

Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church

Building Relationships with People in Christ

Presbyterians in Romania

Since 2003 we have aided Rev. Mary Ferris, a missionary in Romania. There are many orphaned and abandoned children in that country, and she works with two orphanages in Tulcea in partnership with NOROC: New Opportunities for Orphaned Children. NOROC, in Romanian, stands for "God Bless". In 2004 Mary visited our church and gave us an update on conditions in Romania and also about the innovative programs being utilized.

Big Hearted Grannies give individual attention to the little ones and the Grannies benefit from a small salary to supplement their pensions. Mary works with Big Hearted Friends who help the older youth integrate into society, find jobs and housing. They also have regular Bible study groups. There is an interesting connection to a past member of our church, Marge Sanders. Her daughter had gone to seminary with Mary so she designated her mother's memorial funds to go to NOROC. It actually came at a critical time to prevent the closing of a school for special needs youth in Romania. I was truly a blessing.

For more information go to the website: <http://www.noroc.org/romania.html>