

HELPING THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

Joel Burkum of Council Bluffs has worked many years as videographer at Deaf Missions, but the past decade he has also been involved with mission work to the orphan children in Romania. Joel explained that this summer he will be leaving Deaf Missions and begin working full time with For God's Children International (FGCI). This new charity organization will strive to increase the effort to help the more than 100,000 Romanian children housed in 600 orphanages there. At first they contributed clothing, Joel noted, then medicines and eyeglasses. Now FGCI is helping in many other ways by organizing mission group trips, sponsoring summer bible camps, providing staff and improvements to a children's wing of the hospital, and providing alternate Christian care facilities for abandoned children. According to Joel, children are dismissed from the orphanages when they reach age 18 even though they have no one to care for them and have little education and skills. Educational resources are lacking. Material resources are scant. Joel explained he wanted to get rocking chairs in the orphanages, but rocking chairs did not exist there and no one knew about them or how to use them to comfort a crying child. The FGCI ministry can be contacted at 328-3776 to receive more information or to discuss how you can help with their efforts.