

Dear Friends and Supporters,

What a wonderful year of joy, hope, health and especially love you have brought to abandoned babies and children here in Romania through your prayers and financial support. It's been 14 years since you and we have been working together, and now more children will be loved and helped because we have 3 more dedicated souls serving them: Estera and Naomi who work part time on the weekends, and David who is working in a state group home with abandoned, mentally challenged teenage boys.

The abandoned babies we take care of in the hospital receive clothes, diapers and food (bananas, yogurt, cereal and biscuits), none of which the hospital provides. Vera and Dora change the babies when they need it and not just according to schedule, give them their treatments on time, help the nurses with procedures, and most importantly hold and love the babies. The babies are usually abandoned sick and sometimes dying. Vera and Dora are with them in their suffering. The babies have peace in their arms, for these women are their only source of love. It is a joy for everyone when these little ones start to smile and when they start to develop normally because of the care they receive.

The government head of the state group homes where we work, seeing the results of our women working with the children who are happier, healthier, and higher functioning in 3 houses, asked me if I could hire someone to work in a group home of 14 abandoned teenage boys. It was a dream fulfilled when I met with a new sponsor while in Canada this summer who wanted to make this happen, and more, to pay for supplementary food because the boys are not fed enough. God provided a wonderful young man David who has bonded with the boys and is giving them the attention, love and direction they need.

The boys being intellectually challenged are not allowed out unaccompanied and with only 1 worker often working they didn't get out a lot. They are extremely happy that David takes them out daily to a nearby field to play soccer or to a park. He works afternoons and evenings also helping them with their homework. Saturdays are full of activities and outings. On Sunday evenings he takes a few of the older boys to his church where they are becoming a part of that community. It is the only place where 18 year old Adi can sit quietly and doesn't rock back and forth in typical orphanage behavior. The boys especially like to stand up at the front and sing. Their self esteem soars! When David takes his guitar to the house all the boys sing. One of the 18 year old boys is aggressive and violent and is kept in a separate room. When he hears them start singing he comes out and sits quietly listening. These dear boys from 12 to 22 years old have a friend now who is there just for them. Their lives are brighter, they are encouraged and loved.

In the 3 state group homes where our women work, they decrease pain by massaging deformed limbs and exercising the children. Rodica is constantly doing physiotherapy with the smaller paralyzed children to keep their limbs from becoming seized completely. Our women are always teaching the children to develop in any way they can. Whether it's Dorina and Zorita teaching Samantha to make her bed, Claudiu to stand in front of the bathroom door as a sign instead of wetting himself, Remus to learn to play with a ball and to say a few words or Cornelia and Naomi teaching their slightly more advanced children to write or do puzzles. These small things are big for the children and bring satisfaction and joy. And what accomplishment Florina feels when she can get out of bed instead of being lifted, and walking much better than she did last year. Erika is ecstatic with the walker we gave her because she can now walk totally alone. The walker has wheels and Erika gets up speed which makes her even happier! There are children like Istvan who can't be taught anything and these children receive affection. It is their only joy.



Codi, Kathy and Andrea



Dora and 5 week old Izabela, waiting to be adopted



10 day old Sorena safe in Vera's arms



Cornelia, Rodica, Zorita, Kathy, Dorina, Estera, Naomi and David
(we're not allowed to take pictures of the children)

All our women touch the children's hearts, they are happy when they arrive. Ten year old Ilu has become sociable and friendlier. Unable to talk she goes to Estera, takes her hand and laughs. Little Roxana who never had any personal contact other than with Rodica has attached to Estera too. Always left alone in bed, our women make sure she's up in a baby seat with the other children. She's happy then. Seventeen year old Lacrimoara who previously lived unresponsive on the bed and who has developed so beautifully this past year actually showing affection, now tries to sing even though she can't talk. She's especially attached to Naomi who has changed her life.

We have become these abandoned, handicapped children's liaison in a system where they receive 1 cup of milk a week, where often there is 1 person to work in a house of 12 to 14 children and where the prevailing philosophy is to leave them in bed. We have bought car seats and baby seats so that even the very handicapped with tiny bodies can be up. And they are happy to be! We bring milk, yogurt, cheese, eggs and fruit to supplement their very poor diet. Cornelia gives the children love, attention, simulation, music and always gets the children up whenever she can or is allowed. She is so trusted by those in charge that she also works like a social worker dealing with files and documents for our children that need medical care in the hospital, and staying with them as their mother.

We are making it possible again for 7 year old Amalia to have a round of a 3 week treatment in the rehab hospital. Cornelia and Naomi are taking turns giving her daily 24 hour care while she has this, and the results are giving her a new life. She can now sit unsupported which means she can sit at a table and draw, play and feed herself. Amalia is intelligent and is thinking better and talking better. She regularly thanks our women for going to her. She otherwise wouldn't be taken out of bed.

Medical staff that see our women and children together marvel at the love and care the children receive, and that we should even want to touch them. The attitude of this society makes us strive with all we have to give them what any and every child needs, the most important being love. Thank you all for everything you are doing to enable us to help these precious children.

God bless you,

love,

Kathy



Kathy with happy 2 month old Daniel

*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.