



# KI Reporter

Second Quarter, 2006

## *The Importance of Corresponding with Our Sponsored Children*

Children in Romanian and Indian orphanages live with varying levels of emotional damage due to their backgrounds of neglect, poverty, and abandonment. These children are starving for love and attention and deeply desire to be accepted and befriended by others. When they receive love and acceptance, the deep emotional wounds begin to heal. Their inner sense of worthlessness is challenged when someone befriends them. Like a crab emerging from its shell, these children emerge from their protective defenses when a person pays them attention. We, as sponsors of



Receiving small tokens, such as drawings, mean a great deal to a child who has been abandoned.

some of these children, have a unique opportunity to become a friend to them. Most of us will never have the opportunity to personally meet the child we sponsor, but we can send our love overseas by way of letters, postcards, cards, photographs, and drawings. Through these mediums we can tell the children about ourselves, our families, our hobbies, and where we live, and we can inquire about their hobbies, school, and home environment. When taking a family vacation this summer, pick up postcards along the way and write a few words to your child. Letters don't have to be long, but can be effective in conveying interest and concern. Photographs, especially those of your family, are highly appreciated and treasured by the children.

Here are a few comments, written by a director of a Kidstown-supported orphanage in Romania, which illustrate the importance of communicating with the children:

"An orphaned child receives a special feeling when he knows that somebody is thinking about, praying for, and helping him. This feeling is like the light from a candle: it burns brighter and longer the

more the child receives letters from his sponsors which ask about his hobbies, favorite things to do, school, and spiritual life."

One sponsor once referred to her sponsored boy as "my special son". When the director of the orphanage translated this to him he immediately began to smile and to feel that he belonged to a special mother.

"Their thirsty souls are waiting for a warm word, for understanding, for a drop of love and attention."

"The sponsors who are corresponding (with their children) need to know that they are doing a very important ministry, to the glory of our Lord."

May these comments help us to strive to be more faithful in communicating our love, acceptance, and friendship to our orphan children.



"What nice words!" was the response of this young man after receiving a letter from his sponsor.

## Kidstown Partners with Casa Tabita

The Casa Tabita is a small, Christian orphanage located in the city of Bocsa in Western Romania. Several years before it started, a man named Daniel and his wife, Rodica, periodically took orphans into their home for short visits. They began to dream about building a house where they could provide permanent accommodations for these children and where they could raise them in a Christian environment. Not long after this, a lady from a Romanian Baptist church in Los Angeles heard about their dream and partnered with them by providing the funding to buy a house for this purpose. Another friend made it possible for the house to be remodeled and made functional as an orphanage. The building, which is now owned by the local Baptist church, was dedicated in the fall of 2000 and shortly thereafter 10 children were brought from government-run orphanages to live there.



These 10 children, all orphans, now have a home.

All of these children have been abandoned by their parents. The children comprise two different sibling groups, one of five and one of four. The oldest girl does not have any siblings at the orphanage and she has AIDS. The children are taught about God, are involved in church activities, and attend local schools. Five employees help Daniel and Rodica to keep the home functioning smoothly. There are no plans to bring in more children due to not wanting to destroy the "home" environment. Although the Casa Tabita has operated successfully until this point, funding is always a scarcity. Daniel phrases it this way: "The problem is that

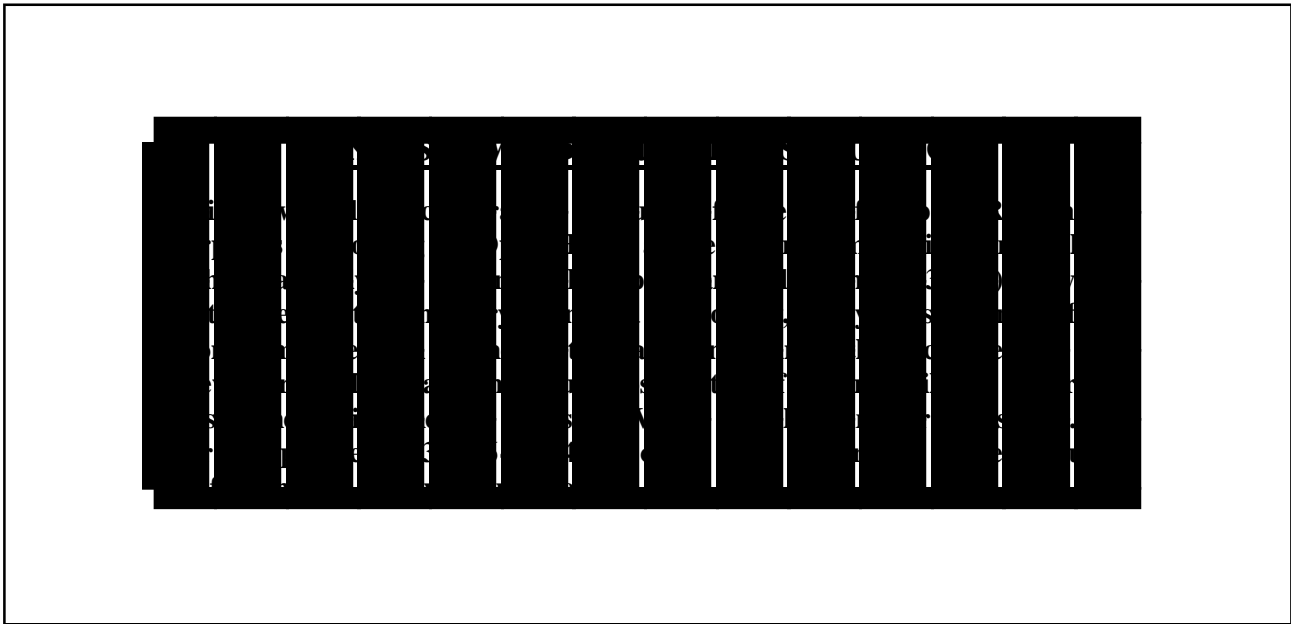
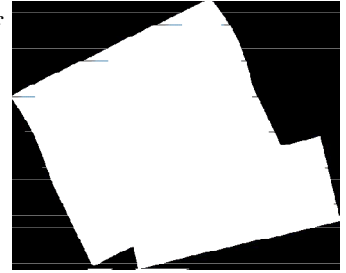


The Casa Tabita was purchased and equipped through the generous donations of two people. However, funding for day-to-day expenses, such as food and electricity, is still a legitimate need.

the money that I am raising is not enough, but the great thing is that the grace of God is enough." Kidstown has agreed to come alongside the Casa Tabita and to provide some funding which will help the leaders care more effectively for the children. Daniel said that they depend on God and on God working through His people. If you are interested in being one of the people God works through to care for these children, please contact Kidstown at 360-647-2470 or e-mail to [director@kidstown.org](mailto:director@kidstown.org).

## **Request for Operational Funding**

*For nearly two years Kidstown has been sending 100% of sponsorship funds overseas. During this time, Kidstown has also experienced substantial growth both in terms of orphanages and new sponsors. We are excited about this, but also realize that with continued growth comes a corresponding increase in the need for operational funds in order to keep the organization functioning smoothly. Kidstown's main role is to be a facilitator between sponsors and the children in the orphanages. It would be wonderful to connect thousands of children to thousands of sponsors and to maintain those relationships without any operational costs, but it does not work out that way. Operational funds are needed to not only maintain existing sponsor-child relationships, but also to search for new children and sponsors, and to keep other organizational functions afloat (such as bills, taxes, etc). Will you give a one-time gift, or perhaps on-going gifts, for this important aspect of Kidstown? Thank you for your help!*



### **Living Memorials**

In the unfortunate death of a loved one, you can honor them by giving a financial gift, known as a "Living Memorial", to Kidstown. This memorial, used to help abandoned children in Romania and India, will honor your loved one. The immediate family of the loved one will receive an acknowledgment that you have given a gift in their honor, and you will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Please cut out the form to the right and use it along with your next Living Memorial gift to Kidstown.

Please send to:  
*Kidstown International*  
*119 N. Commercial, #165*  
*Bellingham, WA 98225*

#### My Living Memorial Gift

My gift in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send gift acknowledgment to:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorial Gift given by:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

# Orphanage Spotlight

The Casa Otniel is a small orphanage which provides shelter and housing to 21 abandoned children. Built in the 1990's by two Dutch aid organizations, the Casa Otniel is now completely operated by Romanians. Children which have lived or currently live in this orphanage all have very traumatic histories. Some have lived in government orphanages, some have come from very volatile family situations, others from conditions of extreme poverty. At the Casa Otniel they find



High-grade greenhouse plastic, donated by Pacific Growers in Lynden, Washington, has allowed the orphanage to have a greenhouse.

a home where there is stability and love, and where their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs are met. This orphanage strives to be as self-sufficient as possible. They have cows, pigs, and chickens. Also they cultivate about 20 hectares of land, have fruit trees, and have recently put into operation a greenhouse. The children are encouraged to be involved in the sustenance of the home by helping with the animals. Each child is responsible for a small piece of land in which they compete with their "siblings" to see who can grow the best

produce. Winners are awarded with special prizes. This helps teach the children skills for the future. Kidstown has worked with this orphanage since 2000. We express our heartfelt appreciation to all the sponsors who have partnered with Kidstown and Casa Otniel in bringing help and hope to these children.

## *Kidstown Essentials*

*Kidstown was formed in 1996 in response to the desperate need to help orphans in Romania. Focused initially on helping 35 children in one orphanage, Kidstown now strives to provide long-term support to over 240 children living in twelve different Christian orphanages.*

*Kidstown endeavors to link families, couples, individuals, schools, churches, and businesses to children in Romania and India. Sponsors for the children provide financial, emotional, and prayer support for the children. It is through these relationships that sponsors can make a positive impact on the lives of children and change the course of their futures.*

*Kidstown is registered in Washington as a charitable organization and is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) entity. Kidstown is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability and has an independent auditor review its finances on a yearly basis.*

*A copy of the most recent financial statement is available upon request.*

*100% of sponsorship donations are sent to Romania and India.*

**Kidstown International**  
119 N. Commercial, #165  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
1-800-328-6939  
[www.kidstown.org](http://www.kidstown.org)



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*