



## MOBILITY PROJECT STUDY TRIP REPORT



### « CENTRE FOR THE PROFOUNDLY DEAF » ENGLAND – ROMANIA

- **Number of participants:** 4
- **Age of participants:** over 60 (3), over 70 (1)
- **Country of origin:** England (Oxford)
- **Date:** 11 to 16 June 2009



→ **Aims of the study trip:** To find out how the Saint Vincent de Paul Society works in Romania at the national level, as well as with various local projects. To visit the various kinds of work, and in particular a centre for deaf people.

→ **Activities in which they took part:** Participation in the annual assembly of the Romanian National Council in Campulung Muscel; meeting with the National President and exchange of best practice with the many Romanian volunteers met throughout the trip (Bucharest, Pitesti, Slatina); finding out about the various work with the most deprived people (family, help with education for Gypsy children, visit to a psychiatric hospital, support for the elderly, day centres, children living with AIDS, etc.) in Romania. Visit to a social centre for profoundly deaf people, followed by sharing experience about this project, and nine home visits to lonely people and families.

#### → **How did this study trip influence their work as volunteers?**



On their return, the English volunteers from the St. Aloysius Conference arranged a « Romanian evening » and wrote an article which was published in the national journal. Those taking part benefited enormously from their meeting with the members in Slatina and will be able to share their experience of the Society in Romania with other volunteers. Their enthusiasm for their visit will certainly increase their motivation and will inspire others. Finally, in order to strengthen the links between English and Romanian volunteers who met on the trip, some of the Romanians are planning to visit the centre for the deaf in Newcastle (May 2010).

→ **Testimony...:** « We really appreciated the opportunity we were given by the Mobility project to make this trip to Romania. We learned a great deal about the work of the Romanian volunteers. We shared our ideas and experience of organising a centre for the profoundly deaf with many members, and found out about the differences in culture between our countries. It was a pleasure to receive such a warm welcome wherever we went: at meetings with the volunteers as well as our visits to the poor. I really hope that this study trip will help to strengthen links between conferences in England & Wales and in Romania, and will encourage greater cooperation in our projects. »