

# NOROC NEWS

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Editor: Carol Schempp (You are encouraged to reproduce and distribute this newsletter.)

### From Mary's Desk by Mary Ferris

"Tears come at night, but joy comes in the morning," says the psalmist. This has been so true of events in Tulcea lately. There are many heartbreaking stories. The most crushing is the closing of the baby orphanage due to the law that says babies under two should not be in an institution. So, the babies were sent to the "handicapped center" for children with profound problems. The results have been devastating for grannies and children. Now, without a center to go to, newborns are left in the hospital. We have shifted our grannies to these two places but the children are far worse off than before. Now, I wish to focus on the joy.

First, our new program, "School Waits for You", began this week with 11 children enrolled! God's grace has been abundant as we begin this new venture. (See "School Waits for You" below, for more details and photos.)

One of our students in the new program is Aurelia. Some of you know her from previous letters. She is the child who last year almost died from an alcoholic comma and previous to that was found living in a cardboard box with dogs. She is currently living at the private center, CRISP (Center for Recuperation, Integration and Social Participation). Her brother Eusebiu is staying at Casa Noastra,

NOROC's home for transitional housing of young men. Their sister, Bianca is entering her eleventh grade year and is off to a wonderful start. (A note of God's grace: Bianca's school has a new director and a new head teacher so she is getting to start the year with a clean slate. It is the first time ever that these three throw away children from the same family are all in school and doing well.)

Another great story of God's grace is all the wonderful donations that have been arriving from America and from Denmark. Two weeks ago we ran out of small baby clothes. I told one of

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### Tales from Tulcea County: "School Waits for You" up and running

"School Waits for You" began this week with 11 children enrolled. We are bussing them daily from the village of Mahmudia. Two years ago 13 children from the Tulcea orphanages were reintegrated into their families in this village. Since these families were very poor a day center was opened to give the children meals and help them with homework. However, the public school in Mahmudia absolutely

refused to allow these children to be integrated into their school. It has been very heartbreaking. Children who had been first in their classes in Tulcea now completely gave up going to school. All 13 children quit school after fourth or fifth grade. I anguished over this for many months, and then came the joy! I heard of a program in Tulcea started by a wonderful educator with a heart for children who



**Thirteen students who had no hope for an education get a new chance in our "School Waits for You" program!**

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### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern:

- Aurelia, Eusebiu, and Bianca Munteanu who are all doing well in school.
- The cash donations which will allow us to purchase a new, much needed van.
- The Grannies and the babies who are adjusting to new conditions.
- All of the NOROC supporters whose prayers and financial support allow the work of the Holy Spirit to continue in Tulcea County.
- Mary's daughter, Hillary, who is volunteering in Louisiana for one month with the Red Cross.

## From Mary's Desk

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the social workers that I hope there are no more small abandoned babies or we can't clothe them. Well, the Danish arrived with baby clothes and Andrea Ivanov came from Abilene with baby clothes. Talk about the cavalry arriving in the nick of time! Two babies have been born this week that need clothes. Due to the donations we have received we can give school supplies, shoes for children, and blankets, sheets and towels to the college students. We have enough Christmas presents for every child. The Danish even brought their gifts already gift wrapped. The team from Denmark came with a year's supply of diapers. Last week one of the older girls complained that the department had stopped buying them feminine products. (I am not certain this is true

because sometimes there is a temporary shortage, but that can seem like forever when you are in need.) The Danish came with cases and cases of feminine supplies. The Danish team spent a week and built an incinerator for garbage and a garbage shed at Speranta, the home for school age children.. It looks wonderful! There is no longer garbage strewn everywhere. The dogs and other animals cannot get into the shed to drag garbage everywhere. I am very happy about this project since NOROC did not have to initiate or to pay for it.

We have had many generous cash donations, one of which will allow the purchase of a new van. Old Blue has seen better days. Ask the team from America who experienced the break downs!

With no AAA to call van problems are difficult to deal with. We are fortunate to have a wonderful van driver, Marian, who drives as well as "pieces" the van together when necessary.

As I look back on these successes I see that every need is being taken care of even before we ask, thanks to all of you being fine tuned to the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace, Mary

**"Tears come at night, but joy comes in the morning."**

## "School Waits for You" cont'd from page 1

have given up on school. It is a special program where the children only attend school two months in the fall and two months in the spring. Taking only the basics, they work toward achieving eighth grade. This will allow them to go to vocational schools or get a decent job. To qualify the student must be at least two years behind the age norm of their last completed grade. All of the children from Mahmudia qualified. Our social assistant, Mrs. Jivan, worked miracles getting all the paper work completed and all the children enrolled. Our task is to bus these children everyday and to help them with supplies, motivation etc. Mahmudia is about forty miles away so at 4 dollars a gallon the gasoline is expensive. Thanks to a very generous donor, we were given the money for the first year. We knew that textbooks and

school supplies would be expensive, but just when I had given up hope the administrator of the school in Mahmudia found it in his heart to give all 11 children their textbooks! Although they are old, discarded copies we are grateful. The day center agreed to furnish some other school supplies as well as lunch and a daily snack. NOROC provides them with a snack on the return trip at night. Schools here have no lunch breaks. The two seventh graders go to school from 7 AM to 1PM so they must stay in Tulcea M-F. The other nine are in fifth and sixth grade and they attend from 1-6 PM M-Th.

We began with a kick off party at Casa Noastra (Our House), cooked and served by Mrs. Solca and Mrs. Jivan. The children were thrilled. The first week has been a huge success. The children love school and are being

praised by the director as being very motivated. One child said for the first time he is not the oldest in the class. I ride with them in the morning to make certain they arrive on time with all their supplies. They are going from being the outcasts to being the stars. Aurelia, one of our most troubled children, is a joy. This project will be worthwhile if even one child reclaims their place in school.



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