

NOROC, Inc  
Abilene Texas



**Special  
points of  
interest:**

- **New Mission Co-worker partners in ministry with NOROC**
- **Cameras and computers**
- **Letter of Thanks**
- **Property for the new Gym Hall purchased**

# NOROC News

(New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children)

A publication of NOROC, Inc., Abilene, Texas Carol Schempp, Editor

Volume 9, Issue 5

November / December 2012

## Meet Our New Mission Co-Worker, Liz Searles!

Advent Greetings to all!

In this season of welcoming the traveler and the stranger, I am preparing to set out on a new journey to a new home in Tulcea, Romania. I have discerned a call to serve orphans and others in Romania, ministering with NOROC and PCUSA. My husband, Rev. Douglas Searles, will accompany me.

Doug and I both come from United Presbyterian missionary backgrounds: Doug's mother was born to missionary parents in what was then called the French Cameroun; I myself was raised in a boys' orphanage in Ramallah, in the West Bank, now the capital of Palestine, and also in Egypt, where my parents served in audio-visual ministries.

Together we have ministered internationally since 1997, when we left the United States to teach at Woodstock School, Mussoorie, India. After that term came seven years in China and three more in Poland partnered with the Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland. Our call in every case has been to seek to serve "the least of these" and to help shattered lives become made new and made whole, thanks to the Potter's hands.

And now God has opened new doors of ministry: PCUSA and NOROC are calling and commissioning me to serve in Tulcea, Romania. I know that many challenges await me, and yet I also know that when God calls, God equips. I am already packing my spiritual bags for the journey. Among them, I plan to pack an extra special bag with extra large measures of faith, prayer, hope, flexibility, resilience and--most of all--concrete, relational love.

My first words of Romanian are a translation of the song "Love Grows." Perhaps you know it: "Love grows, one by one, two by two, and four by four. Love grows round like a circle and comes back knocking at your front door." I've had that song translated into Hindi, Chinese, Polish and now Romanian and I'm looking forward to singing and signing it with children in Romanian orphanages.

This call is a great privilege and, we think, a great gifts match for both of us. This is an exciting time

of preparation for our whole family. Our children attend university and are beginning their lives as adults in the United States. Mackenzie (24) lives in Beaverton, Oregon, working and finishing up her M.A. in Anthropology at Oregon State. McCleary (20) is a sophomore at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, studying to be a classical singer.



Everyone at NOROC has been so welcoming and encouraging as I embark upon this new ministry. I am eager to extend that same extravagant welcome in Romania. Thank you for inviting me to be your hands and feet, ministering to children, youth, and others in need. I look forward to learning more about the important work of NOROC, about Romania, and about you and all of the faithful participants in this ministry of critical presence.

This promises to be a difficult Christmas for many. Yet the gifts of Christmas and The Greatest Gift are promised to the world. Whatever your circumstances, may God richly bless you with the gifts of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, and may you in turn richly bless others. I am looking forward to our shared ministry in Romania, beginning in 2013. Don't hesitate to email or call me. I'm eager to know each one of you!

Readying for the journey and ever looking up!  
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## Computer Skills Classes Offered Again!

photos by Petru Solca

New computers donated by NOROC supporters enable NOROC to offer computer lessons once again! This is an exciting time for the children to learn computer skills under the guidance of Violeta Bandacu.



Dan Bandacu, a professional photographer and friend of NOROC, gives photography lessons to a group of boys from the small group apartments. Five new digital cameras were purchased for this project with donations from NOROC supporters.

## Look here! Push There!

photos by Petru Solca



## The New Gym Hall & Activity Center Has a Home!

photos by Petru Solca



After months of searching, negotiating and re-negotiating, deals falling through and starting the process over again (not to mention the “miles” of bureaucratic red tape) NOROC has *finally* been able to purchase a piece of land in Tulcea that will become the home of our *very own Gym Hall and Activity Center*. Thanks be to God! Thanks also to Petru Solca who worked tirelessly “on location” to secure this property for NOROC!



The purchase of the land and the money for the Gym Hall came from a \$200,000 Birthday Offering Grant from the Presbyterian Women of the PCUSA. This Gym Hall and Activity Center will allow NOROC to continue *and* expand the many extracurricular activities we offer to the children in the orphanages of Tulcea County.



As you can see, the land has a few existing buildings in various states of construction as well as several fruit trees and other vegetation.



Please continue to pray for the NOROC boards in the US and in Romania as they continue the discernment process for this important project.

### NOROC Makes a Difference!

The following letter was received by NOROC from Cristina Preluca, a first year college student who receives scholarship money from NOROC. Cristina was returned to her home village to live with her mother even though she had not finished her high school education, which is only available in Tulcea. The bus tickets and school supplies she refers to in her letter enabled her to commute to high school and pass the exit exam (baccalaureate) so she could apply to the university. Through your loyal support, your generosity and prayers many lives have been and will continue to be changed!

**“Dear NOROC Association,**

**My name is Cristina-Ionela Preluca. I am 20 years old and after leaving the orphanage I have lived in Somo**

**ma, with my mother, for a year. I would like to thank you all for the help you have given me: because of "Noroc" Association I was able to graduate from high school and stay with my family. The bus tickets and the school supplies I received from "Noroc" helped me graduate from high school last July. With God's help and my hard work, I succeeded in passing the baccalaureate exam, having an average grade of 7.18.**

**Now I would like to continue my education in college and build a better life for me.**

**I thank you from the bottom of my heart!”**



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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.

## And the beat goes on...

photos by Petru Solca

Excursions (picnics included) into the country side, outdoor sports activities and painting lessons are among the important extra-curricular activities offered by NOROC on a regular basis. This commitment to share God's blessing to the "whole" child remains a focus of NOROC through its multi-relational programming.

