



March 2018

Christmas Shoeboxes - A huge "Thank You"

Nobody could argue a Christmas Shoebox is essential aid when there are people with insufficient food and clothing and many terrified at the prospect of the freezing temperatures that will hit them in just a few weeks. Without enough wood they could easily freeze. Sadly there is no such thing as Winter Fuel Allowance in Moldova. Fortunately a few in England have decided to send their Winter Fuel Allowance to us to buy wood in Moldova for the elderly.

If Christmas Shoeboxes are not essential why do we send them? We have asked this question many times. The first thought is to consider exactly what a Christmas Shoebox is. At first glance the answer is obvious, a cardboard box filled with "things". This is obviously correct but our Christmas Shoeboxes carry so much more than this. As well as the lovely new toys, hats, yummy sweets etc. they have a very important invisible thing inside. Even if there is no Christmas card or photograph each box carries a very important message; "someone they have never met cares for them". Each box contains a beautiful warm message of care and love from friends in England, people from Devon and beyond. This is so very important and impossible to put a value on.

This message will be kept for many years, well after the sweets have all been eaten and the woolly hat worn out. We have been working in Eastern Europe for over twenty-seven years and many mothers warmly recall the time they were a child and received a Christmas Shoebox. They recall their memories and can recount everything in the box. The memories last a lifetime.

It was over twenty-seven years when the first aid truck left Woodbury bound for Romania; who would have imagined then we would still be working all this time later. Over the years we have been blessed with financial support that has enabled us to help literally thousands of people. Moreover during this period we have managed to find storage facilities and a team of lovely people, volunteers, to help sort through all the items donated. There is so much we should be grateful for.

It would be wonderful if our work was not necessary however each time we go on a mission there is more to do. The situation in Moldova is even worse than a few years ago. Superficially things look better, there are restaurants and more shops in the cities and everything looks "normal". The sad fact is paid work is very difficult to obtain and very poorly paid. A factory worker may earn 60 pence an hour and prices are not that dissimilar to here. It is almost impossible to survive.

3, Lumley Close, Kenton, Exeter, Devon EX6 8HT.

Tel: 01626 891945 Mobile 07970 204506 E Mail: mail@cr2ee.org.uk
Website - www.cr2ee.org.uk Registered Charity No: 1062623

In the villages incomes are even lower and it is impossible to survive - but somehow they do.

It is not surprising so many are leaving Moldova to start new lives elsewhere, many go to Russia. Some working abroad send money home fueling the superficial improvement but leaving children in the care of grandparents or friends. It is so sad to witness children, who so obviously miss their mum and dad, making excuses and showing their new mobile phone. They would much prefer a cuddle rather than the material bribes given by their parents. They really don't understand why their parents have left them, many feel abandoned and many grandparents are too old to look after young children each and every day.

We are so blessed in this country and it is a privilege to be able to share some of our wealth with others. Over the years we have been able to see how effective our work is. Some of the children who attended our Soup Kitchens are now married and have families of their own. This makes us feel very old but it is very rewarding. Our family support scheme has been a real life saver for many.

Thank you for your support

We are also grateful to the owner of the Old Acorn Kindergarten, 3 Spiders lane, Exmouth EX8 5DS for making it available to us into 2018 to collect and sort good used clothing & bedding for Moldova

See website for details - www.cr2ee.org.uk

Open days in 2018 -

**1st Wednesday in each month
10 am till 3pm
also**

**3rd Saturday in each month
10am till 1am
**** Except August ******

Future dates up until August:-

Wednesdays 10am to 3pm	Saturdays 10am to 1pm
7th March	17th March
4th April	21st April
2nd May	19th May
6th June	16th June
4th July	21st July

Thank you

CR2EE Management Team