



hope and homes
for children



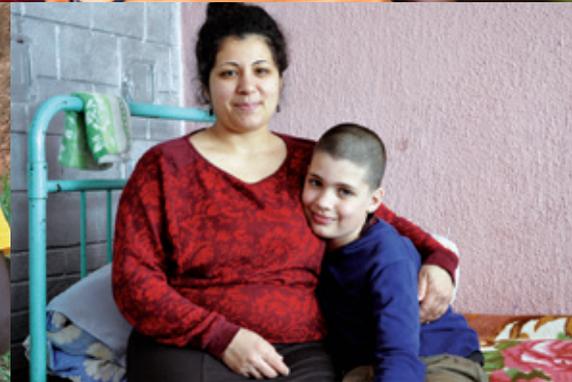
**Use your Will to
change a life today...**

**a generation
tomorrow,**

**and the
world forever.**



After seven years in the orphanage, and two months in a specialist hospital, Jane is so happy to finally be returned to a loving family home.



Every child needs someone to love them and somewhere to call home. Every child belongs in a family.

“Please, please find me a family”

Hope and Homes for Children exists because of the energy, courage and conviction of two remarkable people: our Founders, Mark and Caroline Cook. In 1994, Mark read about the plight of a group of children struggling to survive in Sarajevo’s Bjelave orphanage at the height of the Bosnian War. Within weeks the couple had boarded a plane to the city to see what they could do to help.

Shocked by what they discovered, Mark and Caroline visited the orphanage every day for a week and, before they left, offered the children some hope by promising to rebuild their ‘home’—which they did.

In those early days, Mark and Caroline raised what money they could to rebuild orphanages, and their plan was to create a worldwide network of small, well-run

orphanages. Until someone posed the simple question, “Why don’t you ask the children what they want?”

So that’s exactly what Mark and Caroline did, wherever they went. **It didn’t matter who or where the children were, their answer was always the same: “Please, please find me a family.”** Mark asked one small boy on the streets of Khartoum what he thought a family and a home were. His single-word answer changed everything. Simply, “Love.”

This epiphany reversed the direction of Hope and Homes for Children forever—from opening orphanages, to closing them. And nowhere demonstrates this better than Romania. **Few of us will forget the harrowing images that emerged from Ceaușescu’s vast orphanage system in the early 1990s, when an estimated 100,000 children were confined to brutal institutions.** Yet, despite the scale of the challenge, Mark and Caroline set out to close every orphanage in the country.

For over 20 years, we have been working in partnership with the Romanian authorities and have helped to reduce the number of children living in orphanages there by more than 90%.

When Mark and Caroline returned to the country a few years ago, they were reunited with some of the children they’d originally met during our early closure programmes. Now adults, these young men and women are leading fulfilling lives and, in some cases, raising families of their own.

And today, we know that the astonishing day will come when the last orphanage in Romania closes.

Together, we can continue the work that Mark and Caroline began, reaching a day when every child grows up with the love and support of a family. Our legacy will benefit generations of children and families to come—in Romania, throughout Europe, and across the world.

Left: Mark and Caroline in Sarajevo. Caroline visiting Bjelave orphanage.

Previous page clockwise from top: Jane and her mum. Mihai with his mum. Devi with her family. Vasillica and his family. Joseph and his new family.

Always family...

Children need protection, encouragement, play, laughter and love. They need somewhere to call home and someone who will always look out for them. Children never belong in orphanages.

The vast majority of children in orphanages aren’t orphans at all—around eight in every ten of the estimated 5.4 million children confined to orphanages have at least one living parent who could care for them with the right support. **And for children without family, there is always a better option than an orphanage.**

Never orphanages

For over 25 years, our committed supporters have helped us free more than 268,000 children from the threat of orphanages and family separation all around the world.

Our teams of skilled, local professionals work tirelessly to keep vulnerable families together, to reunite families, and to build new families—making sure each and every child has a loving family to call their own.

By supporting families one child at a time—and, in parallel, working with governments and agencies to drive childcare reform—we’re leading a global movement. **It’s a movement that will ultimately put an end to an antiquated orphanage system which is neither necessary, nor working.**

If you believe every child belongs in a family, both today and for generations to come, make it part of your legacy to consign orphanages to history.





David's story Romania

David and his two older brothers became orphans when both their parents passed away. Aged just seven, David ended up confined to the Victor Babeş orphanage for preschool children in Baia Mare, Romania.

A year later, Hope and Homes for Children supported the authorities to close the orphanage, and David moved into one of the two new family homes we established so the young children could grow up in a caring, family-type environment instead. He was naturally a caring and quiet child, attentive to the needs of other children and always eager to have a future his parents would have been proud of.

As a young man, David attended technical college and combined it with paid work to start saving for the future. He continues to benefit from the local support services we provide for young adults, tailored to ensure he is supported to gain the skills he needs to live a healthy, fulfilling and independent life.

Recently we helped David secure a modern apartment of his very own, and he continues to work hard to equip his new home with the essentials. "I have always had this dream," David tells us, with a smile. "To learn, to leave the child protection system, and to have my own home. I know that without all the people who helped me I could not have made it. I am very grateful. Thank you, everyone."

David is one of the countless young people whose lives have been transformed by replacing loveless orphanages with loving families in Romania. In Maramureş County alone, where David's orphanage for preschool children was located, we closed a further nine institutions to make it entirely orphanage-free. Today, tomorrow, and for generations to come, no child in Maramureş will ever have to experience what David went through.

Leaving the gift of love for children

We understand that your own family will always come first. By remembering Hope and Homes for Children in your Will, you can be there for others too, replacing orphanages with loving families for generations to come. Leaving a gift in your Will is one way you can leave a lasting legacy, by changing the world for vulnerable children long into the future, without it costing you a penny today.

If you're planning to leave a gift to benefit children for generations to come, and you feel comfortable telling us, we'd love to know so we can thank you properly. Please use the form enclosed.

If you would find it helpful to have an **informal, confidential and no obligation chat**, please contact our **Head of Supporter Care, Joe Sutton**, on **+44(0)1722 786952** or **joe.sutton@hopeandhomes.org**



Between 2018 and 2020, for every £1 we spent, **76p went to our work to help vulnerable children and families** whilst **24p was used to raise more funds to support this work.**



Between 2018 and 2020, for every £1 we invested in our fundraising **we raised £3.90.**

Stewarding your gift with care

A gift left in a Will to Hope and Homes for Children can make a huge difference to a child and their family. By changing the course of their future, it also makes a difference for generations to come. Then it benefits their wider community, helping us to reach and support more families and improving the way children are valued and cared for, wherever they are in the world. Ultimately, a gift left in a Will demonstrates that a world without orphanages is possible.

Today it costs us, on average, £600 to keep a family together. Many supporters choose to dedicate a specific gift in their Will of around £5,000, enough to provide eight families with the tailored support they need to stay together, keeping children safe from the risk of being sent to an orphanage.

To reunite a child with their family it costs us, on average, £1,140. Our average gift from bequests left in Wills is £21,099; the equivalent of reuniting over 18 children with their birth families. Our expert teams are working to trace children's birth families, prepare children and their parents to be safely reunited, and support them through this complex and challenging process so children grow up where they belong, with the people who love them.

Building new families for children who can't be safely reunited with their relatives costs an average of £1,680. Our teams are in the field each day recruiting and training foster parents, preparing children to join their new family, and giving them everything they need to make a success of their lives together. Over the past ten years, nine supporters have left us exceptional gifts in their Wills of over £100,000—enough to give almost 60 children the chance to grow up in a safe and loving new family.



“Family is our priority”

John and Anne Foster

John and Anne Foster have supported Hope and Homes for Children for many years and have very kindly named our charity in their Will.

“In our view family is our priority, so we have catered for our children and grandchildren in our Wills. But family is also at the heart of what Hope and Homes for Children is about—ensuring children can grow up in the love and protection of a family and not in an orphanage. When we’re gone, we’d like to know that much less fortunate children will enjoy the same love and security our own grandchildren take for granted.”

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Hope and Homes
for Children
East Clyffe, Salisbury,
Wiltshire SP3 4LZ, UK
Registered Charity (1089490)

Email
joe.sutton@hopeandhomes.org
Phone
+44 (0)1722 786952

