

NOROC, Inc  
Abilene Texas



**Special  
points of  
interest:**

- Martisor exhibition
- Teacher and Grannies
- Painting and sewing classes
- Bringing the Good News to Speranta
- Unexpected success stories

# NOROC News

(New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children)

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Carol Schempp, Editor

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## From the desk of Mary Ferris

Dear friends of NOROC,

There are some youth who have such severe problems that they have a hard time adjusting when they leave the system. One such young man was Mihai R. He was partially hard of hearing from untreated ear infections, and until NOROC bought him his hearing aids he was always saying "huh?" and talked very loudly. He was a bit flamboyant, always wanting to be the center of attention, and loved to stage spectacular temper tantrums in front of the department heads, expounding on their corruptness. He would shout, "Only NOROC loves us!" At age 18 they made him leave the children's home with only 3 months of school left. We arranged for him to stay in the boarding school so he could complete his vocational school. He then went to work as a waiter in a bar, eventually leaving Tulcea to work in another city. Yesterday, he called Mr. Solca to say he is married, living in Spain, and he and his wife have a trucking company. He wants to make a financial donation to

NOROC for all we had done for him and wants to do a work project this summer like the Americans always did. Planting seeds yields a large harvest, and unexpected success stories!

Here in Tulcea, our painting/art program has grown and now our teacher has two sessions on Saturday morning. Meanwhile, Andreea Ivanov has started group exercises with the children from Gradinari.

Many of you know that I will be ending my term of service after 10 years in Romania. I am NOT finished with NOROC or Romania by any stretch of the imagination. I will, however, be coming home (to Texas) in May and begin giving presentations in July. If your church wishes to contact me please do so at [mkferisro@yahoo.com](mailto:mkferisro@yahoo.com) NOROC has planned a smooth transition and the programs are well organized thanks to Petru and the rest of the NOROC staff. They will continue to operate very well. The next newsletter will give details about what plans NOROC has for the next phase of this ministry.

## Welcome Norocel!

Contributed by Mary Ferris; photos by Petru Solca

NOROC is moving forward in our animal therapy program. We have adopted a Pinto horse, NOROCEL, and he is being trained especially for the children. He is so cute, but a bit frisky. We have young teens going on the weekends to train and take care of him. Last week after two young men groomed him impeccably, he promptly went and rolled in the mud! He has not had his grand unveiling, and still needs a saddle. If anyone wishes to take a special interest in this horse therapy program we could use some sponsors. We have applied for a grant which we hope will help fund an expanded summer program with the horses.



# Sewing and Painting Popular

contributed by Petru Solca



Irina Pal teaches this group painting, including painting on glass, but she also teaches the girls sewing. They make clothes for the summer time. We use the materials we got as a donation from the Danes and from one of the local factories. They also make interesting puppets. There will be an exhibition with all these, soon.



# Training Teachers & Grannies

contributed by Petru Solca

Grannies and teachers provide much needed support for our young children and students.

NOROC enlists a group of retired teachers (invatatoare) to tutor students throughout the school year. Recently these teachers gathered at the home of Marilena & Petru Solca for additional training. These teachers are in large part responsible for enabling our students to make huge gains during the school year and excel in their studies. (See photos at right.)

**Bravo, teachers, for your instruction!**



**Bravo, Marilena & Petru for your leadership!**

(editor's note)



**Bravo, Grannies, for your devotion!**

Another important part of NOROC's program is our granny program, known in Romanian as "Bunici Inimosi." In the photos at left, the grannies are pictured as they are gathered for training at Club NOROC. (Petru & Liliana serve refreshments during the event.) The grannies have been part of NOROC since it's inception, and remain a special teachers of the very young.



# Martisor Exhibition A Success!

contributed by Petru Solca; photos by Andrei Nichita

An exhibition of martisors, all of which were made by the kids from the orphanages, took place at the Folk Art Museum in Tulcea. Martisors are small, hand made amulets which are presented to friends at the beginning of March. The amulets are worn on the lapel or outside of coats. Our Mayor Mr. Hozea, the director of the museum, and Mrs. Badulescu, the director of the Department, were present.



# One Takes Wings...Another Baby Steps

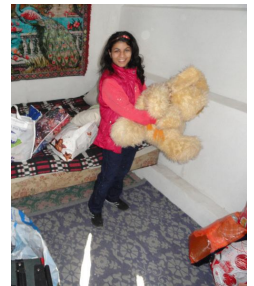
contributed by Mary Ferris; photos by Petru Solca

Many of you have kept up with **Andrei Nikita** over the years. He is now getting a masters degree in food inspection, but has discovered a passion for photography that rivals Petru's. Petru has taken him under his wing and has been a great mentor. This past week Andrei had his first one person exhibition at the University of Galati. A van load of us went to Galati for the opening. The photos are outstanding. His professor said to me, "Andrei shows the same

attention to details in his photos as he does in the laboratory." Andrei says he wants to change his name to Andrei NIKKON!

**Ionela Toma**, aspiring doctor, had to leave the orphanage be-

cause she finished her post high school course. She graduated with a 9.7 GPA, the best in her class. They sent her out without a job, put her on welfare, and gave her 200 dollars. NOROC found a room for her and paid her first month's rent. We will support her as she tries to find a job, applies to the university in Bucharest, and will hopefully be our first Roma young lady to attend a university. We are helping her apply for scholarships etc. Pray for Ionela's future.



# Small Groups Going Strong

photos contributed by Petru Solca

Small groups continue to provide opportunities for young people to enjoy fellowship and celebrations beyond the orphanage. Marilena Solca and Iulia Ivanov are two of our faithful small group leaders who meet regularly with their groups to provide special activities and get together.





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**New Opportunities for Romanian  
Orphaned Children**

**NOROC** is a Christ-based, non-profit organization. *Noroc* is a Romanian word which means "God Bless." We've adopted it as our name because it also reflects our mission: **To share God's blessings by providing New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children spiritually, developmentally, socially and medically.**

**NOROC** was founded to find ways to nurture these abandoned children. Currently, NOROC's programs are focused in the orphanages of Tulcea County, Romania. There we try to provide for children in material ways such as providing diapers, school supplies, or adequate shoes. But at an even more basic level of need our organization provides the loving relationships these children so desperately crave thanks to the day to day devotion of our **Big Hearted Grannies, Big Hearted Teachers, and Big Hearted Friends.** Churches and individual friends currently support this mission. Please join us in our work.

## Keep Your Eye On The Ball!

photos contributed by Petru Solca



**Table Tennis Competition sponsored by NOROC draws competitors and ends with winners!**

