

# NOROC NEWS AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER 2005

Publication of NOROC (New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children), Inc., Abilene, Texas  
Editor: Carol Schempp (You are encouraged to reproduce and distribute this newsletter.)

## From Mary's Desk by Mary Ferris

The past 2 months have literally been a rollercoaster. I had a wonderful excursion to France and Switzerland. It was a bus tour and Anne Schempp, one of our loyal NOROC supporters and daughter to Carol and Rich Schempp, accompanied us. She has made many friends here in Tulcea and everyone showed up at the train station to send her off.

Anne was in Tulcea only a few days, but one of the highlights was taking all the kids to the Circus. This was wonderful! I was a treat to see so many wide eyed faces. None of the kids had ever been to the circus before. Dragos negotiated a nice discount for us from the normal price of 120.000 lei down to

40.000 lei. This was a tribute to Dragos' skill as a negotiator. The favorite part for the kids was the snake act. The animals were "sort of" trained. There were no lions, tigers, or elephants but there was still the atmosphere of the Big Tent with juggling, acrobats, and clowns. The juggling was made exciting by the fact that the guy juggled fire bowling pins. We got our money's worth for the 3 hour show. Children who had never been able to sit still for even a fraction of a second sat wide eyed and spell bound. They even let us get on the stage afterwards and take a picture. After Anne left it was all downhill.

They are closing Cocorii this week or

next and sending all the children to Cristian Center, a large institution for profoundly mentally and physically handicapped children and youth, without additional staff. Money was given to the Department to build three small houses for the very young children in home like settings, but these have not even been started. (Where is the money?) The new law requires that all children under two must be placed with maternal assistants (foster care) but the children who are presently at Cocorii do not have maternal assistants. Therefore the Department, in an effort to empty Cocorii, will move the children to Cristian Center. Cris-

## Tales from Tulcea County: A Celebration of our Graduates

We celebrate the achievements of several of our young people as they graduate from high school or vocational school. This year two young women are the first female high school graduates in a very long time: Camelia will be attending the university to study social work, and Cherasela will be studying philosophy. Cherasela graduated first in her class. In addition, Mihai C. graduated from post high school vocational school and is now working, Florin graduated from high school and will attend a military

academy, Mihai R. graduated from waiter's school and has a good job in Cluj, and Gabi S. graduated with a teaching certificate specializing in teaching Roma children. Gabi also conducts a Roma dance troupe to teach traditional Roma dances to students who stay in school and have good grades. (See picture at right.) We are so very proud of these young people who have overcome so many obstacles to achieve their goals. Thanks to everyone who has supported them with prayers and financial support.



## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern:

- For Hazel Lang, who knits 300 house shoes for Christmas gifts for the orphans each year. She is going thru chemotherapy.
- Aurelia, that she can have peace of mind.
- The babies who are about to have their lives torn apart
- Cristina and her babies who continue to do well
- The victims of Hurricane Katrina who face many of the same issues as the displaced orphans.

## From Mary's Desk

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tian has no free rooms so all the babies and toddlers will be in two rooms. They have no cribs so babies will sleep on regular beds. There is neither a playroom available nor a space for one. Of course they can now say they have closed Cocorii, but it is a crime to put these kids in the handicapped center. Even if they eventually build the houses, these children will be traumatized in the meantime. They are not transferring staff with them and the staff at Christian center is already over worked. Our grannies will accompany the kids so this will be a small comfort, but not enough. We had wonderful playrooms built in Cocorii that were specialized according to the age of the babies. The magnitude of this has not really set in. It is criminal negligence. They are literally hiding

these babies from the EU inspectors. Tomorrow we do a surprise confiscation of our equipment. This makes me glad that we have a garage, a storage room, and a large room in the new house for temporary storage. "All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose." I keep repeating this to myself...the scripture is there when I need it the most.

We recently celebrated Bianca's 18th birthday with a nice, low key party. It is a milestone she made it this far. Everyday I do not think she will make another day but she keeps improving bit by bit. There is a kernel of sweetness in her, and she is beginning to really have feelings for others. It is a miracle that in the two years we have been supporting her

she has not been in any real trouble, so this is a cause to celebrate.

I give thanks to God everyday for all of you. Without your prayers and support we could not reach these children.

Love from the bottom of my heart, Mary.

**"We had wonderful playrooms built in Cocorii....the magnitude of this (closing) has not really set in. It is criminal negligence."**

## New NOROC Program to Begin Soon

School begins in Tulcea next week. We have identified all of the children who will be getting assistance from our scholarship programs and are now organizing our school supplies and our teachers for tutoring. This year we have a wonderful new program beginning called "School Waits for You." It is for children in the village of Mahmudia who have been abandoned by the school system. Thanks to a generous donation from one of our sponsors, we will bus children from Mahmudia to Tulcea for an intensive "catch up" program that will allow students who are at least 2 years behind in school to compress 2 years into one. They will earn their 8th grade certificate and then be able to enroll in technical and vocational courses. We have space for 8 and have 1 enrolled so far. Please pray for this program and our

van. We will transport these students from the village in our van, which is old and frequently breaks down along the road. Without AAA this is a true Romanian adventure. (Just ask anyone from the work trip this past summer about the photo below!) God is always good to NOROC, but when we are making this daily round trip we will need extra protection.



## A Milestone for Mary...

I made a personal challenge to myself a long time ago to memorize the Lord's Prayer in Romanian. At first it was difficult because of the reflexive nature of the language, but I finally did it! I promised my youth group a large pizza for each person (there are 20 of them) if I didn't have it memorized by last Sunday so I knew I had to do it. My group not only listened to me recite it from memory, but I also discussed the meaning of it line by line. At the end they all clapped for me...the first time I have ever had a youth group clap after a Bible study. God is good!

\*Every time I see a huge smile for a pair of jeans, a warm sweater, a toothbrush, a deodorant...I thank all of you AND the team from Palo Duro who organized everything for us this summer. Yes, God is very good!

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