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**Home for orphaned girls in Romania**

## *BethanyHouse News– December2007*

To our precious friends and co-laborers,

As this year passes we would like to share with you some of our experiences we have had here at Bethany House. After returning from a visit to the States in February, we were very tired and Daniela also had to recover from a very painful illness. Spring was therefore a challenging time because we also had to deal with many things that needed attention at Bethany House and at our farm.

Early in the year we had some changes to our family at Bethany House. Two of the older children who were at the farm returned to their families, and we took in a new girl. Because of the Lord's blessings and many years of hard work, we have been able to build a good reputation with the authorities. They therefore asked us to help out in a difficult situation where a child's life was at risk. This resulted in us taking in little Daniela. She had endured many terrible experiences and had a desperate need for parents, so we have been working hard with her to try to bring some normality to her life. Daniela also has an older sister who was already with us at Bethany House. This connection has had the benefit of creating stronger links between the younger and older children in the house.

The summer was very hot and dry, which meant that it was very hard at the farm. We were not able to produce as many crops as last year and it was difficult to obtain sufficient food for the animals. However, we were blessed by two volunteer workers who came from the Republic of Moldova, and by the arrival of a shipping container from Chicago. Our brothers and sisters there had very generously sent us a large supply of food, clothes, shoes and other items. As well as being a huge blessing for us, we have also been able to use them to help others. For example:

New shoes and clothes were donated to children from the largest orphanage in our county.

In the county of Galati, heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in Tecuci with more than half of the city underwater. We were able to donate food from the container to help with the relief effort.

Food and clothing were sent to a day center for very poor children, and to another center for children with severe handicaps.

We were able to donate to some churches with some very poor families.

The month of November was dedicated to the very hard task of conforming to a new law for the licensing of our foundation with the National Authority of Child Protection. This unexpected work for us was very intense; we had to work very hard to produce all the paperwork required, and had to undertake extra expense in order to comply with the new law. When the inspectors came they were happy with how we were taking care of the children and they even mentioned that we were an example of good practice. However, we are still obliged to make some changes to our heating system and add some metal doors that will be very expensive and that need to be completed in a short space of time. Therefore we would really appreciate your support and prayers for this.

Recently we have also been partnering with two other local organizations that work with handicapped children. We organized a Christmas exposition where we sold our hand-made decorations. Many of the local authorities were invited to this event and the media were also present. We tried to draw their attention to the handicapped children and adults around us, in the hope that they will be more sensitive to their special needs in the future. We are delighted that we can be a good example to our city in this area.



For children who are abandoned to be raised in an orphanage, there is a deep need to know their original family, particularly their parents. These are the people that gave them life, but they are not involved in their lives anymore. At the beginning of December, after a long time of searching, we were able to locate the mother of one of our girls. We took the girl to meet her mother, and it was a very painful and emotional moment for her as she was confronted with the harsh reality of seeing how her mother lives. Before the meeting she told the girls how angry she will be if she finds that her mom is taking care of other children and yet had abandoned her. However, the moment they saw each other the barrier in her heart fell and they embraced, and then spent several hours talking together with much hugging and kissing. The little girl's heart calmed down as she started to understand that life is more difficult than she had previously realized. This meeting has helped her to understand that she needs to accept reality for what it is and stop living in a dream land. The anger in her heart that she had before she saw her mother, has now been replaced with a desire to work hard so that one day she will be able to be supportive of her mom and two little brothers.

