



Andrea, Kathy and Codi

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This past year in Canada has been good, most importantly that we could be here when Dad passed away in March. Codi and Andrea like their high school, and we are able to be here for my elderly mother. It is such a great joy to see how your prayers and financial support are keeping our mission in Romania going strong. I miss the children but through regular contact with our dedicated workers, they don't seem so far away. We are all so thankful for your help.



Dora has been living out her conviction that for a meaningful life one must show love to another. For 12 years now, she has been loving abandoned babies in the hospital, stimulating them and feeding them back to life. The babies recover quickly and often don't need medical treatment because of our involvement. Day after day she sees the benefits of your help to these babies who are so easily rejected. We can give them cereal, vitamins, diapers, ointments and hygiene items because of you, and these all contribute to their healing. Your love through Dora is healing their souls. The hospital mentality is still difficult and we are not allowed to show the babies' faces in pictures anymore.

Rodica, Cornelia, Dorina and Zorita are the motherly presence in the abandoned children's lives in the state group homes. These children all have special needs, some very serious, and benefit so much from the massage, exercise, interaction and love shown to them. In most cases it is only our women who take the children out of bed. The most beautiful result this past year was with 12 year old Ioana who is visually impaired with mobility problems. Now she is able to walk on her own. Thank you for blessing all our little ones.

It was a wonderfully successful first year for 30 impoverished children going to our new Day Centre. After their morning in the village school, these children go to the Centre to receive a hot meal, teaching, and counseling. They are also provided with clothes, shoes and school supplies. All the children passed their school year in June and this is our goal, to keep them in school. We are fighting against the social situation where 12% of Romanian children leave school before grade 8. It is worse in ethnic minority communities. In this particular one where we are serving, a huge change is happening in the children. Children who were seen to be illiterate and without a future have made great progress, and this is bringing a sense of hope to everyone.



Bogdan 12, has experienced a profound change. He comes from a troubled family and was the fear of the village, stealing with his older brother. People avoided them and the police were almost daily at their door. When Bogdan first came to the Centre people warned them saying he would ruin the other children. He had failed 2 grades and the teachers were waiting for him to fail the third so he could be put out of school. After going to the Centre for a year he has become a model for the community and for the other children at the Centre. He comes daily and has learned to do math, and to read and write correctly. He is respectful at school and in June passed into grade 5. Now people call him and pay him to help with jobs around the yard and house. He has given up smoking and is getting counseling. He is happy seeing himself like the other children with clothes, school supplies, and going to school with homework done and lessons learned. His satisfaction with his new life is visible.



Twelve year old Izabela came to the Centre very shy and with tears because of failing at school. She couldn't read and had trouble with math. Now she reads well and worked on math all summer. She has gained a sense of confidence in herself and started this school year with courage.





Six year old Elisei is a bright boy and last year whenever he would meet the social worker on the road he would ask if he could come to the Centre. She told him only when he was in school. This September he was delighted to start going to the Centre, loves it, works very hard and is the last to go home. The Centre is filling a large need because Elisei's parents have left the country to work and the grandparents can't ensure he has what he needs.

Larisa is 9 and an ADHD child. Her teachers complained that she couldn't concentrate and that her illiterate parents couldn't help her. Today she is the joy of her parents, reading to them and dealing with the mail.

Larisa's dad with tears in his eyes tells everyone in the village that she'll manage in life because she knows how to read and write. All the parents are so grateful for the care, encouragement and support which their children receive and which is having tremendous results.



Oana and Marius the social workers, are advocates for this community and have a good relationship with the mayor. Because of this connection many men are able to work day labour on village jobs. We had a summer program and most of the parents of the children going to the Centre worked because the children were being taken care of. The mayor was convinced to put in a sidewalk so the children wouldn't arrive at school all muddy.

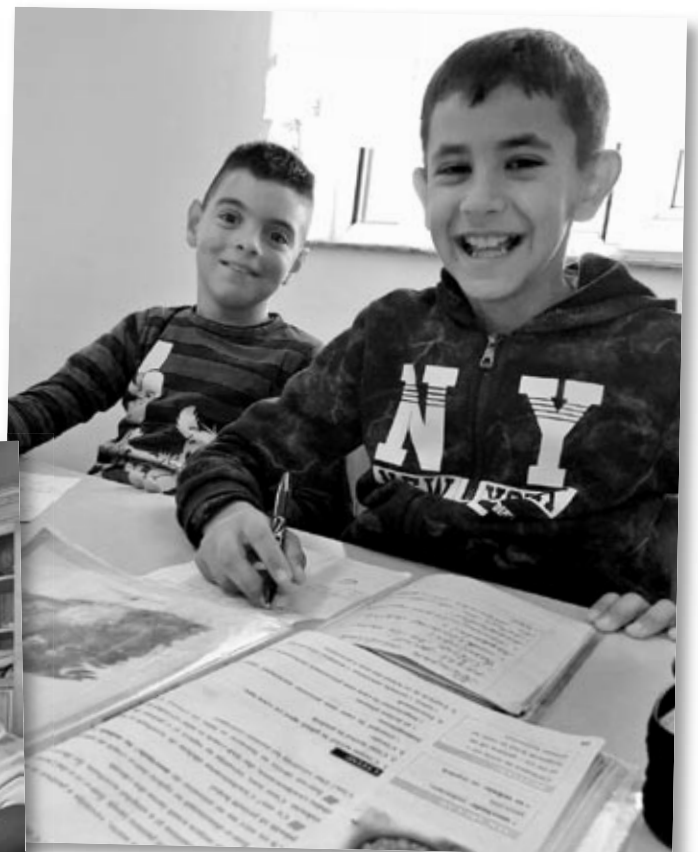
People are seeing results in the children of the Day Centre, and they are seeing what education can do. It was a very special day recently when a group of illiterate dads who work only seasonal jobs in the summer came to the Centre and asked to be taught how to read and write. They said this was their only chance to escape their life of poverty. They realize the importance of education having seen the progress in their children.

We are looking forward to another year of children learning and developing, and of being involved with their families which has started to lift up the whole community.

Wonderful things are happening with your help and we are all extremely grateful.

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.