



CASA MEA NEWS

Fall 2007 Greetings from Casa Mea:

From Our Family to Yours ... Exciting News!

Our Family is Growing!



In May, 2007, three beautiful children, siblings from the same family, joined our Casa Mea family here in Prejmer, Romania. We are delighted to introduce them to you.



Amalia, the eldest, celebrated her 8th birthday with us on August 3rd. We honored her with a traditional Romanian birthday party, possibly the first she has ever celebrated this way. Friends were invited and a delicious Romanian dinner was served, complete with cake and birthday songs in Romanian and English. She enjoyed opening her gifts and sharing them with all the children. Amalia loves to read

books, put together puzzles, and draw or color at her leisure. Her passion is playing music and dancing like a Princess Ballerina. She also loves to play school and direct the activities of the other children, while playing house and other make-believe games. She eagerly comforts the littler ones with her tender embrace.

Maria, age 6, compassionately gives of herself to others. She especially enjoys doting on Julia by combing her hair, playing with dolls together, and teaching her tumbling and other gymnastic feats. Maria brings a ray of sunshine to our family with

her cheerleading enthusiasm, as she engages all the children in songs and games. Maria loves to paint and draw. She also truly enjoys being helpful, with a favorite activity of working in the garden: she loves to pull the weeds to feed to our neighbor's pigs! Her language skills are excellent; after only a few months here, Maria has learned English — with a Texas accent, no less!



Octavian (*Tavi for short*)

is 3 — only nine days older than Julia, but already as big as a 4-year old. He is a very handsome and active little boy. He loves to play in the dirt with his trucks and cars, and is always building new roads and mud bridges with his creative imagination. Octavian has a voracious appetite for life

and for food! He is an explorer, adventurer, and daring individual. He also is very loving and affectionate; ready to give or receive a hug at any moment.

Julia, age 3, enjoys the attention of her new family members, although she was overwhelmed when they first arrived. She has thrived in this new environment, as the other children teach her to jump, dance, balance on a beam, and play new games. Her language skills in both Romanian and English



have soared since our Casa Mea family has grown. Her favorite activities are washing dishes, playing with her dolls, and cleaning her doll house. Julia loves to "read" her books, chat, and meet new visitors. She loves to be cuddled and embraced, sharing her sweet disposition with everyone she meets.



Amalia celebrated her 8th birthday just a few months after coming to live at Casa Mea.

Becoming A Family

Our Casa Mea family has grown and we are delighted to share our stories with each of you. Blending our "family" of four is no small feat (challenge) and it is an opportunity to share with one another the love, the joy, the sorrow, and the challenges of daily life. *Watching the children engage with one another and with teachers, staff, and visitors is the greatest gift —* their tiny hands affectionately embrace everyone they meet. They are well-adjusted, talented, beautiful children. We are very grateful to have them here at Casa Mea, and are honored to be able to give them the gift of a stable home.

Our Supporters

This past spring, visitors from three separate U.S. Rotary Clubs spent a few days with us at Casa Mea.



Representatives from the **Rotary Club of Warner Center Sunrise**, the **Newbury Park Rotary Club**, and the **Rotary Club of Cambria Sunrise Centennial**, all from California, undertook a long, tiring flight to get here. We admire and respect their commitment and dedication.

Casa Mea is very grateful for the significant financial contributions made by the Cambria Sunrise Centennial Club and the Newbury Park Club, which enabled us to purchase some additional playground equipment, along with additional appliances and furnishings for our growing household. We are also very grateful for the continuing support of the **Los Olivos Rotary Club**, also of California.

Thank You, Monthly Donors!

We would also like to acknowledge our appreciation for several individual donors who have made monthly donations to Casa Mea. *Without all of our supporters, Casa Mea would not be home today to four beautiful children* who were otherwise facing abandonment, orphanage life, or separation from their siblings.

Thank you!

From Our Founder, Jan Calos



As a child growing up in the U.S., I took so many things for granted. One of these things was that I would always have enough to eat ... and three meals, every single day.

When Amalia, Maria and Tavi first arrived, they would constantly ask me "What are we going to eat?" We would just finish lunch, and they would ask what we were going to have to eat next.

*At first, I was somewhat exasperated by this repetitive question ... until one day when I got it! They asked "What are we going to eat?" over and over again because where they came from, they did not know what or when they would eat next. Once I understood what was behind this simple repetitive question, it broke my heart. It seems the least we more fortunate people can do is to **make sure that every child everywhere has enough to eat.***

Save a Tree, Spread the Word

Please Reduce (let us know if we should send Casa Mea News to your email address instead of printing/ mailing to your postal address, or if we should remove you from the mailing list) ... **Recommend** (let us know about someone new to put on our mailing list) ... **Reuse** (pass Casa Mea News along to someone you know who might find it of interest) ... **or Recycle**. Thank you! To switch to email distribution or otherwise add to or change our mailing list, please email jan@casamea.org.

Progress = Hope

From a Supporter, Mary Tatone, on her Recent Visit

In **August 2007**, I visited my sister, Jan Calos, in Prejmer, Romania. I was amazed and pleasantly surprised to see the progress of the country of Romania and of Jan's project, **Casa Mea**.



I saw with my own eyes the incredible transformation of brick and mortar into a loving family home for children. For me, this progress equals hope — hope for the children of Romania who are struggling with their most basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing, not to mention a loving, nurturing environment in which to grow and expand their individual potential.

On **March 7, 2003**, Jan moved to Brasov, Romania with a hope, a dream, and a vision to create a loving family home for Romania's abandoned children.

Diligently, Jan set out to achieve this vision. Tenaciously she worked to fulfill all the requirements to make this dream a reality. She purchased land and a home in Prejmer (just northeast of Brasov and about 100 miles from the capital, Bucharest), to house her Casa Mea family of infants and children.

In **March of 2004**, I visited Jan at the Prejmer property. This consisted of a huge barn, more than an acre of



land, a garden and an orchard (with pears, apples, plums, grapes, and cherries), plus a house in need of major renovations to comply with government regulations for housing children.

I vividly recall this first visit to Prejmer and the future home of Casa Mea. Jan excitedly showed me every nook and cranny of the property. At one point, she led me into the cow pen area (attached to the house — like all farms in Romania) and enthusiastically stated, "This will be the bunkhouse for future volunteers." I stood in shock, unable to envision the conversion of a cow pen into livable space for humans. Next, she took me to the

pig pens and proudly stated, "This will be the laundry facilities." Again I stood speechless, wondering how on earth a pig pen would ever be a space to wash and dry clothes. Then, we scrambled up into the attic and hay loft, where Jan proudly announced, "This is going to be the area for the staff and rooms for the children when they grow older."

Now, I was totally speechless. (Those who know me know that I am rarely if ever without words!) I simply walked along in amazement and shock as we continued to tour the rest of the house and Jan shared her vision with me. She could "see" the children sleeping, eating, and playing in every room in the house and on the property. *I could only see pig pens, cow barns, and a hay loft filled with hay.*

August 2007

Now, just three years later, the cow pen is a bunkhouse for volunteers, the pig pen is a laundry facility, and the hay loft is prepared to become a residence hall for older children and for staff.

Progress!

Casa Mea, as envisioned by Jan, is a loving family home for abandoned Romanian

children. The laughter of the little ones currently residing at Casa Mea can be heard from every room of the house. The children sing, dance, and play with carefree abandon, feeling safe and secure that their next meal will be there, hot and nutritious; that their beds will be warm and cozy at night; and that the love of Jan and all the care providers will flow generously to each of them.

As I held each child, I saw hope and joy in their eyes. I felt their warm embraces and I knew in my heart that these children are the fortunate ones. *These children have **Hope** for a bright and wonderful future, thanks to Jan's vision, commitment, and tireless efforts to create a loving home for children.*

I witnessed progress in the physical changes in the house at Prejmer and I saw progress in the country of Romania. The people themselves are more hopeful



after their entrance into the European Union, and now that their nightmares of the communist regime led by Ceausescu are over. The people of Romania have a renewed vigor and enthusiasm for a brighter future.

Yes, the electricity still goes off repeatedly during each day. The water is always off on Tuesdays, and the horses still clip-clop down the street pulling wagons of hay. The cows are led down the street each morning to the communal field for fresh grass and they return home each night with their cow bells ringing joyously around their necks. Huge storks return each night to roost in their rooftop nests, built on the chimneys of some of the neighborhood homes. Traffic still stops for sheep crossing the highway. However, I felt a renewed sense of hope for the progress the Romanian people are experiencing.

Most importantly, I felt a deep sense of pride for my sister Jan, for her commitment to the abandoned children of Romania and for her "vision" to create a warm, loving, family home and environment to raise these beautiful children. I felt hopeful for the abandoned children of Romania.

Her vision inspired me ... every step of the way. My wish is that each of you could see for yourselves the magnitude of the work Jan has done to make a difference in the lives of Julia, Octavian, Maria and Amalia — and the children yet to arrive at Casa Mea.

*Progress has occurred at Casa Mea because of Jan ... and because of all of Casa Mea's supporters. There is now **hope for every child** residing at Casa Mea. I witnessed this progress myself.*

Progress = Hope

Progress only happens when a group of committed individuals attempt to make a difference in the lives of others by generously giving of their time, talents, and/or their financial resources. Wouldn't you like to be one of those committed individuals?



To sponsor a Casa Mea child, finance a fundraising brochure, or add to our general funds:

- **Send a Check:** payable to Casa Mea, to 6705 Shadow Crest Drive, Plano, TX 75093
- **Contribute Online:** visit www.casamea.org and click on the "Make a Donation" button
- **Arrange Monthly Automatic E-Payments through your bank to:** Casa Mea, attn. Mel Clark, Treasurer, 6705 Shadow Crest Drive, Plano, TX 75093 (phone is 972.306.6705).

**No amount is too small.
Thank You So Much!**

How You Can Help Support Casa Mea

All contributions of funds, goods, and services to Casa Mea are tax-deductible, and will be recognized with appropriate documentation for your tax records. Please email jan@casamea.org with any questions about your contributions to Casa Mea.



Sponsor a Casa Mea Child

We continue to seek sponsorships to cover basic costs of living and care for Casa Mea's children, at \$250 a month.

Donate Your Time

We need volunteers for painting the house in Prejmer, inside and out. Email jan@casamea.org if you or a group are interested in volunteering.

Donate Supplies

We need donations of clothing, raincoats, shoes, and boots for our rapidly growing family (and rapidly growing children).

Our wish list includes:

- Sweaters, slippers, and bathrobes for all – Julia (3), Octavian (big 4-yr. old size), Maria (6) and Amalia (8)
- Winter boots – Octavian, Maria, and Amalia
- Rain coats and rain boots – Octavian, Maria, Amalia
- Dresses – Julia, Maria, Amalia
- Dress shoes – Maria
- Tights – Maria, Amalia
- Long underwear – Octavian
- Mittens, mittens, mittens! for all the children



Donations can be shipped to Casa Mea at 6705 Shadow Crest Drive, Plano, TX 75093; 972.306.6705. (An inventory slip for our records and your tax-deduction confirmation would be very helpful.)

Finance a new Casa Mea Brochure ...

Now that our vision is coming to life and there are more children at Casa Mea, we are seeking funds (or a printer) for a new fundraising brochure.

... or help mail the Casa Mea News

We need labor volunteers to stuff, seal and stamp the Casa Mea News four times a year (6-8 labor hours). (*Casa Mea wishes to thank the volunteers from Crystal D Creations in Saint Paul, Minnesota for labeling, stuffing, sealing and stamping this issue.*) To help with future issues of Casa Mea News, please email beth@casamea.org.



CASA MEA NEWS

Spring 2007 Greetings from Casa Mea

Springing Forward, Thanks to You!

Brasov Bestows Accreditation on Casa Mea – “Step One” Nearly Done!



On January 12, 2007, Casa Mea received its accreditation from Brasov County to provide a residential family type home for children “in difficulty.” With this accreditation, Casa Mea may begin accepting more orphaned and abandoned children in the very near future.

Space and facilities for 10 more children

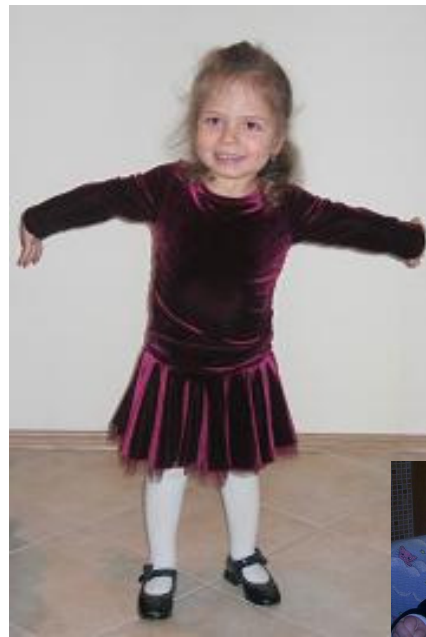
This winter we completed all four bedrooms and the four bathrooms in the main house as well as the laundry room. We will soon present our accreditation documents to Child Protective Services and begin working on a collaboration agreement to accept more children. Achieving this agreement is a tremendously significant step on our way to realizing the dream of “Casa Mea” – “my home” for some of the abandoned children of Romania! *Thanks and hugs go out to all of you who have sponsored Casa Mea and these children on our journey so far.*

Looking ahead to Step Two

As winter mellows into spring we are eager to welcome more children into their new home...but we need to temper that anticipation with proper planning for their care. Casa Mea’s current and ongoing renovations will continue but we now need to focus our resources on child care, housekeeping assistance, and home maintenance. Therefore, our need for volunteers will shift somewhat for a time and we hope we can count on your continuing support. *We could not have done this much without you – we love you, we miss you, and Julia especially sends giggles and grins.*

Julia Turns Three!

January 12, 2007 was Julia’s third birthday. True to the Romanian custom, we celebrated it in style. The day started with a spa (bath and



shampoo). We moved on to lunch at Julia’s favorite restaurant, Pizza Hot. There she had a birthday feast of pizza and ice cream and was in seventh heaven!



Poor Costi was excluded from Pizza Hot, but he was content to stay home and eat his cereal and banana.

When we got home, many of Julia's friends, neighbors, and godmothers joined us for birthday cake. (Julia was more interested in the balloons than the cake.) At last the celebration came to a close and one sleepy little girl was ready for bed.

We Were All Ready for Winter, Thanks to Donations of Snow Suits



Our friend **Rebecca** in the UK donated Costi's teddy bear snowsuit. He loves to be outside in his stroller but promptly dozes off and stays sound asleep as long as we keep moving.

Julia also loves to be outside and has a typical three-year-old temper tantrum when she has to come in. Luckily, the promise of food is the one temptation that motivates her every time. She loves her meals and has a very healthy appetite. This winter, our friend from California, **Andy**, taught her how to have a snowball fight. Our Peace Corps friends, **Jason & Maggie**, showed her how to build a snowman. And she was already a pro with the sled...turning sledding in the flat fields of Prejmer into quite a workout for her sled-puller (Jan). So we've been making the most of the winter weather!



Thanks to All of Our Volunteers and Supporters!

From labor to light bulbs...

The **Marketing/Comercial Division Petrom S.A.**, a Romanian company, has supported Casa Mea since 2005, beginning with a very generous financial donation. Last year, they came to Prejmer for a day of hard work painting bedroom floors and cleaning up the courtyard. The group has also donated brooms, mops, clothespins, an ironing board, and many other practical items needed to set up a house, which quickly add up. *Thank you, Petrom – all of us at Casa Mea appreciate your continuing interest and support!*



Petrom Construction Team

... to funds for expanded staff

Friends of Casa Mea, a group of individuals based in the UK, donated financial support to Casa Mea each month during 2006 through automatic bank withdrawals. These funds enabled us to retain a child care provider for a few hours each day. This reliable donation has been invaluable to Casa Mea. Further expansion of our staff, particularly for child care and property management, will be a greater focus as we finalize our collaboration with CPS and seek ways to fund the care of more children. If you are interested in an individual or group "sponsorship" of Casa Mea on an ongoing basis, we would love to hear from you! [Contact jan@casamea.org](mailto:jan@casamea.org).



Above: one of our child care providers, Nuti Mircea, with Julia and Costi. She is kind and patient, and we have enjoyed her loving help.

Our Mission as We Move Beyond Accreditation

From the beginning, Jan Calos' vision for Casa Mea has been to create a home for as many children as possible...a stable home just like yours and mine, with a stable set of caregivers who can provide the love and nurturing children need on a constant basis. Jan has juggled the roles of primary caregiver, construction manager, property manager, executive director and board member, and chief fund-raiser, cook and bottle-washer for four years, ever since she literally sold everything and up-rooted her life to pursue her vision for Casa Mea.



Casa Mea is not and never will be an "orphanage." With our accreditation comes the opportunity to make "Casa Mea" truly "my home" for more children like Julia and Costin.

We will create the best structures of "home" that we can to meet these children's need for love and family. Ideally, we would like to have up to 10 children, living at Casa Mea with a consistent caregiving staff and an established, family routine. (Think *Brady Bunch*, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, *Yours Mine & Ours*...without a family breadwinner or any biological parents). When we have grown comfortably into this next step of our vision, we plan to finish more space and eventually more houses for more children. *The Casa Mea vision is a long-term one, and we will continue to need your help.*



Our new bathroom, completed this winter, is one of many projects we had to complete to meet Brasov County's accreditation requirements.

Short-term Needs for 2007

There are lots of ways you can help. Getting your friends involved can be fun, too.

Donate to our Building Fund: We continue to have needs for the house, including a new porch with a roof; playground equipment (\$5000) and grading/landscaping for the courtyard; finishing the stairway to the third floor (\$2000); entrance and gate functional/structural upgrades. *Casa Mea requests flexibility in the application of funds to accommodate regulatory and situational requirements. To send your financial gift to Casa Mea:*

1. Send a check to: Casa Mea, 6705 Shadow Crest Drive, Plano, TX 75093
2. Visit our website at www.casamea.org and click on "Make a Donation" to make a credit card donation
3. Contact Melanie Clark, Casa Mea Treasurer, at 972.306.6705 to arrange for a monthly automatic bank withdrawal, donation of appreciated stock, or other type of financial donation

All donations are recognized with documentation appropriate for your tax records. ***And again, thank you!***

Host a Casa Mea Fundraiser: Consider throwing a fundraising party to introduce your friends and family to Casa Mea. We can provide some basic introductory materials in digital format for you to print and distribute, plus donation forms and envelopes. *What a fun reason to gather a group of friends, or a cool way to celebrate Spring or Mother's Day!*

Visit: Visit Romania to see firsthand the life and conditions of the abandoned children in Romania and how your financial contribution can and will make a difference.

Although the situation is improving, there are still thousands of children abandoned each year and thousands more growing up in the state-run orphanages. This solution to overpopulation issues was so institutionalized by the state for so long (beginning in the 1950s and continuing to today) that many parents view the orphanages as a guarantee of their child's need for food, clothing and shelter being met, when they are too impoverished to be able to do so themselves. Gross domestic product and wages are low; the average annual income is just \$1,670.

Despite the best efforts of the staff, the orphanages inevitably affect the childrens' psychological, emotional, and physical development in many negative ways. This reality is the driving force behind our pursuit of the Casa Mea vision.



Finish your visit with a stop at Casa Mea to meet us and experience our emerging vision in person. *We need your passion and your help to get us there!* To arrange a visit, contact Jan Calos at jan@casamea.org.

Volunteer: Contribute your sweat equity to Casa Mea by volunteering either in the US or Romania. If you are interested, please contact Jan Calos at jan@casamea.org. All donations are tax-deductible, including the donation of your time.

Sponsor Casa Mea News: About half of you get the newsletter by email. For the several hundred copies we mail, we need sponsors for printing and postage costs, and volunteers for mail preparation and delivery. *Casa Mea wishes to gratefully acknowledge the sponsorships of 2006 issues of Casa Mea News by **Beth Fellman** along with **BWBR Architects** and **John Roberts** (Spring), **Anne O'Hara Frykman** (Summer), **Roberta Stowe** (Fall), and **The Girls** (Holiday).*

To sponsor any or all of our *Casa Mea News* needs in 2007 please contact jan@casamea.org.

Save a Tree, Spread the Word!

Please Reduce (let us know if we should change you to email distribution or remove you from our mailing list), **Recommend** (let us know about someone new to put on the list), **Reuse** (pass *Casa Mea News* along to someone you know who might find it of interest) or **Recycle**. Thank you! To switch to email distribution or suggest other additions/changes to our mailing list, please email jan@casamea.org.

Julia's Started Kindergarten!

Julia loves kindergarten and is going every day. We are so amazed at her mind. She speaks Romanian, English, and is now learning German as she goes to the German kindergarten here. What is so amazing is that she knows what to speak with whom! With Jan, she speaks English. With her babysitters, she speaks Romanian and with her teacher, she is starting to speak German.



Julia plays with "A-B-C" blocks sent in a package from a Secret Santa in the United States.

In an unexpected turn of events shortly before this newsletter was being printed, Costin's mother requested him back from Child Protective Services. This is also not uncommon in the situation of child abandonment in Romania, and parental rights are nearly always yielded to the natural parent. Since arriving at Casa Mea in August at just a month old, Costi has steadily gained weight and has become a thriving and beautiful, chubby, happy baby. We are glad to have helped him, and are eager to help more children like him, although we miss him tremendously, today and always. We continue to discuss the possibility of more children with CPS and look forward to welcoming them to "my home" – Casa Mea!



CASA MEA NEWS

Summer 2007 Greetings from Casa Mea



Call for Funds – Casa Mea Needs You Now!

Exciting News ...

Casa Mea has just welcomed three children to our family!



The oldest of our new arrivals, Amalia, is seven. Maria is five and Octavian is three. They are siblings who were removed from their family along with their three-month-old sister, who will arrive at Casa Mea soon. We couldn't pass up the opportunity to keep this young family together!

This brings Casa Mea's household to four children today, with one on the way ... and there is another



family of four siblings who will likely join our growing Casa Mea family this summer. This will keep Julia busy teaching her new playmates English, as she's the only one who speaks fluently in both English and Romanian!

The arrival of more children is the beginning of the realization of Casa Mea's vision. **As we welcome these children to Casa Mea, we need your help more than ever.** More children mean more and higher bills: for food, health care, clothing, staff, transportation and utilities. To help defray these costs, Casa Mea is now seeking **Child Sponsors**.

A Child Sponsor provides a monthly donation to support a particular child. Casa Mea estimates that \$300 a month can feed, clothe, shelter, and care for each child. Having sponsors provides them with a measure of predictability and security, a vital part of what we are striving to provide to these abandoned children. More than one person may sponsor a child ... consider joining forces with a group in your life; perhaps your church choir, dinner club, book club, coworkers, or just a few friends could sponsor Julia, Amalia, Maria, Octavian, or their little sister when she arrives.

Or, read on for other ways you can contribute to Casa Mea – find the way that's the best fit for you! **Whatever you can give will help!**

Casa Mea's Youngest Helpers

Friends of Casa Mea John and Joy Wilson and Alan Webb, teachers in the UK, have been volunteering in Romania for a number of years. They spend their Easter break helping at a school and an orphanage for the disabled in Bucharest. For the past few years, they have made a point of visiting Julia and the rest of us at Casa Mea. ☺

John and Joy's grandsons, Daniel and Matthew, heard all about Romania from Joy and John. They saw pictures of the school, the orphanage, Casa Mea, and the children, including Julia. They too were moved



to help ... and for the past year, Daniel and Matthew (left) have done all sorts of chores around the house and the garden to earn money for the children halfway across the world. After a year of much hard work, these young boys had

earned and saved 50 British pounds! When John and Joy were ready to leave for Romania this year and asked them what they wanted to do with their money, Daniel didn't hesitate. **He said "give it to Julia."**



Julia and Casa Mea thank our new friends from the bottom of our hearts, especially because Daniel (left) is six years old and Matthew is just two and a half!

We would also like to extend a **heartfelt thank-you** to some other young helpers:

another Matthew, in California, whose parents matched his donation; and Emily and Sophia in the UK, who cleaned out their cupboards to donate toys and clothes to Julia. Thank you! Every little bit helps us provide a safer and happier home for your new Romanian friends!

Other Ways You Can Help Casa Mea

☺ Finance a Safe Outdoor Play Area

Casa Mea is seeking \$30,000 in funding for the playground, playground equipment, courtyard grading and grass, fencing, and entrance and gate repairs. *Please help us now, if you can.*

☺ Host a Casa Mea Fundraiser with Special Guest Jan Calos

Casa Mea's Executive Director, Jan Calos, will be in the U.S. in mid- to late October and is available for speaking and fundraising opportunities. To invite Jan to speak at your church or workplace, or to host a fundraiser of any type to help us get out the word about Casa Mea, please email jan@casamea.org.

☺ Sponsor Casa Mea News

We need sponsors for printing, envelope and postage costs (approx. \$300/ issue), and volunteers for mail preparation and delivery. *Casa Mea wishes to thank Toni Malanaphy-Sorg of Alliant Consulting in Saint Paul for sponsoring the Spring 2007 issue.* To sponsor any or all issues of *Casa Mea News* please contact beth@casamea.org.

☺ Sponsor Casa Mea when You Shop Online

iGive.com turns your online shopping into support for Casa Mea. When you buy brand-name items at over 685 well-known online stores, Casa Mea will receive

a percentage of each purchase. In addition, you may elect to receive free deals and coupons as an iGive.com member.

1. **Join to Support Casa Mea.** It's FREE, private, and easy at <http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberid=496969&causeid=40081>
2. **Shop the Mall at iGive.com.** You will see familiar stores like Lands' End, Office Depot, JC Penney, Neiman Marcus, Expedia, Barnes & Noble, and eBay – to mention just a few!
3. **Pat yourself on the back for sending dollars to Casa Mea.** Up to 26% (retailers' commitments average 2.5% to 10%) of every purchase you make comes to Casa Mea, automatically!

☺ Donate Your Talents as a Volunteer

If you have any expertise and time to offer we would love to hear from you ... call Melanie Clark, Treasurer, at 972-306-6705 if you have specific questions about how you can help, or email jan@casamea.org. We are also seeking friends of Casa Mea with experience in media relations, public relations, or fundraising for help with new outreach efforts. If you can contribute in this aspect, please contact beth@casamea.org.

☺ Send your Financial Gift to Casa Mea:

1. **By Check:** Payable to Casa Mea; mail to: Casa Mea, 6705 Shadow Crest Drive, Plano, TX 75093
2. **By Credit Card:** Visit www.casamea.org
Click on the "Make a Donation" button
3. **By Automatic Monthly Bank Deposit:** Ask your bank to send to: Casa Mea, attn. Mel Clark, Treasurer, 6705 Shadow Crest Drive, Plano, TX 75093 (phone is 972.306.6705).



All contributions to Casa Mea are tax-deductible, and all donations will be recognized with appropriate documentation for your tax records. **And thank you; we can't do it without your help!**

☺ Save a Tree, Spread the Word!

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CASA MEA NEWS

Holiday 2007 Greetings *from all of us at Casa Mea to all of you!*



Happy Holidays!

As the year draws to a close, we celebrate the season of light and love, and pause to reflect on where we have been and where we are going. Your support has helped to bring light and love into the lives of the four children of Casa Mea. Hopefully, they are moving away from the painful feelings of abandonment that are all too common for so many around the world. That is our wish for these children, whom we have been able to help with your support, and we hope it is yours too! *We send you our fondest wishes for all the joy and peace of this season!*

Our Supporters

Minnesota Fundraiser was a Success

We especially thank **Elizabeth and Don St. Angelo** for sponsoring the October fundraiser in Minnesota for Casa Mea. It was a delightful evening and a huge success. Thanks to Elizabeth and Don and

all of you who made it so. A special thanks also to **Barbara and Lee Kopp** for their generous donation of the Interlachen Country Club for the event. It was truly a beautiful and magical place for such a special evening. Lastly, thanks to Rose (13 years old) for making and selling her beautiful bracelets at the fundraiser. They were a very hot item and we greatly appreciate her very generous gift to the children of Casa Mea.

Volunteer Coordinator

Another special thanks is due to **Ann O'Hara-Frykman**, who has agreed to be the **Volunteer Coordinator** for Casa Mea in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area. Her role is to coordinate those who are interested in donating their time to Casa Mea, including preparation of the newsletter for mailing (produced in the Twin Cities). If you are interested in being a Casa Mea volunteer, please contact Ann at oharafrykman@comcast.net. To learn more about forming a Casa Mea volunteer organization in your area, please contact Jan Calos at jan@casamea.org.

We also need to repeat our thanks to the **Cambria Sunrise Centennial Rotary Club** from Cambria, California for the generous donations we received from them that have enabled us to add some furnishings and appliances.

One night not long ago Amalia was searching in her new dresser for clean pajamas. That morning one of the staff had done some laundry. Amalia's pajamas had been washed and dried that day in our new dryer, and were back in her new dresser before bedtime, a feat quite unheard of here before! When she found her clean pajamas in the



dresser, Amalia's face lit up. She couldn't believe they were washed and back in her dresser so soon. Then she put them to her face, snuggling into them to feel how soft they were!

In the past, it would take days for clothes to dry in this winter cold ... and our line-dried clothes were stiff and rough to the touch. Even the staff loves the feel of the dryer-soft clothes, towels, and bedding! *What a terrific Christmas gift for us ... thanks so much!*

How You Can Help Support Casa Mea

We continue to seek sponsorships and donations to cover the basic costs of living and care for Casa Mea's children. All contributions of funds, goods, and services to Casa Mea are tax-deductible, and will be recognized with appropriate documentation for your tax records. Please call us at 972.306.6705 or email jan@casamea.org with any questions about contributing to Casa Mea.



**To sponsor a Casa Mea child,
finance a fundraising brochure,
or add to our general funds:**

- **By Check:** payable to Casa Mea, to 6705 Shadow Crest Drive, Plano, TX 75093
- **By Credit Card:** visit www.casamea.org and click on the "Make a Donation" button
- **Arrange Monthly Automatic E-Payments through your bank to:** Casa Mea, attn. Mel Clark, Treasurer, 6705 Shadow Crest Drive, Plano, TX 75093 (phone is 972.306.6705).

**No amount is too small.
Thank You So Much!**



Here Comes Santa Claus...

Like all children everywhere at this time of year, Casa Mea's children wanted to be sure Santa knew exactly what they wanted for Christmas! So we all trooped into the square in Brasov to see Santa Claus and tell him our Christmas wishes, and to see the huge tree and the lights in the square. More than anything, the children enjoyed the chocolates that Santa gave them! A special highlight of the day was pizza at their favorite restaurant, compliments of our short-term volunteer from Northern Ireland, **Rhonda Brown**. *Thanks Rhonda!*



Save a Tree, Spread the Word

Please Reduce (let us know if we should send Casa Mea News to your email address instead of printing/ mailing to your postal address, or if we should remove you from the mailing list) ... **Recommend** (let us know about someone new to put on our mailing list) ... **Reuse** (pass Casa Mea News along to someone you know who might find it of interest) ... **or Recycle**. Thank you! To switch to email distribution or otherwise add to or change our mailing list, please email jan@casamea.org.