



# School For Life

Newsletter Edition 22, Dec 2009  
Registered Charity No. 1062953  
Patron: Robert Carlyle OBE  
[www.schoolforliferomania.org](http://www.schoolforliferomania.org)  
[info@schoolforliferomania.org](mailto:info@schoolforliferomania.org)

**Viata** Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year from SFL & SPV!

UK volunteers playing music in Siret, Christmas 1992



Over 15 years ago, volunteers from the UK spent Christmas playing music to the orphans and children with special needs in the Neuropsychiatric Institution in Siret, northern Romania.



Fine motor skills session, 16 years on

It is our hope that for many more Christmases to come, the now young adults will continue to receive therapeutic input from Romanian Special Needs teachers. This is possible with the money YOU give to School For Life. Please remember our charity this Christmas.

## [www.schoolforliferomania.org](http://www.schoolforliferomania.org)

School For Life is a registered UK charity dedicated to funding young adults brought up in an orphanage in Siret, Romania (who now live in a Neuropsychiatric Hospital institution), providing special needs education, training and supported accomodation so they can develop the skills they need to lead fulfilling lives. The school sessions are delivered in a building our charity has purchased and built in the community of Siret, northern Romania. Therapeutic sessions are also provided in the Hospital for the young people not able to come to our facility.

The money raised in the UK by School for Life is sent to our sister organisation in Siret, "Scoala Pentru Viata", which is led and staffed exclusively by qualified people from the local community. The staff members include 2 Directors, 3 Teachers, 2 Teaching Assistants (formally orphans from the Institution), and a Medical Assistant. All funds received go directly to the project in Siret (except for bank charges to transfer funds to Romania).

All other costs, including regular trips to Siret to support the project and feedback to the UK charity meetings, and all publicity, are met by the Trustees and School For Life Friends themselves. So more than 99p of every pound you have given goes directly to the children and young adults who need it. Thank you for your support!

**Școală Pentru Viață : School for Life : Școală Pentru Viață : School for Life**

**Școală Pentru Viață**

## Trip to Romania to link up with SPV

Ruth Brown and Lizzy Keetley travelled to Romania in October 2009 to meet Doina Harasemiuc (Director of Administration of Scoala Pentru Viata), Radu Harasemiuc, and Cornelia Petrasuc (Director of Education SPV) at the organisation Hope and Homes for Children in Baia Mare, northern Romania.

Hope and Homes are policy developers who work in partnership with Baia Mare local government and social services to close down children's institutions in Romania and provide either small group homes or foster care families. Although our charity provides services for adults with disabilities, which is not the area of expertise of Hope and Homes, we were still able to gain useful information to help us try to secure a future for SPV from within Romania or the EU.

### Funding opportunities and Romanian legislative framework

The Romanian Fund for Development of Social Services (FRDS) holds the funding for service provision, working to a set of National Interest Programmes (NIPs), and any service that is going to be funded must tie in with these. These funds tend to be made available from the beginning of the year. The Romanian National Authority for People with Handicaps who regulate the provision of services may be open to visiting the SPV project (but this would have to be explored further).

Two years ago new legislation was passed in Romania that stated that companies can pay their 20% corporate tax to an NGO instead of to the state. Save the Children Fund have been particularly proactive in ensuring that this policy is enforced. We were told that there are agencies that link donors with recipients. This could be a useful avenue to explore!



*Scoala Pentru Viata & School For Life meet with Hope and Hopes for Children in Baia Mare, Romania. From left: Radu (SPV), Ruth (SFL), Cornelia (SPV), Stefan (Hope & Homes), Doina (SPV), Lizzy (SFL).*

We had some discussion about EU funding, which Stefan, the Director of Hope and Homes, thought would be available from now until 2013. It seemed likely that this would be focused on getting young adults with disabilities back into work. Stefan gave Doina 2 print outs regarding possible sources of Romanian government grants. Let's keep our fingers crossed that something positive comes back from them!

**Școală Pentru Viață : School for Life : Școală Pentru Viață : School for Life**

## Requirement for a contractor to explore future funding sources

To secure the long term future of SPV as the costs in Romania increase, we hope to find someone to complete a project looking at alternative sources of funding from within Romania or the EU. Hope and Homes have a member of staff who is responsible for writing project proposals for funding, and she would be a good contact for SPV in trying to secure a contract worker to do the same for us. (A generous donation of ring fenced funding specifically for this post was gifted to School For Life by a private doner so that funding opportunities in Romania to be explored).

Stefan suggested that there would be other charities in Romania working with a similar client group to SPV and we should seek these out to share information. He urged us to be more aggressive in our self publicity, both in the UK and in Romania. Please help us with this challenge!

All in all it was a very useful meeting, with lots of resources shared, and offers of support to the SPV team. As discussed at the last School For Life AGM, we will continue to support SPV with our current model of standing orders and extra fundraising. But we are very aware that with the financial situation changing in Romania as it becomes fully incorporated into the EU, we need to actively seek out alternative sources of long term security to the project. Watch this space.....

And meanwhile, the fantastic work at the project in Siret continues, and we look forward to the next trip out to see the progress of all those receiving invaluable input from the dedicated SPV team.

## FUND RAISING NEWS



Dave Emptage and Band held a fabulous live music gig in Lancaster after the AGM. With £500 raised on the night, it was a huge success. Looking forward to the next one!

£330 was raised following a talk about the charity and grand raffle on the army camp in Germany.

Will's CD of music inspired by Romania has raised £140 - with new updated songs, order a copy for Christmas from [W.R.Gould@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:W.R.Gould@leeds.ac.uk)

Willerby Methodist Wives group have raised £218 for School for Life this year!

Many thanks to Alison Phillips and friends, who donated funds following a special birthday party which allowed the expenses of the SPV team to be paid for during their trip to Baia Mare.



Carole Grant's home made cards continue to be a huge success raising over £400 this year. Thanks for all the hard work and hours of sticking, Carole!

Online donations have raised £628 this year. Check out [www.schoolforliferomania.org](http://www.schoolforliferomania.org). Thank you!

*Let us publish your fundraising news by emailing Lizzy at [ejkeetley@hotmail.com](mailto:ejkeetley@hotmail.com).  
Keep up the great efforts!*

**Școală Pentru Viață : School for Life : Școală Pentru Viață : School for Life**

## Latest update from SPV

Renovation works have been carried out in the school and supported accommodation building (the "Foundation"), such as the replacement of faulty doors and the repairing of degraded areas of the hall ceiling, to preserve heat. Two gas central heating systems have been installed, one in the school and one in the separate Gym building.

Approximately 15-20 young adults with special needs access the gym every day from the Institution where they live. This opportunity for gross motor activity becomes even more important in the harsh Romanian winters. The walk through Siret town from the Institution where the young adults live to the school building is good for everyone to see.

*Walking to the SPV school and gym facilities in Romania.*



## Financial Report

*by Keith Lownsborough, Treasurer*

The **cash balance** at the 31st Aug 2009 stood at £11 322.06, and when salaries were transferred in September the balance was £1782.06. Our **monthly income** of Standing Orders currently stands at £1 557.50 per month, reflecting a decrease as compared to September 2008. Please encourage friends and family to subscribe to regular giving, however small, as this allows us to budget. With £380 in quarterly/annual donations, the total potential tax rebate under the **gift aid** scheme is £4369. Over the coming financial year, an extra **£5600 must be raised** to meet the budget shortfall.

### School For Life Romania

[www.schoolforliferomania.org](http://www.schoolforliferomania.org)

59 Eastgate, North Newbald, York YO4 3SD

Tel: 01430 827010

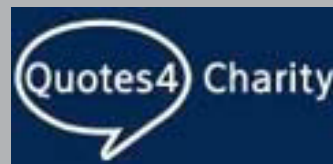
info@schoolforliferomania.org

### Our partners- ways you can raise money for free!



If you buy items online, try [www.easyfundraising.org](http://www.easyfundraising.org) or The Giving Machine. You won't pay extra, a secure banking system is used, and commission is paid to School For Life!

Over £600 has been raised through 3 supporters using services such as home/life insurance and mortgages. For financial services that support our charity, phone 0845 299 8630 or visit [www.quotes4charity.co.uk](http://www.quotes4charity.co.uk)



Go to [www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com), and type in School for Life Romania. Enter your details and sign up- set the everyclick page as your homepage, and everytime you use the internet, money will be donated to School For Life! £24 raised this year at the click of a few "mice"!

— SFL Trustees: Sylvia Gurr, Marianne Lownsborough, Dave Emptage, Will Gould, Katie Goodier, Phil Keetley—

**Școală Pentru Viață : School for Life : Școală Pentru Viață : School for Life**