



FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL'S ROMANIA PROGRAM INFORMATION

Sadly, in June 2001, the Romanian Government temporarily suspended international adoptions. However, several world leaders and child advocacy organizations continue to voice their concerns regarding the punitive impact of this policy on Romania's abandoned children. It is the hope of **Families International** that through their efforts, this moratorium will be lifted in the near future.

A Brief Historical Perspective - After the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, Romania was the first former Communist country that encouraged the international community to adopt their needy children. Various exposés depicted the horrific living conditions these children were forced to endure. Unfortunately, the substandard living conditions in Romanian orphanages were not unique. Similar exposés could have been filmed in most other countries where Americans travel to adopt children.

Prior to suspending adoptions, Romania did make progressive child-welfare reforms. Many foster homes were established and revisions to adoption legislation allowed abandoned children to be identified for adoption and placed with loving families before their first birthday. **Families International** had the capability of identifying children for adoption as young as four months of age and up.

At the current time, **Families International** continues to enjoy good relations with two Romanian foundations. These foundations were established by adoption professionals with more than ten years of experience in the field of international adoption. For calendar years 1999, and 2000, these foundations placed more than 600 children with adoptive families.

The fee for adopting infants and young children through **Families International** and our Romanian foundations was \$17,000. Additional costs include, travel and accommodations, dossier processing and United States Consulate fees. It is our hope that when adoptions from Romania resume, these fees do not escalate so that many qualified loving families can seriously consider Romania as an adoption option.

A significant portion of adoption fee paid to the foundations was used to fund orphanage care, foster care, purchase medical supplies, and provide other important services to abandoned children.

Travel to Romania for the purpose of adoption is optional but recommended. Families International can assist you in finding suitable accommodations and transportation during your stay in Romania.

It is also helpful to know that American citizens are well liked by the Romanian people. The United States enjoys good relations with Romania and continues to help Romania modernize its economy.

If you are interested in adopting an infant or young child from Romania and would like to receive updates on the status of adoption in Romania, we would welcome your inquiries. **Families International** also encourages you to express your interest and concern for the plight of Romanian orphans to your elected officials.

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