

Heartbeat



HEARTS
ACROSS
ROMANIA

A NEWSLETTER FROM HEARTS ACROSS ROMANIA

JULY 2006

TOREADOR RESOURCES CORPORATION GIVES H.A.R. ANOTHER \$5,000 GIFT

Toreador Resources Corporation has continued its relationship with Hearts Across Romania with a recent donation of \$5,000. Toreador gave \$5,000 to Hearts in 2004, so this brings their total contribution to \$10,000, making them our largest corporate donor. Based in Dallas, Toreador Resources Corporation is an independent international energy company involved in the acquisition, development, exploration and production of natural gas and crude oil. They were particularly interested in our "I Care" Project, so their donation will be used to purchase additional eye equipment for the Children's Hospital in Brasov. Heartfelt thanks to Toreador for their continued support.

THE JUNE WORK TEAM RETURNS AFTER A SUCCESSFUL TRIP

Hearts' summer volunteer team returned to Dallas on June 16th after spending two weeks working in the Brasov area. Mariana Achiriloaie and Geanie Burns hosted a team of two adults and four teenagers. The team consisted of Kathy Roote, a repeat volunteer from last fall; Maggie Watt and her teenage daughter, Sarah, both of whom had been on a previous work team several years ago; Samantha (Sami) Matthews,



*Above: Dacia children performed for the work team
At left: A toddler at the Bambi group home in Zarnesti*



Olivia (Ollie) Anderson, and Katie Lybbert, all classmates of Sarah's at The Selwyn School in Denton.

The team made two trips to the Dacia orphanage and two other trips to Bambi, the toddler group home at Zarnesti, to work with the children. They also worked with children in a day treatment program at a facility for handicapped children and visited the Codlea orphanage and a gypsy village, where they sponsored a family needing food. The team also visited the Ladybug orphanage located in the outlying area near the village. Hearts took gifts of fruit, cookies and ice cream for the children, as well as new socks and shoes for the kids and staff at Dacia.

Maggie Watt raised over \$2,000 before the trip, including proceeds from a garage sale, as well as additional contributions from donors, so a big thank-you to her.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

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The June work team with shipment of donations

The June work team, along with a volunteer team, plan to accompany the children back to Brasov, where they will work for two weeks.

Hearts again shipped medical donations valued at over \$50,000, which arrived during the work team visit and were distributed to local hospitals and organizations. News spread in Brasov about Hearts' donation of used eye glasses, and a steady stream of people filed in to claim them. One particular lady had tears streaming down her face because she was so grateful to find glasses to improve her vision.

\$50,000 IN MEDICAL SUPPLIES

A special thanks to Jerry Williams, volunteer, for helping gather the medical supplies and for identifying and valuing them for Customs. Hearts would also like to thank Christian Community Action for its generous donation of badly needed medical supplies.

In addition, Hearts also shipped and distributed more than 250 pairs of new shoes and over 500 pairs of new socks donated by Buckner Orphan Care International (Shoes for Orphan Souls), and boxes of new books from First Book Club.

THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON SAMI!

Hearts wants to recognize Sami Matthews for all of her efforts and success at fundraising for the work team trip. She has raised over \$7,000 with more contributions expected in the near future. Sami's love of children was apparent in her work, and her donations made it possible for Hearts to do some additional projects on this trip, such as pay half of the expenses for a ten-day vacation at the Black Sea for the children and staff at the Dacia orphanage, purchase a kayak for one of the Codlea boys who trains and competes nationally in kayaking, and host several group meals with some of our Romanian teens. Some of the money Sami raised was also used toward the purchase of eye equipment for the Children's Hospital.



Sami Matthews with a child at Dacia

Sami and her family are Canadian citizens, but they have lived in the Denton area for a number of years. She will be a junior at The Selwyn School, where she plays volleyball and basketball. Her interests are photography and sports, and this was her first trip abroad. Thanks to Sami for her donations and for her personal contribution to the work team.



Teen party at a Brasov restaurant

WELCOME MAT: VISITATION PROJECT SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER

Plans are underway for Hearts to bring 10 Romanian teenagers from the orphanages to the Dallas area at the end of August, when they will stay with host families and experience American culture during a two-week visit. This mentoring project, which has been in the planning stages for two years, will be a unique experience for the

Romanian children, many of whom have a personal relationship with Hearts Board members through their work in Brasov. Please call Geanie Burns at (972) 869-3826 to find out how you can help with this project. Supporters will get an opportunity to meet the teens during their visit at a Hearts-sponsored social event.

Hearts Board members, along with a volunteer team, plan to accompany the children back to Brasov, where they will work for two weeks.