

January 10, 2005

Have a joyful and blessed new year! As I reflect on the year 2004, I am filled with much gratitude. Three things that popped into my head are: 1) My husband and I celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. 2) I've started a new career after being a stay-at-home mother for all these years. 3) I took a step of faith and went on a trip to Romania where we taught and encouraged the mothers of disabled children and the resulting vision that started diaperministry.org.

I want to thank everyone for their outpouring generosity. I want to thank the people from Peninsula Bible Church in Cupertino and Palo Alto for their financial and prayer support. Because of your generosity, as of date, we have raised approximately \$23,000. I especially want to thank Fernan Fernandez for the time and heart he poured into designing our diaperministry.org website. Great job Fernan!

Since I do not have a special needs child, I was unaware of the depth of pain, agony, difficulties, and challenges the Romanian mothers faced daily. I guess I intellectually knew it, but until I HEARD their stories, I did not FEEL their desperation. I came back from Romania with a desire to start a diaper ministry to help the disabled of Romania and the families who love them. Since all this is new territory for me, I had to do some research on the world of the disabled and their families to see how we can best assist them. My research led me to dream the following:

1. I would like to discover a way we can make homemade disposable adult diapers using the materials that are easily available and cost effective in Romania. Many mothers know how to sew. If we can supply the mothers with the materials and a pattern needed for making their own disposable diapers, we will be coming alongside them and assisting them instead of sending them a hand-out. If we can develop a model in Romania, this model can be used in other third-world countries. I don't know how realistic or practical this is, but we are in the process of exploring and analyzing this possibility. Until then, we are trying to arrange a shipment of adult disposable diapers to Romania. It would be great if we could get these diapers donated by diaper manufacturers. If not, we would like to purchase, at cost, irregulars or manufacturers overruns.
2. In addition, we are investigating the possibility of using catheters as an alternative to diapers.

Our Current Needs include the following:

1. Continued financial support.
2. Volunteers to write or make phone calls to diaper and catheter manufacturers.
3. A volunteer to write our newsletter.
4. Material science engineers who can come up with a formula to make homemade adult disposable diapers in Romania using the materials that are easily available and cost effective in Romania.
5. Leads to contacts for all of the above.

Once again, thank you for your support! Please continue to pray for us. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at 650-492-0222.

Sincerely,

Grace Rhie

Diaper Ministry coordinator