



April 2005

# QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care  
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## ROMANIA CHILDREN'S VILLAGE HOUSE TWO NEARS COMPLETION

This summer, ICC's second home in Romania will be complete and construction on house three will begin. Our first family of 12 is very excited about the possibility of having neighbors! We would like to take a moment in all this excitement to introduce you to some of the



Home two

family members of our first home. These precious children represent the reason we have a children's village in Romania.

Nine-year-old Robert is like your average child, brown hair, brown eyes and a wide smile. He tries never to miss an opportunity to make you laugh. Showing care and concern for those around him is just his way. However, this was not always true of his disposition. Biting, fighting, and hitting were common in the beginning when Robert arrived at ICC. It was also common to see Robert rocking himself in his crib.

Robert was abandoned immediately after his birth. His parents, as with many in Romania, were poor and wanted better for him. Their belief was that the state would find a family for him.

Unfortunately for Robert, as with many other abandoned orphans in Romania, he remained in the hospital. Robert started out his life in a crib not much different than most, but that crib lay among many others that lined a large room. With so many children, human contact was minimal at the hospital.



Robert

Our staff has been trained to care for children like these who come to us from such trauma and sadness. They come hungry, alone and afraid. We meet their basic needs, and then we begin nurturing them with soft, kind and gentle

words. It takes a lot of patience, hugs, rocking, and soothing as these children who had no one to love them, who fought for survival, begin to trust. Gradually the children just like Robert, who rocked himself because he had never had anyone to hold, love and rock him, begin to trust and become calm and secure.

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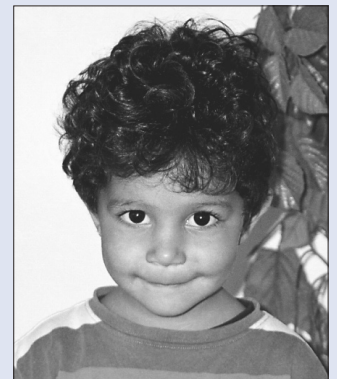
## PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

### My name is Crina

I live at the Romanian Receiving Center. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. Thanks!

\$25    \$50    \$\_\_\_\_\_

**(800)422-7729**  
Sponsorship Department



## Romanian Children's Village - continued

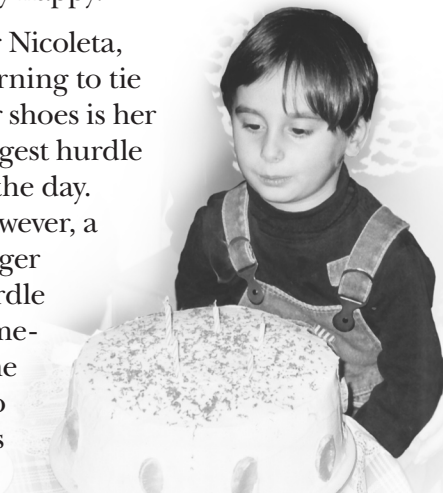
With the consistency of love and patience, holding and playing (all while learning new boundaries) Robert became more calm each day. As he learned that he has a Father in heaven that loves him, caring adults, and new brothers and sisters who love him, he grew. Today, he is a happy and healthy boy. His life that once knew no love, now has a bright future. None of this would have

### His reaction was much different than expected.

been possible without the financial support and care of sponsors, donors and volunteers.

Robert has been with us the longest of any child in Romania. Because of Robert's history with ICC, many of the children started calling the first home "Robert's House." His reaction was much different than expected. Robert began to get frightened by this kind of talk. After some questioning, it became very clear why Robert was frightened. In Robert's mind the house was all his, and he was to live in it alone! Robert was not about to lose his new family so soon. He was told that his new family would be living with him, and this made Robert very happy.

For Nicoleta, learning to tie her shoes is her biggest hurdle of the day. However, a bigger hurdle some-time ago was



Nicoleta at her birthday

finding a family that would love her. Her mother was very poor and saw no other way but to abandon her at a local hospital. Nicoleta came to our receiving center when she was two.

That was over four year ago. Today, happy and expressive would be two words to describe this beautiful six-year-old. Nicoleta is always quick with a smile and likes to help with the cleaning of her home.

Ask Gery what he does best and he may just recite you a poem, though skipping and hopping on one foot are more to his liking. His sister Andrea, however, might chime in that she can count to twenty and is proud of it! She too can skip smoothly, just not on one foot.

Gery and Andrea's journey to our ICC family was not much different than Robert and Nicoleta's. Their parents were jailed and the children were left in the care of an aunt. Their aunt was not willing or able to take on the responsibility of two children and abandoned them at a local hospital as well.

One of Gery and Andrea's favorite things about being in a loving family is birthdays. Here, among a loving family, celebrating life is acceptable and they especially enjoy the cake!

At ICC these children are family, not just a number like they're past lives. They're here to live life, not just pass through it. Thank you for your support and prayers. Please keep praying for these and many more children that make up a part of the ICC family in Romania.

## New Director in Romania

Gabriela Necula has worked for ICC in Romania for over 10 years. She started as a volunteer and worked in other positions before becoming the project director in 1999. She has proven to be a loyal and dedicated leader for ICC. Recently, Gabriela married and had to relocate to another city in Romania. While she continues to work for ICC, she has transferred her role as director



Simona our New Director

to her sister Simona, who is no stranger to ICC. Simona started with ICC as a caregiver, and then progressed to assistant care center coordinator before ICC chose her as our new Romania director. We are happy to have someone we know and trust to continue the legacy of care for the children of Romania

Simona's husband, Sorin, is our builder. He worked for a time in Belgium and is very skilled in his trade. Sorin is coordinating and leading out in the building of our children's village.

Please pray for Simona as she leads out in our Romanian project.

# A Personal Note

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Dear ICC Family,

Ken and I have been spending some time in Desert Hot Springs. It was a strange winter down here, but now the sun is out in force and we are enjoying some warm weather.

Rick called a few weeks ago and asked, "Can you drive down to El Oasis and join Sharon and me? It's been awhile since you were there, and we would like to include you in a video we will be making."

We did want to see the children, so we drove down through Mexicali. We aren't the ones doing the traveling now, so this was like old times for us.

We were thrilled to see the progress there. The ten homes are close to completion and being filled with children as fast as house parents can be found and trained, and as the budget will allow for more children. In the meantime, the homes not occupied by children are used for volunteer groups, staff, etc. The new education center is well on the way to being ready for use. It is an impressive building and being funded by a couple of very faithful ICC Mexico supporters.

A number of the children came to see us in the living area of house one. Some of them were children who came with the first bus load at Christmas time seven years ago. Two of those boys were telling us about that day: "We were so excited we were just running around everywhere to see our new home. We even crawled up on the table!"

We remembered that many of those children were really out of control! I asked, "Were you happy with your new home?"

"Oh yes!" They chorused. "We really remember that day!"

The children crowded around us, wanting to sit near us. A little girl crawled up on my lap, and I noticed that Sharon had her arms full of children too. They sang songs for us, and Ken played some games with them. Soon they were all called back to their individual homes. Then one of the aunts, who is a helper in the homes, came and told us to come over to the volunteer center. As we drove up no one else was in sight. But when we opened the door, the room was full of children, house parents and other staff. They all yelled, "Surprise!" They had a special program and party for us. Each home had something to present – a song, a poem, a skit. One was a little drama depicting a humorous event, and the children were the actors, even in costumes.

The same little girl who had been on my lap at the house, found me again, and stayed with me through the whole program, except when she had to perform. As the program went on, she fell asleep in my arms. It was an interesting experience which I don't remember having before in all of my times with the children. In her sleep she kept trying to get closer and closer, reaching out to me with her arms. That little girl reminded me again of the desperate need these little children have for love and security. Awake, she was vivacious and happy, but, in her sleep, the old feeling of the need for a mother and love was still there. I don't know what had happened to that little girl to bring her to us, but every child that comes has had a devastating experience of loss or abandonment or rejection.

I was so thankful that she was part of our El Oasis family. Our hearts are still very much entwined with this program that is doing everything possible to provide homes for children around the world. God has blessed beyond our wildest dreams. Every one of these children is precious to us and in our prayers every day.

We thank God for people like you who have a heart for hurting children. I wish that each of you could sit and hold one of these precious children and you would agree with us that it is worth everything it has cost, the struggling years at the beginning with anxious times when we prayed for enough money each month to feed them all. We are still praying those same prayers today as we strive to continue to raise the funds that it takes to care for these precious lives. The results and the rewards are beyond our imagination. I can't wait to see them in Heaven - hundreds and hundreds of children who have learned to know the God who helped us make all this possible.

God bless each one of you for your part in making it all possible.

With our love.

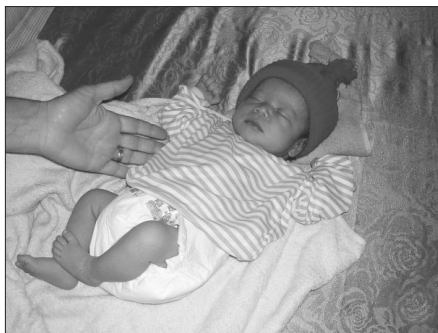
*Alcyon and Ken*

Ken and Alcyon



## Filthy Rags to Hope – Tabitha’s story

Answering a desperate call to help save a newborn baby girl, Errol and Glenda Menkens, volunteer ICC Cambodia directors, traveled for hours to the baby’s village. The baby girl is the 10th child to a poverty-stricken family. Tabitha’s mother became seriously ill following the birth. Though they loved her dearly, they knew they could not care for her. A doctor was asked to find a loving home for their baby girl.



**Tabitha**

Glenda writes, “I thought I’d seen poverty in the village near the river, but they’re pretty well off compared to Tabitha’s family. There are seven other children in the family and three have died. There was no food in the house, only a few walls and no hope to be found on any of the faces. Their village is just a dusty pad-dock with shacks built all over it, no trees or anything green in the whole area. The children catch frogs, crabs and lizards for most of their food.

It was a very cold day. Errol and I were shivering in the baby’s home. When we arrived Tabitha was handed to me. She was wrapped in two pieces of ser-viette-sized cloth that were so dirty we wouldn’t have cleaned the floor with them. Now one beautiful little girl has a chance to survive.

“And indeed she does have hope thanks



**Tabitha with her house parents**

to her caring “house parents” at ICC’s Light of Hope Village and because of her new sponsors, Angie and Nathan Brown. Angie (daughter of Errol and Glenda) is currently in Cambodia helping with a volunteer group.

God bless you as you work each day to bring hope to such little treasures.

## Memorials

### **Mrs. Krugler**

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Smith

### **Charlene Kuebler**

Henrietta Arvidson  
Greg & Sharon Constantine  
Ginny & Bob Crouse  
Howard & Lorraine Drew  
Rose Graham  
Richard & Cherry Habenicht  
Doris & Herb Helm  
David Kuebler  
Louis E. Phillips  
Cheeri L. Roberts

Andrew & Julia Snyder

Andy Snyder

Ida & Albert Wellington

### **Burt & Nettie Kurtz**

Ruth Wiebold

### **Bob Larson**

George & Joyce White

### **Marjorie Liske**

Elvera Rennings

### **Ranny & Lois Luce**

Carolyn L. Kujawa

### **Veda Maxson**

Orla & Betty Collins

## COMING NEXT MONTH:

The May issue of the Que Pasa will provide more information about children who survived the tsunami in Southeast Asia. You’ll want to read about the new project ICC is developing for these children.

## LARGE SUITCASES NEEDED

ICC staff fill large suitcases with clothing when we travel to our children’s villages. Boxes just don’t hold up.

If you have any large suitcases that you want to “recycle”, please send them to our Vancouver office.



*A Legacy of Love*

*Providing for the future through planned giving*

Contact Doug Congleton at ICC for more information on how you can become part of the “Legacy of Love”

(800) 422-7729

Doug@ForHisKids.org