



# Newsletter

January 2008

Issue 11

## Welcome to the New Trustee's

We are pleased to announce that the Wishing Well team of Trustee's has just been increased to 5 members with Kirstie Stewart and Pamela Veevers joining the board. Jason O'Flaherty and Elizabeth Burke remain on the board as does Samantha Hague-Barrett. However, Sam is now called Samantha Haywood, having got married earlier in the year. All of the Trustee's give up their time to run the charity on a voluntary basis.



## Christmas Fun!

All of the children that attend our centre in Romania had a fantastic time over the festive season. We held our annual Christmas party on the 20<sup>th</sup> December, with Father Christmas making a special appearance, handing out individual gifts to each of the children. This year each of the children received a new soft toy, a packet of felt tips, notebook, sweets and chocolates.

## School's Community Development Project

In September we launched our new School's Community Development Project. 10 school's have signed up to participate in this exciting project, where over the next two years we will be working with both teachers and pupils to embed the concept of community development into everyday school life. Already, we have delivered several training courses but we have a lot more work to do.



## More Sad News

In our last newsletter, we informed you about the unexpected death of one of our children from the HIV/AIDS group. Unfortunately, over the summer period two more of the children from this group have also died. One of the children was only 6 years old and when he was with us he was a real bundle of fun.

The HIV/AIDS group only have a small slot in the centre's timetable but we wish we could do more for these children. We will continue to support them as much as we can, providing some positive experiences in their troubled young lives.

### Youth In Action - Youth Exchange

Following a successful application for funding from the EU "Youth In Action" programme, in July we hosted a group of 11 young people from Stockport Youth Service Duke of Edinburgh Gold Group. The young people joined us for 9 days, working with our Romanian volunteers on the Equal Start Summer School programme. The Stockport group were shocked to see the poor state of the houses that the Roma children live in. Both groups spent a lot of time together, working with the Roma children but also participating in workshops with EU and Anti-discrimination themes. Hopefully, during the summer 2008, our Romanian volunteers will be able to visit Stockport to participate in part two of the Youth Exchange.

We would like to give special thanks to the young people from Stockport who helped to raise money for our centre before their trip, the group raised over £2000. Well Done!



#### Introducing:

#### Positive Futures

For sometime now we have been looking to take on a project to help children that live here in the UK. We are now pleased to inform you that we created a new project called Positive Futures, for children living in care. Positive Futures will initially be a small scale initiative, focussing on children in care in East Sussex.

We will not be using any of Wishing Well's existing resources to fund this project, as all of these are already committed to our projects in Romania but we do not anticipate it to be too difficult to identify local funding to help improve the lives of the many children in East Sussex living in care.

#### Volunteer News

Although much of our work in Romania is carried out by our dedicated team of local Romanian volunteers we were pleased when in September Dorie joined us, an American Peace Corp volunteer, and she will be working with us for the next 18 months. Wendy, Carla, Ellie and Father Robert also joined us for short visits during the last 6 months of 2007 and 2008 looks like it is going to be another busy year for our volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering with Wishing Well please contact us at the address below.



**Money Meters** is our new fundraising appeal aimed at schools and community groups. If you work in a school or with a community group, or if you know anybody that does and may be interested in helping us with our fundraising appeal, **please give us a call on 01253 773546**.

**This Newsletter is produced by:**

Wishing Well, 4 Laurel Avenue, Fleetwood, Lancashire, FY7 7PT

Tel: 01253 773546, E-Mail: [wishingwellappeal@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wishingwellappeal@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.wishingwellcharity.org.uk](http://www.wishingwellcharity.org.uk)

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