

**Our vision is a world in which children
no longer suffer institutional care**

Hope

Issue 27 Spring 2015



**Hope & Homes
for Children**

Welcome (2)

News updates (2)

*Mark and Caroline - two
very special people (4)*

*The Numb3rs appeal - we couldn't
have done it without you! (6)*

Closing Europe's baby orphanages (8)

Fundraising in action (11)

Events diary (back)

Welcome



“We have all been so inspired by the incredible efforts of our founders, Mark and Caroline Cook who, over the years have saved the lives of thousands of children and given hope to many more. After twenty years at Hope and Homes for Children they have taken the decision to retire and so we have invited two very special contributors to pay tribute to them in this issue.

We are still in close contact of course and I was updating Mark and Caroline recently on the progress we are making in building on their work, including the hugely successful Numb3rs appeal, which we ran at the end of last year.

With your help and with match funding from the UK Government's Department for International Development we raised a total of £4.1 million for our work with children in East Africa and increased much needed awareness about the damage that orphanages inflict on children.

Our sustained offensive against the institutionalisation of babies and young children continues to see positive results.

Our work in Central and Eastern Europe has delivered some particularly exciting developments as we move closer to seeing baby orphanages confined to history.

There is so much more good news in this edition of HOPE, which I am sure you will enjoy reading.

In the meantime, I recently visited Ukraine where more than one million people have been displaced by the conflict, including over 130,000 children. Our team is working closely with the Government to prevent the conflict driving more children into institutional care. Your ongoing support is critical to our success in this. Our work in Ukraine is a reflection of the impact that we are having right across Central and Eastern Europe where we are working concurrently on the closure of more than thirty state orphanages and progressing our ambition to eradicate institutional care.

Thank you so very much for all your help and support.”

Mark Waddington
Chief Executive.

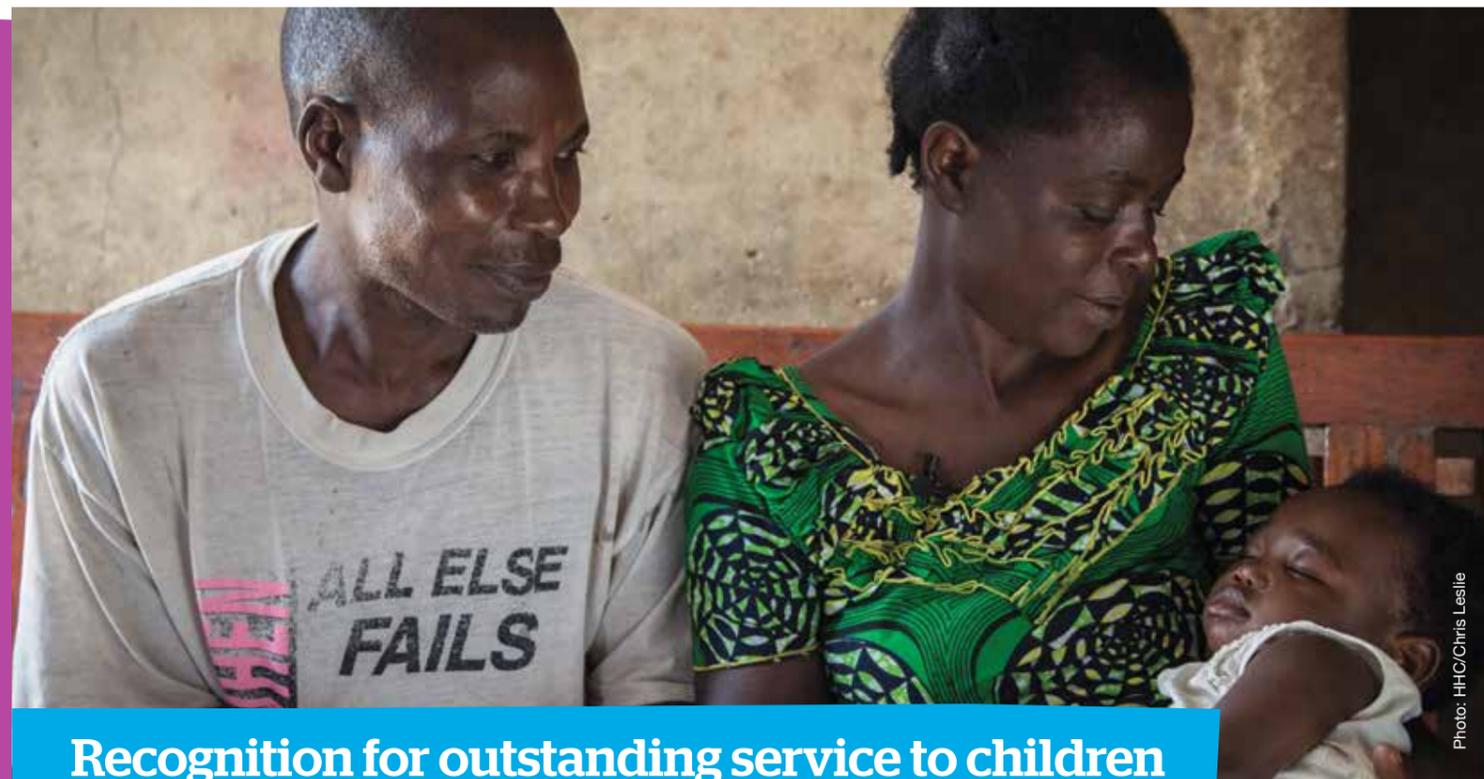


Photo: HHC/Chris Leslie

Recognition for outstanding service to children

Hope and Homes for Children has been recognised for our work to end institutional care in Rwanda.

The Larissa Award for outstanding service in child deprivation and vulnerability in Africa was presented to our Country Director for Rwanda, Claudine Nyinawagaga, at the International Policy Conference on the African Child. The award's purpose is to recognise exemplary initiatives taken by individuals or organisations that aim to

improve the wellbeing of children in Africa.

This award is hugely significant for our work and is crucial to our mission to catalyse the end of institutional care in Eastern and Southern Africa. It gives us the profile and authority we need to extend our reach in the region.

Furthermore, one of two other finalists for the award was Shamaa, our partner organisation in Khartoum, Sudan - proof

that we are succeeding in making the end of institutional care a priority in Africa.

Over the next three years we will be expanding our influence to other countries in the region as a result of the money raised through our Numb3rs appeal. You can read more about the appeal on page 6.

News updates

Sudan moves to end institutional care



Photo: HHC

celebrate the achievements made over the past ten years in establishing family-based care for children in Khartoum State.

Over the past decade, with our support, the Government has built a comprehensive and pioneering system of family-based care for babies, which includes services to support families, prevent abandonment and provide family-based alternatives for children who cannot be returned to their families.

However, without a gatekeeping service in place to make sure that children are placed in families right away, institutions are still relied upon as a temporary measure which can be extremely damaging to children.

During the conference, Dr Alasam (above), Director General at the Ministry of Social Development, stated:



Photo: HHC

“We are going to establish and enforce the referral system so that when a child is found on the street they will be taken for a medical check and then placed directly with a family. In this way we are going to close Maygoma and all other institutions.”

Our work in Sudan has been supported by UK aid since January 2013 with a total grant of £504,145 over three (3.3) years until December 2015.

The Government of Sudan has shown support for the closure of all institutions in Sudan, including the Maygoma Institution for Babies in Khartoum where we have been working for over a decade.

The recommendation came at a conference held by the Government in November to

National Strategy reaffirms Romania's commitment to Deinstitutionalisation

This January, the Romanian Government published the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights.

Hope and Homes for Children were invited to contribute to the strategy development and be part of the consultation processes. In partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and the Elderly, we brought together Government representatives, relevant professionals in child protection from all regions of Romania, and the most important organisations active in the field.

As a result of these consultations, several of the suggestions we gathered over 18 months were included in the Strategy. These included the closure of all old-type institutions, the development of independent living skills for children and young people, and the development of family and community-based care services for children.

The publication of the strategy reaffirms the national Government's commitment to Deinstitutionalisation and the development of family and community-based care for children.



Photo: HHC/Chris Leslie

Mark and Caroline - two very special people

After 20 years of tireless work radically transforming the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable children, our founders, Mark and Caroline Cook, have decided to retire from Hope and Homes for Children.

Although they are retiring, Mark and Caroline have inspired our vision that one day no child will have to suffer institutional care. We asked two people who have shared much of that 20 year journey to pay tribute to Mark and Caroline.



Photo: HHC

The Rt Hon The Lord Carrington KG, Hope and Homes for Children patron

As someone who has supported Hope and Homes for Children since it first began, I have been given the almost impossible task of paying tribute to what Mark and Caroline Cook have achieved over the last 20 years – where to start?

Anyone who worked or visited what was Yugoslavia in the early 1990s would have witnessed the ravages of war. A civil war is perhaps the most cruel and unpleasant of conflicts and the consequences are felt by everyone – neighbours against neighbours, families divided, children abandoned or worse still orphaned. There is no one to help as normal life has ceased.

While many watched in horror and were saddened by what they saw there were two people who did something about it. And it was out of this that Hope and Homes for Children was born.

Two decades on and led by these two remarkable individuals Hope and Homes for Children has become a world leader in its field, managing programmes across 15 countries, changing attitudes, policies and practices and most importantly transforming the lives of over 40,000 children – even this is a conservative estimate.

I have often thought that the name of Hope and Homes for Children could not be more apt because one of the greatest

things Mark and Caroline have given is hope. Hope not only for the children and families they have supported but hope for the eight million children who are still confined in institutions across the world. The organisation they started in Bosnia and Herzegovina all those years ago is now on course to change the world and to end the institutional care of children for good.

It would not be trite to say that Mark and Caroline Cook are the most remarkable couple and what they have achieved over the last 20 years is nothing short of astonishing. They are a shining example of what can be done with guts, compassion and determination – the world certainly needs more people like them.



Photo: HHC



Photo: HHC

Oggi Tomic, former Hope and Homes for Children beneficiary

I am honoured to have been asked to pay tribute to Mark and Caroline and to speak on behalf of all the children and families whose lives they have changed. I'm not sure really I have the words but I will try to do these amazing people justice.

As many of you know, during my childhood I lived in various institutions and life for a child growing up like this is hell on earth. Imagine what it is like to be in a loveless place where you are scared to close your eyes to go to sleep at night. Where you are cold and hungry. Where all you feel in your heart is fear and loneliness. For so long mine was a childhood where nobody cared.

But then along came Mark and Caroline and for the first time in my life I realised that someone did care.

Mark and Caroline and Hope and Homes for Children were my first real family. They were the first people to care about me, to be concerned about my future and to want the best for me. And that is what a family is all about. It is because of them that I now have a career, a family of my own and a future. If they hadn't stopped to care then my life would have been so different and I thank them with all my heart.

But mine is just one story and there are tens of thousands more children whose lives

have been changed because of Mark and Caroline. Children who have been reunited with their families, children growing up in caring foster families and children who did not have to have a childhood like mine because of the vision they had.

I have heard Mark speak on many occasions and he often talks about turning the lives of children from darkness to light. These words really are so true. Growing up without a family to care for you is the darkest place a child can be.

So on behalf of all the children Hope and Homes for Children have supported, I would like to thank Mark and Caroline for shining a much needed light into our lives.

Mark and Caroline's book, A Silent Cry, which tells the story of Hope and Homes for Children over the last 20 years, is available to buy. Please see page 10 for details.

The Numb3rs appeal

- we couldn't have done it without you!

Between September and December last year we ran our Numb3rs appeal, supported by the UK government, to raise awareness of the children wasting away in orphanages who are treated as nothing more than a number. We aimed to raise vital funds to enable us to support vulnerable families, help break the cycle of poverty and end the need for orphanages.

Thanks to your amazing support the appeal was an outstanding success. We raised £2,054,235.65, which is a staggering **£4,108,471.31** with UK government match funding!

The public donations received through the appeal will contribute significantly to the delivery of our mission to catalyse the global eradication of institutional care of children. The matched funding received from the UK government will be spent over the next three years across East and Southern Africa. Our work there will focus on reducing reliance on orphanages as a means of caring for children and fighting child poverty, an important factor in the breakdown of families and institutionalisation of children.

Walking, cycling, baking, running, dancing - supporters young and old, as well as our fantastic local support groups, held events and sponsored challenges to raise money for the Numb3rs appeal.

The appeal received excellent media coverage, including a week-long feature in the Eastern Daily Press. Journalist Sarah Cruddas visited our work and published an article in Grazia magazine supported by a video of her visit. Founder Mark Cook and former beneficiary Oggi Tomic were interviewed on the Jeremy Vine show on BBC Radio 2. Celebrity supporter Nick Hewer

Another crucial aim of the appeal was to draw attention to a problem that too many people are simply unaware of. With the help of key media and corporate partners we created almost **50 million 'opportunities to view'** - which refers to the total number of times that the message is likely to have been seen. This is a huge achievement and means our message, that orphanages destroy lives and communities and that there is a far better way to care for children, was communicated far and wide.

In the last issue of HOPE we asked you to donate, fundraise and spread the word about the Numb3rs appeal and we were overwhelmed by your response. Here are just some of the ways you got behind us:

appeared on the same show a week later as well as 20 commercial and BBC radio stations and ITV's Loose Women.

Our partnership with designer footwear store Kurt Geiger brought a powerful physical presence to the culmination of the appeal with the 'No Christmas Window' campaign. Kurt Geiger donated the budget allocated for decorating the windows of their 58 UK stores to the appeal and sent a powerful message to customers and passers-by, dressing their windows in plain white, with a single bauble hanging down.

Some of our celebrity supporters recorded a series of compelling short films called 'Reasons to Act', to reveal the truth behind some of the most common and harmful misconceptions about orphanages. You can view these films at www.notanumb3r.org

Other celebrities recorded messages of support for the appeal and our work.

Our corporate partners, Richer Sounds, Riviera travel and Vue sent out emails to customers, published articles in magazines,

wrote features on websites, placed adverts in brochures and put up displays in their stores.

The Numb3rs appeal was featured as campaign of the week on the Mumsnet website.

Marie Claire



During the Numb3rs appeal we told you about Marie Claire, nine years old and living in an orphanage in Rwanda. She was desperate for the love of a family:

"It would make me so happy to have a family. I would be very happy to hug my mum, even though we haven't met each other yet."

We are delighted to let you know that Marie Claire has now moved out of the

orphanage and is cared for at home by her new foster family. She is thriving, happy and loves hugs with her new mum.

"I'm so happy now. I thank God for such a wonderful family, I have lots of hugs and kisses."



Because of your generous support there are thousands of children who will now grow up in families instead of orphanages and we have moved closer to achieving our vision of a world in which children no longer suffer institutional care.

Closing Europe's baby orphanages

Right across Europe thousands of babies and young children are growing up in baby orphanages, damaged by neglect and abuse, robbed of love, protection and a future.

The effects of institutionalisation are particularly devastating for children in this age group. Eighty per cent of the brain cells a person will ever have are formed in the first three years of life, and for every three months a baby or toddler spends in an orphanage, their development will be stunted by one month.

Baby orphanages also represent the main entry point for many children into the institutional care system, many of whom will stay there for their entire childhood and sometimes into adulthood.

Reforming child protection for under threes will stem the flow of children into other orphanages and ensure that fewer and fewer children suffer the consequences of life in an institution.

We are working with governments and other authorities to accelerate the transition of children under three out of orphanages into families and family based alternatives, such as foster and adoptive care. In addition we are building the capacity of local professionals to provide services to support families to stay together.

The end is in sight for baby orphanages in some countries in Europe, which will bring about the eradication of institutional care as a whole in those countries and set an example to the whole region.

We have been working in Romania since 1998 and are working with the Government to close all orphanages in the country by 2020. As well as our hands-on work with children and families, we work to achieve policy change and funding reallocation to ensure there is permanent change to the way children are cared for. Consequently a law was introduced prohibiting the placement of children under two into orphanages. Late last year we welcomed an amendment to extend this provision to children under three, bringing it in line with the UN Guidelines on Alternative Care. There is still work to do with authorities to ensure that legislation extends to children with severe special needs and that the necessary family support services are in place in the community to ensure these children can be cared for in family environments.

Hope and Homes for Children has played a leading role in the implementation of the Bulgarian and Moldovan national child

protection strategies with a specific focus on the deinstitutionalisation of children under three. Moldova is Europe's poorest country and, without access to appropriate support services, families are under increased pressure. We are working on the closure of the three remaining baby orphanages in the country and we are in the final stages of closing Chisinau Institution for Babies having successfully set up the necessary support services for families in the community, including nurseries and day care centres for children with disabilities.

In Bulgaria, the country with the highest rate of institutionalisation of children under three in Europe, we are working with the Government to close all baby institutions in the next five years and eradicate institutional care of children by 2025. Since we started work in the country in 2010, the number of children under three in orphanages reduced from 2,000 in 32 institutions to fewer than 1,000 in 18 remaining institutions. Since 2012, the number of foster carers nationally increased 10 fold, from over a hundred to over a thousand.

Keeping families together

Two year old Valeria was living in a remote part of Moldova, facing the freezing winter months in a makeshift house – a cramped, rusting bus. She shared the tiny space with her two older sisters and parents on a small scrap of land. Her parents desperately wanted to build a home for them, but their income would not cover Valeria's kindergarten fees let alone the materials needed to build a house.

When the local authorities discovered the conditions the family was living in, they recommended that Valeria and her sisters should be placed in the local institution. But our team intervened.

We helped Valeria's parents access vital social benefits, raised funds from local organisations and provided a small grant to buy construction materials for the house. The family used some of the money to buy chickens and ducks to provide food and an additional source of income.

At the end of last year Valeria and her sisters moved into the newly built house and spent their first Christmas together in their new home.

Hope and Homes for Children wins the Tulip award.

We were presented with this prestigious national award in Bulgaria for our work to end institutional care for babies in the country. It was given in recognition of our project, supported by the VELUX Foundations and Oak Foundation, to close eight institutions for babies in Bulgaria.

Our project was one of 20 nominated to receive the award at a national gala organised by the Tulip Foundation to recognise outstanding initiatives achieving social impact on social issues by charities and other organisations in Bulgaria.



A Silent Cry

Founders Mark and Caroline Cook's book, *A Silent Cry*, which tells the story of Hope and Homes for Children over the last 20 years, has received great praise from many supporters. Here are some quotes from some of the letters they have received.

“What a triumph! You have given a wonderful account of the progress Hope and Homes for Children has made in 20 years.”

“Some of your story was really heart-rending and I think it emphasises more than anything the terrific value in having a happy family life where children can be given all the love that they need.”

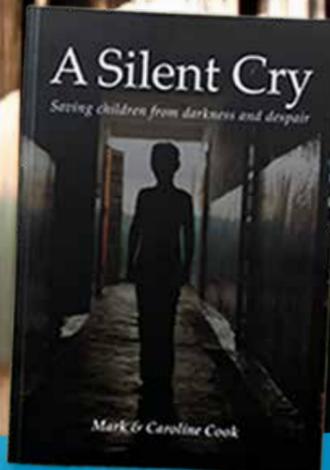
“I think it's wonderful. I couldn't put it down last night. I thought I knew quite a lot about Hope and Homes, but I realise now how little I did know!”

“Your wonderful book arrived safely yesterday. I sat down to 'flip' through it and the next thing I knew I was on page 60! I could not put it down and was completely engrossed.”

“It is a truly inspiring read. It is heart-warming and uplifting to know that goodness and loving kindness does exist. Your incredible global team are living proof that it does.”

“It is a truly inspiring (and shocking) record of your ongoing work to give hope and homes to such deprived children.”

“...worst of all was the unnatural silence of the babies...Theirs was “A Silent Cry” for love. They had already learnt at their tender age that even if they cried...no-one came. Then and there we agreed that we had to get all the children out of that awful place as soon as possible.”



The book has a foreword by our Patron Lord Carrington and a chapter on each of the 15 countries Hope and Homes for Children has worked in. There are also maps of each country and over 200 photos. An annex is included showing a complete financial breakdown of the last 20 years and how much has been spent in each country, as well as the impact that this has had.

Mark and Caroline had 1,500 copies printed and will not be doing a re-print. They still have a few copies left and if you would like one, please call Hope and Homes for Children on 01722 790111 or use the donation form enclosed.

Mark and Caroline will be happy to personally sign and dedicate any copies bought.

The remaining copies are being offered at the reduced price of £10 per copy plus £2 P&P.

Unlocking futures

Giving independence to Romania's lost generation

Rotary has been at the heart of our work since the charity's foundation in 1994. When we started working in Romania in 1999 there were 100,000 children confined to institutions. Today, there are less than 8,000. However this is still 8,000 too many. Lots of those remaining are young adults, left behind in the institutions they have grown up in until they are forced to leave at 18. With little knowledge of the outside world their futures look bleak. The **UNLOCKING FUTURES** project will provide life skills training for young adults leaving institutions so they are able to live independently.

With support from Rotary, by 2018 we will have supported approximately 500 young adults through this transition. This will have a lasting impact on Romania as a whole, allowing us to close down more institutions until, together, we have eradicated institutional care for good.



If you would like to learn more about **UNLOCKING FUTURES**, contact: Catherine Butt, Rotary Liaison Manager, catherine.butt@hopeandhomes.org Tel: 01722 790111

Quizzine

A dinner party with a difference!

Are you looking for a simple fundraiser with limited organisation and maximum results? Then we have the perfect idea for you! You will need five friends (or more!) to agree to host a Quizzine supper in their homes and a Quizzine Quizmaster to co-ordinate the evening and announce the winning team.

During the Numb3rs Appeal, our Hertfordshire Support Group successfully trialled the Quizzine, raising money to support our work as well as having a fun evening. Here's what they did.....

- Gathered together their Support Group and agreed who would be able to host a Quizzine and when. (This could easily be replicated with a group of friends)
- Decided who would be Quizmaster
- Quizzine hosts invited their friends to their supper party and collected a donation from each guest for their supper
- The Quizmaster set the questions and gave them to each Quizzine host in a sealed envelope.

(You can set your own questions or we can provide some for you)

- On the night, teams completed the quiz while enjoying canapés and emailed their answers to the Quizmaster for marking
- The answers were emailed through and the winning team revealed

If you are interesting in holding a Quizzine then please get in touch with Kerry on kerry.mccollum@hopeandhomes.org Tel: 01722 790111

“It was great fun being the quizmaster! The contestants at their various dinner parties had one hour to answer 20 questions. The answers came in thick and fast, and I had them all marked and a winner declared by 9.15pm. Having delivered the prize to the winning dinner party, it was time for a glass of wine!”
Linda Thompson, Member of the Hertfordshire Support Group and official Quizzine Quizmaster

Leaving a legacy

In 2008, one of our longest supporters, Barbara Anderson, visited the Maygoma orphanage in Khartoum, Sudan.



Photo: HHC/Abbie Trayler Smith

I had not expected the silence that greeted me when I entered a room full of toddlers. It was mid-morning, but there was none of the lively noise and chatter of playful young children. They sat or lay in rows of cots, some head rocking, some just sitting passively, alone in their own world. One four year old boy lay with his ankle tethered to a bar on his cot. I was told that he needed to be restrained to stop him leaving the room. The children were clean and adequately fed, but desperately and emotionally deprived. They had long since learned that there would be no loving 'Mummy or Daddy' to respond to their calls or cries. One toddler particularly pulled at my heart strings. He stared into space, looking utterly desolate. I put my hand through the bars of the cot, but he didn't take it. My host, a Sudanese psychologist, talked to him but he didn't respond.

The next day I returned to join 17 new foster mothers who had been carefully selected and trained by Hope and Homes for Children staff. I waited while they were given their new charges, and had to fight back tears when I saw that 'my' desolate toddler was among them. He sat solemnly on the knee of a lovely, warm, calm and experienced foster mother. How long would it be, I wondered, before he dared to start trusting her and responding to her love? It was not going to be an easy task for any of the foster mothers to nurture the new additions to their families, but Hope and Homes for Children would be there to give them ongoing support.

While I was there a young lady brought in her newborn illegitimate baby to hand over to the orphanage. Her face was a picture of abject misery as she clung to her baby, her maternal instincts finding it unbearable

to part with it to a place where it, too, would learn that there would be no 'mummy' to love and comfort him.

Hope and Homes for Children's vision is a world in which children no longer suffer institutional care. This vision presents a tough challenge, but I only have to think of that new born baby about to be left alone in the Maygoma orphanage, to share their determination that every child should grow up, not in an institution, but in the security and safety of a loving family. This is why I am leaving Hope and Homes for Children a gift in my Will to help them in their work towards achieving this vision.

If you would like to discuss leaving a gift in your Will please call Joe Sutton on 01722 790111 or email joe.sutton@hopeandhomes.org.

Holiday in style

Hope and Homes for Children are extremely proud of our partnership with one of the UK's leading escorted tour operators and river cruise specialists, Riviera Travel. Over the years, staff and customers have helped to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds to support vulnerable children and families.

As one of our most generous corporate partners, Riviera Travel donate £1 to Hope and Homes for Children for every passenger who travels with them. In 2014, this raised an incredible £115,000, enabling us to save thousands of children from growing up alone in an orphanage.

Hope and Homes for Children is also embedded into the hearts of the staff at

Riviera Travel, a number of whom have been out to see our work first hand. Staff have taken it upon themselves to fundraise for us in all manners of ways, from running marathons, holding bake sales, to hosting an elaborate Casino Royale ball, which raised an extraordinary £50,000.

And if that wasn't all, on top of this fantastic support they will also donate 10% of any holiday (and subsequent holidays) booked by our supporters. So, if just 10 couples booked a weekend in Paris today, it could raise over £550, a week in the classical districts of Spain could mean £1,300 and a once in a lifetime trip to South Africa could lead to a donation of over £4,000 to Hope and Homes for Children.

This is a brilliant way for you and your friends to enjoy an amazing holiday and support the charity, especially if Riviera Travel is already your preferred tour operator.

To find out more call 01283 742322 or visit www.hhriviera.co.uk for our dedicated webpage.

Please do let us here at Hope and Homes know if you have taken up this offer. We would love to hear about your holiday experience.

We would like to thank Riviera Travel for such an enjoyable and rewarding partnership.



Photo: Riviera Travel/HHC

Take on the Ten Stores Challenge

Last year, our first ever Ten Stores Challenge raised over £80,000 for Hope and Homes for Children and created a new type of challenge; one that was physically demanding, but with a sense of fun and fashion at its heart.



Photo: HHC/GETTY IMAGES

Following last year's success, **Sunday 14 June 2015** will see the return of the Ten Stores Challenge – and this year it will be bigger, better and bolder. So, if you're looking for a new fundraising experience, this could be just up your street.

The Ten Stores Challenge is a 10km walk through London's West End, giving you the chance to experience some of the world's most prestigious stores and brands. The route will combine iconic and discovery brands from the world of fashion, jewellery, furniture, home and the arts. Each store will provide walkers with exclusive treats and experiences along the way to ensure you have an unforgettable day.

Last year's walkers enjoyed a champagne breakfast hosted by Claudia Winkleman at London's iconic Fortnum & Mason, plus

treats and experiences at nine other stores including Liberty, Selfridges and Kurt Geiger. All whilst raising money and awareness for Hope and Homes for Children.

So, register and find out all you need to know at www.tenstores.com today and make sure you don't miss out on fundraising's most stylish new look.

"We had a brilliant day, and thought the whole event was really well organised from the delicious Angela Hartnett brunch to each and every stop on the tour. It was fantastic to see so many women out shopping, and walking, for a great cause."

Louise Hudson from sportswear specialist Sweaty Betty

St. James's Place Triathlon and Duathlon

On Sunday 4 October, hundreds of people will unite to take on the challenge of the St James's Place Triathlon and Duathlon in St Albans.

Over the past 12 years, triathlon and duathlon participants have raised over £1.5million, transforming the lives of thousands of children around the world. We need you to take on this year's challenge and help us make the 13th triathlon and duathlon the biggest and best yet!

The St James's Place Triathlon and Duathlon is the ideal event for beginners. As well as being a sprint triathlon (400m swim, 21km cycle and a 5km run), it differs from other events as there are 10 minute 'rest zones' between each activity, making transitions much simpler.

Entry to the event is just £15, and participants are asked to fundraise

£485 in support of Hope and Homes for Children – your fundraising will give children confined to orphanages around the world the chance to grow up in the love of a family.

To sign up, and for more information, training and fundraising tips simply visit www.sprinttriathlon.org/enter-now or email triathlon@hopeandhomes.org

"I completed my first triathlon today and it was a fantastic experience thanks in the main to the wonderful organisation and the fantastic marshals who were so cheerful and encouraging"
2014 participant



Photo: HHC

Love in every step

Visit one of our projects and discover the beauty of the Carpathian Mountains and the mystery of Dracula's Castle.

We are delighted to be able to offer you a fantastic opportunity to see first hand how your contributions are helping vulnerable children and their families in Romania, and take in the spectacular Carpathian Mountains en route.

The mountains offer some of the best trekking routes in Europe, and our trek will take you into the beautiful passes and ancient forests of two National Parks, finishing with a trip to the infamous Dracula's Castle!* *Garlic optional

Join us this Autumn for a trip you'll remember forever.

There are spaces still available, so if you would like more information or to register your place, please get in touch with Catherine Butt on 01722 790111 or catherine.butt@hopeandhomes.org

Edd Whitehouse, supporter of Hope and Homes for Children, completed this trek last year and shared his thoughts on the experience;

"I have taken part in many treks throughout my life but this was certainly one of the most beautiful. It was so exciting to be somewhere that isn't as well known which really created a sense of discovery and adventure. If you are 70% sure then go for it – you have nothing to lose, but so much to gain!"

Claire Wright, Patron of Hope of Homes for Children, has already booked her place this year;

"I invite you join me on this trip to challenge yourself and then see the lasting impact of the funds you raise. This trek offers a different type of 'off the beaten track' experience. And if that isn't enough then you will have the chance to spend a day visiting our projects in Bucharest. Seeing our work in person has truly been one of the highlights of my life and I would recommend to anyone to seize the opportunity to see it with your own eyes."



Trek Details

Dates: 13-19 September 2015
Minimum fundraising target: £1,800*
Registration fee: £200
*fundraising target includes all costs.

Itinerary

- Day 1: Fly from London to Bucharest and transfer to the edge of the Carpathian Mountains.
- Day 2: Cota – Pestera via Bolboci Lake. 7-8 hours trekking.
- Day 3: Pestera – Piatra Arsa via Lalomitei cave and church. 6 hours trekking.
- Day 4: Piatra Arsa – Omu Cabin. 5 hours trekking.
- Day 5: Finish the trek in style at Dracula's Castle, followed by a celebration meal. 5 hours trekking.
- Day 6: Visit Hope and Homes for Children's work in Bucharest – a rewarding and inspirational day.
- Day 7: Explore Bucharest and then fly back to London.

Photo: Discover Adventure

Events diary 2015

April

Association of Inner Wheel Clubs Annual Conference

Monday 20 - Wednesday 22 April

The BIC, Bournemouth

The annual Inner Wheel conference is a special event that showcases all that has been achieved through their work. As we draw towards the end of the Social Project 2012 – 2015, which has been a very special relationship between Hope and Homes for Children and the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs, we look forward to being able to show how their support has saved the lives of many vulnerable children in Moldova, and supported families at risk of separation to stay together. **We look forward to seeing our Inner Wheel supporters there.**

Street Collection Thursday 23 April

Bath

The Bath Support Group is dedicating a day to raising funds and awareness at key spots on the streets of Bath. **If you would like to spare an hour or two to help collect, please contact Sue Howell at sue@howell15.plus.com or on 01225 424224.**

Spring Walk Sunday 26 April

**Meeting at the White Horse Inn,
Compton Bassett**

Join the Vale of Pewsey Support Group for a 6 mile circular walk taking in some of Wiltshire's beautiful scenery. Children and dogs are more than welcome! **Tickets are £5, please contact Paul Webb on 07876 765478.**

May

Concert with the London Bulgarian Choir Saturday 9 May

St. Barnabas Church, Jericho, Oxford

Join our Oxfordshire Support Group for a concert from the London Bulgarian Choir (www.londonbulgarianchoir.co.uk) at 7.30pm, supported by local choir Voices Unlimited.

Tickets are £13.50 in advance and £15 on the door. For tickets and more information please contact Andrew Adams on adams@kirthall.com

Cumberwell Park Golf Day Wednesday 13 May

Cumberwell Park Golf Club, Bradford on Avon

The Bath Support Group invites you to join their annual golf competition. Lunch is included and there will be prizes and a raffle. **For more information or to book a place, please contact Sue Howell at sue@howell15.plus.com or 01225 424224.**

Amwell Dance Saturday 16 May

Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire

Join the Hertfordshire Support Group at their English Country Garden Black Tie Ball. Enjoy a sparkling reception with live music, dinner and dancing into the night. Stroll around the beautiful floodlit garden and have a flutter at the casino. **Tickets are £90 per guest, and include drinks at the reception and four bottles of wine per table. For tickets or more information, please contact Kate Birss at kate@amwellcottage.net**

June

Hands and Voices Concert Saturday 6 June

The Session House, Maryport St, Usk

Join the South Wales Support Group for an evening of singing and music. **For more information please contact Jean Scarborough on jancariad@btinternet.com**

Cheese and Wine Evening Wednesday 10 June

**Cravenplan Offices, Wilbury Barn,
Swallowcliffe, Salisbury**

Join our South Wiltshire Support Group at 6.30pm to try some delicious cheese and wine and hear first hand from some of Hope and Homes for Children's head office staff. **Tickets are £5. For more information or tickets contact Chris Stanbury on chris@swallowcliffe.com or 01747 858016.**

Dinner with The Rt Hon. the Lord Trimble Thursday 11 June

**Thorp Perrow Arboretum, Bedale,
North Yorkshire**

The Vale of York Support Group invites you to their black tie dinner. The speaker is a Nobel Peace Prize winner and former First Minister of Northern Ireland. **Tickets are £65 each. Please contact Anthony on anthony.cumming@btinternet.com**

July

Pete Allen Jazz Saturday 25 July

The Grange, Winterbourne Dauntsey, Salisbury

Described as Britain's most exciting jazz clarinettist, Pete Allen performs a varied repertoire of 'happy traditional jazz' at this popular concert. Bring a picnic and sit outside or get close to the band in the beautiful thatched barn. Tickets cost £20 and this event always sells out so be sure to get them early. **For more information or tickets, contact Chris Stanbury on chris@swallowcliffe.com or 01747 858016.**

September

Beer Festival

Friday 4 September

Recreational Ground, Chieveley (nr Newbury)

Join our new Newbury Area Support Group and try some fantastic ales and ciders. **Tickets are £5. For more information, please contact Kirsty Heath on kirstyheath@me.com**

Choral Recital

Saturday 26 September

**Theatre on the Hill, St John's School
in Marlborough**

Join the Vale of Pewsey Support Group for a fantastic evening of music and singing from local schools and a Military Wives choir. **Tickets are £10 - to book tickets please contact Alison Netherclift on 01672 562777.**

November

Burton Ball

Saturday 28 November

Alrewas Hayes, Alrewas, Staffordshire

Our corporate partner, Riviera Travel, will be holding their next Hope and Homes for Children annual ball in November. Winter Wonderland is this year's theme, and it will once again be held in the stunning lakeside marquee. Join us for a sparkling reception, three course dinner, dancing to a live band, auction, casino and lots more. **Tickets are £65 each or £650 for an exclusive table of 10. To reserve your place, please contact Claire Wright on 07769 898089 or email hhcburtonball@gmail.com**

December

SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas Tea and Carol Concert

Wednesday 2 December

Kensington, Central London

Join our annual Christmas Tea and Carol Concert. Last year's events were sell-outs, so don't forget to mark it on your calendar. **We'll confirm more details later this year.**



**Hope & Homes
for Children**

Hope and Homes for Children is a registered charity (No. 1089490)

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