

Monthly Newsletter

December 2018

CARER OF THE MONTH



ALEX MANEA



We are delighted to announce **Alex** as our final winner of Carer of the Month for 2018!

Alex joined us in the summer of 2015 and was new to care at that time. From the beginning, he has received consistently encouraging feedback from his customers, and showed a great determination to learn new skills and adapted very well to a fast-moving homecare environment.

Alex has always been popular with his colleagues, as well as with his customers, which we know is really important to him. He is dedicated, mature and responsible and is always looking for ways that he can positively assist and 'make a difference', whatever the challenges he faces. Alex is obliging and helpful, and very aware of the pressure that the office team are under. He is always willing to assist whenever possible and helped us out recently before he went on holiday. You may also remember that last month he was given our Inspiration Award for the great work he did with one of our customers.

With so many terrific and professional care staff, it was a close-run thing again, and we wish to mention the following care professionals who have also 'gone the extra mile' in recent weeks:

Live-in carers Mary Shonhiwa and Mercy Kapepe are long standing live-in staff working with a variety of customers with different needs and they receive regular feedback for their outstanding service. Kreso Gavran started on 8th October this year, has settled very well into his new job role and has had good feedback from his customers. Laura Lawson has also not been long with us but has been great at helping the care coordinators to cover calls. Vladimir Pintaric also got good feedback from our customers.

Well done to all of our care professionals who do such a wonderful job every day!!

***Congratulations Alex,
you deserve it, well done!***



Lucian Gavrilă



On Monday December 10th we endured our saddest day when we learned that Lucian had passed away. Lucian joined Bluebird Care in the September 2015, a few months after his wife Corina. They were clearly a lovely, hard-working couple with two young children, Dragos and Antonia.

Those of you who remember Lucian, and know Corina, may not have been aware, but he had been diagnosed with a brain tumour over 10 years ago and received extensive treatment at the time. His condition remained stable until the beginning of 2017, at which time, sadly, the tumour began to grow again and, as a result, Lucian had to give up work with us in April 2017 to undergo further treatment.

This treatment continued with some degree of success and optimism until recently, but Lucian was admitted to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford for surgery at the beginning of November 2018 when his condition began to deteriorate. Of course, both Lucian and Corina were very worried about the procedure, but they bravely faced up to the fact that they had little option but to proceed in the hope that the surgery would be successful.

The desperately sad outcome is that Lucian passed away peacefully on Monday December 10th, having never regained full consciousness due to multiple seizures which required the medical team to place Lucian in an induced coma. As a result, Lucian had been in the Intensive Care Unit since his operation and the family had to take the harrowing decision, on the advice of his medical team, that the life support machine be switched off as no further treatment was possible. It was the hardest decision that anyone could ever be asked to make, but this was ultimately done on the afternoon of Saturday December 8th, with Lucian's mum and dad, together with Corina, at his bedside, where they remained until he finally lost his battle for life.

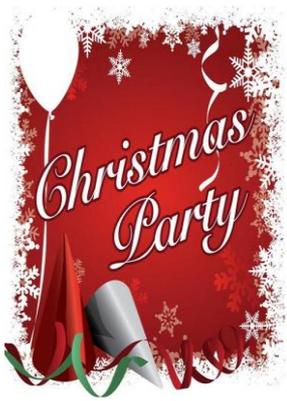
Those of us who were fortunate enough to get to know and work with Lucian have lost a dear friend and a dedicated workmate. No words can adequately express our sadness at Lucian's death or our gratitude for the opportunity to work with him. We will honour his memory in many ways, but certainly by continuing to dedicate ourselves to making a difference to the quality of life enjoyed by our customers.

Crucially, Lucian was able to express his wish to return home to Romania upon his death, and Corina and his family committed to Lucian that they will somehow uphold this wish. However, this is a very expensive thing to do. Therefore, we are doing all we can to support the efforts to raise enough money to support this young family during this very distressing time to ensure that Lucian's last wish is respected and honoured.

So, we wanted to make you aware, and to allow you to donate should you wish to. However big or small, it all makes a difference, and you will have made a significant contribution to the support for Corina and this wonderful family when they need it most and are dealing with a devastating life changing experience for all of them.

We have set up a [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com/help-fly-lucian-home-to-romania) page here the link : <https://www.gofundme.com/help-fly-lucian-home-to-romania>

Christmas comes early thanks to Bluebird Care



As we have done for many years now, we brought some early Christmas cheer to many our customers and their families by throwing a Christmas Tea Party with help from pupils from **Lent Rise Primary School** and the **Grovefield House Hotel** in Burnham on Friday 9th December. The schoolchildren provided plenty of festive cheer by singing traditional carols. They were followed by Lea and her band 'A Touch of Class' who had everyone singing along to Christmas favourites and old standards alike, which went down extremely well with all the partygoers!

One customer said, "It was a lovely afternoon and we really enjoyed ourselves. The children were magical and lit up the room and it was a pleasant change to hear some more modern Christmas songs."

We hold the event so that our customers can join forces with the community and celebrate the spirit of Christmas with each other. The hotel serves afternoon tea and each of the shoolchildren were also given a gift.



We would also like to offer our congratulations to Nosheen on the birth of her baby girl, to Charlotte on the birth of her baby girl and to Roxie on the birth of her baby boy. Bluebird babies welcome to the world!



We have several staff anniversaries to highlight again this month and want to say a huge thank you to all those mentioned below for their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of those they care for. Well done!

- Renay Clark 7 years
- Tracy Cumberbatch 5 years
- Nina Sibenik 4 years
- Carla Procopio 3 years
- Mariana Rughinis 3 years
- Sonia Oprean 3 years
- Marija Blazevic 3 years
- Alina Ungurean 3 years
- Erno Horvath 2 years
- Nosheen Ahmed 1 year
- Ruby Hockley 1 year



We want to thank each member of staff for their on-going commitment to the provision of high-quality care in our community and for their loyalty to Bluebird Care. All our care professionals do a wonderful job every day, helping keep our customers safe and independent in their own home.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CARE FOR CHRISTMAS PERIOD 2018

A reminder of our office opening hours over the Christmas period are below:

Date	Office opens at	Office closes at
Monday 24 th December	8:30am	3pm
Tuesday 25 th December (Bank holiday)	Closed all day	Closed all day
Wednesday 26 th December (Bank holiday)	Closed all day	Closed all day
Thursday 27 th December	8:30am	5pm
Friday 28 th December	8:30am	5pm
Saturday 29 th December	Closed all day	Closed all day
Sunday 30 th December	Closed all day	Closed all day
Monday 31 st December	08.30am	5pm
Tuesday 1 st January (Bank holiday)	Closed all day	Closed all day
<i>Then it's back to normal...</i>	8:30am	5pm

Our out-of-hours emergency service will be available 7am to 10pm as usual when the office is closed. The emergency number is **01628 902 455**



Everyone at Bluebird Care wishes all our customers and their families the Compliments of the Season and our best wishes for a happy & prosperous 2019. Anne, Nicky & Cindy.