

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thanks to your prayers and financial support, it was a wonderful year in spite of pandemic difficulties! We came to the support of 60 Romanian children and their families, families with whom we have been working with since 2017 to lift out of poverty. The children's program at the Day Centre was enlarged during certain periods of the pandemic. Normally the children go to the Centre after their village school program ends early afternoon for a hot meal, for homework help and teaching. They receive donated school supplies, clothes and shoes. When school had to be online because of the pandemic, they went to the Centre in the mornings to use the computers. Often not having food at home, the children started the day with a sandwich. We gave food to families every time they ended up in quarantine. Food is one of the biggest blessings.



Learning with Emilia, a retired teacher

With the personal teaching and homework help they received, each child did the best they were capable of and passed their school year. The following children made especially big impressions with their change of behaviour: Madalin is 12 and in grade 5. He has a difficult home life with his dad in and out of prison. He didn't go to the Centre in the summer, stole and had trouble with the police. His parents wanted him to start again in the fall and have counselling with our social workers. In these few short months of counselling he's no longer aggressive, doesn't steal, and people in the community aren't avoiding him. When people comment on his changed behaviour he says with pride, "I'm going to the Centre now!"



Madalin

Cosmin is also 12. He was bullied by boys at school for his weight problem. Going to the Centre has helped him emotionally and educationally and he's thankful. He said "the Centre helped me to read and write and to learn at school. I can respond at the blackboard (a place where shaming happens) and for that I will like it my whole life. My kids will come to the Centre because if not for it I wouldn't know anything. I love the Centre because it's making me an important man!" The last 6 months he has managed to lose a few kilograms, and for his ambitious example he is congratulated by his teachers and others. His self esteem is growing.



Cosmin with Roxanna, a newly graduated math teacher



Carina

Carina is 14 and the oldest of 4 girls, abandoned by their mother. She has the responsibility of raising her sisters, their dad being an alcoholic. All the girls go to the Centre where Carina can receive care herself. The daily hot meals are a really big help for her. One evening she called Oana, our social worker for an urgent meeting and said she was going to run off with a boy much older than her. After hours of talking, she was convinced to see that this was not the best thing to do. Oana said a significant part of their work and their intention is to keep the girls from involvement with boys to avoid making families without means or help, a very common occurrence. She is glad that the 2 girls they are sending to the city for high school have not married. It's a difficult but successful objective to support them with their education and provide for their needs so that they don't quit school because of those needs.

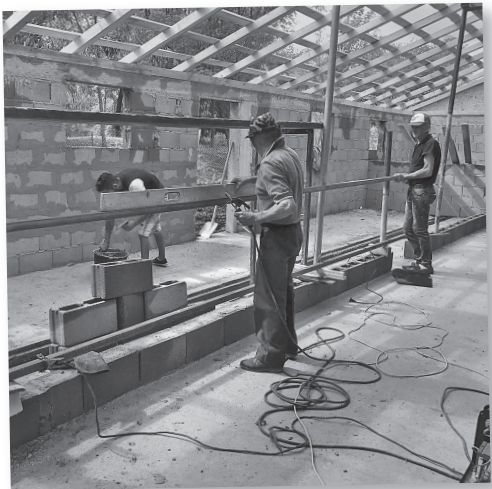


Ten year old Cosmin's mom has mental problems and his dad is not very often at home. The dad didn't value education and preferred that Cosmin beg and bring money home rather than go to the Centre. Cosmin has a passion for reading and learning and the mom makes sure he goes daily to the Centre. His dad, seeing the results of Cosmin's learning, now brags about him saying he has a smart child at home who reads and writes.



Cosmin

We received extra donations to build the farm and now it is nearly completed! The electrical wiring just needs to be done in the barn before moving in the cows, calves, sheep, goats and pigs which are staying in different places. We will get chickens as well, and the children will learn how to take care of animals, and the value and benefits of hard work. The milk we are getting now from the cows is for the children at the Centre and is taken to families with young children which is a huge help for them. We built a little house on the land (please see details on the website update) and the homeless family has moved in where the dad will work on the farm.



We are so happy to give the parents of our children opportunities to work. A few months ago 6 sewing machines were donated and 10 moms learned how to sew. The 10 moms who worked all summer and fall on the mushroom project were able to buy wood for winter heating and other provisions for their families. Having worked last year so well, the project manager preferred to call them back to work. Some of the poorest dads were picked to work on the farm construction and they were able to buy food and wood, and pay electricity bills. Near the end of the project Andrei, a talented young man but in a bad group, was taken on. Marius spoke a lot with him while

they worked, got close to him and talked about the love of God and the important things of life. Andrei regularly calls Marius now for advice and his mother says his behaviour has changed since being so positively affected.

Oana and Marius run the Centre, are involved with the children, and as social workers help families in the community. They help families of those in prison and single mothers. They drive people in the village to the nearby town or city for medical appointments and to offices for government assistance documents. When someone is in the hospital they are often the connection between the doctor and the family, as when this year a young man badly cut his hand needing an 8 hour operation and the doctor wouldn't speak to the family. They also take food and medicine because not much is provided in the hospital. They are often called to help with family conflicts.

Recently the village school principal and the mayor were interviewed on a local tv station and they spoke about the great value the Centre has in giving these children living in poverty a chance in life. They said it means a lot for the community who sees the children becoming "a generation of people capable for society and industrious for their families." Thank you so much for helping our projects in this poor village move ahead, for giving the children and their uneducated parents hope for a future.

God bless you all, with love,

Kathy



Daniel helps the boys with special programs



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.