

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I often wonder where the last three years have gone! As I enter my fourth year of living here in Romania, I have become more in tune with the customs, the language, etc., of this culture. The many challenges which existed when I first arrived are now



*Sylvia, Andrea and Codi*

taken more in stride. Daily visits to the market have been rewarding in that we are able to get fresh produce during the summer months but not so in the winter. I continue to have tutoring which is helping me feel more comfortable with the language.

It has been such a good year with Sylvia and Codi growing and developing, talking more, and becoming bilingual. They understand everything I say in English, and speak mostly Romanian. Often their sentences are mixed. It makes us smile to see how they construct them!



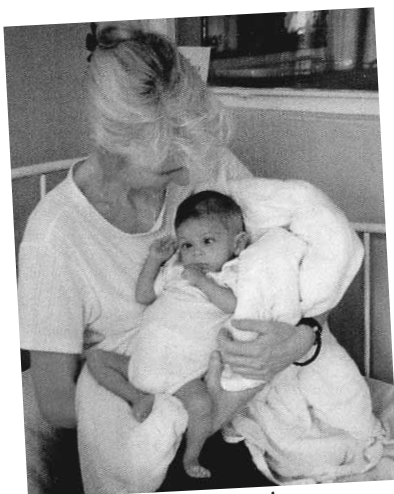
*Codi and Sylvia*

Sylvia is now 3 and Codi will be 3 in December. Because of your support last winter, there was the possibility of taking another abandoned baby — to fill Florina’s empty crib. As some of you may remember, Florina was my first baby who has been adopted by a Romanian family. By all reports, Florina is doing well in her new family for which we are thankful!

In the spring, I met Andrea in the hospital who had been abandoned at birth. She was 6 months old, 7½ pounds, severely malnourished, and had multiple infections including a serious staphylococcus infection which left pit marks on her scalp. She was too weak to move. In April, I was approved to take her, but the doctors wouldn’t let her leave the hospital due to her condition. A friend, one of my helpers and I were with her every day in the hospital in shifts, taking her food, vitamins, holding and loving her. By Easter, she had started putting on weight and was looking more alert.

The Romanians have a greeting at Easter which is “Christ is Risen!” with the response being “Indeed He is Risen!” On that Easter Monday, when the doctor walked into Andrea’s room, she was addressed with “Christ is Risen!” as is the custom. She replied “and so is Andrea risen!” for she had seen how Andrea had improved with the love and care she had been given by us. A few weeks

later, in the middle of May, she was allowed to come home, and then her recovery happened rapidly.



*Andrea in the hospital  
— 7 months old*



*Andrea has just arrived home  
— 8 months old*



*Andrea — 9 months old*



Codi, Andrea and Silvia

Mom was a great help this year, coming to visit 2 weeks after Andrea arrived. She brought supplies, donations, and gifts which we were so thankful to receive. Sylvia and Codi loved their “Oma” and talked about her long after she had gone. But her help with Andrea was invaluable in really getting her on the path to recovery. In those few weeks, Andrea changed from a weak and lethargic baby to an active baby with a love for life. A joyful nature emerged, and this has been a delight to see. Andrea’s “big sisters” adore her and are such good helpers!

Then Lauren Hastie from Richmond Hill, Ontario, arrived in July to help us. She brought formula, clothes and gifts, as well as donations. The biggest gift though, was herself! She worked tirelessly and cheerfully with the girls and Andrea especially. We bought a beautiful walker, a gift from her parish ladies of St. Mary’s, and it wasn’t long before Andrea was racing around the apartment in it! She has been nothing short of a miracle in her recovery, and I thank you all for helping to make this happen.

Enabling me to be here to help abandoned babies, you are also providing employment for the helpers I have, and this is greatly appreciated by them. I have also become involved in helping babies and children in poor, destitute families by passing on vitamins, clothing, and other aid. Your support therefore is far-reaching, more than you could know!

I was very touched by the responses from the *Homemaker’s Magazine* article. Your donations and notes of encouragement were a tremendous support. Reading those supportive notes, written from all across Canada, meant so much to me. A special thanks as well to Lucy Carrick-Wedel, Gisele Kulak, William Shookhoff, Patricia Wright and friends at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto who gave the benefit “Bless The Children” concert in May. Bless you for your work and the money that was raised. Thank you!

Unbelievable as it is, international adoptions are still not open. Sylvia and Codi are among thousands of children waiting. Until their turn comes, I thank you for providing them with all the things necessary for a healthy and happy life — and for freeing Andrea from an institutional, neglected life in a crib.

God bless you all,

With love, Kathy



Kathy with Codi and Silvia



Andrea — 10 months old

*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.*

For more photos, visit Lauren’s website at [www.hastie.ca/romania](http://www.hastie.ca/romania)