



NOROC Newsletter

Spring 2014

Editor: Anca Oancea

Institutionalized kids yearn for a sense of family. You can help.

You've heard of NOROC's "Big-Hearted Grannies." Grannies relate daily to kids under seven. For older kids, "Big-Hearted Friends" forge safe and ongoing relationships in groups of eight or ten, meeting as often as they can. Our wish is to invite every institutionalized child into relationship with a family group. In small groups, kids:



These kids are waiting to be in a small family group.

- have fun--celebrate birthdays and successes.
- help each other heal--share hurts and challenges in a safe environment.
- share with NOROC how to help—let us know how to meet all kinds of needs.

Over fifteen groups meet in Tulcea now. We need about five more.

In addition, we would like to resource small groups in remote orphanages: Sambata, Somova, Mahmudia and Sulina. This means doubling our number of "Big-Hearted Friends" and resourcing twice as many groups. Costly. About \$125 per group per month--\$1500 each per year.

Could you help make family for institutionalized children in Romania?

Could you or your Sunday School class or scout troop sponsor a small group?

We can put you in touch via SKYPE and build two-way bridge to connect you.

Think about it. Write for more information. **You can sponsor such a group for \$1500/year.**

We at NOROC ever seek new ways to share one key message in word and deed:

"No matter who you are, no matter what you've done, and no matter what has been done to you by people who claim to care about you, you are a child of light—a beloved and important member of a large and loving family—the family of God." Our "Big-Hearted" staff and volunteers communicate this reality daily.

With you, we weave a wide safety net and expand our circle of caring.



"Mărțișor" and Mother's Day



Spring celebration with children from Cocorii I and II, coordinated by Marilena Șolcă and Mioara Țivriș

Palm Sunday and Easter



One of the small groups of teen girls, with group leader Lili Ilie, made and delivered Easter baskets to the young ones at Cocorii I and II. The kids expressed their thanks by reciting traditional poems of the season and singing "Vine vine primavara" (Spring is coming).



For Palm Sunday, thirteen youth and five staff visited Saon and Cocoș monasteries for worship and a shared meal. The visit nurtured spirits and bodies!



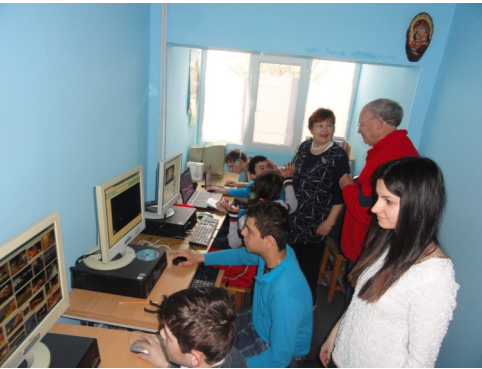
Easter Eve—youth and staff received and carried the light back to Speranța from the midnight service.



Conscious Discipline Training with the Grannies supports trauma—informed practice.



Visit to residential Centre for Adults with Disabilities in Babadag.



In March, Texas Board Chair Richard Schempp and NOROC co-founder Dr. Fred White discerned needs and encouraged staff. NOROC's rec center is under way, thanks to support from Presbyterian Women and Palo Duro Presbytery.



Football game Speranța v. I. L. Caragiale School. The score was even in the first match. Speranța won the rematch 6 to 4. Congratulations to the boys and NOROC's sports teacher, Ionuț Ganea.

NOROC seeks interns of any age, with a variety of gifts. Contact Liz at thesearles@gmail.com to explore internship opportunities, including remote internships via SKYPE. We are also exploring the possibility of "virtual mission trips" for groups in the USA.



NOROC, Inc., a Christ-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, nurtures orphaned and abandoned children in the state institutions of Tulcea County, Romania. The Romanian word "NOROC" means "God Bless." NOROC seeks to address the 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 the support of congregations in many denominations, but especially the PC(USA), as well as individuals, Liz Searles serves NOROC as a mission co-worker.

Over 50 Romanians minister through "Big-Hearted" programs that offer children daily ongoing relationships: Grannies, tutors, friends, small group leaders, psychologists—all share in NOROC's healing work.

Please support this ministry of critical presence and care: Contact Carolyn White:

NOROC, Inc. 200 Hedges Rd., Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 692-2143 <NOROC9@suddenlink.net> or donate online at "noroc.org." To give via PC(USA) visit <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/elizabeth-searles/>

JOYS and CONCERNS:

- small family groups are critical to NOROC's ongoing presence and care; help make those happen.
- tutoring, the Learning Center, computer literacy and school attendance programs all need ongoing resourcing so that we can keep kids in school and help them succeed in school;
- summer residential camps are costly and only a few can attend; NOROC is moving more and more towards themed summer daycamps; these need support.
- NOROC's signature red van is aging and we've outgrown it; only 8 kids will fit, plus staff member and driver. We are discerning about whether we can afford a larger vehicle.

