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HOSPICES OF HOPE

NEWSLETTER FALL 2018

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FEATURED ARTICLES:



COPACENI OPENING



**PHASE 1 OF THE NEW HOSPICE CENTER
IN BELGRADE**



OUR CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Message from the US Director



Ronna with our first Romanian employee, Nelu

Dear Supporters

It has been a very busy time for us recently. After several years of fundraising and dealing with the many challenges involved with large capital projects, we have opened both our children's respite and therapy center in Copaceni and Phase 1 of the hospice center in Belgrade.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped us reach these milestones. The main focus of this newsletter is to thank you for making this possible and to show you how these two centers will make a huge difference to patients with terminal and life-limiting illness.

As you will see from this newsletter, there is still a huge amount to do to ensure that hospice care is available to everyone who needs it. But these two facilities are major steps along that road and they will be centers of excellence demonstrating the importance of such professional care to national authorities.

So thank you for your support with these unique projects – we could not have done it without you. If you are interested in coming on one of our Insight Trips or summer trips next year and visiting either of these projects or seeing our work in Moldova please let me know.

In the meantime we are launching our first ever Holiday Appeal over here. We feature Robert, who is a young teenager facing many physical and emotional challenges. A video in which Robert and his family tell their story is on our website. It is truly moving and I urge you to take some time to watch it.

Ronna McHammond

US Director, Hospices of Hope

Two Major advances for hospice care in South East Europe

COPACENI – A NEW RESPITE AND THERAPY CENTER FOR CHILDREN - DR RONNA MCHAMMOND

I was extremely privileged to attend the official opening of Hospice Casa Sperantei's new children's respite and therapy center in Copaceni. The ceremony took place on Friday 21st September at the center itself.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY

The Florescu family donated Copaceni, the family's summer estate, to Hospice Casa Sperantei so that it could be converted into a center to help Romanian children.

RENOVATION

The estate was confiscated by the communist regime and the heritage buildings were in a poor state of repair when HCS took over. They have been lovingly restored to their former glory and make a wonderful backdrop for this unique facility.



The Manor House at Copaceni

THE CENTER AND SERVICES

The center will care for children with rare or life-limiting illness such as cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy. It will also provide support for the children's families.

Services will include a 12-bed respite unit, emergency accommodation for families facing homelessness and various forms of therapy including therapy through technology. In addition, it will house an educational center, a day care center, a sensory room, a summer camp building and a family support center.

When fully- operational respite care will be available for some 200 children a year. Two thousand outpatient and therapy sessions will be provided annually and approximately 300 children will enjoy a week's relaxation and fun at Hospices of Hope's summer camps.

HCS's aim is for Copaceni to be recognized as a center of excellence in pediatric palliative care.



Patients at the opening ceremony

THE OPENING CEREMONY

HE Dan Mihalache, the Ambassador of Romania to the UK and the Israeli Ambassador to Romania attended the opening ceremony. Founder Graham Perolls, Madame Nicole Florescu and Mirela Nemtanu, CEO of Hospice Casa Sperantei, all gave speeches of thanks and prayers of dedication were said for the center.

Sister St John the Baptist (Yvonne Florescu) was one of the original donors and together with patient Miruna, she cut the ribbon to open Copaceni officially.



Sister St John the Baptist with Miruna

John and Radu Florescu said that the opening of this facility meant that "young Romanians who courageously live with illness will have a better life" and that their satisfaction with the finished project "was beyond words."

THE FUTURE

The charity is still raising funds for medical equipment, drug purchases, employee training and ongoing costs with annual operating costs estimated at \$460,000.

If you would like to help or to see our work in Copaceni and elsewhere in Romania please contact me.

PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS ABOUT COPACENI

I attended the official opening with two members of our Board of Trustees- our chairperson, Julianne Paunescu, and trustee, Jennifer Sarteau. They each described their day

"The sun was shining on all gathered at Copaceni for the opening - just adding to the joy and beauty of the day. The scene seemed to encompass so much about what makes Hospices of Hope such a blessing. The location looked like something out of a travel guide to historical Romania. The laughing children and families affirmed the possibility of making a difference in today's Romania. Everyone there had been part of the effort - Romanian staff, donors, government officials and those from the UK and the U.S. It was literally the figurative village that was necessary to complete our task - all set in the beautiful (literal) village of Copaceni" Julianne



Guests at the opening ceremony

"Seeing Copaceni and being at the opening, gave me hope that transformation comes from something way bigger than ourselves. It comes from people listening to suffering, and in obedience come together for transformation that is of Eternal value. The joy of seeing the children in this place, and watching how they overcome because of a caring and proficient staff, will never leave me! I feel drawn to come back and to keep close to Copaceni, and to continue to help financially. It's the best investment we have ever made" - Jennifer Sarteau.

See our website for a video of the opening ceremony and our Facebook page for photographs

Phase 1 of the New BELhospice Hospice Center in Serbia



The new center

As well as the exciting news about Copaceni our country partner BELhospice opened Phase 1 of the new hospice center in Serbia.

NEW SERVICES

The center will offer two new services – a day-care center and an out-patient unit. It will also be the new base for home care services and BELhospice’s education and training department.



Day care center

Hospice day care is a completely new concept in Serbia and will give patients the opportunity to meet socially, receive help with their medical needs and participate in activities which help to improve their well being.

We are waiting for final authorizations for the out-patient unit. Once established this clinic will offer treatment for conditions like lymphedema.

Annually, Phase 1 will provide:

- 600 out-patient consultations
- At least 2,000 attendances at the day-care center. This service will help reduce the social isolation that is often felt by cancer sufferers
- An increase in the number of home visits by 30% (from 1,767 to an estimated 2,300)
- At least 1,000 counselling and bereavement sessions
- More suitable premises for the home visits team and the education and training department

OPENING CEREMONY

A significant part of the funding for this project came from the EU and Yngve Engstroem, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia attended the official opening ceremony.

He cut the ribbon to officially open the hospice with Zoran Đorđević, Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social affairs, HE Denis Keefe, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Serbia and Marko Jovanović, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Finance.



Official Opening

A full set of photos of the opening ceremony can be found on our Facebook page.

NEXT STEPS

The long term aim for this project is to open the first ever purpose built in-patient unit in Serbia (Phase 2). We are in the process of agreeing the design and seeking consents for this Phase. We estimate this phase will cost more than \$570,000.

Thank you to Raluca Fuchs-Gold

Raluca recently held a reception at her home which was attended by our Founder, Graham Perolls, CMG, OBE and CEO, Alex Padureanu. Graham gave an update on our work to both new and existing supporters and funds were raised through the sale of artwork.



Give a Gift of Hope this Festive Season

OUR HOLIDAYS APPEAL



Robert at one of our summer camps

We have launched our 2018 Holiday Appeal to help support patients like Robert and his family.

Robert is an outpatient at the Bucharest Hospice. He is fourteen years old. He lives with cerebral palsy which affects all four of his limbs and has difficulties with his eyesight. His parents were told that his eyesight could have been treated if he had been born in a different country.

Like many of the children cared for by the Hospice, Robert has had to cope with a great deal of personal sadness as well as coping with physical challenges.

Robert lived with his mother who he was very close to. Sadly she passed

suddenly when he was twelve and for a while it was unclear what would happen to Robert. His father agreed to take on Robert's care and the relationship was going well. Now Robert's father has a tumor and so they are both now facing an uncertain future.

Robert felt very excluded from activities at school. But at the hospice he joins in with all the activities and is included in everything. As you can see from the pictures he has enjoyed our summer trips.

You can see a video with Robert and his family telling their story on our website.

Like all the children cared for by HCS, Robert enjoys Christmas time at the Hospice. He loves the atmosphere, decorating the tree and looks forward to receiving presents. He says the Hospice is

“a center where there are lots of children where we have fun, we play games and enjoy ourselves.”

Please help Hospices of Hope support families and children like Robert and his father. Your support makes a huge difference to their lives and gives hope.

You can donate online through our secure website or by sending a cheque payable to Hospices Of Hope to Hospices of Hope USA, 29 Dickinson Avenue, Nyack, 109

And money goes much further in the countries where we work. For example

- \$25 will pay for one home visit to a patient
- \$50 will pay for 6 meals and supplements for two days
- \$65 will pay for one child's medication for one month
- \$700 will pay a doctor's monthly salary in Moldova
- \$1500 will enable all our child patients and their families to celebrate Christmas



A patient's home

A patient Story from Moldova

We are supporting a national network of small hospice organizations in Moldova. This is the story of a patient cared for by the Aripile Sperantei (Wings of Hope) Hospice in Orhei.

Anisia is a 70 year lady living with diabetes who has suffered five strokes. She has gangrene in her foot which was caused by the diabetes and she is confined to bed. She was dedicated to her job as a nanny at a children's orphanage but since becoming ill her quality of life is very poor.

Her bed is described by the team as “an improvised construction made from sponge not a proper mattress

and supported by chairs”. Anisia is comparatively lucky by Moldovan standards as her daughter is still in the country and can help with her care. But the daughter's income cannot cover the costs of the drugs needed and the state does not pay for pain relief when the pain is caused by diabetes. Anisia's husband is not coping with the situation and, despite the team's best efforts, does not really understand what is happening to his wife.

The hospice team visit Anisia and provide medicines, nursing care – particularly with the dressings for her foot - and psychological support.

For information about our work or to donate see our website www.hospicesofhope.com

Hospices of Hope is a working name of Hospice of Hope Romania inc, a registered 501(c)3 charity with registered address: 29 Dickinson Avenue, Nyack, New York, 10960.