

FARA

a family for those without

WINTER 2009-2010

PRESSING FOR CHANGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



WELCOME to FARA's Winter Newsletter, our chance to bring you up to date information about our activities, and tell you more about how you can make a valuable and much needed contribution towards our vulnerable Romanian children.

WHO WE ARE... FARA is a registered charity in both the UK and Romania. Since 1991, when the appalling conditions of Romania's state orphanages first came to the attention of the world media, we have worked actively with some of the thousands of orphaned and abandoned children who had been locked away in them. FARA's main aims are to ensure that children and young people grow up feeling safe, happy, and loved, and to furnish them with skills which will enable them to become integrated, valued members of society.

WHAT WE DO... Over the last 19 years we have managed to create viable alternatives to state institutionalisation, and provided education



and training for young people who were previously denied access to it - whether through poverty, disability or social standing. FARA is now recognised as leading



the way in childcare and special needs education; substantial improvements have been made to countless young lives.

Of course, there is still much work to be done. The Romanian word FARA means "without", and many of Romania's children are indeed still living "without": without the care, nurturing, and individual attention that all children are entitled to. The country remains very poor, with 40% of Romanians still living in extreme deprivation. Babies are still being abandoned by their parents. Children are still growing up without the most basic provisions for their healthy emotional, physical and spiritual development.

EXCITING NEWS...

Project Swallow - an initiative started by two specialist teachers from Sunderland Council - was set up in early 2009. The project has already visited our Samuel Centre twice, and is committed to providing much needed physiotherapy equipment and training for FARA's Romanian staff in the area of special needs education. FARA is delighted to have forged this new, ongoing partnership.

St. Michaels new residential home in Northern Romania...FARA has recently made the decision to close the OAT Farm Guest House at the end of 2009 to make way for a second residential home for young adults with

learning difficulties. This beautiful building will be transformed to provide another desperately needed FARA home; it is planned to open in April 2010. Happily, the organic farm and carpentry workshops will continue to train students



rescued from local state institutions.

Fara Spring Event... FARA is delighted to be hosting a fund raising evening at Sandringham House in the Spring 2010 by kind permission of Her Majesty The Queen.

CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE...

Nineteen years on, we are more determined than ever to build on our successes, and it is vital that FARA continues to reach even more of Romania's thousands of neglected and damaged children. In the current economic climate, it has become increasingly difficult, and increasingly necessary, to raise the funds to achieve all of our aims. In an ideal world we would like to find sponsorship for every neglected child. However, even small, one-off donations make a significant difference to our work:

£20 a month provides food for a child in one of FARA's homes
£30 a month provides a Roma child with food and education
£50 a month provides a young adult with learning difficulties with a secure home and skills training

WHY YOUR SUPPORT IS MORE CRUCIAL THAN EVER...

FARA works in partnership with the social services to deliver their childcare programmes. The Romanian Government provides only 10% of the required funds. This means

that FARA are responsible for providing the remaining 90%. If you would like to sponsor a child or make a donation and help transform a young person's life, please see pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.



Dear Friends of FARA



I am pleased to have this opportunity to write to you personally to thank you for your support and to send you our latest news. Despite the struggle to raise funds in this economic climate, owing to your generosity, FARA has developed new initiatives to reach out to more vulnerable children

and young adults suffering from disability, abuse or poverty.

Our children are precious and so is our donors' money; we spend carefully and where it is most needed. Money cannot buy love but I want to say a special thank you to our

dedicated Romanian staff who continue caring with love for our children.

Thank you for supporting the charity's vital work with disadvantaged children and families in Romania. In its work, FARA draws inspiration from Christian values; we recognise that many of these values are shared by other faiths or none. Through your kindness and generosity, FARA is helping to rebuild broken lives - please help us to transform the lives of Romania's children by turning concern into action this Christmas.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Nicholson".

Jane Nicholson
Chairman of Trustees

FARA CHANGES LIVES...

Gabriela, formerly mute, is now able to talk...

When she arrived at St Raphael, FARA's new home for young adults with learning difficulties, Gabriella was still unable to talk at the age of 18. With the help of U.K. health professionals and the Sound Learning therapy, she has started to communicate. Gabriela's miraculous transformation is not the only one. Many of the residents - all young adults from appalling state institutions - have shown dramatic improvements in behaviour. We are particularly proud that this project is providing hope and loving care for those who would never have dreamt of receiving it.



Six brothers and sisters are brought to the safety of FARA...

Their father already in psychiatric care, these six children were abandoned by their mother and left to fend for themselves with no money. Aged between 4 and 10, their fate looked desperate until FARA took them into St Gabriel's. Being part of the FARA family is helping them to recover from their traumatic early lives, and their joy at being together is utterly heart-warming.



Andrea, denied access to education, learns to read and write...

Until the age of 7 Andrea was excluded from education because of her disability: a severe muscular disorder which has



left her unable to walk. Since attending FARA's Samuel Centre, Andrea has proved to be the brightest little girl in her class. She is an extremely brave little girl and we are really pleased to have provided her with a specially adapted wheelchair which we commissioned from the UK. She is absolutely thrilled with it.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR...

FARA is currently managing childcare programmes in two regions: Bucharest, and Suceava District in North East Romania. In total we have supported over 1,000 children and families and at present 250 children and young adults are benefiting from these programmes. FARA's main activities include:

Providing loving homes for orphaned and abandoned children many of whom have suffered extreme neglect, deprivation, and abuse.

Educating special needs children who are frequently marginalized in Romania because of their disabilities. Where possible these children will be integrated into mainstream schools, transforming their lives, and enabling them to lead fulfilling lives.

Giving aid to desperately poor families in rural areas in the form of food, clothing, healthcare, school materials and money for school transport.

Offering education and social support to Roma children marginalised and socially excluded.

Creating opportunities for young adults with learning disabilities all of whom have lived in appalling conditions in state care, and suffer from significant learning and sensory difficulties.



HOW YOU CAN HELP...

If you would like to donate to FARA and help rebuild and transform the lives of children in desperate need, there are various ways in which you can do this:

- Single Donation (cheque/credit card)
- Regular Giving (standing order)
- Sponsor a Child (standing order)
- Donate on Line (credit card)
- Legacies
- Donate to FARA's London Charity Shops

Over 90% of all funds raised in the U.K. go directly to our projects in Romania.

We thank you for all your support and generosity

FARA depends heavily on the finances generated by our 42 charity shops, located in and around London. We are fortunate to have many loyal supporters, but in this difficult economic climate we are experiencing a severe shortage of stock, and would greatly appreciate donations of clothing, books, and household items. Visit our website at www.faracharityshops.org or call 020 89416366



FARA's Shop Managers give many hours of fun to our children in Romania

To help improve the lives of those who need it, please turn to pages 6 and 7

I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE REGULARLY TO FARA

Name:

Address:
..... Postcode:

Telephone:

E-mail:

.....

Standing Order Details

To The Manager - Bank/Building Society:

Address:
..... Postcode:

Name of Account Holder:

Branch Sort Code: Account Number:

Transaction Details:

Please pay FARA Foundation by Standing Order as detailed below to the following Bank Account

Bank	Barclays Bank PLC, 6 Clarence Street, Kingston-upon-Thames KT1 1NY
Sort Code	20 46 73 Account 70346527
Account Name	The FARA Foundation

Amount: Frequency: Monthly / Quarterly / Annually *(Please circle as appropriate)*

Start Date: Signature:

GIFT AID DECLARATION *Please don't forget to tick the Gift Aid Box*

I am a U.K. taxpayer and please treat all payments as Gift Aid

giftaid it

Signature: Date:

Please return this form to:
FARA Charity Office, 51 High Street, Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6BZ Tel. 01328 821 44

We thank you for your support and generosity

SPONSOR A CHILD AND CHANGE A LIFE

Bebe, aged four years abandoned by his parents, is now in FARA's care. He was under-nourished and abused with little chance of survival. He now needs major heart surgery



Please help one of our special children like Bebe by becoming a Sponsor.

Sponsoring a child or family requires a minimum of £20 per month. As a sponsor, you will be sent an annual update together with pictures; you are welcome to visit your sponsored child or family.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE FARA OFFICE ON 01328 821 444

I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A DONATION TO FARA NOW

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Here is my gift of £

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'FARA Foundation'

OR please telephone to pay by credit card 01328 821 444.

OR please debit my

Mastercard Visa Maestro

Card No. / / / /
Maestro only

Please include the last 3 digits of your security on the back of your card here:

Start Date: Expiry Date:

Issue No.: Signed:
Maestro only

GIFT AID DECLARATION *Please don't forget to tick the Gift Aid Box*

I am a U.K. taxpayer and please treat all payments as Gift Aid

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Signature: Date:

Please return this form to:
 FARA Charity Office, 51 High Street, Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6BZ Tel. 01328 821 44

HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CHARITIES?

Importantly, as well as working to fight poverty at a 'grass roots level', FARA is committed to being a voice for the poor and marginalized. By making our influence felt at Government level we hope to benefit the community at large, as well as those with whom we come into direct contact. This we see as an investment in the future of the people of Romania.



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FARA Foundation Registered Charity No 1004911

Royal Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales
Patrons: Princess Marina Sturdza, Nicole Kidman

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