



Growth for TOMORROW

The Growth for Tomorrow project is the first beneficiary of the OGA's HOPE Programme. Former student **Mike House (84)**, with wife Donna, are co-founding Directors.

Mike and Donna visited Romania while holidaying in Europe in 2004. While visiting the country, they quickly became appalled at the cycle of despair that saw many orphans forced to leave their orphanages and fend for themselves at the age of 18. Most of the orphans don't have the resources and support to access higher education and many find it difficult to find employment as a result of low education and a tight employment market. While in Romania, Mike and Donna became inspired by the work being done by Missions Without Borders and came home to Australia with a vision that they knew would bring hope and encouragement to these orphans. This vision became what is known now as Growth for Tomorrow.

Mike and Donna together with the help of friends and family who felt compelled to make a difference in the lives of young Romanian people, decided to purchase a property in the small town of Mosna which would become the home for many teenagers while transitioning from orphanages into the community. While at the property the young people learn some vocational training skills.

After extensive research, planning and consultation, the first intake of boys moved into the live-in Vocational Training Centre in September 2008. These boys will

live at the Centre for 12 months, be provided with food, clothing, counselling, support and the opportunity to learn carpentry and joinery skills so that they can secure employment when they leave in September this year. This training centre is a safe, secure and friendly environment where the boys have the opportunity to learn the necessary skills to transition from a life-time in government run orphanages to becoming independent and skilled in a trade which will provide them with a better future. A new group of boys will be given the opportunity to live at the Centre in September 2009.

The Growth for Tomorrow project has been largely funded by the four Directors and their families and friends along with various fundraising activities. As Romania is not recognised by the Australian Government as a country requiring aid support, the project is not eligible to receive tax deductible status which has been a fundraising challenge. The Old Grammarians' Association is thrilled to be able to assist a former student like Mike with such an inspiring project and wishes both him and Donna every success for the 2009 intake.

For further information or to support Growth of Tomorrow, please contact **Mike** on **0423 193 196** or **inhouse@inet.net.au**.

Mrs Kym Ashby
:: Marketing and Community Relations Manager