



Carpathian Aid Annual Report

1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025

Introduction

Carpathian Aid continues to support 2 main projects in Romania – Casa Harului Christian Holiday Centre & Common Ground. We are also now in partnership with a Christian Humanitarian charity called "Pe Lunca."

The Objectives of Carpathian Aid

Partnering with people in Romania to;

- Advance education.
- Relieve poverty & sickness.
- Advance human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation.

Charity Structure

The charity is managed currently by a board of 3 trustees and a small management committee who help with fund-raising.

Charity Objectives for the coming year

- To seek to attract new trustees and volunteers.
- To sponsor camps at Casa Harului.
- To seek to look out for new partnerships with Christian agencies/missionaries in Romania.
- To review operations and capacity in terms of how many projects we can support sustainably.

Trustees on Date of Trustees Annual Report

Gary Torbet remains as Trustee and Founding Member.

We currently have another two new trustees, Garry Adam and Andy Buwert who came onto the Board of Trustees in November 2021.

Our Objectives and Activities Risk Statement

As a Charity we seek to be risk averse in our objectives and activities across the UK.

Partnership with Pe Lunca

As we have now been in partnership with Pe Lunca for nearly two years I decided it was overdue for me to visit Pe Lunca, to see Jessica & Tijs Priem, the amazing Belgian Missionary family and understand more about their project with the Roma Community in Geoagiu, Romos and Vadei.

They have 4 main focuses: Inima Lui (His Heart), humanitarian aid, youth ministry and the summer camp at Casa Harului which Carpathian Aid now sponsor.

Inima Lui is the primary focus of their work. From a small shack they have transformed this into an incredible education centre in one of the poorest Roma communities in the area. They provide an educational centre for 20 boys and girls, who come after school for play, lunch, English teaching, and mainly encouraging these 8–11-year-olds to enjoy their education.

Below: The Pe Lunca Inima Lui Centre in Geoagiu, Romania.



The work which they do with these children is inspirational, as education is a key factor in these children's life chances and opportunities. In particular it gives incentives for the young girls not to be forced into prostitution when they are 14/15 years old.

They also serve in the communities with humanitarian aid, providing essential food, supplies and small grants to help people build better accommodation.



Above: Some of the families that Pe Lunca seek to support.

Through their outreach they also provide opportunities for youth to attend youth meetings and grow in the Christian faith. This is complimented by the wonderful summer camp at Casa Harului, where around 40 children & young people benefit from a week of fun activities, worship, Bible teaching, crafts, games and campfires under the stars. This shows them and reinforces their value.

It was wonderful to spend 4 days with them and get “under the skin” of Pe Lunca, how hard they work and the incredible outcomes they are seeing within these poor communities. Carpathian Aid now looks to develop this partnership through the sponsorship of the camps and where funds allow, support for salaries for the Inima Lui Centre.

Casa Harului Camps 2025

In Summer 2025 once again, we sponsored two camps and provided a team of volunteers for these at Casa Harului. One of these was camps was for children and young adults with disabilities and their families. The second camp was for children & young people at the Pe Lunca camp. These young people come from a background of extreme poverty and discrimination, and we are so thankful that we can provide them with a lovely holiday. The programme consists of lovely food, worship & teaching at appropriate age levels, games, crafts, hill walks and fun evening programmes.

In 2025 we had an amazing team mixed with Belgian, English, Scottish & Romania all working together effectively as a unique team and seeing God touch the lives of so many of the young people.

Here are a few examples of some of the volunteers who joined us last summer.

Being a Volunteer at the beautiful Casa Harului



Testimony from Carpathian Aid Volunteers

Sarah de Villiers

What did you enjoy most about volunteering with Carpathian Aid at Casa Harului?

I most enjoyed getting to know the participants in the camps throughout my time volunteering at Casa Harului. It is very special because the people that I met were very precious. Casa Harului is such a special place- while there you are really able to connect with people despite language barriers and any differences. Also with the other volunteers, everybody has a shared goal and so you really bond. I think that as a volunteer in this setting you are able to see people more through God's eyes and just love them as people. Which is incredible!

What did you do as a volunteer when you were in Romania?

As a volunteer in Romania, my role was to help run the programme and help with crafts. I helped in sketches about Jesus and the Pharisees, and I helped the children in games and craft activities. I also helped to tidy Casa Harului by cleaning toilets and the kitchen etc.

How did the experience help you to grow as a person?

The experience has absolutely widened my world view and perspective. In Casa Harului you will meet people from all walks of life and many parts of the globe. I became more sympathetic, more empathetic, and I hope more confident in my abilities. From a Scottish perspective, it is deeply valuable to go to places with a different language and culture because it definitely broadens your horizons. Most importantly, the time I have spent volunteering in Casa Harului has grown my faith in a significant and meaningful way.

Below: Sarah in the middle and two of the other Scottish volunteers at Casa Harului.



What would you say to young people about going to Romania and how it would help them?

I would say that going to Romania is definitely worth it! I think that although it can seem nerve-racking to volunteer in another country, something lots of people don't do in their own, experiencing what it is like to be in a place like Casa Harului, surrounded by other Christians with the same purpose and goal is invaluable.

Gabby Romanowski

After the hard work of fundraising and organising our way to Casa Harului, I really enjoyed being a volunteer. Although the early mornings were a struggle I found it was worth it when we came together in the morning in fellowship and love. I really loved meeting new people and making new friends with other volunteers at the camp who shared the same interests as me. I believe I have made some amazing friends who I still keep in touch with.



Above: Gabby on left co-ordinating the baking for Casa Harului's 30th Anniversary of holding camps.

Throughout the camp I felt I gained an insight into people's lives less fortunate than me, and I learned to be grateful for the amazing people and things I have in my life. I learned how much I truly loved the people around me and how lucky I am to have such a supportive network of people in my life such as my family, which some of the attendees at the camps did not have. I think the best part of the camps was knowing that I was helping people and actually making even just a small difference in people's lives. This is really important to me as I often sit at home doing nothing and hearing about all the terrible things going on in the world and feeling so helpless at not being able to do anything. However, I felt I was actually doing something for once.



Above: Gabby changing the world as she spends time with some of the children & leaders at Casa Harului.

Before going to Romania, the meetings and team building helped us grow in security and friendship as a team which really helped us throughout the camp as it meant we knew how people were feeling and what people were comfortable with. I think this is an important thing to have as a team as it meant we were respectful of each other's boundaries and got on very well.

Martin Leiper

Carpathian Aid Romania Diaries

I was unable to wash 60 sets of dishes at lunchtime – no water. It made me think. A pump had yet to activate in response to the low level in our tank. However, it was pointed out to me that this is how the 45 Roma kids on the camp normally live. No running water and no toilet.

One little lad last night was crying because he was in bed alone. He has never had his own bed. He normally sleeps with his little sisters all in one bed. So, kids take turns and others sleep on the floor. The floor may be packed earth.

It is hard to understand such poverty in an EU country.

Some kids are amazed at 3 meals a day at camp. Often, they are hungry. At the table they are fine but clearly not used to eating with others. Of course, many UK families only eat in front of the TV.

The camp is run in partnership with Pe Lunca (the Place) working in a local Romanian/Roma village. Pe Lunca is a very small Belgian Charity with heart for the Roma kids.

I am on a learning curve getting my head round Roma culture.

Don't get me wrong, the young folk are friendly and kind. And loud and a wee bit crazy.

It has been requested that our evening teaching is around relationships. The children are very young, not yet teenagers yet we must talk about respect, consent, restraint and sex. For Roma children teenage is far too late.

My job is to write and produce very short dramas about relationships in the bible. Ruth and Boaz (restraint), Abraham and Hagar (wrong and adulterous), and Joseph and Mary (doing the right thing in a confusing situation).

We will see how it goes down tonight. It will be a tough gig.

Thank you all for support and prayer.

Below: Martin showing his storytelling skills and bringing the Bible Stories alive.



Safeguarding

As an organisation we are now fully registered with Disclosure Scotland and all of our volunteers are required to go through appropriate PVG checks.

Common Ground

We are still running camps for children & young adults with disabilities and their families/carers. We seek to offer them support, provide them with encouragement to build their confidence, and so enable them to pursue their dreams. In doing this we hope that they will experience the love of God.

We still also seek to educate & raise awareness in churches by running seminars and doing Bible teaching about God's heart for people with disabilities.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature; Gary Torbet

Full Name; Gary Alan Torbet

Date; 15 July 2026



**A wall plaque at Casa Harului this is what
Carpathian Aid is all about!**