

Dear Friends,

January 30, 2011

Coats for Kids 2010-'11 ended with a bang! I thought perhaps I'd leave y'all in suspense as to the wonderful news until the end of the update, but I'm too excited to hold it in... As of this past Friday, coat number 1,000 was purchased---800 here in Bulgaria and the 200 that was shipped to Romania. **One thousand coats and socks!** One thousand! I could yell it from the top of a nearby mountain! I don't think any of us expected this number, but we're all beyond thrilled. And think of all the DVDs that were given out as well. These DVDs are much loved by the people and many of them watch them every evening. What a blessing!

The final amount of coats we purchased on Friday will be given out by National Pastor Mitko Stefanov. Unfortunately, our schedule conflicts with his, so we will be unable to go and take pictures at his distributions. Several of his villages are extremely poor, so we know that these coats and socks will be put to very good use.

I want to take a few minutes to share my thankfulness...

A special thank-you to my husband who shares my burden and helped me get to all these villages with the coats and socks. He helped me fill bags, carry bags, load bags, unload bags, take pictures, and organize the crowds. His help has been invaluable and I'm thankful that we are a team!

Thanks to all our helpers! Fellow missionaries and national Pastors have been such a blessing! A thanks to Katy and Polly LeFevre, who helped me fit coats on kids, organized many of the bags, and filled my heart with joy as I saw the loving expressions on their faces. And a thanks to my children for helping me at home, sorting through, organizing, and re-bagging countless coats. And for their patience as I tried to juggle it all.

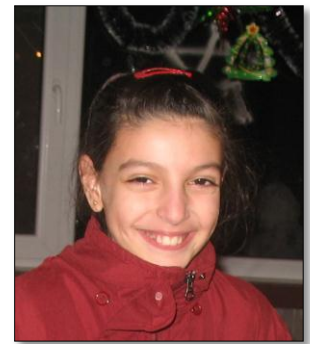
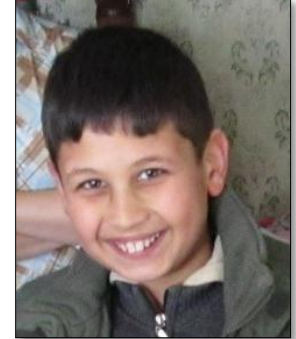
A thank you to our mission. You helped put the word out about this coat drive. You encouraged us, prayed for us, and did everything you could to help. We love you all!

A big thank you to all of you reading this update!!! Your prayers and/or financial support of this ministry has been overwhelming. Thank you for giving of your heart to this work!

God, who made this all possible, is not bound by any recession. His love knows no bounds. His hands are far-reaching. I'm thankful that He gave me this burden and then let me see Him work in the hearts of His people. I stand in awe!

And now that I have apparently written an acceptance speech for a televised award show, let's move on to something fun---the faces! I don't have pictures of all 1,000 faces, but here are a few...





In closing I'd like to ask that you all continue to pray for this ministry. Pray for each Pastor, church, and village. Your prayers are invaluable! Thank you for praying!

With Sincerest Thanks,

Carrie M. Leach