



together
for
others

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THE FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION (UK – ROMANIA)

WITH FUNDAȚIA PRO PRIETENIA ARAD

An extract from our first Annual Report – March 2010

Thanks and acknowledgements

This past year has seen the setting up of The Friendship Foundation (UK – Romania) as a Charitable Trust and, later in this first year, as a Registered Charity. It has been an exciting year and we have much to be thankful for.

Firstly, though, I must acknowledge the ten years preceding this in which the activities of what we called The Friendship Foundation (without the suffix) served to bring an awareness of Romania to hundreds of us here in the UK. During that decade we have benefited from visits in both directions and many thousands of Romanians have been helped by the compassionate response of British citizens to their social and personal needs.

It has been our privilege to work alongside Puiu Tarcea, his family, and his growing team at Pro Prietenia Arad. Puiu insists that he has learned so much from us: but, rather it be said, our very existence as a charity is due solely to the inspiration we have gained from them and from what we have seen them achieve amongst their own people. And it is because of the people, and for the people, that both Pro Prietenia and our own Charity exist. We are in a very definite sense 'Together for others.'

I thank all those people who have supported our efforts in the past by their prayers, their involvement in our activities and their financial contributions. You have helped bring us to this point; it is upon the foundation you have helped lay that our Charity is built, and hopefully, it is upon your continued support that we will become whatever the future needs us to be to serve the changing needs of the people.

At the end of this, our first year, I would like to thank our Trustees for freely giving of their time and expertise. We are aware of the need to recruit new blood onto the Board of Trustees, and this we aim to do in

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the coming year. But, meanwhile, I am grateful for what each does in support of me as Chair.

I have already implied my gratitude to Puiu, supported by his wife Dorina, and to the team in Arad. Thank you for working so closely with us: though separated by more than a thousand miles you make us feel so much a part of the team. Your application of our modest funding to the needs of the people always inspires us to do more.

I am always grateful for the interest taken in our work by public officials and dignitaries. I am thankful to the Welsh Assembly government for their welcome of the participants in the Welsh-Romania Youth Exchange this year, and especially to the then First Minister Rhodri Morgan for his personal welcome. Thanks are due also to Cllr. Jefferson Tildesley, Mayor of Bridgend, and to the Bridgend County Youth Service for their assistance. Thanks, too, to the young people's housing charity Yellow Wales in Bridgend for fronting this year's exchange, and especially Dave, Tracey, Janice and Cheryl – not forgetting the young people themselves for playing such great hosts to our Romanian friends. By the way, thanks for the memories – it was good spending the time with you.

I am thankful to the Romanian Ambassador to UK, Dr Ion Jinga, and to the consular staff for the interest they have taken in our Charity this year. I am thankful to the public officials and dignitaries in Arad for always being ready to meet with us when we visit their wonderful city and county of Arad.

Last, and by no means least, I am thankful to our supporters, without whom we should not exist and, worse still, without whom hundreds of people would be denied the benefits of a humane response to their needs. Our supporters have never failed us and it is a privilege for our Charity to be entrusted with the mechanism which helps convert financial generosity into practical benefits. Thank you for enabling us to work on your behalf.

Brian

Rev Brian Gregory – Chair of Trustees
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Nadia is one of those who has benefited from your support – thank you!

**For a full copy of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2009 – 2010
email brian@bgregory.freeserve.co.uk or phone 01535 653056**

Trustees: Brian Gregory, Bob Tilley, John Sheen, Dorothy Tait