

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope this has been a good year for you all! There have been changes in our family with Mom moving recently to the nursing home where Dad was. She knows the place and people so feels comfortable there. The girls and I haven't changed much so I decided to put a picture of a sweet child who has, rather than ours at the top. This newsletter will be all about the wonderful changes that you are bringing about in children's and families' lives through your financial support and prayers.



When we were told in the summer that foundations weren't allowed to work in the hospital anymore with the abandoned babies we were very disappointed but have become more involved with our Day Centre serving a Roma community and extremely poor children in the adjoining village. The children come to the Day Centre after school in the early afternoon to receive a hot meal, counseling, teaching and help with their homework, donated clothing and shoes. The teaching is mostly individual and is giving them success enabling them to pass their subjects at school. These marginalized children with illiterate parents have no other help. The dropout rate before grade 8 is 12% and worse in ethnic minority communities.



Carmen

Our teachers Carmen, Geanina and Estera are university students from the village. They are respected role models for the children. Geanina started last spring teaching literacy classes to the parents of our children. She teaches parents in the mornings and works with the children in the afternoons when they come to the Centre. The parents wanted badly to learn and worked very hard. Now they want to keep learning and have asked for help to learn a skill to be able to work in places like a factory. They want to be able to provide the basic necessities for their children.



Geanina with a group of students

We helped get 18 illiterate and unemployed mothers jobs in a mushroom processing plant which began in the spring. For many of these women it was their first job and they were enthusiastic from the beginning. The owner was so impressed with how hard-working they were that he wants to keep them on as the nut season begins. These women who worked all summer were able to buy food and wood for the winter. To not live on the edge of survival has given their families new life.



Estera

Here are details about some of the children whose lives are changing dramatically. Sorinel is 7 years old, in grade 1 and he came with deep fear of life from an impoverished family and a violent alcoholic father. He would run away from homework to not be punished. In his quick response to love he now has courage and tells the staff his troubles. He is calm and trusting after 2 months and can concentrate on his homework. Oana, our social worker, has



Sorinel

started a program with him at school to help him with his behaviour problems interacting with the other children.

Ionut had to grow up fast, learning to be without food and necessities when he first started coming to the Centre 2 years ago. He would eat 3 and 4 portions of food, coming from such neglect. Ionut had learned strength through violence having to manage on his own, and punishment through violence had no effect on him. Love is the only thing that is affecting him and it is changing him now. He's not beating up other children any more.

When Lia and Vladut came to the Centre they were illiterate with no one to help them at home with their homework. Their mother died 4 years ago. They are learning well and so happy to be helped to learn and keep up. There is no more shame in their lives.

Cristi was known by everyone as the problem child. He responded to aggression at school with aggression. He has a great need of calm and love. With Cristi as well as our other children, there was an immediate change in his behaviour having been shown kindness by our staff. His teacher praises our team for giving him the affection, love and care he needs and which is having such a positive effect on him.



Ionut



Lia



Vladut

I was sent pictures of letters which the children had written about the Day Centre. They wrote about the people, the food, the activities, getting help with their homework and the love. One girl wrote she has hard homework and doesn't understand, "but Carmen the beautiful helps me learn." A 10 year old girl said her parents are divorced and she lives with her grandmother and that the Centre has helped her "get over all that has happened." The older children wrote mostly about getting help with homework, and Rebeca with beautiful handwriting wrote

that she's more able to do math, can concentrate better and is helped to not be nasty (her word!). All these children need support to get past the marginalization and complete disregard which society has for them.

It is so heart-warming to get messages from our women continuing to work with the abandoned handicapped children in 3 state group homes where they are so neglected. I remember these children and know how their faces light up when they are loved. Unfortunately we are not allowed to take pictures. Dorina and Zorita put their souls into this work, loving the children, massaging and exercising them, and giving them the joy of being up out of bed to play. They talk and sing to them and tell them stories. In their house 3 of the children are very spastic and the biggest



Cristi

joy they can receive is being taken out of bed and paid attention to. Roxi is severely handicapped who couldn't stand physical contact and now reaches out her hand to our women, she laughs and tries to sing. Cornel who is 14 is learning to talk and though wheelchair bound he can walk if supported on both sides. Alina and Adriana are 2 immobilized, very disabled teenagers who can't speak but laugh and are so happy with interaction. Aurica another teenager is very high energy and needs to be out of bed as much as possible. She has learned to feed herself. Razvan is 8 and just came to the house. He is in a wheelchair and was completely grief-stricken at being given up by his family. Our women became the mother he needs.



Cornelia has seen many changes in the children she is devoted to, most notably this past year Roberta and Bobi have learned to walk. Roberta is 6 years old and has

hydrocephalus, and 3 year old Bobi has a heart condition. Both children are so happy, especially Roberta who Cornelia has been working with for years. Besides walking, these children now talk and socialize. Six year old Iza with hydrocephalus who 2 years ago Cornelia helped to walk, is happy to sing the songs she's learned, and listen to stories, and 4 year old Marimar who is the size of a doll laughs and understands when she is spoken to. Elisei who is blind loves it when Cornelia takes his hand; he laughs, holds on and won't let go.

Costica who is 6 has Down Syndrome and immensely enjoys being with the other children. Sebi is a very sick little one and needs special attention. Most of the girls in another house where Cornelia works are now teenagers and Cornelia teaches them



to cook simple things, to sew, she helps them with their homework and shows them how to take care of their hair. They can hardly wait to see her each time she comes to them.

Our women saying they are very thankful to be a part of this wonderful work, asked me to pass on to you their wishes of blessings and love. Every single child who together we are working with is being lifted up, and for that I am so very grateful to you.

God bless you all, with 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](http://www.hosannachildren.ca) for more photos and information.