

Light into Europe Charity

Dear Friends,

Thanks for your kind appreciation of our January update. Here we continue to share our activities and results.

February was a special month as it brought news about our Guide Dogs for the Blind project. As you may know, we are training the first guide dog in Romania. In this issue you can find information about the progress we have made in this project. You will also see results of our work with the beneficiaries, with our creative activities and other interesting projects!!



February highlights



**we want to be more efficient
and visible on
how we deliver our commitments**

News in February

We were honoured to receive the visit of Ms Mary Lisa Durban, Orange Foundation Corporate Philanthropy Coordinator, who personally came to discuss our Charity activities and future projects.

A great deal of work has gone into our preparations for the Martisor bazaars this year. In February we started making arrangements within companies and in several public locations (more details will be in our March issue).

A new group of friends started Romanian sign language training at the British Council.

Many Mothers enjoyed another recreational day at our Centre while their children went to the theatre. Many thanks to the generosity of Teatrul Ion Creanga.

Elmiplant kindly provided 200 cosmetic products to Mothers in support of our Parent Club project.

The British School again invited us to visit with Chloe and help the children understand more about Guide Dogs and sight impairments.

We want a society in which blind and partially-sighted people enjoy the same freedom of movement as everyone else!

This is what our **Guide Dogs for the blind Project** is about.

For those who don't know, guide dogs are carefully trained service animals used as travel tools by people who are blind. Two years ago, Light into Europe Charity started training the first guide dog for the blind in Romania. Today, Chloe has finished her training as a guide dog and has now started training with her future owner, a 50 years old blind gentleman, Mr. Gabriel Nicolescu.

Soon, we are expecting a new puppy from Croatia, she will not only be a guide dog, but also the mother of our guide dogs stock here in Romania. This is why our main objective is to raise enough funds to support this important and much needed project.

We want to give a big **THANK YOU** to all of our sponsors, especially to the British Schools in Bucharest, who have proven to be excellent partners in promoting this project.



Adela Sandu
Guide Dogs for the Blind
program coordinator

For me, the Guide dogs for the Blind Program is a real opportunity to help sight impaired people in a very practical way. I love to see the smile of my beneficiaries' faces every time we meet, their enthusiasm in learning new things, important things that will help them live an independent and productive life.



I liked meeting Chloe. Chloe was fun. We enjoyed finding out about "Light into Europe". Thank you for coming to see us.

Student of INS in Bucharest

Real Progress

Our impact

- We provided 7 training sessions to our first beneficiary of the Guide dogs for the Blind Program regarding the development of orientation and mobility skills and guide dog training.
- We visited 2 British Schools with Chloe and her new owner and provided useful information about the Guide Dogs for the Blind in Romania.
- We made preparations for the arrival of a new puppy including setting up a list of possible puppy walker volunteers.

I have always been an animal lover. I was very happy when Light into Europe Charity chose me for Chloe. In the last few weeks my life has radically changed. I have more hope now than I had before. Chloe has become my friend and more than that, my eyes.

Mr. Gabriel Nicolescu, Chloe's owner.

Info for you!

In the calendar
you will find
useful
information
about sensory
impairments for
you and your
family.



You can still support our Guide Dogs Program by
buying our 2010 Calendar,

Romanian and English versions are available.

We envisage a society in which blind and partially-sighted people enjoy the same freedom of movement as everyone else. We hope we deliver the guide dog service and other mobility services, as well as breaking down barriers - both physical and legal - to enable blind and partially-sighted people to move around on their own.

By publishing this calendar we want to increase awareness of the problems and challenges sight impaired people in Romania have to face. Although their potential is unlimited, our resources are not. This is why we want to say a big THANK YOU to all our sponsors and partners who have supported all of our projects and continue to offer a helping hand.

Your support for this project offers a chance to provide independence and a higher quality of life for the sight impaired.

10 Euro for one calendar, not sure?**WHAT!?**

Real support for children, parents and schools in February



- 12 children and teenagers benefited from individual sessions at our Centre aimed at developing their abilities (a total of 68 hours in February).
- 15 adult beneficiaries were offered support with equipment and information.
- 8 sets of parents benefited from counseling, information and support through direct intervention at our Centre.
- 20 sets of parents located outside Bucharest were contacted by telephone to monitor their needs and progress.
- 25 families received by postal mail an informational kit called "Step by step: your child develops through.." (a set of 6 brochures with practical information and activities in 6 areas of ability development).
- 6 volunteers provided 40 hours in support of our beneficiaries (mostly English teaching and homework assistance).
- 6 mothers were invited to our Centre for recreational activities while children enjoyed a Pinocchio play at Teatrul Ion Creanga.
- Saturday Craft Club took place at our Centre twice this month for mothers of sensory impaired plus several deaf ladies.
- 28 Big Print school textbooks sent to Cluj School for the Blind.
- New collaboration with the School for the Partially sighted and the first creative activity organized by our craft team in this school.



Beat the tax man and help our charity!

Turn 2% of your Romanian tax into valuable support

You can make a decision to help the sensory impaired through redirecting 2% of your taxes to the direct support of our work.

This **DOES NOT** mean that you *donate money*. You are actually redirecting part of your regular tax payment to a non-profit organisation. It is tax you pay to the state anyway so you have nothing to lose! You can choose to redirect this amount to our Charity so we can continue developing our services for the blind and the deaf. You can even email us and specify what kind of activity/project you wish to contribute to.

There are two possible methods of contribution - from salary income (Declaration 230) and from income from other sources (Declaration 200).

Please fill in our Charity details at the *Denumire entitate nonprofit* chapter:

- *Fundatia Light into Europe*
- *Cod de identificare fiscala a entitatii nonprofit:*
- *Cont bancar (IBAN):*

If you do not know the exact amount that represents 2% of your income tax, you can leave the SUM box empty and the authorities will calculate it.

You can take the declaration yourself to the Financial Administration where you are registered or you can give it to us and we will submit it for you.

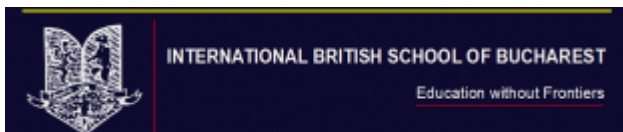
Please contact us at alinapopescu@lightintoeurope.org for any additional information regarding 2% tax donation.

This really is simple and it really does work.

Real friendship and care

a big THANK YOU

to our sponsors and partners, for providing the resources we need to continue our work



Help us to continue to make a real difference

If you need further information about our services or are interested in volunteering, please contact us at:

Light Into Europe Charity

working with the hearing and the sight impaired children and young people of Romania

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Management office 16, Gala Galaction, Bucharest, Romania tel 00 40 21 2243715 fax 00 40 21 224 37 16

The Resource Centre for the Sensory Impairments: 35, Clabucet, Bucharest, Romania

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A Charity registered in the United Kingdom 1017626.