

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Our work and love here in Romania this past year has helped and brightened the lives of many abandoned babies and children. Codi and Andrea and the abandoned babies in the hospital are receiving hope, love and a chance for a better life that they would not otherwise have had. With your support and generosity we are now going into our 8th year. We all are so thankful to you.



Kathy with Codi and Andrea.



Codi and Andrea.

This summer Codi, Andrea and I moved to a smaller apartment, but it has access to a backyard. Being on the ground floor of a building, the girls can now go outside on their own. This for us was an absolute gift from God – so much better than being up on the fifth floor! Codi is taking her role as a big sister very seriously. Not only outside on the playground does she take care of Andrea, she has to take Andrea to her preschool classroom in the morning and kiss her goodbye! Andrea is a generous child who if given two of anything, always shares with Codi. She's a happy child who usually skips rather than walks. Watching the two of them hand in hand skipping down the sidewalk I often think, "Wow, together we have given them a family and spared their life in an orphanage." Even



Codi and Andrea loving stories with Mom/Bunii.

with Romania now in the European Union, there is still a large orphanage functioning here in Oradea for children without physical disabilities. Abandoned physically disabled children live in orphanage houses which, unfortunately because of severe understaffing, are worse than the large institution that they replaced. There is no public access to these orphanage houses.

There is so much to say about our work with the abandoned babies in the hospital. On the ward for children with physical disabilities, Rodica, one of our workers, is still laughing over Evelin (with her severe cleft palate problem) who sings after her. When Rodica sings and then pauses, Evelin does the same thing, albeit in a different key! They had a nurse completely amazed the other day! Evelin is so happy to see her "mama" Dorina, who also works in that ward, in the morning. She pulls her hair and grabs her chin like any delighted child. She rolls all around her crib now, wants to learn how to stand and loves the noise that kicking her crib toys makes. She recognizes Rodica's



Dorina dancing with Evelin.

mealtime songs. Evelin is almost at the weight now where she can begin to have surgeries on her mouth.

Our blind and severely handicapped Soledad's whole face changes when she hears Rodica come into the room. When Soledad hears Rodica and Evelin together, she yells for attention. One day Rodica thought to put Soledad in Evelin's crib. Evelin didn't like this very much at the beginning, but now welcomes the company of her roommate! She loves to play with Sole's face. If Sole yells when Rodica is tending



Anisoara and Anca who is blind.



Rodica exercising Soledad.

to babies Anca and Levente, she quiets right away when next to Evelin. Both babies mimic and talk; language only Dorina and Rodica understand! Dorina and Rodica bring a special joy to these babies with special needs—they want to give them a chance at a life too. They want these babies to know that they're worthy of love and that they are much loved. It's working!

Lia and Anisoara, our weekend young women, say the most important thing to them is getting the babies out of their cribs and playing with them. Anca, Teresa and Ioana, the babies who are blind, are learning how to sit by themselves and they love to play. Kevin and Florina, the babies with Down Syndrome, are learning to stand and take steps. Levente, who has hydrocephalous, likes to turn over and lie on his side and play, when he's not up rocking himself with his leg in his little seat.



Lia holding Kevin, with Ioana and Florina playing and concentrating!



Dora holding Andrei.

On the ward with premature abandoned babies, Dora our Saturday student, told me how one day three babies were all crying at the same time. She put one in a baby seat in front of her and picked up the other two to cuddle them. Being together, sung to and loved, they soon settled down and when she put them back to their cribs, they all slept with smiles on their faces!

Irma, who works all day Sunday now with the abandoned premature babies loves to finish feeding the babies that the nurses have no patience for. She helps the babies who need more time and care to finish their bottles which is so important. Vera, who is our full-time worker with the abandoned premies, believes that an extremely important part of her job is talking to the babies, getting them responsive and able



Irma holding Julia.

to relate to her love.

How can I say thank you enough that we can give baby Andrei cereal now as well as love? What a blessing to see his tiny face fill out after only a week and to know that because of the cereal he is not vomiting anymore but is content and sleeping better.

Struggles continue—for example providing colostomy bags for baby Sergiu who at 3 months old was dropped off at

the hospital dying. His tiny face is filling out now too and he's getting stronger. He didn't want to die at all! He has such a keen and eager little spirit, so precious.

Thank you again so much for your help. Thank you for showing love to the innocent and so vulnerable.

God bless you, with much love and gratitude from all of us,

Kathy



Vera holding Sergiu.



Kathy and Ioana who is blind, playing.

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.