

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105446

Details

Status Received

Registered 2017-01-24

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

Contact

Address 89 Derryhale Rd
Portadown
Co Armagh
BT62 3sr
BT62 3SR

Phone 078 4151 7674

Email info@sunshine-foundation.com

Website www.sunshine-foundation.com

Activities

Purposes: The Objects of the Charity are to relieve the needs and promote the social inclusion of children, young people and adults who were abandoned as children into state orphanages ('the beneficiaries') in particular but not exclusively, those with special needs and/or Disabilities in Brasov County, Romania through the provision of quality residential care, supported living services, education, vocational training, supported employment, recreational activities and by any other charitable means as the trustees shall consider appropriate. For the prevention or relief of poverty of the beneficiaries and their families and other people in need, in the area of benefit through the provision of financial support or by any other charitable means as the trustees shall consider appropriate. The trustees must use the income of the Charity in promoting the Objects as outline above.

What the charity does: The prevention or relief of poverty, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Accommodation/housing, Disability, Education/training, Relief of poverty

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), Learning disabilities, Men, Overseas/developing countries, Physical disabilities, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£125,112	£22,626	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Damien Duffy		
Mr Aodh O'loan		
Mrs Maire O'loan		
Mrs Marie Williams		
Ms Denise Copeland		
Ms Nodlaig Keenan		
Ryan Williams		

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105446

Accounts

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Approval of the Accounts

The Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 25 June 2025.

Signed: Marie Williams
Chairperson

Date: 25th June 2025

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Receipts and Payments

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Incoming Resources				
Gifts and Donations	-	112,898	112,898	4,267
Gift Aid / My Donate Tax Refunds	-	50	50	32
Fundraising	-	10,544	10,544	6,942
Bank Interest	-	1,220	1,220	349
Other	-	400	400	64
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	125,112	125,112	11,654
Resources Expended				
Charitable Activities - Expenditure in Romania	-	21,726	21,726	22,686
Governance Costs	-	900	900	27
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	22,626	22,626	22,713
Net Movement in Funds	-	102,486	102,486	(11,059)
Total Funds Brought Forward	-	32,713	32,713	43,772
Total Funds Carried Forward	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	135,199	135,199	32,713

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024

	31/12/2024 £	31/12/2023 £
Assets		
Cash at Bank	135,199	32,713
	<u>135,199</u>	<u>32,713</u>
Liabilities	Nil	Nil
Net Assets	<u><u>135,199</u></u>	<u><u>32,713</u></u>
Represented by:		
Restricted Funds	-	-
Unrestricted Funds	135,199	32,713
	<u><u>135,199</u></u>	<u><u>32,713</u></u>

Reserves Policy

The Trustees of Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust (SFR), in common with most charities, have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the Charity. SFR has therefore established a policy whereby part of the Unrestricted Funds should not be invested in fixed assets and be available for general use.

SFR Trustees have determined that reserves of £20,000 are needed to meet the funding requirements of the charity in the light of the main risks to the organisation. The Trustees are confident that at this level of Reserves, they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding until alternative funding resources are found. This Reserve will ideally represent 10 months of expenditure.

Any call upon the use of the reserves will be at the approval of the SFR Trustees who will examine the rationale for doing so and agree an amount where appropriate. The balance on unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2024 is £115,199 after deduction of the amount set aside under this policy. The Trustees have designated £100,000 of the Unrestricted Funds for essential maintenance of property in Romania in the next 5 years.

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

to the ~~Trustees and Members~~

of **Sunshine Foundation Romania**

I have examined the accounts for the financial year to 31 December 2024 as set out on the attached three pages, on the basis explained below.

~~Respective responsibilities of the charity trustees and the independent examiner~~

The trustees are responsible for preparing the charity's accounts, and they consider that:

- they are entitled to adopt the receipts and payments basis for the financial year as provided by section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the Act); and
- the audit requirement of section 65(2) of the Act does not apply but the alternative requirement of independent examination under section 65(3)(a) does apply.

It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures outlined below, whether certain matters have come to my attention in connection with the independent examination.

Basis of report

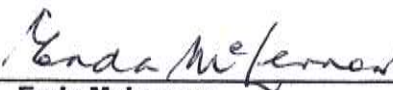
My examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with Regulation 25 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual or especially significant transactions or events and their disclosure in the accounts, and seeking any further information or explanations I considered necessary concerning any such matters. The procedures required to be carried out do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently my report does not express any audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Report

In connection with the examination no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) giving me any reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect proper accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 63 of the Act or that the accounts do not agree with those records; or
- (b) which in my opinion needs to be highlighted in my report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Dated: 25 June 2025


Signed: **Enda McLernon**

McLernonQuinn
Chartered Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers
43 Thomas Street
Dungannon, BT70 1HW

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105446

Accounts

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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My Donate	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	-	6,942	6,942	10,159
Bank Interest	-	349	349	82
CAF / GAYE	-	-	-	837
Other	-	64	64	69
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,654</u>	<u>11,654</u>	<u>14,471</u>
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Resources Expended				
General Fundraising and Publicity Costs	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities - Expenditure in Romania	-	22,686	22,686	17,908
Governance Costs	-	27	27	1,061
	<u>-</u>	<u>22,713</u>	<u>22,713</u>	<u>18,969</u>
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Net Movement in Funds	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,059)</u>	<u>(11,059)</u>	<u>(4,498)</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward	<u>-</u>	<u>43,772</u>	<u>43,772</u>	<u>48,270</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward	<u>-</u>	<u>32,713</u>	<u>32,713</u>	<u>43,772</u>

Sunshine Foundation Romania

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Any call upon the use of the reserves will be at the approval of the SFR Trustees who will examine the rationale for doing so and agree an amount where appropriate. The balance on unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2023 is £12,713 after deduction of the amount set aside under this policy.

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Approval of the Accounts

The Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 4 June 2024.

Signed: Maie Williams
Chairperson

Date: 7th June 2024

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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to the Trustees and Members

of Sunshine Foundation Romania

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- (b) which in my opinion needs to be highlighted in my report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Dated: 4 June 2024


Signed: Enda McLernon

McLernonQuinn

Chartered Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers

43 Thomas Street

Dungannon, BT70 1HW

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105446

Annual report



Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust

Registered charity NIC 105446

Annual report 1 January – 31 December 2023



Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust (SFR) is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. It was established as a Trust on 22 November, 2001 and is governed by a board of trustees in accordance with its trust deed.

Trustees

Aodh O’Loan, Denise Copeland (Secretary), Maire O’Loan, Marie Williams (Chair), Mary Duffy (Assistant Treasurer), Nodlaig Keenan (Treasurer), Ryan Williams.

Charitable Purposes

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust’s charitable purposes are:

“To relieve the needs and promote the social inclusion of children, young people and adults who were abandoned as children into state orphanages (‘the beneficiaries’) in particular but not exclusively, those with special needs and/or disabilities in Brasov County, Romania through the provision of quality residential care, supported living services, education, vocational training, supported employment, recreational activities and by any other charitable means as the trustees shall consider appropriate.

For the prevention or relief of poverty of the beneficiaries and their families and other people in need, in the area of benefit through the provision of financial support or by any other charitable means as the trustees shall consider appropriate. The trustees must use the income of the Charity in promoting the Objects as outline above.”

Since 2002, we have built three homes - Casa St Maria, Casa St Patrick and Casa Irlanda (see page 12 for more detail) - for just over 30 children and young adults who previously lived in overcrowded buildings, were rarely allowed to go outside and rarely had any visitors.

This work is enabled through our Romanian sister charity Fundatia Sunshine Romania. All three homes are run under the control of the Child Protection Authority in Romania in cooperation with Fundatia Sunshine Romania.

Public benefit Statement

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit. The trustees are confident that SFR’s charitable work is in accordance with the regulations on public benefit.

In 2023 we continued to ensure the development of the children and young adults in our homes and supported living apartments, most of whom have special needs. Viorel Mares, our co-ordinator in Romania attends Trustee meetings online to keep the Trustees updated on all activities. This report highlights some of our main achievements in this period.

Casa St Maria children

The children in Casa St Maria are all doing well and still attending school. Some of the more able older children have moved out and so there are new children, some that require specialist support. Unfortunately, this comes at a time when there is a staffing shortage of Carers in Child Protection services.

The Carers do an exceptional job in looking after the children but it can be challenging at times as some of the children need one to one support. Viorel is liaising with the authorities to get an additional member of staff to work in the home.

The Beragh group took the children trampolining which they all loved. They could all bounce to their hearts content and then enjoyed a pizza afterwards which is always appreciated.



Pictured above: Casa Santa Maria children enjoying a day out with the Beragh Group and pictured below enjoying a special day out for Easter paid for by SAR



Supported living in Harman Casa Irlanda and Casa St Patrick

The young adults in our two homes in Harman are all doing great. They mainly came to us as children from various orphanages and so have lived together for a long time. There is a large outside space and garden for everyone to enjoy which is perfect for the evenings.



Pictured above: making decorations for Romania day.

Everyone has their chores to do, from preparing meals and cooking dinner with the support of their Carers. It is wonderful to see how the Carers treat the young adults with such care and affection, they really are one big family together. Iulian and Ionutz are in charge of tending the vegetables in the garden and watering them



Pictured above: Iulian watering the vegetables at sundown

The Carers always make a special effort for each and everyone's birthday, making a lovely homemade cake and throwing a party that everyone can enjoy.



The young adults make sure to do their daily exercises and rest when its too hot!



Holidays and days out are enjoyed to the max!

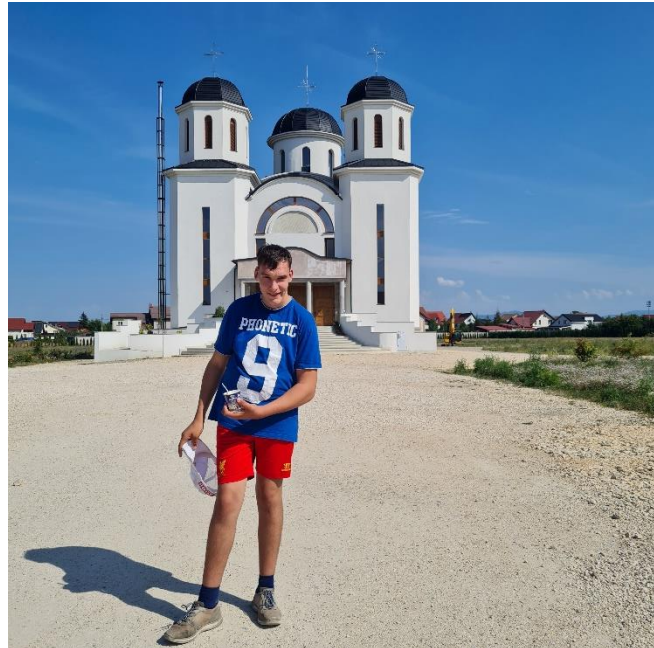


Supported employment

Some of our young adults are now working in various full time or part time employments. For those that have employment, they take great pride in being able to go to work, but not all are able to jobs.

Unfortunately, at the end of last year several of our young adults lost their jobs in the shoe factory and they still haven't been able to get new jobs. Rules on tax in Romania has meant it is difficult for employers to keep part-time employees as they have to pay the same tax for them as full-time employees. It is also very difficult for smaller companies to pay the increasing taxes, and some have closed.

The tax increases have affected our second-hand shop in Harman which has also seen a decline in customers over the last few years as there are many second-hand shops in Brasov and it is difficult to compete. Financially it is not bringing in the income that it did, but it still provides supported employment for our young adults as they are kept busy rotating the stock. This is important at the moment now that other work is difficult to find.



Pictured above: Vasile visits his Sunshine family in Harman and Danutza helps him choose a new pair of jeans in the shop. Eugene shows us the new local church where he loves working part-time.

Danutza was employed for many years in the shop but she really needed a change and is delighted to be working as a cleaner in Brasov. Her new job gives her a greater independence in that she has to take public transport and she is interacting with more people outside of the village. She still enjoys helping out in the shop.

The Beragh Support Group volunteers

The Beragh Support Group volunteers were delighted to return this summer with a small team. The children and young people were so happy to spend time chatting, playing ball and dancing. The Team focused on painting the exteriors to protect it from the harsh winter and then playing ball. Great chats and laughs were had by all!



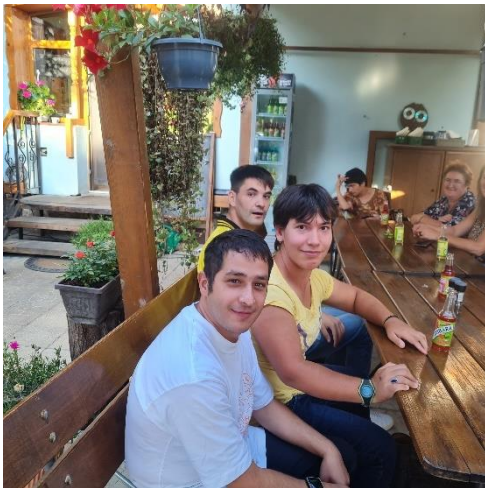
Pictured: Sean, Brian and Denise get stuck into the painting and below enjoy a lovely stroll with tour guide Vali...and have a kickabout in the Carrick-keel kit that was donated



When the paintbrushes were down it was time to take Casa Irlanda and Casa St Patrick out separately for a pizza. Everyone gets their good clothes on!



The walk to Adriana's pizzeria is filled with such excitement.



All made possible with the help of their lovely Carers.



Ionutz has no problem polishing off that enormous dessert!

The Sunshine children no longer in our homes

The Beragh Group visited Vasile in Commona where he has been back living with his family for a number of years now and we continue to support him and his family. We brought food parcels when we visited in the summer, and Viorel keeps in contact with him and his family throughout the year.



We also brought food parcels to the Ouigi family who Gerard McDonald's team had put a new roof on for several years ago. We always think of Gerard when visiting and know he'd be pleased. And when the minibus comes to Commona, there's always plenty of children following waiting for the great sweetie handout.

Big Vali has now left Harman and is living and working in Fagares where he is adapting to life on the outside of Child Protection. Young Vali now lives independently also and has a job in a factory. Viorel keeps in contact with both of them and helps them when needed.



Adrianna is still happily married and working in the pizzeria with her husband where we took all the young people in Harman for a pizza.

She is still very happy at her work and makes plenty of time for her Sunshine family.

The volunteer visits

The children and young adults were delighted to spend time with the volunteers from Hands on Brasov from Belgium when they visited before the summer and the Beragh group in September. They were also heartened to spend time with the young volunteers from School Aid Romania, from Belfast and Maghera, in January as well as An Dumon from Belgium later in the year.

Hands on Brasov spent great time with our young adults in Harman, pictured below. An Dumon visits every year, pictured below enjoying the beginning of the Christmas celebrations.



Pictured above: In January, Methodist College, Belfast and St Patrick's College, Maghera came as the School Aid Romania Group

While it has been difficult for other charities to visit this year, they still supported our projects by helping with paying costs for some of the trips and meals on special occasions, all of which is so greatly appreciated.



Pictured above: Casa St Patrick enjoying a meal out and presents for everyone from The Eileen Moreland Foundation.

Pictured below: Casa St Maria enjoy an Easter outing and treats from School Aid Romania



Co-ordinating our work in Romania

A special word of thanks to Viorel, our project manager in Romania, who ensures that the work of SFR is maintained and developed. His dedication to the children and young people in the Sunshine homes is very much appreciated by the Trustees of SFR. He really looks forward to the various groups of volunteers who visit the project each year and hopes to see everyone back again soon.

We are forever grateful to Viorel for his dedication and commitment to SFR and the many other charities that he engages with on behalf of Fundatia Sunshine Romania.



Pictured: Viorel bringing bread for the hungry volunteers and left with CSM giving presents.

Financial support in Romania

Our work is also greatly supported by other charities working in Brasov County in Romania who contribute to our sister charity Fundatia Sunshine Romania.

Special thanks to the financial support provided this year by The Eileen Moreland Foundation and School Aid Romania including St Patrick's College, Maghera; Methodist College, Belfast; Cookstown High School and St Patrick's College, Armagh.

Many thanks also to Hands on Brasov and An Dumon from Belgium for their continued generosity and support.

Fundraising

Many thanks to our new and regular donors who continue to donate monthly to us via standing order or via our online fundraising platform [CAF](#).

We were able to benefit from the following fundraising events in this year:

Belfast City Marathon

Past and present staff from NICVA got together to enter a relay team in the 2023 Belfast city marathon and raised an amazing £2,267 from sponsorship. A special thanks to all the runners and to everyone who donated to them, we are so grateful for your continued support!



Pictured at their relay change over points: Caroline McCoubrey with Sandra Bailie; Denise Copeland with Roisin Kelly; Sandra at starting line; Louise Foster with Denise; Caroline and Roisin.

Beragh Jumble Sale

The Beragh Support Group held a jumble sale and raised £2,213 from sales and donations on the day. Thank you to everyone who donated goods and money, to all the volunteers who baked, sorted and sold and to those who packed up. A special word of thanks to Beragh Care and Development Association for the use of their lovely centre.



We continued to receive donations from Amazon Smile in the period. Amazon shoppers who choose to shop via Amazon Smile results in 0.5% of the purchase being donated to SFR.

Financial scrutiny

Many thanks to Enda for carrying out the independent examination of the annual accounts. Enda's continued support and advice is very much appreciated.

Thanks also to Nodlaig, our treasurer for the financial analysis of the income and expenditure in Romania and the work on keeping our gift aid claims up to date.

Financial review

During the year the total Income was £11,654 (2022: £14,471)
Expenditure was £22,713 (2022: £18,969).

Reserves

The trustees have calculated that the charity needs to maintain Reserves of 10 months running costs which are unrestricted reserves, not invested in fixed assets and available for general use.

Gift Aid

Sunshine Foundation Romania is recognised as a charity for tax purposes with HMRC and as such claims back gift aid on all eligible donations from UK taxpayers. This means that for every £1 that is gift aided, the charity can claim an additional 25p from HMRC.

Registered charity address C/o Marie Williams, 89 Derryhale Rd, Portadown, Co Armagh, BT62 3SR

Governance in Romania

The Project Manager from Fundatia Sunshine Romania, Viorel sends monthly reports to the trustees in NI. He also oversees the running of the shop as well as liaising with all the charities that support our work in Romania.

The Sunshine Foundation Romania Properties

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust established a Romanian charity called Fundatia Sunshine Romania in 2002 so that it could purchase its first house in Brasov city. This first house, Casa St Maria, was converted into a residential home for the children rescued from Barza Mica orphanage.

A further property was purchased the next year in the town of Harman not far outside of the city. A second home, Casa St Patrick, was built the following year from a timber frame structure donated from N.Ireland.

A few years later, Casa Irlanda was built in Harman to accommodate two self-contained apartments for the first of our young adults who were being moved from Casa St Maria.

Many teams of volunteers travelled out from N.Ireland to work on all three houses including both skilled tradesmen to carry out their craft and willing volunteers to paint and do whatever else needed doing.

The original homestead was converted into a shop, storeroom and an office. With the help of a seeding grant from Lloyds TSB Foundation, we established a second hand shop to sell donated items sent out mostly from Ireland.

Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a 'charity shop' in Romania so this had to be established as a separate business, having to comply with the same regulations as any other private sector business in Romania.

All properties are held in trust by our Romanian sister charity – Fundatia Sunshine Romania. Two of our founder trustees, Marie and Mary are also trustees of this charity.

Fundatia Sunshine Romania is fully registered as a charity with the Romanian authorities.

Declaration

The trustees annual report was approved on the 14 May 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Denise Copeland (Honorary Secretary) 

If you would like to help Sunshine Foundation Romania, there are several ways to do this:

Volunteer – hold a fundraising activity to raise money for SFR

Text Message - Donations can be made in the following amounts; £1, £2, £3, £4, £5, £10. To donate all you have to do is text SFRM00 (followed by the amount) to 70070.

On Line -You can donate securely online via our online fundraising platform provider. To make a regular or one-off online donation visit

[Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust - Donate now \(cafonline.org\)](http://www.sunshine-foundation.com)

Or organise a fundraising appeal or sponsored event via

www.gofundme.com and choose Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust when you create your fundraiser page. Please get in touch with us if you have any issues with setting this up.

Standing Order - Make a regular donation by completing a standing order form at your bank with your account details and SFR's account details:

Ulster Bank
English Street
ARMAGH

Account No 48043098

Sort Code 98-01-90



If you would like more information on our charitable work please visit our website www.sunshine-foundation.com or email info@sunshine-foundation.com or follow us on Facebook at [Sunshine Foundation Romania | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Sunshine-Foundation-Romania) or Twitter at [SFR \(@SFR_Romania\) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/SFR_Romania)

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105446

Annual return

Sunshine Foundation Romania

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Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

to the Trustees and Members

of Sunshine Foundation Romania

I have examined the accounts for the financial year to 31 December 2023 as set out on the attached three pages, on the basis explained below.

Respective responsibilities of the charity trustees and the independent examiner

The trustees are responsible for preparing the charity's accounts, and they consider that:

- they are entitled to adopt the receipts and payments basis for the financial year as provided by section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the Act); and
- the audit requirement of section 65(2) of the Act does not apply but the alternative requirement of independent examination under section 65(3)(a) does apply.

It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures outlined below, whether certain matters have come to my attention in connection with the independent examination.

Basis of report

My examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with Regulation 25 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual or especially significant transactions or events and their disclosure in the accounts, and seeking any further information or explanations I considered necessary concerning any such matters. The procedures required to be carried out do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently my report does not express any audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Report

In connection with the examination no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) giving me any reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect proper accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 63 of the Act or that the accounts do not agree with those records; or
- (b) which in my opinion needs to be highlighted in my report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Dated: 4 June 2024


Signed: Enda McLernon

McLernonQuinn

Chartered Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers

43 Thomas Street

Dungannon, BT70 1HW

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105446

Accounts

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Approval of the Accounts

The Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 16 October 2023.

Signed: Maie Williams
Chairperson

Date: 16th October 2023

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Receipts and Payments

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Incoming Resources				
Gifts and Donations	-	3,067	3,067	5,065
Gift Aid / My Donate Tax Refunds	-	257	257	-
My Donate	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	-	10,159	10,159	3,661
Bank Interest	-	82	82	4
CAF / GAYE	-	837	837	3,249
Other	-	69	69	-
	-	14,471	14,471	11,979
Resources Expended				
General Fundraising and Publicity Costs	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities - Expenditure in Romania	-	17,908	17,908	11,173
Governance Costs	-	1,061	1,061	466
	-	18,969	18,969	11,639
Net Movement in Funds	-	(4,498)	(4,498)	340
Total Funds Brought Forward	-	48,270	48,270	47,930
Total Funds Carried Forward	-	43,772	43,772	48,270

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2022

	31/12/2022 £	31/12/2021 £
Assets		
Cash at Bank	43,772	48,270
	<u>43,772</u>	<u>48,270</u>
Liabilities	Nil	Nil
Net Assets	<u>43,772</u>	<u>48,270</u>
Represented by:		
Restricted Funds	-	-
Unrestricted Funds	43,772	48,270
	<u>43,772</u>	<u>48,270</u>

Reserves Policy

The Trustees of Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust (SFR), in common with most charities, have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the Charity. SFR has therefore established a policy whereby part of the unrestricted funds should not be invested in fixed assets and be available for general use.

SFR Trustees have determined that reserves of £20,000 are needed to meet the funding requirements of the charity in the light of the main risks to the organisation including the risks from Covid-19. The Trustees are confident that at this level of Reserves, they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding until alternative funding resources are found. This Reserve will ideally represent 10 months of expenditure.

Any call upon the use of the reserves will be at the approval of the SFR Trustees who will examine the rationale for doing so and agree an amount where appropriate. The balance on unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2022 is £23,772 after deduction of the amount set aside under this policy.

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

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Dated: 16 October 2023

Signed: 
Enda McLernon

McLernonQuinn

Chartered Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers
43 Thomas Street
Dungannon, BT70 1HW

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105446

Annual report



Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust

Registered charity NIC 105446

Annual report 1 January – 31 December 2022



Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust (SFR) is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. It was established as a Trust on 22 November, 2001 and is governed by a board of trustees in accordance with its trust deed.

Trustees

Aodh O’Loan, Denise Copeland (Secretary), Maire O’Loan, Marie Williams (Chair), Mary Duffy (Assistant Treasurer), Nodlaig Keenan (Treasurer), Ryan Williams.

Charitable Purposes

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust’s charitable purposes are:

“To relieve the needs and promote the social inclusion of children, young people and adults who were abandoned as children into state orphanages (‘the beneficiaries’) in particular but not exclusively, those with special needs and/or disabilities in Brasov County, Romania through the provision of quality residential care, supported living services, education, vocational training, supported employment, recreational activities and by any other charitable means as the trustees shall consider appropriate.

For the prevention or relief of poverty of the beneficiaries and their families and other people in need, in the area of benefit through the provision of financial support or by any other charitable means as the trustees shall consider appropriate. The trustees must use the income of the Charity in promoting the Objects as outline above.”

Since 2002, we have built three homes - Casa St Maria, Casa St Patrick and Casa Irlanda (see page 12 for more detail) - for just over 30 children and young adults who previously lived in overcrowded buildings, were rarely allowed to go outside and rarely had any visitors.

This work is enabled through our Romanian sister charity Fundatia Sunshine Romania. All three homes are run under the control of the Child Protection Authority in Romania in cooperation with Fundatia Sunshine Romania.

Public benefit Statement

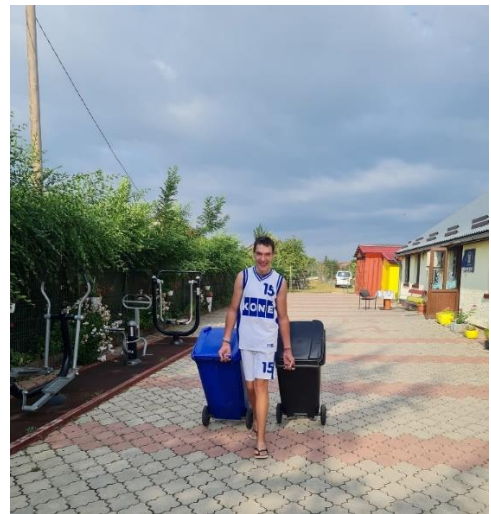
The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit. The trustees are confident that SFR’s charitable work is in accordance with the regulations on public benefit.

In 2022 we continued to ensure the development of the children and young adults in our homes and supported living apartments, most of whom have special needs. Viorel Mares, our co-ordinator in Romania attends Trustee meetings online to keep the Trustees updated on all activities. This report highlights some of our main achievements in this period.

Supported living in Harman Casa Irlanda and Casa St Patrick

Our young adults, mainly those who came to us as children from various orphanages, are now working in vocational programmes or in part-time or full-time employment. They are like other young people their age, they have hopes and dreams, and sometimes these will be achievable and sometimes not depending on their abilities. For those that have employment, they take great pride in being able to go to work, but not all are able.

Everyone has their chores to do, from preparing meals and cooking dinner under the with the support of their wonderful Carers. It is wonderful to see how the Carers treat the young adults with such care and affection.



Pictured above: Casa Irlanda doing their morning exercises. Eugene has settled back in after having to live in Bradet. Pictured here taking charge of the bins. Below all sell their handcrafts at the Christmas Fair. A great opportunity for social interaction



The Carers always make a special effort for each and everyone's birthday, making a lovely homemade cake and throwing a party that everyone can enjoy.



Pictured above: Alexandria and Danutza's birthdays. Below Iulian and Nicu celebrate



Pictured below: Eugene celebrates his 19th birthday



Supported employment

Some of our young adults continue to work in various employments but not all are able to get jobs. Unfortunately, at the end of the year Bebe, Ionutz and Alexandria lost their jobs in the shoe factory which was quite distressing for them as they loved going to work. New rules on tax in Romania has meant it is difficult for employers to keep part-time employees as they have to pay the same tax for them as full-time employees.

Unfortunately, our second-hand shop in Harman is not doing as well as it had been in the early days due to a lack of customers. There are a lot of second-hand shops in Brasov and it is difficult to compete.

Pictured below: Danutza relaxing with Mickey and the other volunteers after a day working in the shop and Bebe overseeing the clear out of their rooms



The shop is still an important supported employment training place for the young adults, and while Danutza works in it full time, she has plenty of other helpers from time to time eg Eugene, Bebe and Ionutz help out with porter duties.



Casa St Maria children

The children in Casa St Maria are all doing well and still attending school. The Beragh group took them on a special trip up to the ski resort for some fresh mountain as it was very hot. The children had a great time playing ball and running about in the cooler mountain air.



It was also a great opportunity to take the older children on public transport to get them accustomed to using it. Afterwards we went for a stroll along the river in Brasov as pictured on the front cover and afterwards for a pizza of course!



The Beragh Support Group volunteers

The Beragh Support Group volunteers were delighted to return this summer after missing the last two years because of the pandemic. The children and young people were so happy to spend time chatting, playing, singing and dancing. They had some very early morning painting shifts so floors could be laid in bedrooms and early morning visit to the park to avoid the intense heat. Our young adults made sure *all* the jobs got done!



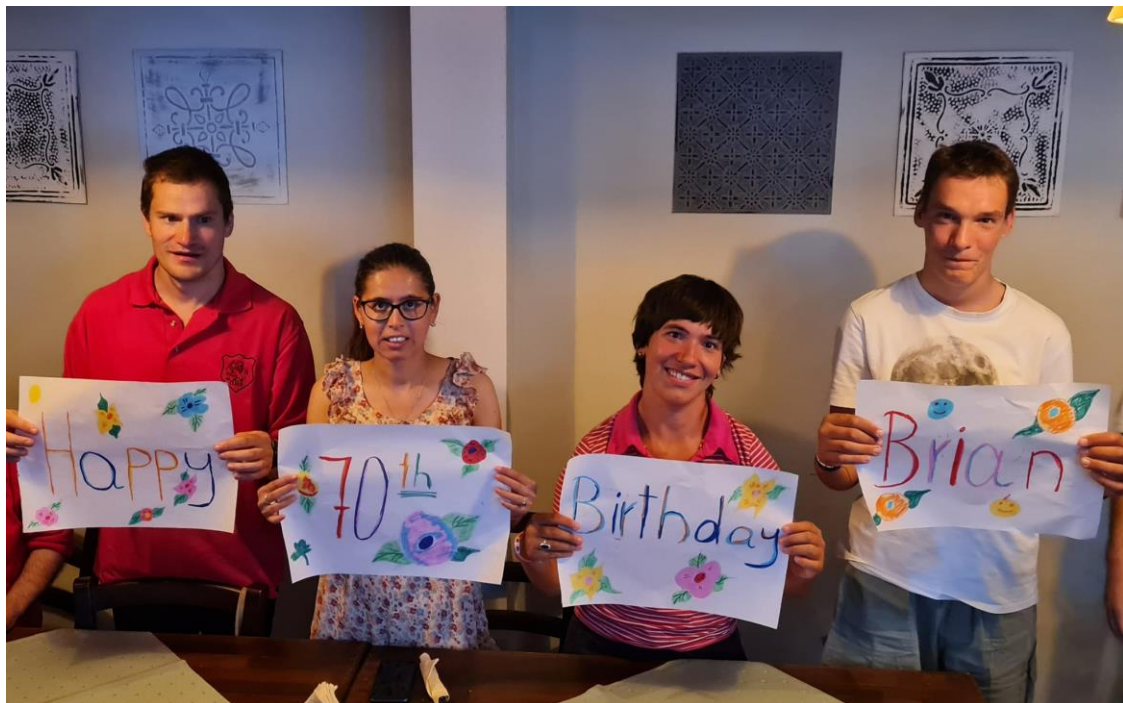
Pictured above: Vale inspecting Denise, Fionnuala and Sharon's painting work and Pictured below: Vale and Eugene ensuring Darragh has got all he needs to lay that floor.....meanwhile later on Ionutz has found another job for Darragh!



When the painting clothes were off it was time to take everyone out for a pizza



Pictured above: everyone out for a pizza and the next morning off for a walk to the park where the young adults are really able to relax.



Pictured above: a special birthday message for Brian who was due to be out with the Beragh Group but couldn't come due to illness. The kids appreciated that he was all set to visit them.

The volunteers had great chats and many a song with Jonella and Alexandria below. Jonella shared the lyrics for a song which she had written which were really touching. She loves singing and some of the volunteers left money for Viorel to buy a guitar for her. He surprised her on her birthday with the gift which she was delighted with. Alexandria is looking forward to singing along with Jonella and her new guitar!



The Sunshine children no longer in our homes

Adrianna got married! She continues to live independently and works in the local pizzeria where she met her lovely husband, pictured below. She was chosen from the Bradet orphanage many years ago to live in Sunshine's first home in Brasov, with help and support she has grown into a wonderful young woman, confident and still funny and now very happily married.



The Beragh Group caught up with Anca, pictured left with Fionnuala, for a coffee and she is very happy living independently and working in Brasov. Vali is still in a boys' home near Bran and has settled in well and is very happy there. Viorel keeps in contact with him.

Vasile has been back living with his family for a number of years now and we continue to support him and his family. We brought food parcels when we visited in the summer, and Viorel keeps in contact with him and his family throughout the year.



We also brought food parcels to the Ouigi family who Gerard McDonald's team had put a new roof on for several years ago. We always think of Gerard when visiting and know he'd be pleased. And when the minibus comes to Commona, there's always plenty of children following waiting for the great sweetie handout.



Post pandemic – the volunteer visits

While life appears to have gotten back to normal in Romania post pandemic, unfortunately the various groups of volunteers that would've visited before covid has not returned to that in pre-pandemic. The children and young adults really missed the

visits from these various groups and are hoping that they will return in both the winter and the summer.

They had great fun with the young people from Hands on Brasov from Belgium when they visited before the summer and the Beragh group in the summer. They are really looking forward to the School Aid Romania groups returning next year.



Pictured above: Hands on Brasov, Belgium with our young adults in Harman.

While it has been difficult for other charities to visit this year, they still supported our projects by helping with paying costs for some of the trips and meals on special occasions, all of which is so greatly appreciated.



Pictured above: Casa Irlanda and Casa St Patrick enjoying a meal out and presents for everyone from The Eileen Moreland Foundation.



Pictured: Casa St Patrick, very happy on holidays. If it wasn't for the minibus these trips probably wouldn't be possible. Thanks again School Aid Romania for providing the much used bus.



Pictured above: Casa St Maria receive Easter treats from School Aid Romania



Co-ordinating our work in Romania

A special word of thanks to Viorel, our project manager in Romania, who ensures that the work of SFR is maintained and developed.

He really looks forward to the various groups of volunteers who visit the project each year and hopes to see everyone back again soon.

We are forever grateful to Viorel for his dedication and commitment to SFR and the many other charities that he engages with on behalf of Fundatia Sunshine Romania.

Pictured left: Viorel with son Radu.

Financial support in Romania

Our work is also greatly supported by other charities working in Brasov County in Romania who contribute to our sister charity Fundatia Sunshine Romania.

Special thanks to the financial support provided this year by The Eileen Moreland Foundation and School Aid Romania including St Patrick's College, Maghera; Methodist College, Belfast; Cookstown High School and St Patrick's College, Armagh.

Many thanks also to Hands on Brasov and An Dumon from Belgium for their continued generosity and support.

Fundraising

Many thanks to our regular donors who continue to donate monthly to us via standing order or via our online fundraising platform [CAF](#).

Our fundraising took a bit of a setback this year also as it was hard to plan for our usual events because of concerns with adhering to social distancing in indoor venues. Thankfully we were able to benefit from two sporting events in the period:

Belfast City Marathon

Past and present staff from NICVA got together to enter a relay team in the 2022 Belfast city marathon and raised an amazing £2,250 from sponsorship. A special thanks to all the runners and to everyone who donated, we are so grateful for your continued support!



Pictured at their relay change over points: Caroline McCoubrey with Denise Copeland, Roisin 'jazzy' Kelly with Jimmy Laverty, Sandra Bailie in full flight, Caroline with Sandra and Jimmy with Denise.

We continued to receive donations from Amazon Smile in the period. Amazon shoppers who choose to shop via Amazon Smile results in 0.5% of the purchase being donated to SFR. If you're shopping on Amazon, choose Amazon Smile and look for Sunshine Foundation Romania.

Financial scrutiny

Many thanks to Enda for carrying out the independent examination of the annual accounts. Enda's continued support and advice is very much appreciated.

Thanks also to Nodlaig, our treasurer for the financial analysis of the income and expenditure in Romania and the work on keeping our gift aid claims up to date.

Financial review

During the year the total Income was £14,471 (2021: £11,979)
Expenditure was £18,969 (2021: £11,639).

Reserves

The trustees have calculated that the charity needs to maintain Reserves of 10 months running costs which are unrestricted reserves, not invested in fixed assets and available for general use.

Gift Aid

Sunshine Foundation Romania is recognised as a charity for tax purposes with HMRC and as such claims back gift aid on all eligible donations from UK taxpayers. This means that for every £1 that is gift aided, the charity can claim an additional 25p from HMRC.

Registered charity address C/o Marie Williams, 89 Derryhale Rd, Portadown, Co Armagh, BT62 3SR

Governance in Romania

The Project Manager from Fundatia Sunshine Romania, Viorel sends monthly reports to the trustees in NI. He also oversees the running of the shop as well as liaising with all the charities that support our work in Romania.

The Sunshine Foundation Romania Properties

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust established a Romanian charity called Fundatia Sunshine Romania in 2002 so that it could purchase its first house in Brasov city. This first house, Casa St Maria, was converted into a residential home for the children rescued from Barza Mica orphanage.

A further property was purchased the next year in the town of Harman not far outside of the city. A second home, Casa St Patrick, was built the following year from a timber frame structure donated from N.Ireland.

A few years later, Casa Irlanda was built in Harman to accommodate two self-contained apartments for the first of our young adults who were being moved from Casa St Maria.

Many teams of volunteers travelled out from N.Ireland to work on all three houses including both skilled tradesmen to carry out their craft and willing volunteers to paint and do whatever else needed doing.

The original homestead was converted into a shop, storeroom and an office. With the help of a seeding grant from Lloyds TSB Foundation, we established a second hand shop to sell donated items sent out mostly from Ireland.

Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a 'charity shop' in Romania so this had to be established as a separate business, having to comply with the same regulations as any other private sector business in Romania.

All properties are held in trust by our Romanian sister charity – Fundatia Sunshine Romania. Two of our founder trustees, Marie and Mary are also trustees of this charity.

Fundatia Sunshine Romania is fully registered as a charity with the Romanian authorities.

Declaration

The trustees annual report was approved on the 16th October 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Denise Copeland (Honorary Secretary) 

If you would like to help Sunshine Foundation Romania, there are several ways to do this:

Volunteer – hold a fundraising activity to raise money for SFR or volunteer to work with our children and young adults in Harman.

Text Message - Donations can be made in the following amounts; £1, £2, £3, £4, £5, £10. To donate all you have to do is text SFRM00 (followed by the amount) to 70070.

On Line -You can donate securely online via our online fundraising platform provider. To make a regular or one-off online donation visit

[Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust - Donate now \(cafonline.org\)](http://cafonline.org)

Or organise a fundraising appeal or sponsored event via

www.gofundme.com and choose Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust when you create your fundraiser page. Please get in touch with us if you have any issues with setting this up.

Standing Order - Make a regular donation by completing a standing order form at your bank with your account details and SFR's account details:

Ulster Bank
English Street
ARMAGH

Account No 48043098

Sort Code 98-01-90



If you would like more information on our charitable work please visit our website www.sunshine-foundation.com or email info@sunshine-foundation.com or follow us on Facebook at [Sunshine Foundation Romania | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Sunshine-Foundation-Romania) or Twitter at [SFR \(@SFR_Romania\) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/SFR_Romania)

Sunshine Foundation Romania Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105446

Annual return

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Approval of the Accounts

The Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 16 October 2023.

Signed: Maie Williams
Chairperson

Date: 16th October 2023

Sunshine Foundation Romania

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Receipts and Payments

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Sunshine Foundation Romania

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Dated: 16 October 2023

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Enda McLernon

McLernonQuinn

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