

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are so thankful for your prayers and financial support in providing daily hot meals, homework help and teaching, school supplies and clothing to impoverished children. You are changing these children's lives and giving hope to families. Our main goal is to keep the children in school. In these poor Romanian villages, children with illiterate parents who can't help them with homework, often drop out of school before grade 8; children like 8 year old Darius whose parents are illiterate. He is a slow learner and needs a lot of attention from our staff.



Darius

Daria is 8 and is raised by her mother, her father being in jail. She is having trouble reading and writing and needs a lot of attention and affection. Eight year old David's parents work but they barely get by. He is timid and withdrawn but comes every day to be fed and helped with his homework. His parents are so glad he's being taken care of.



Daria



Alesia

Alesia is 9 and doesn't understand her lessons, so she's happy to be taught and have her homework explained to her. Nine year old Nicholas doesn't understand his lessons and homework either. Being taught at the Centre, he's now going to school happy and confident with his homework understood and completed. Eight year old Samir is raised by his grandmother. He has trouble speaking, so is quiet and withdrawn. The Centre is a place where he receives the encouragement and support he needs.



David

Sofia, an intelligent 6 year old, told our social worker Oana one day that she loves the Centre because of the good food, the playground and that it's always warm. Little Fabian who since he was 3 years old told Oana whenever he saw her that he couldn't wait to go to the Centre, now being school age, is able to come. Every day he runs to the kitchen and asks if there is dessert!



Samir

All the children come from families with difficulties and most with learning struggles. They are helped so much by being valued as unique with their own special abilities. Often games are used to help them learn. Encouragement and acceptance are as necessary for them as educational help.

Roxana recently moved to the village with her mother who said that they had experienced lack of food in the past. This explains why Roxana eats double portions at the meal because she's afraid of being hungry later. The Centre is the first place where children accepted and befriended her. We were able to give her some decent clothes so she wouldn't be shamed and ridiculed at school. Roxana's illiterate mother is so thankful that Oana got her a job at a thread factory and that her daughter is no longer depressed since going to the Centre.



Nine year old Dina who just moved to the village to be with her mother and who always looked sad, is now more open and has made a few friends. In the city where she previously lived, she was marginalized because of her darker skin. Children love the Centre because they are taught to understand, respect and accept each other.



Our farm is a place offering the children peace, confidence and independence. These last few months they worked together to prepare a place for the hens for the cold weather, harvesting alfalfa and corn, and have ongoing satisfaction in working together taking care of the animals. They tell their parents that when they grow up they will work to have a future without poverty. It is very hard for the children to experience the constant lack of necessities at home. They were happy to fish in the summer at the farm pond and take home fish and eggs to give to their families. We have children who are completely dependent on us for food, clothes and school supplies. Being taken care of relieves the families' burden of poverty. The parents are so thankful that their children receive what they can't give them. They also see them being taught the values of education and hard work.



It is so rewarding to see how your help over the years has had such wonderful results. Andrea was helped to get her grade 8 and then through vocational school. Now she is working in a manufacturing company in the city. She is helping her dad and brother, and has fixed up the deplorable (I remember) rooms they had been living in. Like Andrea, 18 year old Alex finished vocational school in the city with our help. Now he's supporting himself and his parents, cutting everyone's hair in the village until a place opens up for him. I remember when 10 year old Izabela came to the village with her dad, a shy and frightened child. We helped her blossom and get through public school, and to the city where she's now in her second year of hair styling at a vocational school. She's working hard in the salon to learn more so that next year she can get a job.



It has been such a great year thanks to you! We really appreciate your caring about these children and that we can keep working to give them what they need to thrive in their very difficult world.

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.