



## NOROC NEWSLETTER

Autumn, 2014

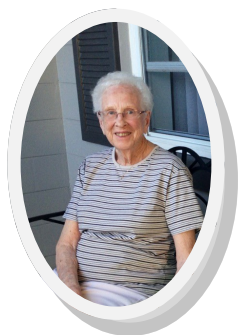
Editor: Anca Oancea

### NOROC gives thanks for Super-Supportive Seniors !!

NOROC appreciates super-supportive seniors (SSS). Not only Big-Hearted Grannies work miracles! Seniors worldwide pray, share news, create or collect things, bring work groups, fundraise, establish memorial funds, and more.

We can't feature you all. However, two recent events encouraged us to lift up all our SSS.

The first is the passing of Gloria Falconer of Westminster Presbyterian, Austin, MN. "After the age of 80, Gloria mailed over 100 boxes of necessities for NOROC, and raised substantial funds. She is a legend for her sweet spirit and tireless efforts well into her 90's," says NOROC founder Carolyn White. Westminster PC continues Gloria's ministries as a tribute to her life and witness.



*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. Lam. 3:22-23 (ESV)*

Next is the legacy of Louise Covington of First Presbyterian, Lubbock, TX. The community made tangible their love for Louise and appreciation for her service by contributing to a Memorial Fund. The result is the Louise Covington Learning Center (LCLC), a lighthouse and refuge for institutionalized children. Husband Bob brought a work team for the dedication ceremony.



"LCLC time helps us deepen transforming relationships with at-risk children," says Elizabeth Searles, PC(USA) Mission Co-worker.

"Big-Hearted Grannies" started NOROC outreach. Super-Supportive Seniors sustain it. We thank you for your ministries of prayer and care and--legacies that will offer a lasting witness to the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ !

### Education is the Answer

Shakira said it clearest in an interview:

"Of all the causes I've come across over the years, education is the only one that has the

power to transform entire populations and societies. That's why I really believe in it. Not only does it provide incredible return on investment,

by ensuring kids become better citizens and more productive members of society, but it also helps prevent so many social problems ...It is not always

an easy endeavor and it requires patience and resources. But when you do the math -- there's no better investment you can make.

## "I CAN!" PROGRAM ("EU POT!")

NOROC continues to expand its "EU POT!" ("I CAN!") program in Speranta orphanage. Children who attend school every day of the week are rewarded with a photo in their album. Last term, 33 kids out of 69 had perfect attendance.



This term, we introduced ten behaviors of the good student and are working on behavior modification. The message is that every child can be transformed, just as a caterpillar can become a butterfly.

Each week of ten weeks, we nurture one behavior of a good student. We start with getting TO school. Then we move on to ways to prepare for a good day tomorrow: preparing the night before, checking homework, thinking of 3 things we want to remember in the morning, and looking straight into the mirror and saying: "Eu Pot!" . . . . "I Can!"

Although the program is costly in staff, photos and materials, we are confident that it

helps make a difference. Each Speranta child connects with us every Tuesday evening.

Those who have earned a photo feel rewarded. Those who have not earned a photo get a chance to talk about their experiences last week and hopes for the next. It's an opportunity for a short but sweet contact, in relationship with safe adults who care.

Please pray that the kids, themselves, will learn to take responsibility for getting to school and being present body, mind and spirit. And pray that those who have fallen behind, or who feel hopeless about succeeding, will accept mentoring, tutoring and counseling offered by NOROC staff.

## BIBLE STUDY

In the summer, some institutionalized children go to a family member or a maternal assistant, so summer Bible study is in one large group. Casa Noastra, NOROC's half-way house for men who have aged out of the institutions, has a "Club" room for small group activities, Bible Study, Granny training, small seminars and conferences.



Maximum occupancy is 30, so come fall, Adriana must split the high school Bible study into two groups.

Interest continues and we are hoping to staff a new group to serve Middle Schoolers, combining Bible Study with social and life skills development.

# LOUISE COVINGTON LEARNING CENTER

The Louise Covington Learning Center has bloomed in space made possible by Presbyterian Women, with new carpet, new books, new crafts, new computers and activities for children and youth.



Southeastern NE Presbytery funded laptops to train children in remote orphanages.

“Granny Packs” of educational materials rotate out of the LCLC to support school readiness among the youngest. Students from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas assembled the Packs, which resource Big-Hearted Grannies working in five institutions for the young.

The crafts room was designed by summer interns from SFASU, who also painted tree murals throughout.

Many of you have sent learning materials, games, crafts items and interactive toys for the LCLC. Thanks to you, Louise Covington’s dream is becoming a vibrant reality!



Initial purchases were made possible by the Louise Covington memorial bequest. The Center is an activity hub close

to the largest orphanage. Anca Oancea coordinates LCLC activities. Three small groups can meet at the same time. Two new helpers: Mioara and Ana, host read-arounds, crafts and computer-assisted learning.

Getting the Center up and running was a collaborative effort. In June, the Palo Duro Presbytery work group, which included Louise’s husband Bob Covington, designed and built “corner castles” and funded carpeting other enhancements.

## FALL RESHUFFLE

The Mahmudia day center is now a residence for elementary boys from Speranta. They are happy to escape the influence of the older boys, but they miss NOROC and school friends..

Moving can be difficult--new town, new staff, new rhythms, new school. Losing these kids in our activities is heart-wrenching for us, as well. We have been family to each other.

Adriana, for example, has lost her entire small group of ten, together for four years.

We try to take staff and siblings left behind to each orphanage monthly to keep all the children in NOROC’s circle of protection and care, but staff time and funds are limited.

Please pray for a solution--perhaps a way to support someone who has counseling



and activity gifts who could visit the five outlying orphanages on week-ends when kids are free. This new helper could travel with the “Computer-mobile” --laptop computers, the “Book-mobile” --a rotation of books for a reading program, a Bible Study activity, and an inspirational group sharing activity. Also important, they could assess health, psychological, advocacy, tutoring, and other needs.



New Opportunities for Romanian  
Orphaned Children

NOROC, Inc., a Christ-based 501(c)3 nonprofit, nurtures orphaned and abandoned children in state institutions of Tulcea County, Romania. The Romanian word "NOROC" means "God Bless."

Over 50 Romanian volunteers and staff seek to address root causes of poverty by serving the spiritual, developmental, social, emotional, educational, medical and relationship needs of traumatized and at-risk children and youth. A disproportionate number of institutionalized children are ethnically Roma (Gypsies), a stigmatized ethnic and migrant group in Europe.

Thanks to support from individuals and congregations in many denominations, especially the PC(USA), Liz Searles serves NOROC as a mission co-worker.

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mission-connections/elizabeth-searles/>

"Big-Hearted" programs offer children daily ongoing relationships: Grannies, tutors, small group leaders, speech therapists, psychologists and activity leaders all share in NOROC's healing work.

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## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### *CONSIDER A MONTHLY COMMITMENT TO GIVING*

It is said that "Donating is a form of Loving." We believe that this is true. NOROC demonstrates God's love hands-on and close up.

When you give to support NOROC, you show love to orphaned, abandoned and abused children. NOROC workers are your hands and feet in the world. Show that you appreciate their outreach, won't you?

Participate in NOROC ministries by your giving.

Every November we feel we should scale back because we're over budget.

And yet, every November, we reaffirm our belief in the power of prayer and the generosity of our donors by carrying on with all our ministries of critical presence.

We could even out the cycle with more regular "supporting member" donations.

Each monthly "supporting member" could give something between the cost of a cup of coffee and a tank of gasoline to help NOROC move through

the budget year with greater confidence.

To become a supporting member, click on the DONATE NOW button on the NOROC website: [www/Noroc.ro](http://www/Noroc.ro) or contact Carolyn White in Abilene or Richard Schempp in Lubbock.

