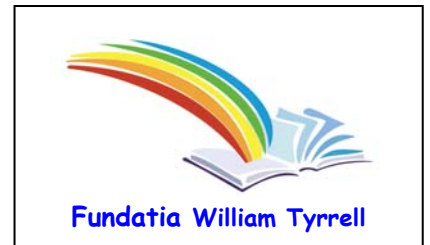




Newsletter

Summer 2009

Issue 13



Introducing our new project in Africa.....

Earlier this year Wishing Well Lead Trustee Jason O'Flaherty flew out to Tanzania to visit Shimbwe, a village based at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro. We have been thinking about moving into Africa for some time and feel that now our projects in Romania are at a fairly stable point in their development now is the right time to take on some new projects. We were invited to the Shimbwe village by another small charity working in the area, they have helped bring water to the village and set up the village's only secondary school. Our involvement in the village is going to be in supporting one of the four Primary schools.

We will be working with Shimbwe Chini Primary school. Out of the 296 children that attend this school only 1 in 4 move on to secondary, for the vast majority of the children once they have completed Primary school that is the end of their education. Only the brightest few children are able to acquire free scholarships to go on to the secondary school. For those that do not achieve the grade, unless their parents can afford to pay to send them off to a private school (which is not normally the case) the children just end up working the land.



At Shimbwe school there is a teacher/pupil ration of 1/40, which is better than the government targets of 1/45 but still with so many children to just 1 teacher it is very difficult to help all of the children to reach their full potential. Many of the children come from desperately poor families and performing well at school is their only chance of improving their lives, it is the only way they will be able to get a job that will provide them with a suitable income. We have identified 50 children within the school in need of extra support. Children from the poorest families that we can give a little support to in order for them to meet those all important grades. We will be combining all of our resources from both the UK and Romania to make this project a success and implementing the same successful model we have been using in Slatina for the past 6 years. In September we hope to be able to issue all of the children most in need with note books and schools resources ready for the new academic year. We are going to be paying for the poorest children to receive free school meals and we will be working with the school to improve the overall classroom environment. Next summer we plan to run our first African summer school.



Lottery Grant for New Project

First Aid for All - Equipping the Voluntary Sector

Thanks' to an award of £9250 from the Lottery Awards For All programme, Wishing Well is launching a new first Aid training programme for community and voluntary organisations based in East Sussex. Over 180 Volunteers and young people will be able to access the training over the next 12 months, with some volunteers also being developed to become first aid trainers. The training, which will be accredited by the HSE will be significantly subsidised or in many cases free. If you think this project may be of benefit to you or your organisation and you are based in East Sussex please email: wishingwellappeal@yahoo.co.uk or call 07931 548861.

Britain's Ambassador to Romania visits our centre

In November we celebrated the 10th anniversary of Fundatia William Tyrrell with a visit to our centre from the British Ambassador to Romania Robin Barnett. This was the second time the British Embassy has shown support to our projects, as two years earlier the Ambassador had invited a group of our children to share the afternoon with him at the Embassy in Bucharest. We are very grateful for the support offered and it has certainly helped us to raise our profile in the town.



English For Kids Foundation visit in May

Mark Mast from the English for Kids Foundation joined us in May for his first fact finding trip to Romania. The English For Kids Foundation is an initiative born out of the Anglia Examinations Syndicate. We have been using Anglia at our centre now for the past 4 years, with thanks to the support we have received from Gill and the team at Chichester College. Now, by working with the English For Kids Foundation we hope to build on our existing achievements and be able to offer more children and young people the opportunity to receive high quality, affordable English lessons.



National Volunteering Week 2009

For the fourth year running we have brought National Volunteering Week to Slatina. National Volunteering Week is organised nationally by the charity Provobis and implemented locally by small charities all across Romania. In Slatina, it is Fundatia William Tyrrell that has taken up the challenge to be the local co-ordinating partner. This year we organised a wide range of activities to promote volunteering across the town including participating on a inter-county caravan road show. Promoting volunteering remains one of the key activities of the centre and already this year we have reached over 1431 hours on our volunteer hours calculator. Most of our volunteering hours come from our own Romanian volunteer team, who work tirelessly to support the centre. However, we have also been joined with volunteers from the UK and from the USA.



Read with me.....

Our new project "Read with me" has got off with an amazing start. Our volunteers were nervous about starting this project, giving great thought to how they could possibly make reading so interesting that they would be able to maintain the attention of a large group of children in the local library. With a bit of drama and some homemade costumes they were able to do it! Now, we will be running a regular "read with me" session in the town library for children and their parents to attend. In the photo is the first group of "Read with Me" children with their diplomas, awarded after the session.



Supporting the New Change4Life Campaign

These days, 'modern life' can mean that we're a lot less active. With so many opportunities to watch TV or play computer games, and with so much convenience and fast food available, we don't move about as much, or eat as well as we used to which means that 9 out of 10 kids today could grow up with dangerous amounts of fat in their bodies. This can cause life-threatening diseases like cancer, type 2 diabetes and heart disease - so it's really important that we do something about it.



We all know it can be hard these days to live a happy, healthy life but Change4Life can help. After all, none of us are perfect. The way we live in modern society means a lot of us, especially our kids, have fallen into unhealthy habits. Even the best of us can make small changes. For more information please visit www.nhs.uk/change4life or to speak to one of the Change4Life team call 0300 123 4567 (Calls to 03 numbers should cost no more than geographic 01 or 02 UK wide calls, and may be part of inclusive minutes subject to your provider and your call package). Change 4 Life offices are open: 9am - 8pm every day.

Launch of the Health Passport Programme

With a small grant of £500 from East Sussex Downs and Weald NHS Primary Care Trust we have created a new Health Passport Programme aimed at encouraging "looked after" young people in the care of East Sussex Social Services to participate in exercise, eat healthily, think about their mental & sexual health and generally do more to maintain a healthier life style.



Over the next 12 months it is hoped that 15 young people will complete the programme. And, if the project proves to be successful we hope to be able to roll out this programme to other young people across the County and in other parts of the UK.



Financial Update / Financial Update / Financial Update / Financial Update

Funding is always a major challenge when you are a small charity. However, we are pleased to report that the recent Credit Crunch and Global Financial Crisis is having only a limited effect on the charity. Sadly, we have lost a small number of our valued supporters as they have had to reign in their finances, cancelling some of their regular charity donations but we have also gained new supporters which have offset some of the overall losses. We have also gained a couple of new corporate sponsors including Provident and Lite

Structures. We are extremely grateful for these two companies for choosing to support us at this time. We are also grateful to CAST and all of our other longer term supporters (including; Brighton College, Green Hills Ladies Club, John Wilson, Wendy Waldron and all the Child Sponsors) that have also been very helpful over the past 12 months.



Offering a Lifeline to the Eastbourne IMPS Programme

Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death and illness in young people. 2 million children attend A&E each year with unintentional injuries. Many unintentional injuries are preventable and for the past 7 years IMPS in Eastbourne has been working hard to tackle the problem. IMPS works with 71 Primary Schools and delivers a service to over 2700 children. However, the future of this programme is uncertain



as the current Programme Co-ordinator has just resigned and the local Hospital Trust that has been responsible for the programme is now ready to close down this initiative. Wishing Well is in negotiations with IMPS and the local Hospital Trust and has offered to take over the running of this programme.



Following last year's successful youth exchange with Stockport Youth Service, this October we hope to be able to participate in what will be our third Youth Exchange programme. We are currently working with an Italian charity and hope to be able to join them in a multi-lateral exchange that is planned to take place in Rome later in the year. Young people from 4 different countries will be involved in the exchange if the Youth In Action application is successful. The countries include; Romania, Italy, Spain and Turkey.

This will be a fantastic experience for all the young people involved and next year we hope to host our own multi-lateral exchange in the UK.

SPONSOR A CHILD - Children's Birthday Parties



With thanks to the child sponsors, all of our children in Romania are now able to celebrate their birthday with a moderate gift and small party. We also use the money we get from the Child Sponsorship Programme to fund the children's annual Christmas party, which this year was bigger than ever. All the children received a set of pyjamas, chocolates, pack of felt tips, colouring book and a hoody style top or jumper and had lots of fun. Child Sponsorship ensures there is a place in our centre for all of the sponsored children, as it covers the transport costs to get them to and from our centre to receive the all important extra educational and social support that they need. Soon we will be opening up the Child Sponsorship Programme to some of the children we will be working with in Tanzania. We will be using this money to pay for their free school meals and school supplies (pens/books/uniform/shoes).

If you would like to be a child sponsor, all you have to do is set up a regular standing order donation for a minimum of £10 per month.

Other Ways To Help

- **Donate your old mobile phone (don't forget the charger too!)**
- **Become a volunteer - we have opportunities throughout the year in the UK, in Romania and in Tanzania. We are also researching new projects in other parts of the world.**
- **Collect items for us such as; school supplies, school uniforms, art & craft items and sports equipment. Please get in touch for our up to date list.**
- **Spread the word - tell your friends about us, your school, workplace, youth group.**

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