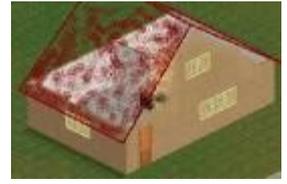




Cleaford News Supplement



The Better Home Project

May 2007

We have been helping the schools in Tarlungeni and Zizin for many years. These are two villages in the Brasov area, close to each other, each with large communities of very poor Roma people.

Kevin's Impressions in Cleaford News, plus a few pictures, may give some idea of the terrible conditions in the Roma areas. It is quite common for a young mother with up to 7 children to be existing in a one room hut smaller than our garden shed, with an earth floor and a leaking roof. There may be one bed for all the children and a small, dangerous, homemade stove burning wood.



Our friends at the Romanian FAST charity (www.fastcharity.ro), led by Daniel and Ema Hristea, are making great strides in delivering help to these communities. They have succeeded in setting up a partnership with the area head teacher of the schools, and the local Town Hall, so there is now quite a team effort which we are supporting. We have also helped to co-ordinate support from Brackley Rotary Club in Northants.

In the last few days, Daniel sent us the following e-mail. *"There is a local charity called The Roma Association of Tarlungeni (ART for short) which I would like to promote in the village. They have been registered for almost two years but didn't have much activity, which is why I didn't think about them much. However, with the BHP growing so fast and*

with so much to do in the villages, it would be great to have others join in and grow into taking more responsibilities for the community. ART could grow into a wonderful local 'Roma for the Roma' charity.

Yesterday I had a meeting with the 3 member Board of ART (all Roma and Anka (Daniel's assistant) is in their board) and I proposed a FAST/ART collaboration regarding the Better Homes Project. They were very happy of course, especially because they see FAST as a role model in charity work."



Our team which visited in the spring were all really upset by the terrible 'housing' conditions which we saw in the

Roma areas of Tarlungeni and Zizin, and we have since heard of a similar situation in the adjoining village, Budila. In this 'home' there were 4 children in the bed, which took up 50% of the floor space!



As a result of our subsequent conversations with Daniel, our Trust has decided to help him with a new project—**The Better Home Project**. In essence, this is a plan for the local people to provide the labour to start building some very basic homes

in the villages. Daniel has calculated that, with help from the Town Hall, we can construct a home with proper foundations, a concrete floor and a weather-proof roof, for just £4,000.

Land & Licenses	£1,000
Foundations, concrete slab, reinforcement	700
Structural timber & roof	1,500
Insulation	700
OSB pressed chipboard walls	700
Roofing material	500
Doors & windows	400
Heating system	300
Labour *	700
Gross cost	£6,500
Council contribution	2,500
Net funding requirement per home	£4,000

Labour costs will go to the local community, thus generating some local income.

The first phase of the BHP is to build 10 homes, the first one going to a widow with 7 children. Work has started! With a target of £40,000 to raise for this first phase, we have so far received £15,608. We are keeping our website at www.betterhome.org.uk up to date with fundraising progress.



Cleaford Services Ltd has sponsored a number of initiatives to help with fund raising, so that 100% of any donations can go into the Project.

Two t-shirt designs are being printed. The Romanian one will be given to any of the people who work on the project, and there is a second design which we would like to circulate in the UK. Our slogan will be a conversation starter amongst your friends!.

We have a stock of novelty small carabiners, printed with the Better Home Project, which make a neat, handy pocket tool—blade, screwdriver, nail file, etc.

Please contact us, with or without a donation, if you would like to have a t-shirt and/or the carabiner. We also have a stock of fun pens, printed with the details—let us know if you would like some of these.



We are excited about this project. We have a longer term view of the time coming when our builders may be able to get work building these simple homes elsewhere. We see young men being taught skills, as well as lifting helpless people out of awful conditions. FAST are providing the leadership and organisational skills, and already the sense of community is growing. People can see some hope after all!

We are hoping for lots of small donations towards this, but we won't decline any large ones too! So please contact us, and ask for a Gift Aid form if we don't already have a declaration from you. Donations should be made to The Cleaford Christian Trust, with a note that they are for the Better Home Project (BHP) please. Contact details are -

The Cleaford Christian Trust, 46 Hazell Road, Farnham, GU9 7BP. Phone: 01252 717166. E-mail: angus.cleaver@cleafordchristiantrust.org.uk Web: www.betterhome.org.uk or www.tcct.info

