

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for the life-giving love you have given this year to abandoned babies and children, by your prayers and donations. This was our 13th year of caring for institutionalized babies and children that nobody wants, and we couldn't have done it without your help. Many of these little ones have literally come to life by being loved by our women.

Babies have been dropped off in the hospital as young as 2 weeks old. There are babies who are terminally ill and these little souls pass on being loved. But babies who have any chance of survival end up thriving with Vera and Dora's loving care, bonding with them which is so important for emotional development. Time and time again we see how



Codi, Kathy and Andrea

love brings sick and starving babies back to life, in addition to being nourished with bananas, cereal and yogurt which we give them, lifting them out of their listlessness and despair. We also buy diapers, vitamin drops, antibiotic ointment, medicine and supplies. In addition, Vera and Dora help the nurses, providing treatment. Having bonded and being cared for so lovingly, these babies move on to other situations with emotional health.



Vera and 2 month old Noemi

The devoted and loving presence year after year of Rodica, Dorina, Zorita and Cornelia in the understaffed state group homes increases the value of these abandoned and handicapped children. Their value is affirmed in the children's own souls as well in the eyes of this society. Not being allowed to take pictures of these children, what I offer you here, is just a glimpse into the immense impact our women are making in their lives.

A big part of what our women do is massaging and exercising the handicapped children's limbs. For the ones that are not out of bed this is a sign of affection for them, and allows them movement, no matter how limited. And movement feels good! Soledad will always smile when her arms are exercised. Laura laughs when she is massaged. For her it's a sign of relationship and gives her a state of well-being. Massaging and exercising have really helped Florina for she can now walk with only one person helping her. And love has really brought this teenager to life. She recently rolled across the room to get to me who she's learned loves her. This child used to shriek when anyone got near her. Erika doesn't seem like an affectionate child, she only wants to be walked! But she enjoys it when we put our arms around her. Then she smiles and says "mama." Remus has a great need to be loved and valued, and greeting and hugging him first means everything to him. When we go walking together he laughs loudly with joy.



Dora holding 1 month old Nicoleta

It has been a good year of psychic development for severely handicapped Evelin who is understanding more and more. When Dorina plays with her saying "you're mine and I'm not giving you to anyone" Evelin explodes with joy. She is becoming more communicative talking in her own way. After she eats Dorina says "let's pray" and Evelin puts her hands together and is peaceful. Then the fun begins again. Zorita says she just keeps on getting happier.

Due to Rodica's love and work Aurica has become a socialized and happy child. This year she's made a huge emotional transition. Previously, one couldn't approach her as she would scream. Now anyone can go to her and she puts out her hands to be held. Rodica massaging her and insisting that she get up every day in the wheelchair is keeping her muscular disease at bay. The increased flexibility of her legs due to exercise decreases her pain and she doesn't scream anymore when she's being changed. Her life has joy now, it's no longer something to be endured. Rodica discovered retarded Ioana's joy in books, and she is the only one who gives them to her. Only Rodica sees the value of this child and now Ioana is talking more. All the children feel valued and treasured in her care.



Dorina



Zorita



Rodica



Cornelia

As in the other houses where our women work, the one in which Cornelia works often has only one woman staffed for these 12 handicapped children.

Eight year old Gisela has institutional autism and a great need of affection. There are days when she stays beside Cornelia all day. She often wants to be held. It's as if she's trying to recuperate the years of emotional neglect. Five year old Roxana, like 8 year old Claudia, is extremely active and bounces from one person to the other for hugs, and needs things to do. She calls Cornelia "mami."

Abel is very handicapped and if not gotten out of bed to be with the children, would chew his clothes all day. His face lights up when the children sing, he's so happy to be with them. Cornel is blind and laughs when he hears Cornelia's voice, and though in a lot of pain, he doesn't cry when he's up with the children. He grabs her clothes with all his strength when she's near him. Abel, Cornel and Darius another blind boy would never be taken out of bed if not for Cornelia.

Fifteen year old Lavinia was a frightened child a year ago but now is happy and relaxed. She goes with Cornelia and holds the hands of the children who stay in bed to comfort them. Alexandra the same age, was withdrawn but now she comes for kisses. She loves to receive attention and to work at the activities which Cornelia gives her. She doesn't colour over her drawings anymore in black and though she can only say a few words, she's trying hard to say more.

The most dramatic example this year of a child coming to life with the realization that she is loved and valued is 15 year old Lacrimoara. This child has totally changed from being depressed and never getting out of bed (though able), to being happy and interested. She started to get up with Cornelia's love, and now is always in the room where Cornelia gathers the children. Though her hands are tied to her sides because of auto-aggression, Lacrimoara watches everybody with interest and from the brightness of her eyes and her smiles we can see that she's content. She enjoys being up so much that she won't go to bed when it's nap time!

All the children are treasures but 5 year old Amalia can move us to tears with her sweet suffering spirit. She has a sharp mind but many physical problems including withered, paralyzed legs. She would never be taken out of bed if not for Cornelia, and is so completely happy when up with the children. She has great satisfaction as the other children have, when she can make something with plasticine. Amalia tells Cornelia almost daily how happy she is that she comes to them, and she thanks me for letting her come.

Amalia's thanks are for you. Because of you, our women can go to these 36 children and give them love and worth which they feel. Thank you for bringing abandoned babies and children back to life, something that only love can do.

God bless you,

love,



Kathy and 7 month old Lucia

For a tax receipt, please make a cheque out to St. Olave's Anglican Church, 360 Windermere Avenue, 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.