



OUR HOSPICE HERO REACHES SOUTH POLE

Many, many congratulations to Christian Hillkirk (right in picture) who along with two 'Danske Bank' team-mates arrived in third place at the South Pole on 24th January after an epic 19 dayski race across some of the world's most inhospitable terrain, raising much needed funds for Hospices of Hope. Christian is a Norwegian, working for a Danish Bank, living in the UK and raising funds for a Romanian hospice – a truly international accomplishment! He has already raised £7,000 but his JustGiving website www.justgiving.com/christiansouthpole will remain open for the next two months so that people can give him the support he so justly deserves. The ski race involved 18 months of gruelling training including dragging tyres around the fields of Kent!

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Christian visited the hospice in Brasov in November and said that the images of the patients he had met would help him to press on to the goal when the going got tough. He said **"I can appreciate the difference hospices make in a country where palliative care is a rather new concept... I wish palliative care had been available when my mother died from cancer in Norway some 25 years ago. Also, the value of giving some respite to a family with a dying loved one... you can't put money on that."**

We are enormously grateful to him for his support.

Other News...

Romania Through our Romanian country partner, Hospice Casa Sperantei, we have begun the initial pilot of the 'rural project' with the aim of bringing hospice care to rural areas of Romania, where currently no such care exists. These areas tend to have high poverty rates and are sometimes lacking in even basic healthcare facilities.

Serbia BELhospice produces a quarterly newsletter, so if you would like to receive specific news about the hospice team in Serbia please contact the UK office with your details. Past copies are also available.

Macedonia Dr Alex Jakimovski successfully passed his first year Phase 1 in the Diploma in Palliative Medicine at Cardiff University. Dr Jakimovski is aiming to do this three year distance learning course with the intention of developing a hospice service in Macedonia's capital, Skopje. The tuition fees for

his first year were met with the support of Hospices of Hope and a grant from the Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust managed by Help the Hospices.

Moldova Hospice Angelus Director, Dr Valeriu Isac, visited the UK in December 2008 and met with Dr Mary Baines and Avril Jackson at St Christopher's Hospice and the Hospice Information Service. As well as visiting the team at the Otford office, Dr Isac also visited Hospice Angelus' new Hospice partner, Dorothy House, in Bath. Hospice Angelus, a hospice home-care service in Chisinau, Moldova's capital, has recently launched a service providing specialist care to children and has employed a specialist paediatric doctor. The team regularly benefits from the expertise of Romanian doctor, Daniela Mosoiu, from Hospice Casa Sperantei's Education Centre. A great example of palliative care training flourishing within countries in South-eastern Europe.



Do you remember this picture from our Annual Report?

Pictured here is Ilie and his wife. This was his story...

“Ilie was 53 years old and had cancer of the kidney with widespread bone and lung secondaries.

He went to a urology specialist in September 2006 with blood in his urine and was treated for kidney stones for 3 months. The blood in his urine persisted and in January 2007 he underwent a number of investigations and was diagnosed with cancer of the kidney. He had his right kidney removed which was a traumatic operation due to the high suspicion of bone secondaries which were subsequently confirmed by CT scan in April 2007. He was then referred to the oncologists who recommended radiotherapy for the spinal secondaries which he tolerated well. He was first visited by the hospice home-care team in November 2007 having been referred for symptom control.

Ilie lived with his second wife and one of her three daughters in San Petru, a small village on the outskirts of Brasov. He had little contact with his ex-wife and 2 children. He was a cook in the army and then a waiter in a local restaurant for over 20 years, but, after his diagnosis, had retired on health grounds. He received a pension of only 200 RON (40 GBP) a month.

He was admitted to Hospice Casa Sperantei inpatient unit in Brasov with severe bone pain particularly in his right hip resulting in reduced mobility, associated with loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting. He understood his diagnosis but struggled to accept the prognosis and had unrealistic expectations. His physical symptoms proved relatively easy to control by Hospice staff with adjustments to his treatment regime, but he and his family needed a lot of counselling and emotional support to come to terms with the fact that he was not getting better and in fact his general condition was deteriorating significantly. He went home after a two week stay and continued to be visited by the home-care team and received both medical and psycho-social care.”

Ilie passed away on 1st July 2008 peacefully at home with his family present. The last few months of his life would have been very different if Hospice Casa Sperantei had not played such a significant part in his care.

Written by Dr Alison Landon, In-patient Doctor at Hospice Casa Sperantei, Brasov, Romania; Pictures by Chris Tomlinson (May 2008)



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!



Our Serbian Hospice partner, BELhospice, has held its second charity ball in Belgrade aiming to raise public awareness of palliative care as well as funds to ensure they continue their care with terminally ill patients and the educational courses.



The Manchester United Foundation have very kindly donated £25,000 towards BELhospice’s work in Belgrade to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Munich Air Disaster following a match between MUFC and Red Star Belgrade. The world-renowned MUFC player from Belgrade, Nemanja Vidic, recorded a special message for the Charity Ball guests and said “This donation will be used for a great cause and it will provide better conditions and care for people with terminal illness.”



Hospices of Hope have received funding of £16,284 from Hilton in the Community Foundation specifically for the children’s work within the Rural Project. £6,284 of this amount was raised at the Conrad Dublin Charity Ball in October.

HOH Executive Director Graham Perolls received a cheque from Martin Mangan (centre) and Friedrich Schaefer (left) at the Conrad Dublin Hotel.



UK Patrons visit Hospice Casa Sperantei

Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham, in his capacity as Minister for Trade and Investment, visited Romania last year, and found time in his hectic schedule to visit the hospice in Brasov. He was a great "hit" with the children and spent time playing with them in the day centre as well as watching them enjoy the new hydrotherapy pool. At a reception in Bucharest hosted by the British Ambassador, HE Robin Barnett, Lord Jones said how much a hospice was needed in the capital and encouraged business leaders to give their support.

Lord Jones will be speaking on March 12th at our Annual City Dinner at the Royal Automobile Club on "Life During and After the Recession" – a subject on which he is eminently qualified to speak, having been director general of the CBI and regarded as one of the nation's most respected business advisors.

For more information contact Vanessa Davis: vanessa@hospicesofhope.co.uk or 07866 495628.

Both staff and patients in Brasov were delighted to welcome the Duchess of Norfolk on another visit to the hospice in September. A reception for local supporters was held at the Siresul Vamei restaurant, where entertainment was also provided by British singer, Stuart Pendred. The following day at the Geology Museum the Duchess launched the appeal to build a new hospice in Bucharest. Seven businesses and individuals pledged 10,000 to get the project started. It is hoped that the Ministry of Health will provide a plot of land adjoining a hospital on which the hospice can be built.



Georgina, Duchess of Norfolk with a gentleman who was admitted to the in-patient hospice.

The new-build project has been temporarily put on hold due to the global financial crisis but it is hoped to re-start it as soon as possible. In the meantime the Bucharest hospice team will continue caring for patients in their own homes and in the recently opened out-patient clinic.



Lord Jones with a child patient and physiotherapist in the new hydrotherapy pool, which was fully funded by a UK company



Lord Jones in the day centre with some crafts made by adults who are out-patients and attend the centre

Official Launch in Moldova



The official launch of the partnership between Hospices of Hope and Hospice Angelus was held on 26th September in Chisinau.

Dr Valeriu Isac (Director of Hospice Angelus), together with Julianne Paunescu (US Trustee of Hospices of Hope) and Mircea Buga (Vice Minister of Health) cut the ribbon

at the entrance to Hospice Angelus's new office base. 150 people attended the event, among them former President Petru Chiril Lucinschi who gave a moving speech. Following the opening, the British Ambassador, HE John Meyer, hosted a

reception at his residence. Graham Perolls, Dr Isac and Dr Daniela Mosoiu talked about the need for hospice care in Moldova and the background to the launch day.



Dr Isac was encouraged that a number of local business people pledged support for the hospice. Already, the Hospice Angelus team is looking after over 80 patients in their own homes at any one time. Moldova is considered to be the poorest country in Europe and most of the patients live in difficult conditions. The team is also co-operating with the 1,010 bed oncology hospital in the City.



A nurse, Igor, visits six-year-old Vlada, a new patient for the Hospice Angelus team.

We have a new website!
www.hospicesofhope.co.uk

Latest prayer letter

Current Appeals



Meet the Patients



Previous Newsletters

GIVE NOW

You can even donate online!

Where we Work



How far would you go?

Take a Challenge!

Hike of Hope Adam Ireland, 37 and a father of two, is offering himself up for a punishing 84 mile coast to coast walk in May 2009 along the route of Hadrian's Wall, all in the name of charity. He says "A worthy cause, I hope that my efforts will provide a significant donation to Hospices of Hope and frankly, despite the impending trials of blisters and sore feet this pales in comparison to the problems of those this money is intended to help."



To hike with Adam: email barry@hospicesofhope.co.uk
To sponsor: www.justgiving.com/hadrianshikeofhope



Want to Skydive?
Run a Marathon?
Swim the Channel?
Trek to the North Pole?
Climb the Three Peaks?

To take up a challenge contact Barry on:
 01959 525110 or barry@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Events

UK

7th February 2009

An evening of opera with Stuart Pendred
 Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells
 Tickets: £7.50 from 01959 525110

12th March 2009

City Dinner with Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham
 Royal Automobile Club, London
vanessa@hospicesofhope.co.uk

14th March 2009

Murder Mystery, Tonbridge Baptist Church
carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk

15th May 2009

Jazz Evening, Tunbridge Wells
vanessa@hospicesofhope.co.uk

19th-28th May 2009 - Challenge!

'Hike of Hope' Hadrian's Wall
barry@hospicesofhope.co.uk

26th May 2009

Annual Scottish Golf Tournament
 Bruntsfield Golfing Society, Barnton Edinburgh
malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk

31st May 2009 - Challenge!

Edinburgh Marathon - PLACES AVAILABLE!
malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk

28th November 2009

St Andrew's Night Ceilidh
malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Romania

29th April - 3rd May 2009

Insight Visit, Tour of Romania
carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk

September 2009

Insight Visit, Tour of Romania
carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk

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