

News Update

Heal a child - Help a country

FOUNDATION FOR THE RELIEF OF DISABLED ORPHANS



Launch of F.R.O.D.O.Kids WellBeing Campaign

F.R.O.D.O. has launched our first major campaign to support children with disabilities living in state-run institutions in Romania.

The F.R.O.D.O.Kids WellBeing Campaign aims to transform the way these children are cared for – giving them a better life now and hope for the future.

This is an ambitious three year campaign – there are 10,000 children and we want to reach at least half of them in three years.

These children are a two hour flight away, they are EU citizens and they need our help. Read more on our website

www.frodokids.org/WellBeing

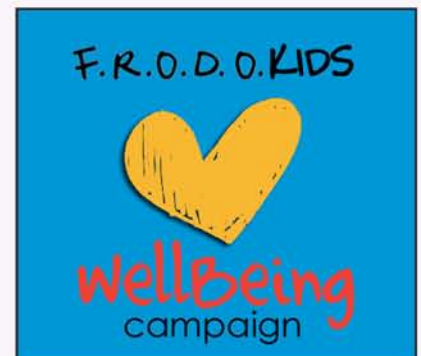
Revisiting Albania – and more children helped

Our grateful thanks to surgeons Mark Paterson and Manoj Ramachandran, who re-visited Albania in February to operate on children who were on the waiting list from their visit in 2009. Thanks to them we can tell you about Xia.

Xia was born with a disability, in a village in the north of Albania. This is a close minded region, with a strict patriarchal framework where women play only a marginal role and still, there are customs and rules very far from a modern lifestyle. The presence of a disability is considered a curse, a divine damning for the whole family. Xia's parents felt themselves threatened by the villagers and their attitudes and so decided to move to Tirana to set up a new life. The beginning was difficult, Xia's father did not find a job and her mother had to look after a baby. Although the parents were open minded they did not have any experience of disability and found it very difficult to find any support or advice – even at the hospital.



Xia's family made contact with one of F.R.O.D.O.'s partners in Albania. Here, she received physiotherapy and although this helped Xia, she still walked in a 'frog-like' position. Through surgery by the F.R.O.D.O. team, Xia is now able to stand up straight. She continues to get physiotherapy support from our partners and is now able to lead a better life. Xia is a very popular girl and has become one of the first disabled children enrolled in a public school in Albania. Xia's case shows that with determination and the help of F.R.O.D.O. and our partners, great things can happen.



A NEW WEBSITE for F.R.O.D.O.!

Please check out our new website
www.frodokids.org

We wanted to make it easier for visitors to find out about our work and keep people updated and involved. Do let us know if we've succeeded.

Contact Caro on carolina@frodokids.org

F.R.O.D.O. has moved offices

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We'd love to see you if you're in the neighbourhood

BREAKING ALL RECORDS AT MIERCUREA CIUC

Our F.R.O.D.O.Kids Medical Treatment & Training programme continues to be hugely successful in both Albania and Romania. It is deeply satisfying to see children's lives transformed by the skill of our volunteer surgeons.

Our focus is on children with disabilities in state-run institutions or vulnerable environments in the community and we work with the Romanian authorities to get access to them. But when we went in February/March to Miercurea Ciuc, a beautiful part of Romania with considerable Hungarian influence, our hosts were so delighted that we were coming that they advertised our visit – with the result that more than 200 children in families in the community got the opportunity to be examined by a top notch orthopaedic team from the Connecticut Children's Medical Centre in the States.

Grateful thanks to Dr Jeffrey Thomson, Bruce Bowman and the rest of the outstanding team from CCMC. To read the full report of what happened, visit www.frodokids.org/treatment-training



PUSHING BEST FOOT FORWARD

Last year a group of adventurous bikers (the push variety) tackled the first ever Halloween Bike Ride in Bran, Romania – Dracula's part of the country. The result – the best time ever for all the participants and a wonderful £30,000 raised for F.R.O.D.O.Kids Medical.

This year – thanks to Phil and Alina Addison – you get to stay at their beautiful Transylvania Inn and do it all again, but with a difference. We probably won't have snow as we're going early October (1st – 4th) and the track will be more off-road than on, so fewer exciting roundabouts and more beautiful countryside. If you want to experience an amazing weekend and raise money for disabled children, call Celia on 020 87415484 or email celia@frodokids.org

FINALLY

We wanted to share with you a letter from a young lady who came to the UK for surgery she would never have had in Romania, but needed desperately if she was to stay out of a wheelchair. Thanks to Deborah Eastwood, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Great Ormond Street Hospital and the National Orthopaedic Centre in Stanmore and the staff at Stanmore, she received what she needed.

This is a letter from Erica to another young lady who is coming to the UK for surgery in August – thanks to the wonderful generosity of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford and the skill of surgeons Rachel Buckingham and Andy Wainwright:



My experience in London

I wish to start this story about all this experience saying about my feelings which I had when first heard of this opportunity to have an operation done in London. My first thoughts and feeling were apprehension and fear. I didn't know how it was going to be there for me and how everybody will look at me and for me, especially that I don't speak English.

I met Vanessa and Miss Eastwood once before in Constanta but I couldn't say that I know them and I had no idea what is going to be. I was very scared and didn't know if I should have that operation.

I can say that every fear and thoughts disappeared once I arrived to London. Everyone from FRODO and the doctors were very nice with me and welcome me with lots of warm thoughts. I had the feeling that FRODO is a family and they included me for a while in this family. They gave me confidence and help me to pass all obstacles.

Miss Eastwood was the doctor that I never meet in Romania. With no fear to talk to me and even touch me to see what is wrong with my legs. She is someone which listens to you and does her best to help as much as possible. I didn't expect to have such a good welcome from her and to have so much help from her. The operation, the treatment and all the staff from the hospital were very good and everything went on good. There were so many feeling for me that I can't even describe all.

It was a real pleasure when I could talk in Spanish for a bit there at FRODO with someone who was a Spanish talking person.

I want to say to Vanessa that she is a very good lady and tanks her for all the help which came when I had no hope that something can happen to me.

If I would have the opportunity to have another operation I wouldn't have hesitate to say yes because I know all the people from FRODO will do their best to help as they do to help all the children in my situation.

Thank you for all your help and I hope we will see each other soon.

Erica

