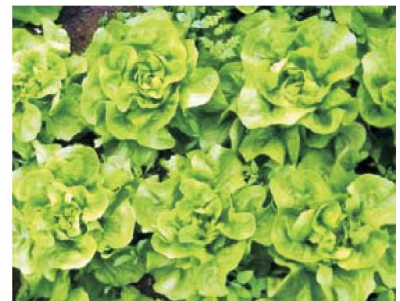


An abundance of home grown garden vegetables thanks to our Dutch sponsors

For several years St RCHF thanks to the golden support of Mr Vreeken's Zaden has been able to initiate each year a project to help the poorest of families a possibility to grow their own garden vegetables. This project which has a huge impact in helping stave off poverty in marginalized families with children shows the direct input that a man like Mr Zaden has made by providing packs of vegetable seed free of charge which we distribute to families wishing to help themselves by planting, tending and harvesting same, thus providing them with fresh food they can ill afford!

In the hard hit north east areas of Romania there are far too many families who live below the breadline and far too many children who go to bed hungry so this grow your own project really is like gold to these families as provides them with a ready supply of fresh vegetables which they themselves have grown.

St RCHF aids social families with top up food supplies, but could never afford to supply fresh vegetables as well, plus these families gain a sense of pride in their workmanship that results like this year again in a good harvest!



What starts as a delivery of packets of seeds quickly once the ground has been prepared in late March ongoing to early April when seeds are planted, ends up with a harvest of tomatoes, lettuce, pumpkins, carrots, onions, leeks not to forget peas along with beans and many more varieties of home grown vegetables that are a real plus for all of the families who participate each year in the project.

In the last 2 years by mid February families are already asking if they can participate in the project this year ahead such is the high rate of interest in Mr Zaden's seeds! Thank you Mr Zaden from all of us at St RCHF.



3rd and final St RCHF summer camp results.

Our 3rd and final St RCHF summer camp this year was held in the village of Ciocanesti in the beautiful Suhard mountain range of Bucovina in Suceava County. Each child attended free of any charges thanks to our sponsors and at the Ciocanesti camp we had children who are the most deserving of all from a children's home within Suceava County. For these children it was extra excitement as was the 1st time they had ever slept in a tent, plus all children took part in field activities including egg and spoon and sack races, played tennis and badminton along with football for the boys and enjoyed singing around the camp fire as well as 3 full meals a day. Children also went trekking in the mountains and to the 2 museums in Ciocanesti as well as to the monastery high up above the village.



September back to school and same old problems

This year again the September term started with an age old problem of for many a child a lack of school manuals. The Ministry of education again failed to have new school manuals in class for many thousands of children and it may be some time before children can start to learn with the new syllabus manuals as this is an ongoing delay again this year like last year.

Children simply cannot learn without the learning tools which are the manuals, thus many fall behind and end up in arrears in class. In Suceava County the situation is relieved by the ongoing Timmie project which covers all of this large County and a part of Botosani County as well with the very latest and most up to date learning manuals and cards for both pre school and children in 1st class of mainstream school, thus allowing them to continue to learn without any lack of learning materials. Our thanks go to Mrs Miriam Charmant who designs and produces all of this outstanding learning material that benefits all of the children in Suceava County. We are out weekly in pre schools and schools including doing call backs to assess the Timmie products and the results show that teaching staff are extremely pleased to have such advanced learning aids in class as are well designed, attractive to each child, easy to follow and allow even the slowest learner to keep up with the class

We continue to have the ongoing support of the Suceava Police Inspectorate who accompany us to both kindergartens and schools with the Timmie products as like us they too see the benefits of children learning with the latest and most up to date manuals and learning cards. Children we know who learn well are less likely to fall by the wayside and enter into delinquency .



Tuberculosis affects school children!

St RCHF has for many years been a member of The World Health Organization sponsored **STOP TB** department and likewise has for the last 18 years collaborated with the Hospital of Pneumology in Iasi City.

Recently highlighting the fact that TB affects school children it was discovered in one County of Romania no less than 15 children in class who tested positive for TB! Parents unaware their child was seriously ill until far too late and probably the cause of non infected children in class becoming infected by this airborne silent TB infection.

Romania still after many years has a highest rate of TB infections in Europe despite countless initiatives to counter the problem. The fact that only NGOs like St RCHF produce TB prevention projects adds to the lack of reduction in high numbers of the population infected as a full Government strategy of TB prevention is required so that every person understands the cause of TB, how to prevent TB and the basic signs and symptoms of the infection, plus were to go for help immediately should signs occur within any family member. Poverty, alcoholism and tobacco smoking are also vectors that make people in certain situations more prone to TB as well as people living rough who are at greater risk.

On Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd of October Brian Douglas will again represent St RCHF at the prestigious INSPIR IASI medical conference where he will actively take part in the Tuberculosis session in particular.

Back to school requisites for children



St RCHF again this fall was thanks to our sponsors including Wings of Angels able to purchase and deliver back to school requisites to children in families suffering financial hardship including in Dorohoi town and within Suceava County.

In our view each child deserves an equal chance to learn in class and to achieve this each child needs certain items like pens, pencils, crayons, exercise books and a rucksack at the very least and we provide these basics to many children who through no fault of their own would not have if it wasn't for our support.

It is also a fact that our actions in this area allow many a Roma child to be educated in school bearing well for their future.



St RCHF thanks all sponsors for their support of our projects aimed at raising standards in education, health and reducing hard poverty within Romania.

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