

Mustard Seed [Jersey]

Jersey Charity Commission No 107 ~ Humanitarian Aid to Eastern Europe
Cardiff House, La Ruelle du Coin Varin, St Peter, Jersey JE3 7EJ
Telephone: (+44) 01534 482637 ~ Email: mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk
www.mustardseed.org.je ~ www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy

Mustard Seed Jersey Newsletter ~ January 2025



Thank you to the generous public for the 3506 Christmas shoeboxes that were donated in 2024. 1164 were sent to Ukraine and 2342 to 2 different trusts in Romania.

(Children in photo above are from Romania)

Pictures from the shoebox distributions in Romania. Mustard Seed works with 2 different Romanian trusts both reach out to those in genuine need



Most charities do shoeboxes for children but Mustard Seed reaches out to needy adults also.



In one school, one boy found a pencil case with the name and colours of his favourite football team, the social worker said “he was in heaven”.

Below: Pensioners with their precious shoeboxes



Pictures from distributions in Romania - not just shoeboxes but reaching out with food and winter fuel and blankets. Some recipients were Ukrainian refugees now living in Romania.



Bread distribution from mid December to end of March should cover the coldest winter months.
Below: Most donated blankets were knitted only a few were crocheted.



Firewood as well as a Christmas shoebox

Years ago we decided we wanted to try to prevent anyone who received a Christmas shoebox from us in December from either freezing or starving to death in January.

Of the 2342 shoeboxes sent to Romania, most were for children, with approx 550 for adults.

Below: a family of 8 lived in this shelter made of pallet boards and other waste materials. We gave them shoeboxes, food & blankets.



Ukraine follows the Orthodox calendar so celebrates Christmas on January 7th. Most of our boxes were given out in the war zone of the country during the first week in January.

Note the evidence of damage / lack of roof on this building below.

On a more cheerful note the man in the photo behind the young people is the Ukrainian who came over to Jersey in March. Each month with other volunteers he drives to the war zone to distribute aid & help as they are able.



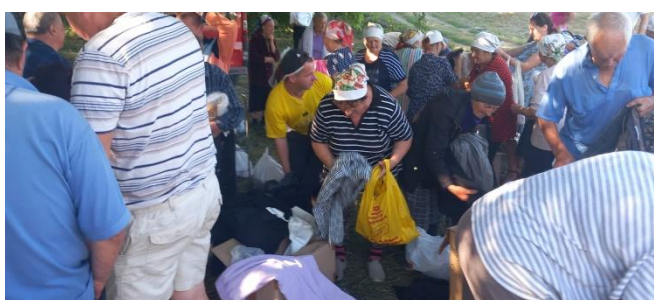
The Ukrainian trust we work with is a church-based trust who aim to put their faith into action by giving a helping hand to those in need in the warzone of their country.

The drive from their base near the Romanian border takes many hours, hence the reason this picture is dark because the light was fading



Each time before they set out on their mission they pray asking for God's protection.

As mentioned, in March 24 Tudor a volunteer from Ukraine visited Jersey with our good friend Alex from Romania. During their time in Jersey, thanks to people's generosity we were able to fund the purchase of a trailer to be pulled by Tudor's van to transport relief aid in Ukraine to the war affected area of the country. *Tudor is on the left and the gentleman on the right is a Ukrainian translator*



Distributions in Ukraine tend to take place outside, wherever the people can gather together. During 2024 we sent 2 aid consignments to Ukraine, one in the late spring / early summer and the second December. We also

sent funds to purchase food, medications, etc



Note the universal "thumbs up" sign of approval

WE LOOK BACK OVER 2024 THANKFUL FOR WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED



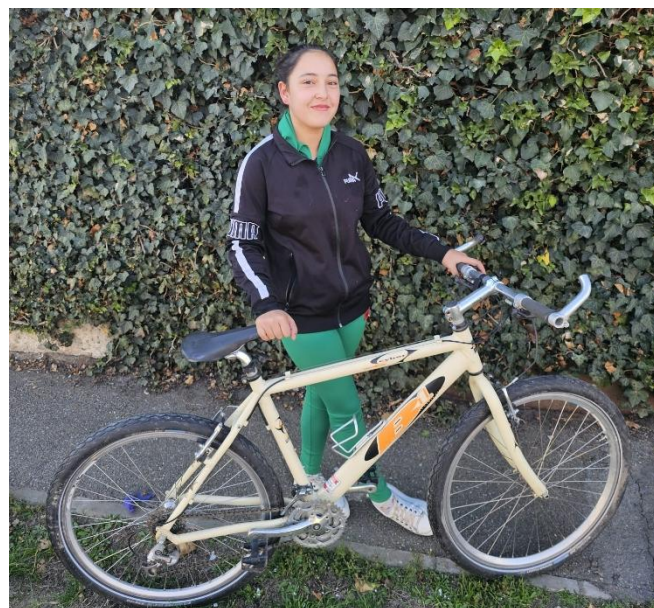
A year ago we learned of dreadful drainage problems on our Changed Lives site in Romania. We are delighted to be able to tell you that funds were available to install proper drainage.

We have continued our support for Ukrainian refugees in Romania, with funding for food, medication and heating as well as sending clothing, toiletries and Christmas shoeboxes.



For us in Jersey the highlight of the year had to be the visit of Tudor and Alex in March, when we were so thrilled that Jersey's generosity made it possible to make Tudor's dreams of a trailer come true.

Throughout the year our sponsorship programmes have continued giving a helping hand to those in need – whether general help or educational.



Maria desperately wanted to go to school but lives in a distant village with no public transport and it is too far for her to walk. A supporter provided funds to purchase a bicycle meaning Maria can now go to school.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2025 WITH OPTIMISM



We plan 3 aid consignments for 2025, obviously dependent upon sufficient aid being donated:
The 1st to Ukraine in late spring / early summer.
The 2nd also to Ukraine – probably late November part general aid and part Christmas shoeboxes.
The 3rd in December with Christmas shoeboxes and warm blankets for Romania.



We know our supporters are already knitting and we hope for even more handmade blankets, woolly hats, scarves etc. We understand that the knowledge that something is hand made often encourages the recipient to know someone cared enough



We hope for a bumper number of shoeboxes in 2025.
Looking at numbers over the last 10 years we see that in the last 2 years the numbers have increased.



We plan to continue our education programmes. We have found an excellent way is through homework clubs, where volunteer teachers help the children with their homework, also giving them a nutritional snack. Some children are sponsored individually. We believe education (leading to better paid employment) is the key to breaking the poverty cycle

WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY IN 2025

DONATE your surplus good quality clothing, bedding, footwear, toiletries, writing materials. Our drop off point is the packing loft at Cardiff House, La Ruelle du Coin Varin, St Peter JE3 7EJ.

We plan to accept **general aid from January – August.**

Depending on accumulation of goods, we will stop accepting general aid sometime during September and then focus exclusively on the Christmas shoeboxes. We will advise on Facebook, the website & the loft door as to the cut-off date for general aid.

SUPPORT our book stalls at Rozel Bay and St John's Village.

SUGGEST or **ORGANISE** a fundraising event so that Mustard Seed Jersey can benefit.

INVESTIGATE OUR SPONSORSHIP SCHEMES: consider sponsoring a pensioner or a child's education

KNIT blanket squares or hats, etc for the Christmas shoeboxes.

PLAN to **PACK A CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX** (info available by September)

Remember Mustard Seed Jersey in your **PRAYERS** – to receive an occasional prayer update by email, please contact Rose.

If you shop at the CoOp please use our divvy number **321340**

Put your **LOOSE CHANGE** in a collecting box for Mustard Seed
Save your **USED POSTAGE STAMPS** for us.

POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS – please get in touch

If you need more information please contact Rose either by phone (01534 482637 or 07797 776468) or email rose@mustardseed.org.je or mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk

Keep up to date

through Facebook www.facebook.com/mustardseedjsy

through our website www.mustardseed.org.je

MANY MANY THANKS to all who support in any & every way:
practically, prayerfully, financially

Special thanks to Paperclix for their help printing this newsletter.

The Mustard Seed Jersey Trustees are:

Dave Bisson (07700 393433)

David Benn (07700 804779)

Helen Gunton (07700 339356)

Ron Treby (07797 715161)

Rose Helie-Pallot (01534 482637)