



Victims of family violence, AIDS in Romania getting assistance with basic needs.

Bucharest, Romania (IOCC) —

To a woman living in a domestic violence shelter, a blanket is more than something to keep her warm — it's a source of comfort. For an underprivileged child struggling to stay in school, a new pencil and notebook are more than school supplies — they're tools for success.

Blankets and "Gift of the Heart" school kits and health kits are the kinds of material assistance that IOCC is planning for victims of family violence and AIDS as part of its new \$5.4 million partnership with the Romanian Orthodox Church.

The project, launched in April in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development, seeks to raise public awareness about AIDS and family violence in Romania, and to improve the quality of care for those confronted with these devastating issues.

It is estimated that 29 percent of married women in Romania have suffered either physical or emotional abuse in their lifetime, and that an alarming number of young people have either experienced (41 percent) or witnessed (26 percent) parental physical abuse during childhood.

Seventy percent of Romanians living with HIV/AIDS are teen-agers. Those who are orphans and living in state care will have to fend for themselves once they turn 18, and many face the grim prospect of a life of poverty and unemployment.



Photo: IOCC-Romania

His Beatitude TEOCTIST, Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, addresses those attending the program signing ceremony in April 2005. Among those present were staff from IOCC, the Romanian Orthodox Church, the U.S. Agency for International Development and members of the press.

Against this setting for a public health crisis, the Romanian Orthodox Church and IOCC offer the prospect of hope and social change.

Will Clowney, IOCC-Romania Program Coordinator, said that at-risk young people and women in the program can benefit greatly from basic necessities such as school supplies and personal hygiene items. The \$445,000 in material assistance is being made available through IOCC's growing Gifts-in-Kind program, which leverages bulk

quantities of goods from corporate and charitable donors. IOCC's in-kind contribution was strengthened by the support of Romanian Orthodox Christians in North America.

"In our project, we're working with 13 dioceses of the Romanian Orthodox Church. We're going to distribute these items through the churches and work with the dioceses to make sure they go to the people who need them the most," Clowney said.

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From the Executive Director



One of the things I've learned in my 12 years of service to IOCC is that our supporters want to know that they're making a meaningful difference. They want to help in a tangible, concrete way. That's why we have tried to give as much ownership and hands-on opportunity to them as possible. The IOCC Children's Prayer Journal and "Gift of the Heart" program are excellent ways for our youth to get involved.

Another way that people are making a difference is through IOCC's growing Gifts-in-Kind program. This program multiplies the impact of your charitable dollar while providing essential assistance to children and families in need. First, IOCC obtains in-kind donations (material goods such as books, medicines and blankets) from corporations and other partners. Then, your gift enables IOCC to effectively and efficiently transport, distribute and monitor this aid to the people who need it the most.

Recently, IOCC responded to the continued urgent

needs for medical supplies and equipment in Serbia-Montenegro. NBA star Peja Stojakovic's generous gift of \$25,000 covered the freight and shipping costs, translating into \$2.9 million in life-saving assistance. So you see how your gifts can grow dramatically through the Gifts-in-Kind program.

In Ethiopia, IOCC's partner, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, requested much-needed textbooks for school children. IOCC was able to provide enough donated textbooks to fill two 40-foot containers. Donors' gifts totaling \$30,000 covered the freight and shipping costs, translating into 30,000 books worth more than \$1.3 million that will provide opportunity and hope to children

with limited or no access to books.

That's the power of leveraging, and that's why we're working hard to build IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program. Your gifts can touch so many more lives when IOCC uses them to leverage first-quality, urgently needed humanitarian supplies from its partners.

In this issue of *News & Needs*, you will read about the many ways that IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program is touching lives around the world — in Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the West Bank, Ethiopia, Albania and elsewhere. Thank you for taking ownership in IOCC and for joining us as we work together for a more peaceful world.



Yours In Christ,

Constantine M. Triantafilou
Executive Director

International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC) was established in 1992 by the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) as the official humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians to work in cooperation with the Orthodox Churches worldwide.

The mission of IOCC is to respond to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ, to minister to those who are suffering and are in need throughout the world, sharing with them God's gifts of food, shelter, economic self-sufficiency and hope.

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recycled paper

To learn more about IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program, please visit www.iocc.org

In-Kind goods help Palestinians overcome poverty, lack of mobility

Jerusalem (IOCC) — It all started with a beautiful patchwork quilt.

A group of women from Nablus in the West Bank received some quilts as part of IOCC's ongoing program of assistance in the Holy Land. But the women weren't content to be on the receiving end of humanitarian aid. The quilt gave them an idea that has blossomed into a way for them to earn critically-needed income for their families.

"We supported their desire to do it themselves," said Nora Kort, IOCC-Jerusalem Country Representative. The women started creating quilts for their own use and to sell for the benefit of a local women's cooperative.

"It enhances self-reliance, generates income, increases cooperation and helps their families," Ms. Kort said. "It's assistance with an eye on development."

The quilts were part of a larger distribution of material goods (blankets, health kits, school kits) delivered by IOCC in the West Bank in 2004, and made possible by IOCC's growing Gifts-in-Kind program. That work is continuing this year, with the distribution of wheelchairs and more "Gift of the Heart" school and health kits.

Ms. Kort said that in-kind goods help supplement the ongoing humanitarian programs of IOCC in the rural West Bank. Currently, IOCC is implementing projects to renovate schools and youth facilities in 23 isolated villages, and to train women and young people in public health, democracy building and leadership skills.

Participants in both projects, mostly women and children, have received "Gift of the Heart" health kits, school

kits and baby kits, and more are on the way. "It supports and gives relief to the families that normally can't afford these things," Ms. Kort said. "For the children, it enhances their interest and readiness to continue their studies. For the mothers, it comes at a time when mobility is severely restricted and they can't normally get access to baby supplies."

IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program leverages bulk quantities of material goods from corporate and charitable partners, and uses private donations to effectively and efficiently distribute the aid to people who need it the most.

In 2004, IOCC received nearly \$100,000 in donated goods such as health and school kits from its ecumenical partners.

The kits were distributed in 45 villages through an extensive network of IOCC partner organizations — village councils, women's committees and local non-governmental organizations. Educational toys were also distributed to kindergartens and orphanages around Christmas time.

"It relieves the budget of the kindergarten and contributes to the

psychological well-being of the children," Ms. Kort said. "It's very therapeutic. It's important to remember that these children have been raised in a culture of violence, so these toys are very welcome."

Often the benefit of a toy or parcel goes beyond the item itself. For Nicole Minor of Houston, Texas, a blanket being used as a rug in a West Bank kindergarten classroom was a spur to do something more. Ms. Minor recently visited IOCC's projects in the West Bank and, while visiting a kindergarten classroom in Kufur Dan, saw a group of children using a folded blanket as a rug.

"All they had was a concrete floor," Ms. Minor said. When she returned to the States, Minor gave a presentation to a local high school and engaged the interest of a group of students who raised money for a new rug. "The students really could connect with who they were helping," she said. "It's real to them."

This year, more than \$200,000 in material goods will be distributed by IOCC in the West Bank at a cost of about \$20,000.



A woman from the West Bank town of Madama displays one of the embroideries she made at the local women's sewing cooperative.

Photo: Nicole Minor - The Pangea Network

To learn more about IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program, please visit www.iocc.org

Gifts in Kind — matching resource to need

IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind (GIK) program focuses on matching quality material resources to the needs of individuals across the world who IOCC serves every day. While cash grants will always be the preferred resource because they can be specifically tailored to all aspects of a situation, GIK procurements allow field offices to respond to the human need that confronts them on a daily basis.

The GIK resources that IOCC solicits **are not** the used clothing, blankets or other miscellaneous household items that well intentioned homeowners desire to donate. There was a time when these items were appropriate; however, today the costs of collecting, sorting, transporting, shipping and storing these items outweigh their value. Charitable organizations also face the reality that developing countries aren't willing to admit these used products into their countries free of tax and duty. **It's important to note that IOCC is not seeking donations of used household products.**

The items that IOCC is seeking are 20 or 40 foot shipping container loads of new quality products that manufacturers or distributors desire to donate for IOCC's use in its international programs.

Products range from blankets, linens, school supplies, vitamins, new English language or literature textbooks to tools, tractors, seeds, high-protein foods, quality pharmaceuticals and hospital equipment. These are just a few examples of desirable GIK resources — IOCC is willing to consider any appropriate donation.

An average 40 foot container of quality products can be valued around \$400,000 (although a recent antibiotic container was valued at \$2.9 million) with IOCC's costs for acquiring, handling, transport, shipping, storage and distribution averaging \$15,000. This is what makes the GIK program so efficient — **such a donation can leverage at least 25 times the value in quality products.**



How you can help:

1. Help us to identify manufacturers and suppliers of suitable products who might be willing to support IOCC's GIK program.
2. Facilitate our introduction to the decision makers of these prospective donors. (Sometimes they may be family, friends, neighbors or contacts you know through your business or professional associations).
3. Designate financial support for shipping costs so that when a GIK is secured we will have the financial resources to deliver it overseas and distribute it effectively.

Should you have any questions about IOCC's GIK program, please contact Dan Christopoulos at DChristopoulos@iocc.org or 952-930-3286.



Photo: IOCC-Georgia

Cases of "Gift of the Heart" school kits (a joint project with IOCC's partner Church World Service) are unloaded at an elementary school in Tbilisi, Georgia. More than 15,000 school kits have been distributed to children in the Republic of Georgia.

To learn more about IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program, please visit www.iocc.org

IOCC, Wheelchair Foundation and NBA Champion team up in Bosnia-Herzegovina



Photos: IOCC-Bosnia-Herzegovina

Milenko Djurasinovic, President of the Novi Grad Paraplegic Association, receives a wheelchair at the distribution in Banja Luka. Forty-nine years old, he has suffered from paraplegia since he was 15.

Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina (IOCC) — Rasho Nesterovic, Center for the National Basketball Association's (NBA) San Antonio Spurs, has a lot to celebrate.

After his team's victory in the NBA finals earlier this summer, Nesterovic has garnered another championship off the court — in the hearts of nearly 300 disabled people in Bosnia-Herzegovina. His generosity assured them new wheelchairs as part of a \$40,000 project.

In a unique partnership between IOCC, the Wheelchair Foundation and Nesterovic, as well as the "Dystrophy Union" (a local organization currently heading the Union of Associations of the Disabled in Bosnia-Herzegovina), a shipment containing 280 wheelchairs was sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina and distributed in June and July.

Participating in IOCC's growing Gifts-in-Kind program, the Wheelchair Foundation donated the wheelchairs and had them transported to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Through IOCC's relationships with local non-governmental organizations, identification of recipients and a distribution plan was formulated.

In addition to providing the wheelchairs, three-month vocational training courses were organized for some of the recipients in order to enhance their vocational and career development opportunities. But in order to bring the project to fruition, Nesterovic, as he has often done in his seven year NBA career, stepped up to the charity line and delivered. His donation provided the necessary funds for the in-country transportation and distribution of the wheelchairs as well as paying for

the vocational training.

This successful Gifts-in-Kind project has also led to another \$40,000 collaborative effort between IOCC, the Wheelchair Foundation and the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. With funding provided by Philoptochos, another container of 280 wheelchairs will be purchased and sent to the Republic of Georgia. Working in partnership with the Georgian Ministry of Health, and other local non-governmental agencies, IOCC and its partners will once again assure appropriate distribution of the wheelchairs and implement vocational training.

These two initial efforts with the Wheelchair Foundation, together with contributions from dedicated Orthodox Christians, will touch over 450 physically challenged people in two countries and total over \$80,000.



Seven year old Djordje Volas, whose legs have been paralyzed since birth, receives his wheelchair. This Fall, he will start attending a school for children with special needs.

To learn more about IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program, please visit www.iocc.org

Donated vitamins give hope to Albanian children, hospitals

Photos: Dr. Charles Linderman



The children under Dr. Charles and Maria Linderman's care at the Children's Home of Hope. Right, some of the children are greeted by His Beatitude Archbishop ANASTASIOS.

Tirana, Albania (IOCC) — This is the story of how \$11,000 became \$450,000 in vitamins and protein supplements for malnourished children in Albania.

Still struggling 14 years after emerging from a brutal communist dictatorship, Albania suffers from a poorly developed medical infrastructure. Many of the hospitals struggle to maintain the barest of necessities, and outside the capital of Tirana, there is significant poverty and malnourishment.

Dr. Charles Linderman and his wife, Maria, have been working in Albania for IOCC's sister agency, the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) as medical missionaries for five years. The Lindermans also oversee the Children's Home of Hope, founded by His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios in July 2003. The facility operates as a licensed foster home for 32 children.

IOCC has supported Dr. Linderman's medical work at

the Annunciation Orthodox Clinic for several years, and recently, IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program was able to offer assistance to children at the Children's Home of Hope and beyond.

In the summer of 2004, the Children's Home of Hope received a donation of \$25,000 from the Dietrich Boststiber Foundation, part of which went to the home's operating expenses and \$11,000 of which is being applied to a large in-kind donation from a medical charity.

IOCC was able to leverage the donation into \$450,000 in vitamins and protein supplements for pediatric hospitals in Albania. The donation from Globus Relief of Salt Lake City was made possible by IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program, which leverages bulk quantities of material goods from corporate and charitable partners.

The \$11,000 will cover the shipping and freight costs for the vitamins, and the Albanian Ministry of Health

will help administer the program.

"With much of the pediatric illness in Albania stemming from poor nutrition, one can easily appreciate the value of this donation," Dr. Linderman said. "It will significantly impact the children of Albania."

The donation includes more than 698,000 vitamin doses and more than 150,000 protein drink servings, which Dr. Linderman estimates will help about 14,150 children.



"The goal of the Ministry of Health is to provide these supplements to children who are at the greatest risk and therefore the greatest need," Dr. Linderman said. "If active efforts are not taken to supplement their levels of protein and vitamins, their ability to respond to antibiotics and other treatments is greatly reduced."

This project is one of nine Gifts-in-Kind initiatives that IOCC is currently implementing around the world.



To learn more about IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program, please visit www.iocc.org

Victims in Romania getting assistance with basic needs

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About 2,600 Church personnel, including priests, priests' wives, deacons and religion teachers, will receive instruction in AIDS awareness and family violence prevention, as well as training in counseling techniques and in mobilizing their own parish communities on behalf of the victims.

Community-based services will be implemented through a series of grassroots initiatives, half of them youth-led and for teen-agers, and another half through concerned parishioners organized into Philanthropic Committees.

Through educational classes and Youth Initiative Clubs, the project will reach nearly 350,000 young people with a faith-based message of abstinence and faithfulness to one partner.

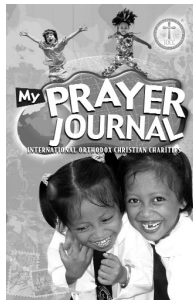
Many of the health kits, school kits and blankets will be distributed through the Philanthropic Committees and Youth Initiative Clubs as a way to engage lay people in the project.

"Children from poor families get nickel-and-dimed to death for school supplies, so book bags and supplies are always welcome," Clowney said. "Health kits are helpful for victims of family violence who are living in shelters. Blankets can also be used in shelters and by children whose families are affected by AIDS."

The items are expected to arrive in Romania late this summer. The "Gift of the Heart" school and health kits are made possible through the contributions of Orthodox Christians.



My Prayer Journal and a "Gift of the Heart"



IOCC is pleased to announce that the third edition of the Children's Prayer Journal is now available. The past two editions have proved successful as a tool for our young people to learn about children across the world and the importance of actively caring for our brothers and sisters in need. Titled "My Prayer Journal," the colorful 32-page book encourages children in their prayer life and each month features a different country where IOCC is currently working. The booklet also contains Bible verses, quotes from the Church Fathers, excerpts from the Divine Liturgy, suggested prayers, and a "Gift of the Heart" activity. If you would like to order an additional copy, please visit www.iocc.org/journal.

Send a "Gift of Heart" Health Kit through our partner Church World Service for those suffering from the tsunami disaster and recent hurricanes:

1. Buy a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure and fill it with the following items:
 - One hand towel
 - One washcloth
 - One comb
 - One metal nail file or nail clipper
 - One bar of soap (bath size)
 - One toothbrush
 - One tube of toothpaste (4-7 ounces)
 - Six Band-Aids
2. Secure the bag and pack it in a box. Secure the box with packing tape.
3. Clearly mark the outside of the box with the words "Health Kit," apply the correct amount of postage and mail the box to the following address:

**IOCC / Church World Service
Brethren Service Center Annex
601 Main St. • P.O. Box 188
New Windsor, Md. 21776-0188**

Be sure to include the name of the parish, group or individual sending the kits on the box.

More information on this project can be found online at www.iocc.org/kits. To pack a "Gift of the Heart" School kit see the last page of My Prayer Journal or visit us online.

To learn more about IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind program, please visit www.iocc.org

IOCC in the workplace

Does your place of employment sponsor a workplace charitable campaign? If so, you and your co-workers may be eligible to support IOCC through the convenience of payroll deductions.

IOCC offers an Orthodox alternative to the many government and private employers hosting workplace employee charitable fund drives this fall. Workplace giving campaigns are annual, employer-sponsored employee payroll deduction programs that make it easy to make contributions to the charity of your choice.

Through its affiliation with Global Impact, IOCC participates in workplace charitable campaigns conducted among employees in federal, state, city and county governments, public schools, private sector worksites and several United Way campaigns across the country. IOCC participates in all 385 individual federal employee campaigns conducted by the Combined Federal Campaigns throughout the United States. You can designate to IOCC by writing code 0348 on your pledge card. For more information on workplace campaigns, visit www.iocc.org/workplace.

Employer matching contributions can multiply the impact of your charitable gift. Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees. Some employers match gifts as large as \$10,000 or more! Your gifts to IOCC help us to provide high-impact, life-sustaining programs throughout the world. When your gift is matched, IOCC can use it to reach twice as many people in need.

Yours could be the world's most important job.

By supporting IOCC, you're helping to rebuild homes for refugee families, provide job training for widowed mothers and respond immediately when disasters strike. For just pennies a day, your pledge to IOCC through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) or United Way can make a significant difference for children and families across the world affected by poverty, war, disease and natural disasters.

Workplace Giving Code #0348

Or, on the campaign form, write in:

**INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHARITIES**



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International Orthodox Christian Charities

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above in your
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