

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is hard to believe that I am now going into my third year with my mission! Living in Romania still has its challenges — such as no hot water for 10 days last month, going to outdoor markets almost daily even in winter, and the many different things that are always coming up living in a foreign country — but it is all so worth the effort when I see how beautifully the little ones are developing. The highlights of my year were visits from family members Mom, Paul, and Debbie, and American friends. They brought love, support, supplies, and clothes. These were such delightful visits! I continue to study the language, now with a tutor. Being able to communicate makes me feel more connected to people here and to society in general.



Codi



Florina at 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> months.



Florina the day before leaving for her new home.

The most wonderful news this year is that Florina was adopted by a Romanian family. In only nine months, she became a confident, strong, loving child, from a 10 pound, 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> month old anemic and malnourished baby. Her new parents and grandmother adore her, and she them. Your gifts and support made this possible, and we all give you heart-felt thanks!

Codi will be two in December, and is a very intelligent and thoughtful child. She willingly shares toys, loves books, and is fascinated by details. Codi is the talker of the two. One of my helpers and I speak English to the girls, and the other helpers speak Romanian. Sylvia and Codi pick the easiest words from each language, and they answer my questions with “da” (yes). They really understand both, and it’s fascinating to watch them learn.

Sylvia turned two in August, and is always busy; she loves to wipe up everything with the dish cloth after meals, and picks up her toys and puts things in order. She loves everything with wheels. Her two favourite activities are taking her dolls or Codi for rides in the wagon and being tickled! She has a terrific sense of humour, and she’s such a good “big sister” to Codi. Sylvia was emotionally damaged when she came to me



Sylvia



Sylvia and Codi



Codi and Sylvia



—all she did was rock back and forth on her hands and knees and chew her clothes. Now her health is improved, and Sylvia, a very sad baby, has become a happy, outgoing child.

They both have become so friendly and sociable. When we're on a walk and they see another child approaching, they will run up and each grab a hand and start to walk away (it doesn't matter what age the child is). This always brings smiles from the mothers and often brings bewilderment from the unsuspecting child, especially if it's a 12-year old boy!

The country is still not open to international adoptions — it has been closed for the past two years. We are waiting so hard for this possibility to be open to abandoned children. As the children are adopted, other babies will be brought from the hospital into my home. I want to help in this way, for the experience of the babies bonding with me will lead to strong family relationships in their future. After a year of process, Sylvia has just now received her birth certificate; she needs one more paper then will be eligible to be adopted. I pray that Sylvia and Codi will be as fortunate as Florina is, in having a loving adoptive family.

Please consider this newsletter a very personal thank-you to each of you. As I read the list of donors and donations from St. Olave's (sent to me three times a year), and from those of you who donate apart from St. Olave's, my heart is filled with thanksgiving for each one of you, including those of you I haven't met. Thank you for your love and compassion for these little children. May you receive the same joy and light that you give to them!

God bless you all,

With love, Kathy



*For a tax receipt, please make a cheque out to St. Olave's Anglican Church, 360 Windermere Ave. Toronto, ON M6S 3L4, and write "Kathy Langston's missionary support" on it. Thank you again for your kindness.*