



YOUR
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SHOEBOX
CHARITY



June 2017 Newsletter



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Rosemary & Keith Webster Retirement

As many of you may be aware, Rosemary & Keith have recently retired as Chairman and Trustee respectively of Boxes of Hope, Cumbria.

On behalf of the Trustees, and the many people involved with Boxes of Hope Cumbria, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for the enormous amount of hard work, passion, energy and dedication they have both put in.

Without Rosemary as a driving force, Boxes of Hope Cumbria would not have started; it is in no small part down to her drive and determination that the charity is the success it is today. I am sure you will all join me in recognising and appreciating the long hours and stress which went into it – not just in the beginning but also as the charity has grown and developed. Clearly, it became a huge part of their lives and we are all incredibly grateful and thankful for everything that they have done.

In particular, we as Trustees need to thank Rosemary – for handing everything over so neatly organised and up to date. We realise that a lot of work went in to making sure that all documents were in order so that everything could just be picked up from where she left it. And Keith – it would be very remiss of us to pass up the opportunity to thank him individually for all that he has done, not only in his own efforts but also in supporting Rosemary. We are immensely grateful to them both. We know that Boxes of Hope means an awful lot to them both and we know that they will miss being involved, as we will miss them.

Overall, we hope that they will embrace their retirement with very fond memories and the sense of a job very well done.

Going forward into the next phase of Boxes of Hope, I have taken thereinsas Chairman, but it will be very much a team effort, supported by the other 4 trustees - Shirley, Rhona, Karen and Amanda. As Rosemary has always said, Boxes of Hope is not about any one person, but about EVERY individual who supports this work in whatever capacity they have. Although there have been changes, our aims remain exactly the same and we hope you will all continue to join us in supporting this great cause. Please do feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or queries for the Trustees.

Finally, it just remains for me to wish Rosemary and Keith a long and happy retirement.

Jonathan Robb

Chairman – Boxes of Hope Cumbria

Update on Projects

We have continued to be involved, via People to People Foundation, Oradea, with the school in Tinca village, as it is abundantly clear that education needs to be a major priority beyond the shoebox appeal itself. We have continued with a school sponsorship programme, funded by individuals and with surplus funds from the shoebox campaign and people's fundraising efforts. The school has been so successful in its provision of the State curriculum to Roma children, who would otherwise be unlikely to attend the State school, that the Romanian Government has agreed to provide funding. This is a measure of the success of the project, and means that Boxes of Hope Cumbria can move on to other deserving areas as identified and requested by our partners. During the past 3 years, the generosity of our donors has enabled us to donate over £60,000 to Tinca School. We are immensely grateful to all those people who have made this possible. We are all glad to have been able to play a part in this inspirational project. It has been very rewarding to see the school go from strength to strength, in the knowledge that the children's primary education is giving them an opportunity to make something of their lives and lift themselves out of the most appalling poverty which is, sadly, still all too common.

We have followed with interest the progress of the gardening project in Daia, near Sighisoara, which we established last year through the Prince of Wales Foundation, Romania. In late June, 3 Trustees visited and were impressed with the progress and the enthusiasm.

It has proved so inspirational to the community as a whole that, after due consideration, we have given a similar amount of money in 2017 to help even more families to make better use of their land, including, this coming year, the construction of greenhouses. The ethos of the Prince of Wales Foundation Romania is to help people to help themselves, and this accords very well with the ethos of Boxes of Hope Cumbria. In addition to the vegetable plot project, we have also been sole funders of 2 short courses teaching traditional craft skills to local people, helping to make families



more independent by improving their employability. Interestingly, the greenhouses to be built at Daia will be designed and constructed with the help of people who have already been on one of the above courses.

We are pleased to let our supporters know that we have now started to support a new project in the Hetea Community in Covasna County, partnering once again with People to People Foundation. Our initial commitment is to fund a Pre-School teacher and we will update you as the project progresses.



Fundraising

As last year, our main income came from the shoebox appeal itself; however, a range of fundraising activities also took place. These included the sponsored walk across the sands at Morecambe, sales of cakes and crafts again during the Silverdale and Arnside Art and Craft Trail, and various coffee mornings. We also continue to receive some very generous donations from supporters, for which we are very grateful and thankful.

Looking Ahead to the 2017 Shoebox Campaign

Once again we would like to encourage you to fill a shoebox. The 2017 campaign runs from November 1st – 12th, and our 4 main centres are Barrow, Kendal, Kirkby Stephen and Lancaster/Morecambe.

The 2017 leaflets are available now, and we can supply these, and any further information and details, if you contact us on info@boxesofhopecumbria.co.uk

Please remember that Boxes of Hope, Cumbria is local. We pack and send shoeboxes directly to areas where we can send a team to help with the distribution. We bring back pictures and stories of the children who receive your shoebox gifts.

Learning from our experiences distributing shoeboxes, we are emphasising the fun aspect of the shoebox this year. Also, because we have fewer 'boy' boxes and boys occasionally have to have a 'girl' box, we ask for every box to have a toy car in and some sweets if possible.

The Trustees are enormously grateful to all those individuals, groups and charities who, by their continued support, help Boxes of Hope Cumbria to thrive as a dynamic and developing charity.

A Robb, K Simkins, R Teale, S Waters, J Robb