

Hope



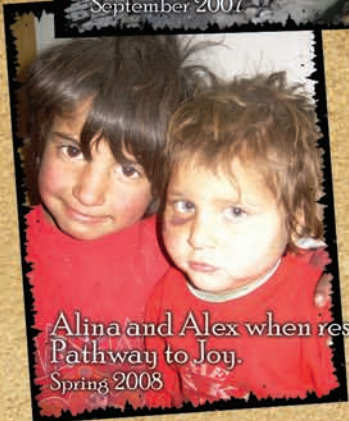
Where Alina and Alex lived alone.
September 2007



Alex, at left, staying close to Alina
September 2007



Sarah swabs dirt from Alex' face.
Alina is at right.
September 2007



Alina and Alex when rescued by
Pathway to Joy.
Spring 2008

In our 2007 visit to Romania's Sabolciu village at Oradea, our hearts were ripped apart with Alexandra's empty, sad expression. Dirt covered her face. She had no response to Sarah Christopher's gentle swabbing. Months later we learned Alex and her sister Alina (ages 2 and 6) were living alone in a 5x7 foot unheated hut with no adults. Sabolciu is the poorest of two Roma (gypsy) villages we visited. Neither have running water or heat in their homes today yet.

Fearing these girls would die in the harsh winter, Pathway to Joy Ministries entreated the government to let them place the girls in foster care. This battle went on seven months. Finally, Pathway risked losing their license when they physically took the girls, with their grandma's permission, and placed them in a foster home, a loving rescue done just in time. Alex and Alina were both sick, suffering from frostbite, and shaking with fear. Embedded lice meant the complete shaving of their heads was necessary.

Pathway then discovered that Alina had never been issued a birth certificate. The date believed to be nearest her day of birth is January 30. She will celebrate for the first time in 2009 with the caring Christian family God has provided. Alex and Alina now have two sisters, a mommy and a daddy.

When Jim and I understood their demise and the sponsorship needed for a foster home, we knew we were to give. Our life group, led by Jeff and Shelly Kellogg, now adds enough to cover a larger percentage of their monthly foster care expense.

In October this year, we (and Angie Banks) were privileged to spend a Sunday afternoon with Alina and Alexandra in their foster home. What a miracle of God we witnessed before us – two joyful sisters laughing, having fun, and enjoying their "mommy," Simona.

"Seeing the girls now," stated Angie, "and knowing the gravity of their situation, the transformation in their lives can only be explained by the Lord intervening through Pathway to Joy. The sounds of their sweet laughter brought tears to my eyes. I loved seeing the hugs and love they had for Simona and the love she had for them. This experience alone would convict me to support Pathway to Joy, when you see the fruit of their labor in front of you."

at Last *by Irene Byers*

When Chicagoan Bud Nidey in our group observed Alina and Alex a couple days later, he was taken in with their exuberance. "I recall at one point the youngest was laughing so hard she was even covering her mouth. These children bore no resemblance to the sad children I had heard about."

Alina and Alexandra – two sisters miraculously rescued from an all-alone life with death crouching at the door. Just one case in which the Holy Spirit prompted Pathway to Joy to bring hope that lasts. It's their mission – to offer protection, provision, and permanent solutions for the many abandoned and orphaned children in Romania. "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans...in their distress." James 1:27a NIV (www.pathwaytojoy.org).

A blissful time we had together.
October 2008



Alina and Alex at home in the arms of Sinoma.
October 2008



Alina taking care of sister Alex.
October 2008



Alina and Alex playing with each other.
October 2008