

Dear Friends and Supporters,

A very deep thanks to each and every one of you for working with me again this year—as we go into our sixth year—to bring love, comfort and health to the abandoned children of Romania. You are helping to decrease the suffering in this world. It used to be such a heartbreak to go into the Children's Hospital but now, with the women we are employing to work there with the abandoned babies, I see hope and joy.

International adoptions are still closed, so the movement I had hoped for—bringing abandoned babies from the hospital to my home to recover, and then

to be adopted—is now impossible. Codi and

Andrea will be with me for

the long term. The decision to hire local women to work with these babies in the hospital is turning out to be a good one. We now have three full-time women—Mia, Marina and Elly—and Anisoara, a university student, working on the weekends. At this time of writing they are providing essential care for the normal physical, emotional and social development of 30 abandoned babies, which would not otherwise be provided.

When I visit the hospital I am grateful to see that these helpers are bringing love and emotional health to the

babies. They are holding the babies while feeding them instead of propping up the bottles, and are burping them, which prevents so much distress, as well as washing them daily and taking care of their skin—a very sad aspect of neglect in the hospital. With the donations you have given, I have also bought cereal, bananas and yogurt which has combatted the malnutrition and starvation the babies suffer. They are also given vitamin drops to combat malnutrition. The babies are taken out of their cribs daily for stimulation, exercise and movement so they don't become handicapped.

This year we also provided for three babies to have surgery. Viorel had his, the first step in his journey to be able to walk one day. Thanks to Mia's daily exercises and massages, he is now using his arms to play like any other 1 year old baby. They said he was paralyzed, but Viorel is now sitting alone and playing with toys. He revels in his independence! He would be paralyzed flat on his back if not for our work. I've seen children like him in the orphanage, immovable, stiff as he was, and flat on their backs.

Sabina had the large growth taken off the top of her head. Her hair has grown in and she's everybody's favourite. Because she was taken out of her crib daily, she was able to learn to walk at 8 months of age. Now she goes up and down the hospital hall in her walker to our delight!



Kathy with Codi and Andrea



Anisoara, our student who works weekends at the hospital.



Mia with Viorel using his arms – a little baby they said was paralyzed.



Elly with David (3 months) and Cosmin (5 months)



Marina and Rader at 4 months



Mia holding Sabina, fully recovered from her scalp operation, walking at 8 months old instead of living in her crib, and never screaming from hunger since we started supplementing her hospital diet with cereal.



Codi and Kathy taking Aurica and Sabina for a walk in the hospital hall.

Aurica had an obstructing bone taken out of her nose. She's now joining Sabina out in the hall. The two of them are busy being normally active children.

A beautiful healing took place this year with Maria-Mirela. (She came with only the initial M so we named her Maria, later we found out that her name was Mirela.) This 3 1/2 year old girl came to our section from the orphanage covered in bed sores right down to the bone, from her scalp to her toes. She had a tube in her nose, and they said she had no swallowing instinct – she was a skeleton. We wanted to see if she could eat with care given in feeding; she went from tiny sips to a bottle and then to eating from a spoon. Her sores

healed and she put on weight. They said she was paralyzed too, but after Mia exercised and massaged her arms, she was able to open her arms that had been locked across her chest. From a very sad little girl who cried in agony, Mirela learned to recognize us, accept our love and exude joy.



Marina and Christina. Christina was a very sad baby, abandoned because of poverty and her epilepsy. She's happy now being loved and fed.

Elly tells me how she's seen the children blossom like flowers under her love, and I can see it too. She believes that maternal love for them is the most important thing. She loves them dearly and they feel it. Marina says that a big part of her job is in comforting the crying babies. Being abandoned, the babies have extra reason to cry. She goes from one to the other, calming and settling them. I've seen how they watch her, their "mama", as she goes around the room.

Codi will be 5 in December and is a beautiful talker and singer. She delights people on the tram by conversing in English! Andrea, who just turned 3 recently, loves her books more than anything else. She's playful and has a great sense of humour.

After living in Romania for 5 years it was wonderful to go back to Canada for a short visit this spring to be with family and friends again. It was very special for me to meet so many of you who have given so generously and who have taken the abandoned babies' needs to heart. When I see your names on the donations list I receive several times a year, my heart is really touched. With your on-going support and prayers we can continue the goal of seeing God's precious little ones cared for and nurtured. Thank you again. It is such a blessing to be working together with you.

God bless you all,
with love, Kathy



Mia with Aurica, the sad skinny baby Kathy was holding in last year's newsletter picture. She is now 2 years old, chubby and very happy.



Codi pushing Cristina in the swing.



Codi, loving to help.



Kathy and Miriam – 2 months. She came from the maternity hospital without a name; Elly named her Miriam.

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.

See www.hosannachildren.ca for more photos and information