



Need for Financial Contributions Increases

In July 2013, the CARO Board of Directors was advised that the matching grant from the Province of Alberta Community Initiatives Program (International Development) has been reduced by some 30% from \$11,000 to \$8,000. The funds, which help to offset the costs for

the Teege Wende Orphanage in Yako, Burkina Faso, West Africa, have been in decline since 2010. At that time, CARO received \$20,000.



The Board and its other volunteers will need to double its efforts to raise the money with the hope that Canadians, and particularly the good people of Medicine Hat, will continue to share and reach out to those who have not had the good fortune that we enjoy.

Helping Romania Children Overcome Poverty

Since 2001, CARO has provided funding to local projects in north central Romania. In 2001, one of the remaining large state orphanages stayed open in Medias in the Sibiu Region. CARO funded supplementary staff to support the intolerable child-staff ratios where as few as two staff “cared” for 24 infants under the age of two years. In 2002, as Romania met the demands of the European Union for membership, the orphan-



ages were abruptly closed and the children were returned “home” to situations, many of which were simply abandonment.. One of the positive programs that did develop, in the very same building which had previously housed the orphanage, was a day program for children with significant special needs. Since the very inception of the program, CARO has supported a local agency, CARITAS Romania, for the salary costs of a thera-

pist. With the closure of the state orphanage system, some children simply fell through the cracks—other more fortunate children were accepted into a series of group homes and foster homes established by a myriad of international and local non-government groups and associations. One of these groups was a small collection of Greek Catholic sisters, known as the Mother of God Community. Their order, which had been considered an illegal organization in the former Ciaschiu Regime, opened a small group home for about 15 children. CARO has been supporting the home, located in the city of Clug, by paying for their annual utility bill.