

NetWorks Romania – Christmas Parcels 2016

To everyone at Rotary,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

&

THANK YOU!

We have returned to work after the Christmas holidays to a very cold winter! Temperatures have dropped to – 20 celsius degrees, and people in the communities have been struggling to keep warm.

This Christmas we were able to provide over 650 children from poor communities with a shoe box of fun. We were almost at the end of the Rotary shoe box stash (20/70 ratio), and so we appealed to some partners, in the end we were able to provide all children a present. Oh, and what joy did this bring to their hearts!

Established in 2001, NetWorks is made up of Romanian, Swedish and British volunteers and staff. We work with around 330 families in three different communities in the county of Arad: Chececi, Siria and Alfa.

Using a four-stage development model we try to help people out of poverty and equip and enable them to have a bright future. Education is a huge key to this, and we run a pre-school and homework clubs,

* Names and details have been altered to protect people's identity.



but we also have different micro-enterprise projects providing opportunities for generating income and a dignified way for someone to provide for their family.

JOY!

It's been one of the coldest handouts we have ever had to do in the communities we work in. Most children stayed at home whilst their parents came to collect their children's presents. Although people were struggling to stay warm, they patiently waited for their turn.



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“The kids in community have been asking about when this day is going to happen for weeks and now that it is finally here excitement fills the air. A mother walks home with four shoeboxes in her arms for her kids who are waiting at home.

Later in the day as I go by their house her son is running around in his new red super hero suit, his little sister tells me to come in and join her playing with the fun bouncy balls she got in her gift and the two older sisters talk about their schoolbooks and pens they received. The smiles on their faces are priceless!”

Matilda, Sweden – Networks staff



“We did the distribution from one of the houses in the community, and the family left the house so we could fill it with the shoeboxes.

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The parents and children patiently waited at their neighbours' house for us to finish. When they came back the children found their presents set aside.

To our astonishment, although we categorize the shoeboxes, they do not see it that way. It isn't: This is my box and this is yours.” They opened each box and shared amongst themselves the content of each box.”

Dea, Romania - Networks staff



“Dani (3 years old) is one of the fortunate children we serve. Both his parents have been employed in DeCe- one of our trade companies, during this year in Siria, Arad county and their house has become increasingly stable and peaceful. Dani gets to walk to kindergarten each morning with one of our volunteers. He loves it! And this present tops it up!”

James, England - Networks staff

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“Ionut (age 6) is raised by his grandmother, his parents left him behind in Siria trying to have a better life. It's very hard for her to raise him on her own. Christmas presents are always welcome, and have always brought a smile to Ionut's face. This year he got, amongst oher goodies, a little toy trumpet. Since then, he's been playing with it and showing it to everyone! He is so pleased with it!”
Sorina, Romania – Networks staff



We know children that have treasured their toys over the years, because, indeed, for most of the kids, these are the only presents they ever receive throughout the year. I, myself, cannot wrap my head around that.

So many families are struggling today to make ends meat, and because this is the long race cause we've joined in helping out these families in their crises and development, we know how muh effort it takes to make things happen. We just want to tell you how much we appreciate your faithfulness throughout the years, and say that it's well worth it. Even typing this newsletter in the cold office with my gloves on- I know it's worth it!

Our hearts are content and joyful for the contribution you have made in enabling us to bring some cheer and hope to the people that are much loved and cared for. Who knows, maybe you could see us live sometime! :)

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Dea Piscoi, on behalf of
NetWorks Romania Team
Şiria, Romania
January 2017

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