



# FAMILY & ELDERLY SHOEBOX APPEAL

Romania • Moldova • Ukraine • Bulgaria

St Matthew's have supported the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal for many years. Initially we prepared boxes to send and then last year we gave cash donations for the Charity's staff to put boxes together on our behalf.

Each box costs £10 - if you would like to contribute one (or more) please place your money in a labelled envelope in the donation box or Parish Office letterbox by Sunday 7 November. If by cheque please make payable to Link to Hope.

## What do they do?

They send a Shoebox for a family – not just a child. They contain items for all family members and includes items such as shower gel/shampoo, family games, stationery items, gift for mum and dad as well as sweets, soft toys, hats, scarves etc

The annual Family Shoebox Appeal has been running since 1992 and has delivered smiles to thousands of people in Eastern Europe over the years. In fact, over 1,000,000 shoeboxes have been sent to hundreds of different locations!

The Shoeboxes of gifts are given to families who often have to make a choice between buying food or fuel at Christmas time – buying presents is not a priority. Many of these families do not have running water, heating or electricity. Some live in appalling conditions, and life for them is a real struggle to survive.

Due to the number of elderly people that are now being left alone because their families leave to work away, the charity launched the Elderly Shoebox Appeal. The boxes are similar however the children's games and education materials are replaced with a wind up torch, sensory items, candle and holder etc.

