

# THE BULGARIAN ORPHANS FUND



A small, highly personalized, direct-aid programme started in 1999 and run by journalist and broadcaster Tony Scotland for the relief of abandoned, neglected & disabled children at some of the 120 state institutions in Bulgaria. Most of the homes are hidden away in remote villages; many are bleak and squalid, with plaster falling from the ceilings, paint peeling off the walls, beds so wet that the mattresses are rotting, and insanitary

plumbing. The children are often cold, unwashed and underfed, with nothing to do ó no school, no books, no paper, pens or crayons, no games, footballs, skipping ropes, or TV. Just a numbing purposelessness ó and a pervading stench of drains and boiled cabbage. At his own expense, Tony visits the homes twice a year to turn his friends' donations into gifts of food, clothes, bedding and medicines; chairs and tables, kitchen equipment and plumbing; teaching materials, games and seaside holidays. The Fund also supports carpentry and cookery workshops, a gypsy music school and an orphan-run smallholding. In 25 visits over 11 years it has raised and spent £82,897.37. Since all running costs are privately met, **every penny given goes directly to the children.** The Fund is currently helping 61 children in <sup>TM</sup>roka Lâka Orphanage, 53 special-needs children at Peter Beron Home & School in Haskovo, 15 boys at the Tichaliev music school in the Roma town of Nadezhda, 265 abandoned babies at Pleven Home & Hospital, and 12 disabled children at the condemned institution in Mogilino. It would like to provide more training projects to prepare these deprived children for life after the orphanages. With applied skills they could then find work that might save them from poverty and crime, and help them build Bulgaria's future within the EU.



*(For practical effectiveness the Fund is not a registered charity, so donations cannot qualify for Gift Aid.)*

BULGARIAN ORPHANS FUND - THE POTTERY - HAM LANE - BAUGHURST - HAMPSHIRE RG26 5SD

*E-mail: [bulgarianorphans@aol.com](mailto:bulgarianorphans@aol.com)*