.

As chair I wish to thank all the teachers who have dedicated their time and effort to this project, either as trustees or accompanying students to Romania. I am hopeful that due to your efforts our project will return to full levels of activity next year.

E. Marquess

Chair 2023- 2024

**Friends for Romania**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103089

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# Annual return

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## Friends for Romania

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Friends for Romania

I report on the accounts of Friends for Romania for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

#### Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act 2008;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of Independent Examiner's report

I have examined your Charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland; I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

  
[Kevin Higgins \(Oct 10, 2024 11:21 GMT+1\)](#)

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KHA Higgins FCA  
Chartered Accountant

9 Knockanully Road  
Martinstown  
Ballymena  
BT43 7LZ

*This report was signed on 09 October 2024*

**Friends for Romania**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103089

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# Accounts

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Friends for Romania

Statement of Receipts & Payments for Year End:

31 August 2023

	Current Year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current Year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current Year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2022 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
<i>Donations and gifts from individuals</i>				
Fundraising	-		-	250
Bank Interest	-		-	5
	-	-	-	<b>255</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Bank Interest & Fees	30		<b>30</b>	29
Sundry Expenses	10		<b>10</b>	10
Accountancy Fees	200		<b>200</b>	250
	<b>240</b>	-	<b>240</b>	<b>289</b>
Asset / Investment Purchases	-	-	-	-
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>(240)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(240)</b>	<b>(33)</b>

Friends for Romania

Statement of Assets & Liabilities - Year End:

31 August 2023

FUNDS RECONCILIATION	Current Year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Current Year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Current Year Total Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2022 £
Total Funds brought forward 01.09.22	21,842		21,842	21,876
Surplus / Deficit this Year:	(240)		(240)	(33)
Total Funds carried forward 31.08.23	<b>21,602</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,602</b>	<b>21,842</b>
<b>Bank &amp; Cash Balances</b>				
Danske Current Account			20,651	20,881
Fair FX Account			951	961
			<b>21,602</b>	<b>21,842</b>
<b>Other Assets (Unrestricted Fund)</b>				
			-	-
<b>Liabilities (Unrestricted Fund)</b>				
			-	-
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>			<b>21,602</b>	<b>21,842</b>

This report was approved by the Trustees on 27 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr Eugene Marquess  
Trustee

**Friends for Romania**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103089

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# Annual report

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## FRIENDS FOR ROMANIA : CHAIRMAN'S REPORT : 2022-23

Our schools decided to postpone Romania trips for the year. As a result we were unable to raise any funds during the year and our charity was completely inactive.

Our only expenses for the year were bank fees, website domain renewal fee and accountant's fee.

We intend to review our charity activity for 2023 - 24 as soon as it is feasible to do so.

Eugene Marquess  
Chair  
Friends for Romania

**Friends for Romania**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103089

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# Annual return

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## Friends for Romania

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#### Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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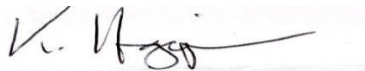
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#### Independent Examiner's Statement

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KHA Higgins FCA  
Chartered Accountant

9 Knockanully Road  
Martinstown  
Ballymena  
BT43 7LZ

*This report was signed on 27 September 2023*