

NOROC NEWS MARCH 2005

Publication of NOROC (New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children), Inc., Abilene, Texas

Editor: Carol Schempp

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From Mary's Desk by Mary Ferris

We have had a late winter here in Tulcea. We had no cold weather until February and now it has been nothing but snow and ice. For the first time since I have lived in Tulcea the town has had heat for the entire winter, thanks to our new mayor. This is a blessing for the children because they have heat in the orphanages and in their schools.

A short time ago I sent a message to some of you who are prayer partners about an urgent situation with one of the children, Aurelia, who was in an extremely abusive situation. As of today I can report mission accomplished! Twelve year old Aurelia was in the hospital in a comma for three days from drinking two liters of alcohol (about one half gallons.) This is the same child who

was found living in a card board box with the street dogs last winter after she left home because her father kicked her in the face with his boot. After several heated discussions with the child protection system we found a place for her right under our noses. In a nearby town there is a private center for poor children run by the Baptist Church. They only recently became licensed to take children from abusive families. Mrs. Jivan, a social worker and friend of NOROC, worked a real miracle and expedited the transfer of Aurelia from the state center in Mahmudia to this private center in Cataloi. NOROC will be helping with her expenses as much as we can. This is a wonderful opportunity for

someone to "adopt" Aurelia, become her pen pal, and contribute money to NOROC for her school expenses. Approximately 100 dollars a month would cover her expenses, but any amount would be appreciated. The center will receive no money for her from any other source and the child protection system has washed their hands of her. Please prayerfully consider becoming part of Aurelia's life.

Several of our young people who we have been helping are now gaining independence. Aurel, a young man who we have supported for a long time, now has a job. He has moved out of CRISP and is living temporarily in our new transition house for young men. After he gets his first few paychecks we will find a room for him

Tales from Tulcea County: Our Success Stories

Cerasela G. celebrated her 18th birthday in February. She is in 12th grade and has been first place in her class every year! After graduation she wants to attend the university to study literature. Because of her success as a student she will hopefully receive a full academic scholarship. She has been a shining example to everyone at the orphanage. The picture at right shows Cerasela with her sisters Mariana and Daniela at the birthday celebration.



Also, with the help of NOROC Elena O. had a much needed orthopedic operation. She is now able to work, has a job at a sewing factory, and recently moved into her own rented room in an apartment. As with other young people who move from the orphanage to a place of their own NOROC gave Elena towels, sheets, a blanket, and other things she can use in her new home.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern:

- Continued heat available in the orphanages and schools in Tulcea during the cold weather
- Aurel, Florin, Gabbi, and Mihai as they look forward to being independent
- Cristina and her babies
- Cerasela as she looks forward to graduation from high school and attending the university next year
- That we have now have a more appropriate placement for Aurelia
- The upcoming work trip from Palo Duro Presbytery to Tulcea in June
- Thanks for the generous donation toward the building project from the First Presbyterian Church of Canadian, Texas

**“Together
in Christ
we do
make a
difference.”**

From Mary's Desk

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to rent somewhere else and he will be self sufficient. Florin M. will graduate from high school in May, Gabbi S. will graduate from teachers college, and Mihai C. will graduate from post high school. With their independence we will be able to our resources help others!

The new fence is completed at our recently purchased house. We haven't picked a name yet...maybe Casa Noastra, which means Our House in Romanian, would be appropriate. The house has been occupied every day since we opened the doors. Additional space will be available with the

refurbishing of a back room.

In the apartment we have as transitional housing for young women we are preparing to receive a young mother and her 10 month old twin baby girls. Her name is Christina. Since her daughters were born she has been living at the maternal center in the baby orphanage. Now the department has told her she has to leave and find her own housing. (See the February newsletter for more details and photos.) Despite pressure from her family and the babies' father, she refuses to abandon her children to the orphanage system. She has a job, and NOROC is providing

her with both a place to live and daycare costs thanks to the family medical practice where Anne Schempp is a Physician Assistant. This practice has adopted Cristina and her daughters and will work to help them until they can make it on their own.

Jessica McAister, the young volunteer from Texas, will complete her mission journey here next month. I will miss her very much.

Please remember NOROC in your prayers and in your donations. Together in Christ we do make a difference.

FROM A LOCAL CHURCH PASTOR:

I think our local church has enjoyed our relationship with NOROC and the work of Mary Ferris as much or more than any thing we have ever done in mission. One thing I admire about it is that it is literally run on a shoe-string. What is given goes a long, long way in the Romanian economy. And the amount of finances spent on advertising and administration is almost zilch. (Do you have a 'zilch' key on your calculator? Hint - it is right next to zero!) I thank God that we have the opportunity to witness this vibrant ministry to the least of these.

Cliff Stewart, First Central Presbyterian Church, Abilene, Texas

MISSION OPPORTUNITY- FUNDS NEEDED

Pictured at right is the building NOROC purchased along with the new house which serves as a shelter for boys. This summer we hope to add a second floor and prepare this building for use as a meeting/worship space as well as additional space for emergency shelter. This building will enable some new ministries and witness in the ever changing situation of caring for the most vulnerable in Romanian society. This multi-function building will be used for small group discus-

sions and support groups which are a vital part of the ministry Mary Ferris has developed in Tulcea. We will need approximately \$25,000 to do this. We have \$10,000 and have applied for a grant for an additional \$5,000. We are making an appeal to raise the remaining \$10,000. If you would like to contribute to this project, please send your contribution to NOROC, 200 Hedges, Abilene, TX 79605 marked for construction. The mission trip this summer will be working on this project.



If you wish to make a tax deductible donation to NOROC, please mail it to: NOROC, INC, 200 Hedges, Abilene, TX 79605