

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It was another great year of love for abandoned babies and children here in Romania thanks to your prayers and financial support. Without you, these neglected children wouldn't receive the physical and emotional care they desperately require.

In the hospital where babies are abandoned, they cry from hunger and loneliness. Our workers Vera and Dora add cereal to the babies' bottles when they're old enough and give them bananas and yogurt after that. The hospital doesn't provide these, nor does it provide diapers and clothing. We buy medication when it isn't available in the pharmacy, and our women give treatments and help the medical staff in numerous ways. They love the babies as their own and the babies recover from their trauma. Our women help them develop emotionally and physically during their stay in the hospital which can be for weeks or months. When prospective adoptive parents come to see the babies, they have a better chance of being adopted looking healthy and happy.

The most important thing in our eyes is to love these babies who are often suffering and very sick. Sometimes when a baby is dying we are the only ones who care. Thank you for helping us to be there for them.

There is an unfortunate mentality in this country that handicapped children are sick and need to be quiet and inactive. How wrong this is! We've seen a big change in the abandoned handicapped children in the 3 understaffed state group homes where our women Rodica, Dorina, Zorita and Cornelia have been working these last few years. Because of their love and care, and the food we bring to supplement their diets, it's as if the children have come out of the darkness into the light. There is brightness and joy in their faces. I go with a friend weekly to the houses taking food and we feel

the children's excitement to see us because of our women's work; they know what it is to be loved. Florina who can't talk starts to laugh and grabs my hand. In her excitement she slides out of her small chair to move somewhere, anywhere, just for the pleasure of moving. Florina used to lie immobile on a mat until Dorina felt the child was capable of more. She encouraged her, massaged her, did exercises with her, got her motivated to walk and opened up a new world to Florina. She needs help to walk, but every step is an accomplishment. She's happy and alive.

Other children come for hugs and take our hands to show us something. Five year old Andrea comes to us walking, very happy to love and be loved. Up until last year she only used to crawl. Encouragement, effort and someone to believe in them is what these children lack and what our women give them.

Evelin's legs are like sticks but she can now take steps being only held by her hands. She showed amazing progress when Dorina gently nudged her legs from behind, but now she actually takes steps on her own. She is delighted with her activity. The other day I saw Evelin sit on Zorita's lap, holding her head up straight, happy and comfortable. We commented on how she used to be considered a vegetable, incapable of movement and lost in her own world. Evelin's laugh is now one of the loudest in the house.

Our women by going every day give the children the consistent love they crave. They greet our women with joy; the children who can, run to meet and hug them. As well as knowing they will be loved and treasured, they know they will be creative, that they will do something meaningful. We provide the children with paper, colouring books, crayons, plasticine, blocks, games and toys. Gisi has surprised us



Codi, Kathy and Andrea



Vera reading with 2 year-old Otto



Dora and 2 month old Iuliana, developing well, with us most of her life



Cornelia, Rodica, Dorina, Zorita and David who work in the state group homes with abandoned, handicapped children. (we're not allowed to take pictures of the children)

all by showing a real ability with puzzles. She has a number of autistic behaviours but has great satisfaction making puzzles and stringing beads. Cornelia really enjoys discovering what activities make the children happy.

In the last number of months Rodica has been working some evenings as well. She has the children active right up until bedtime and then curls up on their beds with them and tells them stories. Her devotion means so much to them.

David's aim in working with the abandoned teenage boys in the fourth state group home is to bring stability to their minds and to help them improve their behaviour. Counseling and talking are a big part of his job. He helps them feel that life is a good thing and that there is hope. The boys need consistent love and to know that someone cares. David daily engages them in activities and creates a happy, interesting environment. He gets them involved in board games, computer games, house repairs which fascinate some of them, and garden work. They mounted a swing from a tree branch, set up a clothesline and had grills in the backyard. They really enjoy singing when he plays the guitar. David takes them regularly to the park to play soccer, the boys had not even one soccer ball to play with before our involvement. He takes them in turns to local swimming pools and these trips are pure delight for them! All these experiences have positive results, whether it's the boys learning to cooperate and play together in teams, or wait their turn for the computer. A wonderful result is their happiness and satisfaction.

The boys' greatest need is interaction with people and integration in society. When David takes the boys out to church youth group meetings where they are accepted, supplementary food shopping or simply for a walk in town, their behaviour improves, they feel a part of things, more normal, they see that they can control themselves and in the end their self worth increases.

Thank you for entering into the lives of these abandoned children and babies. With each prayer and each gift, they are not so alone, hungry or hurting.

God bless you, love

Kathy



Kathy and 1 month old Daniel, born prematurely

*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.