

NOROC, Inc
Abilene Texas



**Special
points of
interest:**

- **Maria and the "Super" Granny**
- **Closing ceremony for the foster children summer programs**
- **NOROC gets its day in a national women's magazine**

NOROC News

(New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children)

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

Volume 8, Issue 6

September/October 2011

From the desk of Mary Ferris

Dear Friends,

I am so grateful to God to report that all my medical issues have been taken care of and I feel better than I have felt in many years. All my latest tests were normal so I am cleared to go back to work and have been very busy starting my itineration of churches that have been faithful supporters of me personally and to the overall mission of NOROC.

I began with visiting First Central Presbyterian in Abilene which has been foundational to the growth of NOROC. While there I did a presentation for the Presbyterian Women about the Maternal Center. The maternal center is a place where desperate single mothers can go for one year to have and then to raise their babies. While there they can become qualified for a job or get further education. NOROC has Big Hearted grannies to help with the babies while the mothers work or go to school. The maternal center also helps abused women escape their circumstances. The PW women gave a scholarship for a 17 year old single mother of a one year old. Lardonna comes from a very poor family and she has no support from anyone. She has already found a job and entered school for gaining her 8th grade certificate. Our support will help her with transportation, education, medical supplies and daycare.

I have also preached at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nacogdoches. I told the church about NOROC's Christian Education program for

the children in Romania and the recent conversion and baptism of several young people who were in our programs. In the future, I will be traveling to New Braunfels, then all over Palo Duro Presbytery and to Missouri and Florida.

The summer ended in Romania with wonderful activities for the children including camps, swimming, cultural events and of course time spent with the horses. The highlight of the summer for nearly fifty children in foster homes were the camps and activities organized by NOROC. We received a grant from the city of Tulcea for providing summer activities for needy children. This not only helped the children but was an opportunity for the foster parents to be able to provide a unique experience for their children that would not have been possible otherwise.

In Tulcea, it is back to school time and our staff has been busy getting the children ready for school and organized into their small groups.

In October we will be honored to have Burkhard Paetzold, the PC(USA) mission co-worker who is the liaison and supervisor of Eastern Europe, as the guest of Palo Duro Presbytery and NOROC. Burkhard is my good friend and was my supervisor for the 10 years while I was in Tulcea. He has visited NOROC many times and was a great spiritual support of me personally.

As for me, I am praying for guidance as to what my next mission will be for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Mary Ferris

Maria, NOROC, and the "Super" Granny

Contributed by Carol Schempp and Petru Solca

Meet Maria, (at right) an abandoned child in Tulcea, Romania. When Maria came to Cocorii Center a year and half ago she was totally mute. Her mother was absent from her home most of the time, working at a small bar for very little money. Maria was left by herself all day long. One day Maria left her home and roamed the streets until

evening. A police team found her and brought her to the center. She was unclean, hungry and couldn't say a word. She was "wild" and without any social skills but little by little, with our grannies' help, she started to speak words, to play with the other children in normal ways, and to socialize.

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The closing festivity of the summer camp project for children in the foster care system was held on August 28. This project was co-financed by the Municipality of Tulcea. The children's art work was displayed on the walls and fences, plus photos and two quilts.

Balloons with the kids' names were blown into the air: kids, parents, television, candies, juice, joy!



Closing Ceremony for the Foster Children Summer Programs

Contributed by Petru Solca



NOROC Receives Exposure in Romanian Women's Magazine

contributed by Petru Solca

Our name appeared in Ioana, a national magazine for women. The largest part of the article is in connection with the activity of the veterinarian Stefan Raileanu, who has the horse club where NOROC sponsors horse therapy for children in the orphanages. The article tells how he saved some semi-wild horses in the Danube Delta. However, there are also pictures with our kids when we had a welcome "party" for our horse Norocel as well as explanations about the benefits of horse therapy.

The title is "I Didn't Want to be a Hero; Those Horses Had to be Saved."

In EXTRA INFO, FOCUS (see original below) it says: "Stefan collaborates with "NOROC" because he wishes to help the kids who are in institutions. The kids get to be friends with the horses, take care of Norocel every day, and take riding lessons. Iulian (15 years old), a teen ager from this group, says: I like a lot to take care of the horses. Mr. Raileanu likes me and teaches me everything: to ride, brush and wash the horses, to comb their hair, clean their feet, to

feed them and especially he taught me not to steal. Cosmin, Adriana, and Vasile, Iulian's classmates, tell us about the same things: that they learned to behave with human beings and horses as well."

This is how they discovered how beautiful both people and animals are. Maybe some day one of them will become a famous horse rider! The important thing is that they have discovered the universe in which Stefan received them dearly, but also the acknowledgement of the role this project has got.

Article from Ioana with a focus about Stefan's collaboration with NOROC to provide horse therapy.

Viața în alb și negru

Nu mi-am dorit să fiu erou,



Calul seamănă foarte mult este un animal nobil. Unii

rin, încă din copilărie, pe care și-a petrecut-o în Mircea Vodă, un sat dobrogean, în care arșița zonelor aride și răcoarea pădurii te îmbie la joacă. Împreună cu alți ortaci din sat, îngrijea caii uitați, bătrâni și bolnavi de prin grajdurile CAP-ului. Mai târziu, după ce a studiat la Facultatea de Medicină Veterinară din Cluj, a revenit la Tulcea și a devenit cercetător științific la Institutul Național de Cercetare „Delta Dunării”.

Stefan a înțeles că noi, românii, ne-am pierdut ceea ce se cheamă „cultura calului ca animal de companie” și încearcă din răspuț să transforme ideea de „cal pentru cărușie și de abator” în cea de „cal – tovarășul omului”, că doar, spune el, „calul ne-a purtat civilizația în spatele mii de ani”. Sună dramatic, dar cai sălbatici din Delta sunt prinși, probabil, în continuare, cu o sălbăticie fără margini, băgați în tiruri și trimiși la abatoare. Străinii apreciază această delicatete, iar afa-

rea trebuie să fie una prosperă pentru cei care gestionează măcelul. Stefan a salvat în rămășiță și mânjii din satul Cardon rămășiți fără apărare, fiindcă ipele au fost luate și duse la abator.

„Erau și mânjii fâțați de trei zile”, ne spune Ștefan. „Aveau rahitism, leșinau de frig noaptea. Mi-am zis că trebuie să dezvolt dragostea pentru cai chiar și la oamenii locului. M-au ajutat copiii din sat în primul rând. A fost foarte greu pentru mine, fiindcă a trebuit să îi perufeze trei săptămâni la rând. Numai drumul până la Cardon e groaznic. Plecam cu «rapida» la Sulina, treceam Dunărea și de acolo cu o mașină ajungeam până la Cardon; apoi mă întorceam pe același drum la Tulcea. Am dormit puțin, dar am reușit să îi salvez. Acum sunt în grija unui localnic din Cardon. După toată povestea cu caii de la Letea și cu mânjii de la Cardon, mi s-a închis cabinetul veterinar și mi s-a dat o amendă de 400 de milioane de lei. Nu e ușor să fii medic veterinar în tin-

Matache face istorie. Dintr-un cal bolnav, Ștefan l-a transformat în campion

Ștefan Raileanu este un povestitor fabulos. Întâmplările pe care le-a trăit ar încăpea într-o carte. Nu și-a dorit niciodată să devină celebru ca urmare a masacrului „mustangilor” din Delta Dunării. Auzisem despre Clubul Hipic de la Tulcea și despre

pasionatul antrenor de acolo, dar abia anul acesta am descoperit că medicul veterinar Raileanu este aceeași persoană cu omul care și-a pus în pericol viața și cariera pentru a salva cai sălbatici de la Letea.

Ștefan spune că a moștenit pasiunea pentru cai de la bunicul lui, Ma-

caii trebuie salvați

omul. Învăță repede, e sensibil și se spune despre el că dat un „regat pentru un cal” – și asta nu e o vorbă în vânt



Echitajul dezvoltă o relație de încredere între om și cal

EXTRA INFO

Focus

* Ștefan colaborează cu Asociația Umanitară „NOROC” din Tulcea din dorința de a face ceva pentru copiii instituționalizați. Copiii se împrietenesc cu caii, îi îngrijesc zilnic pe Norocel și iau lecții de călărie.

Norocel este prietenul cel mai bun al copiilor

* Iulian (15 ani), un adolescent din acest grup de lucru, spune că: „Mie îmi place să am grijă de cai. Domnul doctor Raileanu ține mult la mine și m-a învățat de toate: să călăresc, să spăl caii, să le pieptăn coama, să le curăț coptele, să le dau de mâncare și, mai ales, să nu mai fur.”

* Cosmin, Adriana, Vasile, colegii de-al lui Iulian, mărturisesc și ei cam același lucru – acolo au învățat să se poarte cu oamenii, dar și cu caii. Așa au descoperit cât de frumoși pot fi și oamenii, și caii. Poate unul dintre ei va deveni într-o bună zi un jockey celebru. Importantă este însă descoperirea acestui univers în care Ștefan l-a primit cu drag, dar și conștientizarea rolului educativ pe care îl are proiectul acesta.

Ștefan: „Îmi plac caii cu personalitate, curajoși și cu stofă de invingător”

lupa Tora are 20 de ani, este o bună profesoară de călărie și copiii o iubesc mult purile astea și să îți respecti jurământul.” La Tulcea, la Clubul Hipic, i-am cunoscut campioni: Matache, Darius și Black Magic, cai pe care i-a antrenat și cu care Ștefan câștigă premii. Se ocupă de cai, antrenează tineri jockey și se implică într-un proiect cu copiii din Institutul de Ocrotire Socială. În jur de 140 de copii cu vârste cuprinse între 3 și 21 de ani au beneficiat de acest program. Unii dintre aceștia suferă de dizabilități fizice sau mentale. Viața lui Ștefan sunt cercetarea, caii și antrenamentele de la Real Racing. Dar nu poate trăi liniștit, ca și cum caii Deltei, pe care i-a studiat în numeroase proiecte de cercetare, nu ar exista.

Ioana Iancu



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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.

Maria, NOROC, and the "Super" Granny

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Our Granny Fanica Preda had a big role in her development. People were astonished to see Maria recite a 4 stanza poem for the Children's Day Festival on June 1st!

Granny Fanica is just one of the miracle workers employed by NOROC (in the form of Grannies) to work with the youngest children in the centers. Granny Fanica works daily at Cocorii One. A natural teacher, she instructs the children daily in language, math, and sports activities that exercise their bodies as well as their minds. This provides the children with experiences and practice that would normally be provided by a loving family.

During my visit this summer Petru took me to Cocorii where the children recited poetry, sang songs, and counted forwards and backwards for us...all from memory and

with a tremendous amount of pride. Granny Fanica also organizes a "backyard" physical education routine each day to teach spatial orientation and positional concepts. The routine is engaging and requires the children to focus their attention and follow instructions. "Super" Granny Fanica has created a well balanced early childhood curriculum!

All of this would not be possible without your continued support of NOROC. No matter how tight our budgets become, these children still need NOROC's wonderful Big Hearted Grannies to nurture, love, and teach them. We thank you for your past support and pray that you will continue to support NOROC with your generous donations as well as your prayers.

