



# KI Reporter

*"Together we can make a difference for a better tomorrow"*

Second Quarter 2002

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## *Kidstown Grows to Six*

The Casa Filip is a small orphanage tucked away in the foothills of Romania's Carpathian Mountains, about 75 miles from the Serbian border. A decade ago, after the fall of Communism, Mihael, the owner of a Romanian trucking company, responded to the desperate needs of the abandoned children in his homeland and founded the Casa Filip, bringing in 10 children ages two to five.

He has solely funded this home over the years. It is a miracle that one man has been able to financially sustain an orphanage like this for so long. However, with the economic downturn in the global economy last year, Mihail's business has suffered. He is having difficulty keeping the orphanage going. So, at the right time, God brought the Casa Filip to our attention. Kidstown International's Founder, Mike Hollander, after a visit to the Casa Filip in March, recommended to the Board of Directors that we "adopt" the Casa Filip into our sponsorship program. His recommendation was unanimously accepted, bringing the total number of orphanages which Kidstown helps to six. God has blessed Kidstown immensely and we thank all the sponsors and donors who have teamed up with us in this wonderful

opportunity of caring for Romania's orphaned children. We need many sponsors for the children in the Casa Filip. If you believe that involving yourself in the life of one of these children by financial support, friendship, and prayer is something you should do, please don't hesitate to contact us! The investment in the life of one child will yield unbelievable returns in their life, and yours.

*"Thank you very, very much for the money again. I'm so happy God has blessed our work together. This month marks two years that you have sponsored our orphanage and the children's lives here in the orphanage are much better. Every visitor tells us that our children have very nice living conditions. All this is because of you. We could never, ever thank God enough for you." (Florica Iuga, Director, Casa Sperantei orphanage, Timisoara, Romania)*  
**Thank you sponsors! You make a difference!**



**Children from Casa Filip happily pose for a photo**

### **KIDSTOWN International**

Our organization is committed to supporting orphans in Romania. Our goal is to receive these children in love, provide for their daily needs, encourage their hopes for the future, and let each child know that God loves them. Your contribution makes you a partner in caring for these needy children, supplying resources to equip them to meet life's challenges.

## A Glance Into the Past (Part II)

Ceausescu was convinced that the key to industrial growth lay in building a larger workforce, and therefore as early as 1966 he banned abortions and contraception for any married woman under 40 with less than four children (in 1972 the limits were raised to 45 and five). It was only in the 1980s, when developing paranoia and his personality cult put him increasingly out of touch with ordinary people, that he introduced the "Baby Police" and compulsory gynecological examinations, to ensure that women were not trying to avoid their "patriotic duty". Unmarried people and married couples without children were penalized by higher taxes. Ceausescu also discriminated against the minorities, trying to persuade them to assimilate with the Romanian populace; it became increasingly hard to get an education or to buy books in Hungarian or German, or to communicate with relatives abroad, while families were pressured to give their children Romanian names.



**Large families and small incomes are a leading factor in Romania's orphan problem.**

Buford, Tim and Richardson, Dan. *Romania, The Rough Guide*. London: Rough Guides Ltd., 1998. (p. 354)

Look for **A Glance Into the Past (Part III)** in Kidstown's Third Quarter newsletter

## Blue Grass Music Festival Spotlights Orphans

The *Berge Family*, *Homeward Bound*, and *Just Friends*, three Blue Grass Gospel music groups from northern Minnesota, generously donated their time and talent by performing at a music festival which had as its focus Kidstown's ministry to Romanian orphans.



*Homeward Bound* heats up the stage



**Kidstown's display is designed to attract & inform**

Banjoes, mandolins, guitars, and beautiful voices joined in first-class musical tributes to their Creator. The presentation of Kidstown's work in Romania, combined with the challenges issued by the musicians, resulted in many responding to sponsor a child or to give financially. We express our gratitude to God for this success!

# Join us on a Trip to Romania!

Are you interested in joining us on a trip to Romania? Do you want to see the effects of 40 years of Communism on a country? Do you want to see first hand the situation of abandoned children in orphanages? If you answered "yes" to these questions, read on, this trip may be for you!

From October 12-21, 2002, Kidstown International will take a small group of people to the country of Romania. Trip participants will see the devastation caused by Communist leadership and will learn the recent history of this country, a history marred with pain and hardship. After the initial shock has passed, group members will be oriented to government-run orphanages, which house approximately 100,000 children across Romania. We will see the neglect, lack of love, and in some situations, unsanitary conditions in which these children live. Amidst this despair and hopelessness, hope does shine in the way of Christian orphanages. Join us in visiting wonderful Christian orphanages which Kidstown International supports. Meet, spend time with, and love the children who live in these homes. Meet the directors of these orphanages and the caretakers of the children who have dedicated so much of their lives to helping abandoned children.

This trip will open your eyes. It will move your heart, and it will change your perspective on life. We are looking for group members who want to catch the vision of what helping orphans is all about, and then who would be willing to help us back here in North America. Our best way of helping these orphanages is by finding support for them here in the USA and Canada. Our contacts are limited, but with the help of each person who has gone, seen, and is fired up to help, we can reach thousands of people with the challenge to help. The more people who involve themselves in supporting children, the more orphanages we can help. How can you get help in your community? Simply by making a contact for us or by telling others yourself about the need.

If what we have described above fits you or if you have further questions, give us a call, or send us an e-mail. We would love to have you join us. Reservations are first come, first serve, so don't delay. The approximate cost for the trip is \$1,500.00 USD per person. This includes airfare, hotel accommodations, food, and ground transportation. (Price may vary if travelling alone vs. with a companion.) To hold your spot in the group, please send a \$100 non-refundable payment, which will later be applied towards your airfare.

We hope you join us!

## Sponsor Search

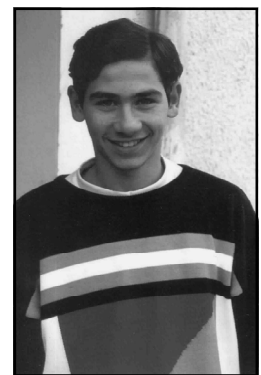


**Andrei**

### Will you help one of these boys?

Andrei Bodor is 13 years old. He lives in the Casa Filip orphanage with his brother. Their parents have no interest in them. They have a brother and sister who were adopted and now live in other countries. Andrei is currently in the 6th grade in school.

Stefan "Fane" Varga is 14 years old. He also lives in the Casa Filip. He doesn't know his parents and no one inquires about him. He is in the 6th grade and is a smart boy.



**Stefan**

**For a little more than \$1 a day you can make a difference in the life of a child.**

**Will you make that sacrifice?**

**KIDSTOWN International**  
**119 N. Commercial, #165**  
**Bellingham, WA 98225**

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### **KIDSTOWN International Reply Card**

**YES! I/we can sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ KI child(ren) at \$35 per month.**

My one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the ministry of Kidstown.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly sponsorship to be paid by:  check  credit card

Credit card no. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature for credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Please have the sponsorship charge appear:  monthly (\$35)  quarterly (\$105)

semi-annually (\$210)  annually (\$420)

Phone: (360) 647-2470; FAX (360) 734-9452; E-mail: [director@kidstown.org](mailto:director@kidstown.org)

Website: [www.kidstown.org](http://www.kidstown.org)