

"For I know the plans for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

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The Gift From the Heart Easter Program is Coming Soon!

The Easter Team will be delivering Easter gifts the first week of April to more than 700 children in Placement Center's (orphanages), 300 gifts to staff, and family food care packages to more than 200 families living in impoverished communities.



In preparation on this side of the ocean, long-time volunteer and friend to the orphans and children in Romania, Georgene Bernhardt (pictured at left) organized several days of work parties to decorate the Ziploc bags that the children will receive. The thoughtful touch of Easter stickers brings an added happiness to this special gift.



After more than 20 years of traveling to Romania, Georgene's health is not allowing her to travel back at this time, but she continues to bless the children as part of the "Home Team", and we are so grateful!



Gloria Bernard returns for her 11th trip of service this April!

"Hello and guess where I am going April 1st - back to Romania! Our team departs the states April 1 for a whirl wind trip returning home late on day #9. We are the Easter Team & this is my 11th team since 1995! Our mission is to visit nine orphanages in and around Sibiu, Romania and give the message of the Resurrection and hand out gifts to orphans and care givers in gallon-size baggies. We will also visit 2 poor villages for food distribution. Our first day, we assemble and fill 700 baggies, then Monday through Friday we deliver.

If you have ever wondered what it's like to be an orphan, believe me, it's no fun not having a family. At age 18, you are let <u>out of the walls of the orphanage to</u>

be on your own. You only know where you have lived for 18 years. Where is there to go, and who is going to take you in? Will they use you or love you when they don't even know you? The street is your new home and it's not pretty.

Our Team will let these orphans know someone cares - it is something we can do. We smile, they see that we care, it's fleeting – we're gone and who is going to care for them tomorrow? We can only

hope to give them a glimmer of love, a glimmer of caring, and hope they know that God will always care for each of them. Sometimes they sing us a song. One such song started out...."We have no mother, we have no father, but we have a friend in Jesus, etc.." (taken from Gloria's letter to family and friends)





Spring Calendar

March 25th-April 2nd: Oaks Christian High School Youth Team – 17 students and chaperone's will spend mornings sprucing up and preparing Camp of the Good Shepherd for its 2016 season. After lunch, the team will travel to the Turnu Rosu Special Education Placement Center to provide an afternoon Vacation Bible School to the children that live there; it will be a wonderful blessing for all!

April $2^{nd}-9^{th}$: Medical Teams International Dr. Scott Packham Dental Team – Dr. Scott Packham, Heart of Hope Board Member from Camarillo, CA and Dr. Caroline Shaw from Seattle, WA along with 2 hygienists will work at the Dental University of Sibiu – mentoring and teaching students while seeing children from the Placement Centers that desperately need their services.

April 2nd-9th: Gift from the Heart Easter Program – HHMI Volunteers and staff will distribute Easter gifts to more than 700 children and 300 staff at Placement Centers and provide family food care packages to more than 200 families in impoverished communities.

Each and every volunteer traveling this spring provides all of their own funding and we so appreciate the time they take away from family, friends, and work to bless those in need in Romania.

We are ever mindful and grateful to our Home Team of donors who provide prayer and financial support for the programs of Heart of Hope Ministries, thank you so very much for your consideration for the Easter program at this time!

Yours in Partnership, Debbie and Your HHMI Board