

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”  
~Anonymous



## this issue

Our Letter to You Page 1

Events, Q.& A. Page 2

## How You Can Help

Please attend our upcoming events and tell everyone you know about us. We accept help in the form of time, monetary contributions, computers and accessories, gently used and new clothing, manufacture-sealed toiletries.

### MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

"I help Amy's Hope International because I have seen first-hand the need for an organization like this one during my visits to Romania. I very much believe in what they are doing, and not only for the abandoned children of the world, but the community in which the volunteers live in. I have never been surrounded by more genuine and fun-loving people. It feels great to be amongst of circle of people that can love and care so deeply."

#### Amy Hanavan

Board Member/Staff Volunteer  
and Elementary Art Teacher

## Our Letter to You.

Dear Friends of Amy's Hope,

It is with great excitement that I write the first letter for our very first monthly newsletter. I have so much to tell you since the last time we spoke! We have been so busy in our first year of existence trying to get things accomplished that I have done a poor job of communicating to you. For this, I apologize and I also promise to never let that happen again.

For those of you that do not know our history, I will quickly paraphrase it for you. In August of 2005, I took my first journey to Eastern Europe and more specifically Romania. I went as a volunteer and was to be an Activities Leader for a teen youth camp outside of Bocsia, Romania (just due South of Timisoara <Tee-me-shwa-ra>). This was a big step for me as I knew that we would be in a camp all week that required me to sleep in a tent with no running water, no electricity, no internet, no cell phone, etc. This was actually pretty terrifying to me. But I survived! I not only survived but I LOVED it! I immediately signed up for another 16 day trip for the following year.

My return to Romania in 2006 was met with eager anticipation. I could not wait to get back to the children and my new friends. I met some of the most genuine people there and by all means I was ready to feel warmed by their hugs and laughter again.

What I didn't anticipate was falling in love with their orphans and witnessing what I did on that trip. Children,

with no parents, living in houses and laughing, playing, doing chores and living as normal children do in family environments. I wanted to place 3 of the children in my suitcase and bring them home. But I figured they would get too cold in the luggage compartment of the airplane. So I refrained.

I was exposed to the public institutions after visiting the private orphanages and I was horrified. Perfectly normal children were severely handicapped due to lack of attention as infants. Some couldn't sit up, some couldn't walk, most couldn't talk and some were terrified at the very feeling of your touch simply because they were never touched in a soothing manor as infants.

I knew I had to do something about it. It ate at me like nothing ever had before. It haunted my nights and would not let me sleep and I often found myself crying and praying (more like crying out to God). Because I knew I wasn't doing enough yet I didn't know what it was that I was being led to do. Then I found it. A Public Nonprofit Charity to aid Private Orphanages in Eastern Europe. Amy's Hope International was born and since then many of my friends have adopted it.

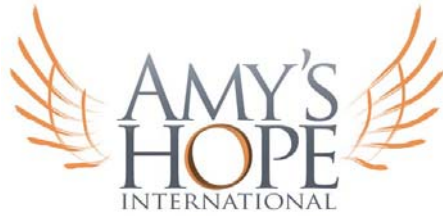
Thank you for sharing in my vision.

God Bless,

*Michelle Harbin*

Executive Director





## Be The Wise Contributor

Imagine playing a leading role in the latest blockbuster hit and winning a slew of awards. Thus having your name plastered all over billboards, internet sites and televisions worldwide. Well, this is nothing like that. Your role in this story often goes unnoticed by those around you and becomes a private reward for the orphan that is sitting a world apart from you.

However, imagine this: you have a gift, one that you can afford to part with. One that you know was meant to be shared but you are not quite sure who

to share it with. Imagine it impacting a parentless child. One that goes to bed at night simply praying that someone may choose to give them a home. Then, imagine that the gift you have is just the tiny amount of money that you would normally spend on a soda and candy bar daily (or energy drink and protein bar for the health fans). Your soda money can help to feed, clothe and educate an orphan.

But, wait don't forget about the best part of the story, imagine being able to correspond with and visit the very

orphan you help. Well, this is not a movie, this is reality. This will not sell magazines or become a blockbuster hit. But if you volunteer your time, expertise and/or money it will become your story and that will become your award. Wow, what an impact you could be.

Please remember, some of these children are already deemed unadoptable and you could be their only experience of unsolicited love and hope.

## EVENTS

### Upcoming Events

**What:** 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Bash  
**When:** May 9<sup>th</sup> 5 pm – 10 pm  
**Where:** Twist Lounge  
West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45205

Come celebrate our 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday and Live Auction. \$20 tickets per person in advance and \$30 at the door. Enjoy appetizers made by Chef Jean Robert and live music and fantastic drink specials the entire evening.

#### Event Sponsors:

- CincyChic.com
- The Plastic Surgery Group
- Serene Aqua and Lawscapes
- Booj's Chicken
- Twist Lounge
- Immaculate Commercial Services

## Q. & A.

### Q: How much of my contribution goes towards the actual child in need?

A: EXCELLENT question! This is a question that every contributor should be asking his/her chosen nonprofit.

The current answer is 90%. We are presently operating on a mere 10% of your contributions. We use this 10% for web site creation and management, marketing, events and office supplies.

Most charity that you are funding should be able to keep its doors open on 20% of your contributions. Ask to see their established Bill of Rights for their contributors as well as their budget. If the charity is doing what they say they are doing this question should be met with a smile.

## CONTACT US

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