



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am gratefully thinking of you all, this time from Calgary where we have moved to be with my parents. They are 85 and 90 years of age so it's time we were together. But our Romanian mission continues. Being back in this beautiful country and seeing the conditions we have here, reinforces the necessity of working for those without hope. The abandoned babies in the hospital still need care and nurturing to develop normally, and Vera and Dora are committed to loving them to health.



Each day that these babies are given nutritious food, makes health possible. Each hour that they are lovingly held takes away their suffering and heals their hearts. Having medicine, diapers, ointments and food given thanks to your help, is so important for them. And it is the love which you enable Vera and Dora to give them, that heals their trauma of being abandoned.

Rodica, Dorina, Zorita and Cornelia are keeping the abandoned handicapped children living in dreadfully understaffed state group homes loved and cared for in many ways. Most importantly, taking the children out of bed to be exercised, walked, taught to talk, played with, sang to and told stories to. For these children with mental and physical disabilities, it's not only our women's loving involvement with them, but being up with the other children as well. They are so happy to be given this chance to socialize and break out of their loneliness. I just received an email from the director thanking us for Cornelia (though photos aren't allowed to be taken). She says the children love

her and can hardly wait for her arrival, that their eyes shine and their faces light up with happiness. How important love and affection is especially for these children!

David takes his job of being a role model for abandoned mentally challenged teenage boys very seriously, doing so with patience and dedication. He has given them another year of guidance, counseling, help with homework, wholesome activities and outings. He teaches them life skills—cleaning, house repairs and garden work. He took boys who could work on work experience numerous times. David knows they have many good memories that made a mark on their lives. He said it was another excellent year of “adding bricks to the building of the boys' character.”

Last year I was taken by Romanian friends to see a hopeless situation, a community outside of Oradea. The poverty in this community took my breath away; seeing some children too poor to go to school, and others because of poverty, not surviving the educational system. It was not possible to ignore them and do nothing, especially because their illiterate parents are occasional day labourers and want something else for their children. It was another door opening for us to change lives.

Some wonderful events took place, a Day Centre has been built and 37 children go after school for a hot meal, individualized help with homework and teaching. Twelve percent of Romanian children drop out of school before grade 8. Our aim is to make sure these marginalized children get their grade 8 which will enable them to get a job. The cycle of poverty will be broken and babies won't be abandoned.





Learning in this supportive environment has had amazing results already.

Children who didn't know the alphabet, including children in grade 4, now read and write. But the most important thing is that the children are happy and even delighted that they are not ignored and ridiculed by teachers and classmates anymore.

They now go daily to school with their homework done, lessons learned and able to respond to the teacher's questions. Their parents are so happy and thankful!

Carmen, a young unemployed woman from the community who managed to get her high school diploma is teaching the 20 younger children, grades 1–4. She is hard working and an excellent role model. Mrs. Codreanu is a retired teacher who works with the 17 older children in grades 5–8. She is devoting herself to the children with warmth and enthusiasm, and has started working on a Christmas program with them. The children love these 2 women who unlike the general society, respect and see value in them.

Thank you all so very much for your prayers and financial support to help abandoned children and children who were without hope.

God bless you, love

Kathy



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 Romanian mission" on it. Thank you again for your kindness.

See www.hosannachildren.ca for more photos and information.