



Registered Charity No: 1063955

## **ROAD ANNUAL REPORT**

**July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2011**

### **Introduction**

This is the fourteenth **ROAD** annual report since becoming a Registered Charity in 1997. The last Annual General Meeting was held on July 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 at The Memorial Hall, North Hykeham. The charitable aims and objectives remain the same with a clear commitment in our mission statement for **ROAD** continuing to:

“Provide relief to the elderly, vulnerable and needy people of Romania by distribution of aid and to advance the Christian faith by promoting, supporting and encouraging Romanian churches.”

The trustees and elected officers of **ROAD** during the period of this report were:

✚ Chairman / Treasurer	Kevin Smith
✚ Secretary	Melanie Smith
✚ Trustee	Paul Elliott
✚ Trustee	Lucy Kidd
✚ Trustee	Jim Cork
✚ Trustee	Paul Erwin

Throughout the year we have continued our work in Romania through the support of individuals, schools, organisations and projects which will be outlined further within this report. I hope this annual report will inform and update you of all **ROAD** activities over the last year.

Over the last year **ROAD** has had a year of reflection after completing the Pasi Spre Viitor project. It was a conscious decision by the Trustees after completing this project to then take time to consider the future direction for **ROAD**. We have always sought to look at projects with a specific aim where we can make the most difference and hopefully leave behind a project where we remain involved but that can be self sustaining.

## **SUPPORTERS OF ROAD**

It is always amazing how many individuals and groups have supported **ROAD** - many from the time the charity commenced in 1994. We could fill this report with the names of every person and group who support **ROAD** but unfortunately there would be too numerous to mention. So before we specifically look at some of our supporters I would like to thank all of you who have supported us either financially or practically over the last year.

### **Mike Barnaby**



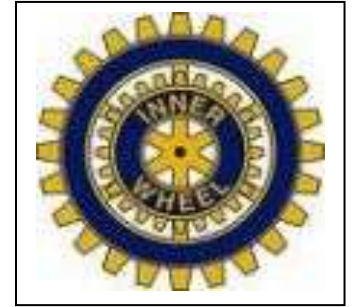
It is very fitting that we start by congratulating our dear friend Mike Barnaby for being awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honour's list for services to visually impaired in Lincolnshire and overseas in Romania and India. It has been a privilege to work in partnership with Mike and witness firsthand the joy of adults and children after being given free sight tests and glasses.

In Mike's words opening a person's eyes not only enables them to see clearly but it opens up opportunities for employment, education and enables some people to provide for their families when before they could not do so. Over the years literally thousands of pairs of glasses have been donated by people in Lincolnshire. Prior to being transported to Romania, Mike painstakingly categorises them all according to the lens so they can be accurately prescribed and matched in Romania. Mike had been assisted in this time consuming task by his wife Josie, who sadly passed away a couple of years ago but the MBE in many ways belongs to them both. So warmest congratulations to Mike, whose MBE is well deserved and is a fitting tribute to the commitment and kindness of a special caring and generous gentleman who we are privileged to call our friend.

## Rotary & Inner Wheel Clubs



For a number of years we have been supported by numerous Rotary and Inner Wheel clubs. This has both been with finance and donation of many items of aid. **ROAD** trustee Jim Cork has visited the following Inner Wheel clubs and given a presentation on the activities of **ROAD**.



Alford and Mablethorpe / Bailgate / Cleethorpes / Doncaster St Leger / Hull Kingston / Lincoln / Spilsby and Woodhall Spa

A particular mention needs to go to the Inner Wheel Club of Woodhall Spa who have donated over 100 baby boxes. Pictured is Christine Ramsey with some of the boxes



## Women's Institute

**ROAD** have been well supported over the years by the Women's Institute. **ROAD** and W.I members Christine Young and Joan Wines continue to promote our work around the many W.I groups. Groups who regularly support us include Kettlethorpe / Newark Fountain / Hawton /



Bridge and North Somercoates. This has been by providing baby boxes, knitted items, clothing and Christmas presents. We appreciate their ongoing support.

Picture - Presents from Kettlethorpe W.I

## Schools

Every year since **ROAD** was formed we have taken Christmas presents to children and families in Romania. This has only continued because of the ongoing support of many local schools which has enabled us to take hundreds of gifts each year. Listed below are the schools who supported us this year. If your name is not listed please accept our apologies. So a huge thank you to everyone for your continued support as your gifts make such a difference:

Mount Street Infant School, Lincoln ~  
Leslie Manser School, Lincoln ~  
Reepham Primary School ~  
William Alvey, Sleaford ~  
Barnby Road Infant & Nursery School. Newark ~  
Kisimul Schools, Swinderby & Friesthorpe ~  
North Kesteven School ~

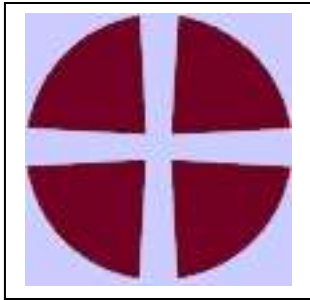


## Open Hands Charity

Open Hands is a registered charity based in East Sussex. For a number of years they have taken Christmas presents to Romania from Germany where two of their trustees live. However in 2010 they wanted to collect Christmas presents in the UK. They decided to do this on behalf of **ROAD** as they had researched various charities and felt **ROAD** had been distributing aid and shoeboxes for many years and that we had an excellent track record.

So two of their trustees Rebekka and Stephen Maughan travelled from East Sussex to Lincoln to deliver the large number of presents they had collected. They are planning to once again support **ROAD** in 2011 and hope to increase the number of presents they bring. Thank you to Rebekka and Stephen for their support.

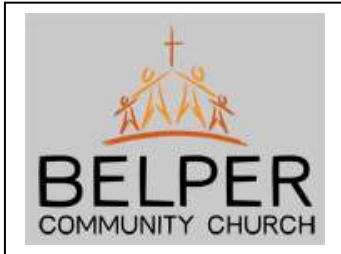
## **CHURCH SUPPORT**



Swallowbeck Methodist Church, in particular the Tuesday Fellowship Group, throughout the year have supported **ROAD** both financially and with regular collections of clothing, knitting and much more. They also continue to provide numerous selection boxes for the Christmas trip, which are a real blessing. This is all co-ordinated by Dorothy and Cyril Parkin.



**ROAD** has received support from New Life Lincoln for many years and this is through Church members collecting Christmas presents and family boxes and also financially through a monthly donation from the Make a Difference Missions Fund, which totalled £5000 in the last year. Thank you to the leadership team for their ongoing support.



Belper Community Church is part of the East Midlands Christian Fellowship and over the last year they have supported **ROAD** financially by giving on a monthly basis. We are very grateful for their continued support.

## **Grapevine Weekend**

Following the success of 2009 we once again partnered with CPA (Christian Partners in Africa) in August 2010 at the Grapevine event on the Lincolnshire Showground. We covered the breakfast shift and served Bacon Baps, toast & drinks. Thanks to all who gave their time to serve and due to your efforts we raised £503 for **ROAD**



Over the last year we have also had support from St Giles Church, Balderton, London Road Congregational Church, Newark and Barnby Gate Methodist Church.

## **ROMANIAN PARTNER'S & PROJECTS**

### **Ioan & Nely Hadade**



Ioan & Nely Hadade continue to work as volunteers on behalf of **ROAD** in Romania. They spend countless number of hours sorting, packing and distributing the large amount of aid that we have transported to Romania. They also spend time identifying areas of need and ensuring that the aid reaches the areas where it is most needed. It also should be mentioned that they organise accommodation for and host **ROAD** members on our visits to Romania. It is fair to say that their hospitality is second to none and we are sure anyone who has enjoyed a meal with the Hadade's will agree. It is very important to thank them for their hard work and enthusiasm, with no personal gain, as without this it would be very difficult to continue this area of our work.

### **APWR**

#### ***(Association Prader Willi Romania)***

We have worked alongside APWR President Dorica Dan for a number of years and during this time she has promoted and achieved a great deal for those with disability in Romania. APWR seek to fight against the isolation for those with rare disease (disability) and act as a resource centre for patients, their families and specialists involved in the diagnosis and management of these.



*Dorica at the Opening of the new centre*

## **NoRo Project**



ROAD trustees, Melanie Smith, Jim Cork and Paul Erwin attended the official opening of the NoRo Pilot Centre for Rare Diseases on Tuesday 28th June 2011. Following huge investment from Norway (Innovation Norway) and a number of smaller organisations including ROAD, who contributed 12000 Euro's, the new centre has gone from being a vision of the future to reality in a very short time. The centre provides state of the art equipment and specialists to help in diagnosis, therapies and rehabilitation for children from all over Romania and was a project initiated by Dorica Dan.

**The Education Room** - will be used for group activities for children from Autistic Spectrum disorders and other disabilities. Among the activities will be music therapy, art therapy & occupational therapy. There is also sensory equipment such as a Smart Table, Interactive Wall and Bubble Machine to make the activities more interesting and enjoyable for the children.

**Hydrotherapy** - is also available in a large Jacuzzi. This is a method used for the recovery and rehabilitation of patients affected by rare disease.

**Physical Therapy Room** - is designed to provide services that help to restore motor function, improve mobility, relieve pain and prevent or limit physical disability. Other therapies are available including; Behavioural therapy, Speech therapy and Sensory therapy.

There is also a residential area where young people can be part of two projects. Project One is a scheme for patient groups of the same disease to go for 5 days and receive training in the management of their disease and also rehabilitation. Project Two involves groups of young people with disabilities who will spend several weekends in the centre, the main objective being training in skills for independent living.

## **Steps to the Future / Pasi Spre Viitor**

The Pasi Spre Viitor Centre has now been open for almost three years. There are currently fourteen young people in residence with many others having benefitted from the project and moved on to independence. We remain involved as we have committed to assisting with the fabric of the building and also in terms of practical help with the training plan for the young people. It is always a pleasure to visit the young people and hear how the centre has made a difference to their lives and future prospects. As you can see from the photos below - one of the young people cooking lunch in the kitchen of one of the apartments and another young man with one of his own paintings.



## **"Harul" meaning "Grace" Church**



Pastor Joldes provides our warehouse space in Hereclean near Zalau at no cost for which we are very grateful. We always feel at home in the Grace church and we are seeking ways to further our relationship with Pastor Joldes. ROAD was able to donate £500 to enable the purchase of a washer/dryer to be used in the church for the elderly and poor and also at the church camp. The church camp is a project we are looking to support. (see under new projects in this report)

## **Romanian Relief**



We continue to support Romanian Relief as their partner in the UK by facilitating their banking and also very practically by transporting their aid to Romania free of charge. We recognise the importance of the work they do in Romania with the children in their Safe Houses and also within the children's hospital and Roma community.

## **C.I.T.O (Centre for Occupational Therapy)**

Rodica and the staff at the disability centre continue with their work supporting young adults with disabilities, giving them a purpose and a centre where they can work and produce a host of items for sale. We like to still visit the centre and provide practical support and one **ROAD** member has continued to send Christmas presents each year for all of the young people at the centre.



## **WAREHOUSE**



It has been a year that has seen us move warehouse twice. In December we moved from Tentercroft Street to Friar's Lane then in February we moved to our current warehouse on Waterside South, close to the City centre. We now provide warehouse space to a local registered charity Acts Trust who store furniture and household

items for distribution to disadvantaged people in Lincoln.

A special word of thanks to Walter and Iris Bunyard for the many hours tirelessly spent sorting and packing the many donated items for transportation to Romania and to Shane Robinson for his work during the two warehouse moves. Also many thanks to Lincolnshire Co-operative Limited for their continued support by providing the warehouse premises rent free.

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **Fundraising Standards Board**



ROAD continue to be a member of the Fund Raising Standards Board. This ensures that membership, which is voluntary, means ROAD agrees to adhere to a strict set of codes and a Fundraising Promise committing to treat the public with respect, fairness, honesty and clarity in all their money raising activities. Its aim is that people who donate can 'Give with Confidence'.

### **Chain Reaction Sponsored Cycle Ride ~**

On Saturday May 14th 2011 a group of 11 cyclists of all ages rode 14 miles from Bardney to Woodhall Spa and back. Everyone completed the ride and arrived back safely. The cyclists set off in bright sunshine but during the ride the grey clouds caught up with the riders giving them the occasional few drops of rain. The wind was behind them all the way which proved helpful. Whilst stopped for lunch there was a heavy shower, but everyone was able to take shelter. Once refuelled, the riders set off back to Bardney. The problem with having the wind behind them on the way meant it was against them going back! This with the ever increasing sore bottoms and aching legs proved quite hard work. Everyone arrived back safely and have the task of collecting the sponsor money. Early indications are that £1100 will be raised. This will be split 50/50 between ROAD and local registered charity Acts Trust.



*Start of the Ride*





*The Halfway Point*




**Chocolate Party's ~**

Over a number of years now we have held chocolate party's through "Chocoholics" and particularly around Easter and Christmas this continues to be an ongoing way of raising funds for **ROAD** as well as bringing a lot of enjoyment.

**Christmas Carols at Gelston Grange ~**

Janet Sharman once again opened her home to host an evening of Christmas Carols and traditional fare for sale. It was quite an achievement to raise £160 as it was one of the worst weeks of the winter with much snow on the ground. Some hardy travellers battled through to make it an enjoyable evening.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR THE COMING YEAR</u></b></p> <p>Here are few easy and simple ways you can raise funds for <b>ROAD</b> but if you have any other fundraising ideas we are always pleased to hear from you and support you in any fundraising you do.</p>
	<p><b>IDEA ONE</b> - Working in conjunction with a nationwide salvage operator Giveacar is able to collect any car or vehicle from anywhere in the UK, at no cost to you. Giveacar also cares for the environment, and cars that are not auction-able are de-polluted, recycled and disposed of in accordance with DVLA and Environmental Agency guidelines. Figures from the DVLA show that every year, approximately two million vehicles are taken off the road, yet only 50% of these cars are disposed of in an environmentally-friendly way. Giveacar only uses authorised treatment facilities, and a minimum of 85% of the weight of your car is recycled. Each car donated through Giveacar raises an average of £80 for charity. This month, generous donations of unwanted cars from the public will raise over £30,000 for registered charities in the UK. Telling your friends and family about ROAD's partnership with Giveacar will help us to tap into this new source of revenue that can make a huge difference.</p>

	<p><b>IDEA TWO</b> - Music Magpie are the UK's largest trader of 2nd hand CD's &amp; DVD's. If you have any unwanted CDs (albums only) or DVDs, that are in their original cases, why not donate them to <b>ROAD</b>. At present we only have collection points in Lincoln. The collection points are: The <b>ROAD</b> Warehouse on open days or by emailing Paul Erwin at paul.erwin@romaid.org.uk</p>
	<p><b>IDEA THREE</b> - Donate your old mobile phone to <b>ROAD</b>. Again, at present we only have collection points in Lincoln. The collection points are: The <b>ROAD</b> Warehouse on open days or by emailing Paul Erwin at paul.erwin@romaid.org.uk</p>
	<p><b>IDEA FOUR</b> - When selling an item on ebay, why not give a percentage of the sale to <b>ROAD</b>. When filling the listing, you will notice a section called ebay charity. Click on SELECT NEW CHARITY, then click R, then click on <b>ROAD</b>. Add the percentage you wish to donate, ebay will do the rest</p>
	<p><b>IDEA FIVE</b>- Shop Online and Raise Funds easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores including Argos, Next, Debenhams, John Lewis, Toys R Us, HMV and over 2000 others. Just use the links on the easyfundraising site whenever you shop online and at no extra cost to you we'll receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It's completely FREE to register and you won't pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the easyfundraising site. In fact you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers offer discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to easyfundraising. If you shop online then why not raise valuable extra funds for us by using this scheme. All you need to do is visit <a href="http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/rad">www.easyfundraising.org.uk/rad</a> and when you register, select Romanian Aid Distribution as the organisation you wish to support.</p>

## **VISITS TO ROMANIA**

During the last twelve months ROAD members have made three visits to Romania. A brief outline of these are detailed below:

### **October 8th to 12th 2010 ~**

ROAD Chairman Kevin Smith, fellow trustees Jim Cork, Paul Erwin and Paul Elliott, along with Lincoln YMCA Chief Executive Malcolm Barham travelled to Romania from October 8th to 11th. The purpose of this visit was to explore new project ideas and identify areas of need. They travelled further afield than usual with the possibility of working with new partners in different regions of Romania.

### **December 3rd to 10th 2010 ~**

During the last week of November each year it is a hive of activity as the Christmas presents are all coming into the warehouse and need packing in the correct age groups ready for transporting to Romania. On Saturday November 27th they were all packed ready for loading the lorry the next day. All are then on their way to Romania ready for the group arriving on December 3rd.

On Friday December 3rd a group of nine headed to Romania for this year's Christmas Trip with four of the group never having been to Romania before. The members of the trip were Kevin Smith, Jim & Joyce Cork, Sue Wheeler, Terry Mayo, Kathy Flippance, Sara Newman, Joshua Woodcock and Maureen Wykes.

The principal aim was to personally distribute as many of the Christmas Presents as possible. The weather in the UK had been the worst for many years and we were praying that the airport at Luton remained open! The decision was made to leave in the early hours of Friday 3rd and take a steady drive in the snow and ice. Fortunately all went well and they arrived in Cluj to a 'balmy' 8 degrees! Due to Romania being two hours ahead of the UK Friday allowed enough time to deliver everyone to their accommodation and get a good night's sleep as it would be early morning's for the rest of the week. Saturday saw us leave Zalau at 8am to visit our friends Sarah and Ramiz of Romanian Relief at Tinca in the neighbouring county of Bihor. A good two hour drive on the usual pot holed roads saw Kevin dropped off in Oradea for a business meeting with Sarah and Ramiz with the rest of the group going to Tinca. A day was spent with the children in the Safe Houses,

visiting the clinic and spending time in the large Roma village, which gave a good insight into the great work they do in the Tinca area.

Sunday began as a 'day of rest' with everyone attending the morning meeting at Grace church then enjoying lunch with Pastor Joldes. The rest of the day and early evening was spent at the warehouse with Nely and Ioan sorting out all of the Christmas presents into age groups and then organising them for school visits. Monday to Thursday mornings were the four days spent in schools. This involved being ready to leave by 8am, loading at the warehouse and then heading off to the schools. Over the course of the four days we were able to go to schools in Ortelec, Moigrad, Brebi, Brusturi, Lupoaia, Borza, Chichisa, Stirciu, Campia Salaj, Salajeni and Cosei. It was still great to see the excited faces of the children as they received their gifts. Joshua took on the mantle of dressing in the Father Christmas outfit and did this so well it became his job for the week!

Although the schools finish at lunch time our days were still full. On Monday afternoon we visited the Pasi Spre Viitor centre where the young adults had prepared a Concert for us. This was song and a play with them having translated this into English for us. We were able to give each resident their Christmas gift and hear how well the young people are doing in training and employment. In the evening we had chance to have a meal with Dorina Babos - Director of Social Services. Tuesday afternoon was spent at the C.I.T.O - day centre, visiting our friend Rodica and giving the group chance to purchase candles etc made by the disabled people who work at the centre. We went on to meet Dorica and Tibi Dan at the APWR centre before Tibi showed us around the construction site of new national centre that has been funded by a grant from Norway. In the evening we had the pleasure of sharing a meal and spending time with our good friends Pastor Ioan and Otilia Cuipe. Wednesday was a packed day with us visiting the old and disabled people at Crasna on the way to Stirciu school before spending the rest of the day around Stirciu taking parcels and clothing to many poor families. We stayed in Stirciu and had a traditional meal with a family in the village. In the evening Sara and Joshua joined the young people at Grace church for a youth meeting and to look at possible contacts for a group of young people to come to Romania in 2011. The rest of the group enjoyed a meal with Dorica and Tibi Dan. After spending a final morning in schools on Thursday we were once again able to take out family parcels and see firsthand some of the difficult conditions in which some people have to live. Romania is a country of such great contrast in terms of those who have much and those who have very little.

This just left enough time on Thursday evening to get packed ready to leave early on Friday December 10th for our return to the UK. A busy but productive trip, which was enjoyed by everyone.



*The group before giving out presents!*



*A well earned rest*

### **June 26th to June 30th 2011 ~**

The main reason for this trip was to attend the opening of the NoRo centre in Zalu. Trustees Melanie Smith, Jim Cork and Paul Erwin travelled to Romania and also had opportunity to spend time with the Hadade's as well as looking at possible future projects. We were able to spend time in Stirciu and Crasna visiting the home for adults with learning disabilities and some of the poor families Nely supports.

It gave us opportunity to distribute some of the t-shirts donated by AVG, particularly in the villages and also when we visited the Pasi Spre Viitor centre. We travelled to the nearby town of Jibou to meet with a Social Worker called Rodica to discuss possible project ideas. We also had time to travel the four hours by car to the camp established by Pastor Joldes and meet with our friend Onorica Abrudanu who is now Sub-Prefect of the County Council of Salaj.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF AID**

One of the key areas of our work remains the ongoing distribution of aid taken to Romania. We continue to be well supported in terms of the many items donated to ROAD and are amazed by the quantity of goods we receive. As we have mentioned before the economy in Romania is very

fragile with a large number of people on low incomes. This coupled with the cost of living leaves many people in great poverty. Therefore everyday items such as clothing, bedding and household necessities are unaffordable for many.

This is the 17th consecutive year that **ROAD** have collected and distributed Christmas Presents and family boxes to Romania. For many children this is as important now as it was in 1994 as for some this may be the only gift they receive at Christmas. To see the joy and the smile on a child's face when they open their gift is a pleasure to see. A special word of thanks to Christine and Derek Young for all their work collecting presents in the Newark area.

Here is just a small overview of some of the things we have taken this last year but we have also transported large amounts of clothing; knitted items; tables & chairs; bedding; furniture and more. This is still transported by Chris Mutch who we must thank for his trustworthy and efficient delivery of our aid.



Christmas presents ready to pack



Loading the presents on to the lorry



Opening the presents



Time for a snack

## AVG Newark

AVG is a worldwide supplier of computer anti-virus software and they have kindly donated 16,000 t-shirts that were surplus to requirements. A big thank you to the staff at AVG who helped to load the two vans with the t-shirts. Also thanks to Tony from Feathers Vehicle Hire in Lincoln for arranging a van at short notice enabling us to collect them.



## FUTURE PROJECTS

### Zalau County Council



It was a great pleasure to meet again with our friend Onorica Abrudanu, who is now the Sub-Prefect of Salaj County Council. Onorica was instrumental in the Pasi Spre Viitor project. **ROAD** trustees Paul Erwin, Jim Cork and Melanie Smith met with the Prefect and are pictured here with Onorica and her colleague Sebastian.

The meeting was to discuss ways of working together in the county of Salaj and the Prefect suggested a number of areas of need where we may be able to work together. This included clinic facilities for a rural area on the edge of the county and the possibilities of somewhere for abandoned children. Discussions are at a very early stage but we are hopeful that we will be able to build a fruitful relationship with the County Council in terms of future partnerships.

### **Medical Support**

Although **ROAD** has never sought to be involved in medical projects, over the years we have often become involved through companies donating medical supplies or by paying for individuals to have often life saving operations. We are currently waiting for the information from a Consultant as to the cost of a hare lip and cleft palate operation for a young girl called Valentina. Valentina's mother left her and her brother with their father who is struggling to cope and they do not have the resources to ever be able to pay for the surgery. The surgery will make a great difference to Valentina in terms of her speech and ability to manage daily at school.

### **Valea Verde (Green Valley)**

For some time Pastor Joldes has wanted to show us the camp in the mountains that he wants to use for both his church but more importantly for children from both Salaj county and surrounding counties. It would also be used as a retreat and conference centre.

We were recently able to visit the camp and the facilities are already good and he has the ongoing building work organised. We are looking at practical ways for **ROAD** to support Pastor Joldes in terms of items for the dining room, such as children's plastic beakers, table covers, art material and bedding and blankets.



## **Jibou**

In July we visited a large Roma community on the edge of Jibou, which is a twenty minute drive from Zalau. It is a community of basic homes - many mud and wattle around tree branches. There are many needs as the site is home to around 1050 people. Our contact is Rodica and her family have lived here for five generations and have seen the changes from it being a site with families who had lived there for generations to many Roma coming from all over the county. This in turn brought its own problems and we were able to look at the issues this raised.

The most pressing need is for a water source as there are four wells on the site but none can be used as they are all contaminated by waste from former factory sites. This leaves the only water source as a tap outside Rodica's grandparents home, which is often not working. The City Hall are prepared to put the water supply along the main road to the site and this would allow a connection to outside Rodica's parents home. The plan would then be to build a block with showers and hopefully two washing machines for the whole site to use. Another Dutch charity are prepared to build the block but could not afford to pay for the water supply as well. **ROAD** is looking into financing as the cost is estimated to be 200 Euro. This would make a significant difference to many people and we will look at other possible ways of supporting this community.



## **WEBSITE / COMMUNICATION**

The new website has been live for a year and has proven to be very successful. We can also be found on the social networking sites Facebook, Twitter and You Tube. Many thanks to Paul and Matthew Erwin for all their hard work in keeping these sites updated.

## **CONCLUSION**

As I began to compile this report I felt that it had been a quiet year for ROAD. However as the report came together I realised that even though we had not been involved in any one large project we had actually been active in many areas of work and touched the lives of a great number of people.

We have been researching new projects but always want to be certain that when we are involved in a project we are able to fulfil any commitments made.

At times this can be frustrating as we are keen to move forward and find new openings but it is more important to take the time to research and assess if the projects are ones that match the objectives of ROAD. At a time when there are many changes in Romania we want to be able to identify and support those most in need and make a real difference to their lives.

Every time I visit Romania it certainly puts things and life into perspective, serving as a reminder why we continue the work of ROAD. When we visit Romania we are given a very warm welcome and shown tremendous hospitality wherever we go. People who in most cases have very little want to give us so much, showing generosity to share the little they have often with people they have never met before.

I could not fulfil my role as Chairman without the support of my fellow trustees who I would like to thank for all their hard work throughout the last year.

So many people support ROAD in so many ways it would be impossible to thank them all by name. So on behalf of myself, ROAD trustees, members and our friends in Romania - Thank You. I now look forward to the year ahead and the challenges it may bring.

**Kevin Smith**  
**ROAD Chairman**