



KI Reporter

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

Fourth Quarter 2002

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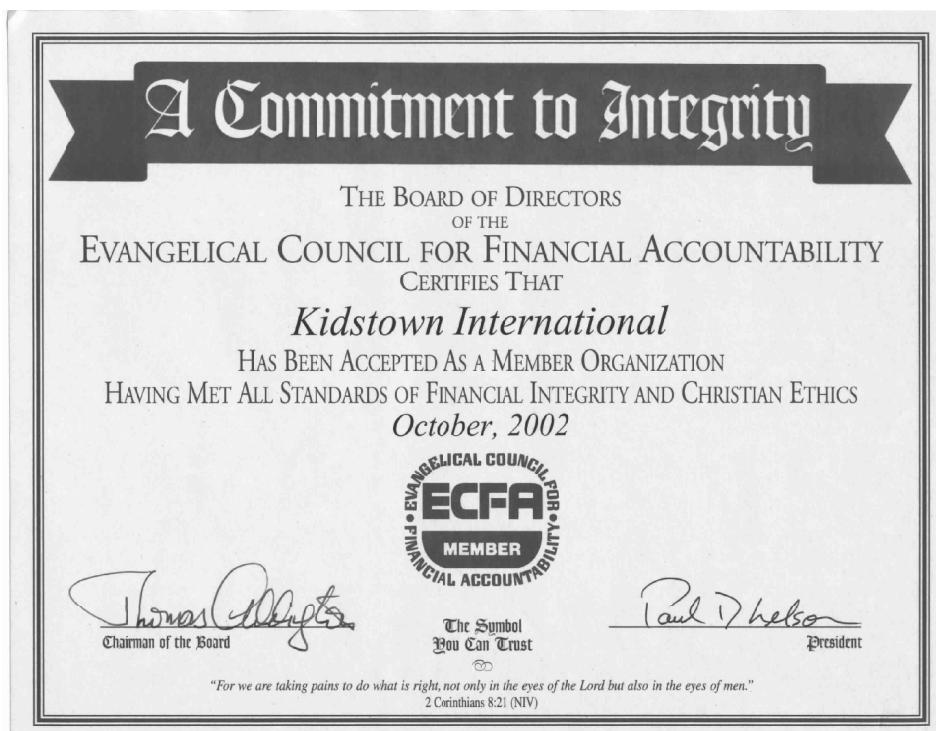
Kidstown Becomes Member of the ECFA

A few years ago Kidstown set its sights on one day becoming a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, or ECFA. The ECFA is a Christian organization, established in 1979, in an effort to prevent government legislation which would affect Christian non-profit organizations. ECFA successfully intervened and has established itself as a "watchdog" organization, monitoring the finances of its member organizations. ECFA currently has a membership of over 1,000 ministries, including Campus Crusade for Christ, Focus on the Family,

World Vision, and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Kidstown has been actively working toward this goal of ECFA membership for the last two and a half years. With an in-depth application process including a full financial audit, Kidstown had its hands full. In May of 2001 Kidstown held a fund-raiser with part of the proceeds (\$5,000) being set aside to fund the audit. After consulting with an accounting firm and the ECFA, Kidstown proceeded with the audit and application in the summer of 2002. In October of 2002 Kidstown was accepted into the ECFA, bringing a challenging goal to reality.

The main way that ECFA membership will benefit Kidstown is by the right of Kidstown to display the ECFA logo on literature, its web-site, etc., which in turn will increase donor confidence in giving to Kidstown.

*For all who helped us make this dream a reality:
Thank You!*



KIDSTOWN International

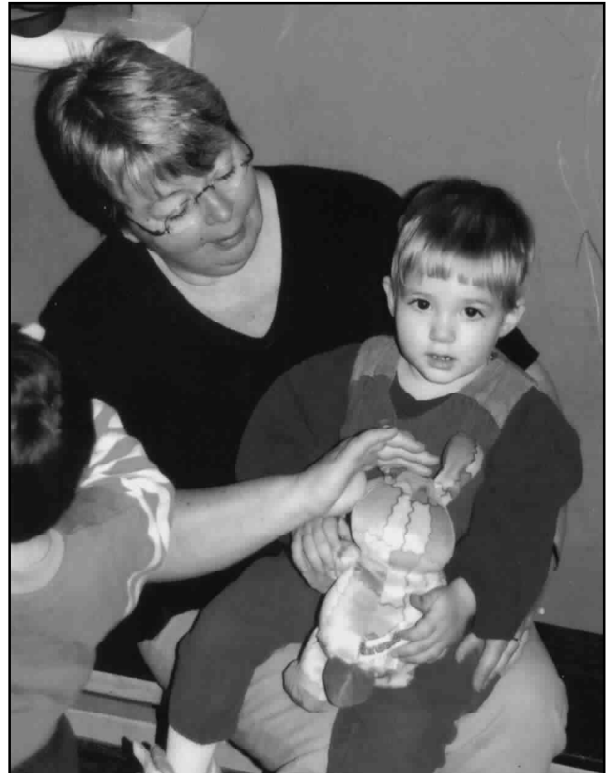
Our organization is committed to supporting orphans in Romania. Our goal is to receive these children in love, provide for their daily needs, encourage their hopes for the future, and let each child know that God loves them. Your contribution makes you a partner in caring for these needy children, supplying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

Romania Report: Help Needed

Each trip to Romania is a new adventure, complete with new experiences, anxieties, sadness and laughter. This year was no different. In October five brave souls undertook the trip to this remote Eastern European country. A country that takes effort to reach, Kidstown Team '02 had to travel 30 hours by plane, train, and minibus to arrive at its destination. After that much effort, one would feel that a vacation is deserved! But in reality, the real work and challenges were lying just ahead. Unlike the U.S., with its smooth, high-speed interstates, many of Romania's roads are more conducive to horses than they are to cars. Potholes, uneven and broken pavement, and numerous traffic hazards frequent the driver on Romanian roads. In an effort to reduce costs, it was decided that instead of renting a van and driver for the week, we would drive ourselves. How hard can it be? Well, a 23-year-old minibus equipped with a clunking right front wheel, no tail lights, an exhaust leak into the passenger compartment, and headlights with a range of about 10 feet, coupled with the hazard-ridden Romanian roads, provided quite a challenge. After almost 500 miles (which took 17 hours) we were more than happy to hand the keys back to the owner. God was faithful though: no accidents, no hassles from local police, and no car trouble (except for one of the outside rear view mirrors falling off as we drove down the road).

Our focus this year was to visit each of the six orphanages that Kidstown works with. We do this to touch base

with the leadership and connect with the children. Spending time with the children is very important, because it has a way of touching the hearts of group members, causing them to realize why we are trying to help. Aside from Kidstown's six orphanages, we also visited an orphanage which has asked for assistance from Kidstown. This orphanage is located in a coal mining city in the Carpathian Mountains. The orphanage was built by a British organization, but is in need of operational funding. Our goal was to visit the leadership and see the orphanage, with the hopes of then being able to adequately report our findings to the Kidstown Board of Directors. One other orphanage we visited was a government-run orphanage in the city of Timisoara. There are approximately 150 children ages zero to four years old that live in this home. The conditions appear to be clean, but the real tragedy is that the children are left to themselves for the majority of each day. Some just lay in their cribs. Others are propped up in a makeshift chair. Some sit on a bench and rock themselves. A child psychologist who works at that orphanage told us not to pick the children up because they would cry when they would be put back down. (Why would they cry? Because they were receiving love, and then were separated from it.) The psychologist was trying to prevent us from doing the very thing (loving) that those babies need the most! How tragic. Beautiful children with no one to love them, left alone with little hope in this institution.



Nancy Thomas, from Bemidji, Minnesota, holds a little child in a government orphanage.

What is the solution? Pray for more Christians in Romania to start their own private orphanages and take some of these children under their wing. Pray for people here in the US who will respond financially and in prayer to help these private orphanages. We have seen the difference with the Christian orphanages that Kidstown supports. The children are loved and cared for. They are happier and hope is again a reality to many of them. Thanks to the many sponsors and donors on the Kidstown team, we have been able to reach out and help six orphanages in the last six years. If more people will commit themselves to helping just one child a piece, perhaps we can help six more orphanages in the next six years! Maybe we can take all the babies out of that government orphanage and place them in Christian orphanages where they will be loved and cared for. With God all things are possible.

Will you make yourself available to be part of His provision for the abandoned children in Romania?

Give a Special Gift this Christmas!

Another Christmas season has arrived! Brightly decorated homes, twinkling Christmas trees, bustling malls, and heart-warming carols are only a few of the many sights and sounds of the season. As the wise men brought gifts to the Christ child 2,000 years ago, so we also commemorate His birth by giving gifts to each other. Innumerable gift ideas are presented to us through TV, radio, magazines, and billboards. Knowing what to get for loved ones can be a formidable challenge.

This year, maybe it would be refreshing to give a different kind of gift. This is not the type of gift that will break, rust, or end up in the garage. This is not a gift that will take up much room under the tree, but it does have the potential of taking up a big part of your heart.

This is a gift that you will give to a child who lives far away. It is a commitment to helping that child for one year. You will be sent a picture and the story of a child who lives in an orphanage in Romania. Your financial support throughout the year will help provide basic needs for your child. But more importantly, your involvement in this child's life will give them hope. It will send the message that they are important, that you care about them, and that perhaps life really does hold promise for them. If you have children of your own, this gift of child sponsorship can teach them what it means to care for others and to give to those who are not as fortunate. It will teach them to be thankful for what they have. It will be an opportunity for them to pray for the Romanian child and experience a friendship with that child throughout the year.

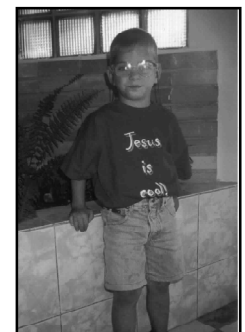
During this season of Christmas, our challenge to you is to prayerfully consider doing something a little different. The Bible says that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and when you know that the one to whom you are giving has nothing but his love to give in return, you will attest to the truth of that saying! Will you give the gift of sponsorship this Christmas?



Merry Christmas from an orphan living in the Casa Dorca orphanage in Romania.

Thank You!

We extend our special thanks to each person who has helped us this year. Many of you sponsor children, others help Kidstown with administrative expenses, others give of their time, talents, and contacts, while others are burdened to pray for Kidstown and the children we support. It is only through the involvement of each of you that together we are able to help over 150 children in Romania! We are deeply grateful for your willingness to help make a difference in the life of a child. God will bless you for your selfless efforts.



Making a difference in the life of one

Year-End Donations

Are you considering giving a year-end donation? If so, please prayerfully consider helping Kidstown's work and ministry of caring for orphans in Romania. Receipts will be issued for all financial gifts. Please send checks to: *Kidstown International, 119 N. Commercial, #165, Bellingham, WA 98225.*

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

Website: www.kidstown.org