

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thanks to you, we are into our sixth year of serving extremely poor children through our Day Centre in Romania. Your prayers and financial support are changing their lives. The children of illiterate parents love to come midday after school for the hot meal, and for individual homework help and teaching. The success which they now have means they do not get shamed at school by having to sit at the back of the classroom and ignored. We provide them with donated clothing, shoes and school supplies.

Our program runs through the whole year because summer vacation homework is considered very important to the village school teachers. They are thankful for the work we are doing, knowing that the children can't get help at home. Our help is keeping the children in school, in this country where school abandonment before grade 8 is a serious problem.



Luca

Four year old Rares is our youngest child who begged to be allowed to come. He loves the meals and is the first one to the table and the last one to leave. Six year old Sami who has an older sister at the Centre says he loves to come because that means he'll be smart too.

Luca is 10 years old. His father left the family and his mother has a hard time raising him and his sister. The mother said she feels so blessed that her children are being fed at the Centre and with this saving on food, can buy other necessities. Especially in this time of severe inflation, the parents say they are so happy the children

are being fed in a warm place, and being taken care of. With the children staying at the Centre until the evening, the parents say they can save on food, and it helps them get jobs.

Marian who is 8 has neurological problems and takes medication which makes him sleepy but he goes to the Centre daily saying he doesn't want to be unable to read like his parents. He often runs to wash his face to wake himself up. Ten year old Madalin has mental health problems and the village school had him registered in a special needs school in the city. Because it's so far away, a car comes for him only once a week. He asked Oana and Marius, our social workers, if he could keep coming to the Centre for help because he loves

them so much and learns more with them. They are helping him learn at his own speed.



new teacher/psychologist Denisa



Alesia

Alesia is in grade 2 and her father is in prison. She is very attached to our staff at the Centre. Her teacher told Oana that whenever she asks Alesia if she understands what's taught, her response is "it's ok, I'll learn some more at the Centre where the ladies explain with pictures and drawings what I don't understand."

Nine year old Razvan is the oldest of 4 children and his father left the family after he got out of prison. Razvan has to take care of his younger siblings. He finds joy in little things and says he's happiest at the Centre where he can play and doesn't have to take care of his siblings.

Razvan's brother, Ianis, is 6 and has just started coming to the Centre. He was a sad, timid child who never smiled. Oana asked him one day what would make him happy and he replied, having a jar of strawberry jam. She bought jam for the whole family and this was the beginning of his smiles. The first thing Ianis said he liked about coming to the Centre was the meals.



Madalin with teacher Carmen



Razvan and Ianis

Carina and Izabela have graduated grade 8 after years of going to the Centre and are going to high school in the city. We are paying Izabela's bus fare as the family can't afford it. The girls' attachment to the Centre is so strong that when they get back to the village they regularly come to the Centre to do their homework.

As well as the homework program, the children take part in other activities. The farm gives the children lots of opportunities to learn responsibility and experience the joy of taking care of animals. They are happy with the results of their work.

Judo classes began in the spring with an ex-champion who comes from the city to volunteer his time. The children are loving the training and the discipline is so good for them. Our Day Centre and farm have the appreciation of people in the area and they

donated uniforms and the mattresses needed for judo. A local company dug out a pond to fulfill the boys' dream of being able to go fishing. These activities enrich the children's lives, where the bleakness of poverty causes depression.

The most important thing which has been noticed working with these children over the years is how their characters are developing with support and encouragement.

Hopelessness, being left behind to drop out, and negative self-esteem are now things of the past. Each child is treated as unique with their own qualities to be developed and challenges to be overcome. We have created well-being in these children, taught them to value education and respect others, and given them hope. Thank you so much for the great gifts of love, food and education which you are giving them!

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 for more photos and information.