



# Project Harvest Hope

April 2004



## DOWN ON THE FARM

### What's Going On at the Model Dairy?

### EU Agency Lauds Harvest Hope; Would Provide Matching Funds

Twenty-five healthy, purebred cows and 27 calves now reside at the Harvest Hope model dairy. Many of the calves will be ready to distribute to villagers in the fall. (You can read more about plans for distributing the calves at

[www.projectharvesthope.org](http://www.projectharvesthope.org).) With calf distribution beginning this year, additional purebred heifers must be purchased for the model dairy. Gifts are still needed to purchase new heifers so that the maximum number of the current calves can go to needy villagers.

Meanwhile, the model dairy has attracted the attention of an agricultural development agency funded by the European Union. The agency picked out the most promising new projects in Romania, and we are among them! Harvest Hope has been invited to submit an application for up to \$150,000. To qualify, Project Harvest Hope partners would commit to raising \$20,000 per year in matching funds over the next five years. Our contributions would do double duty.

The foundation grant would complete the farm, providing a new corral, an equipment shed, a silo to replace the temporary silage pit, and new equipment including a baling machine, manure spreader, plow, disk and harrow.

#### INSIDE THIS PROJECT HARVEST HOPE NEWSLETTER:

Information on gatherings at the 2004 General Assembly

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Stories of Model Dairy Changing Lives

— page 4

News about Harvest Hope people

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...and much more!

## The Great Symposium An Unusual Travel Opportunity

Sponsored by and Benefiting  
Project Harvest Hope

July 28 – August 9, 2004

David Keyes, Dean and Coordinator  
Éva Kelemen, Tour Director

The in-depth experience that many have been waiting and asking for. A unique learning opportunity, as we seek to deepen our partnerships, and to better support the preservation of the way of life cherished by Unitarians in Transylvania and Hungary.

**sym\*po\*si\*um** n. 1. An entertainment characterized by drinking, music, and intellectual discussion.

There may indeed be, as the literal meaning of SYMPOSIUM suggests, a drinking together, as homemade wine, plum brandy-palinka-and good German beer are shared all around for those who wish to partake. And there will be music from village bands, Gypsy orchestras, Hungarian opera stars, and our own Pilgrim Chorus. And there will be intellectual discussion as well, along with very down to earth demonstrations of crafts and customs. This is a trip for heart and head, body and soul.

More information is available on the PHH web page, [www.projectharvesthope.org](http://www.projectharvesthope.org), or from registrar Sherman Eagles, c/o Unity Church-Unitarian, 732 Holly Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104, or [registrar@projectharvesthope.org](mailto:registrar@projectharvesthope.org).

## THE MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS



### Waiting for Cows

They are two young, single women, ages 21 and 22, their names are Olga and Pirike. They are Roma, gypsies, and were both orphaned when they were babies.

In 1994, a German woman came to Oklánd to work in the school for a year, and she became attached to these children and became their godmother. For this woman, being a godmother was not just a symbolic act. She is very fond of them and is trying to help them. She purchased and restored a house in Oklánd where Olga and Pirike now live. She expects them to work around the house and in the fields to obtain their own food.

“We grew up in the orphanage in Oklánd and with the support of a godmother from Germany, Katharina, we live in Oklánd. We are very much looking forward to the moment when we can take the first cow or cows home from the farm. We have been in training at the farm for two months, so we learn the skills of animal husbandry.”

They have learned how to keep chickens and rabbits. Their godmother heard about the Harvest Hope pro Homoród model dairy farm project and its plans for providing cows to area farmers. During her last visit to Oklánd she visited the farm and asked if it would be possible for Olga and Pirike to get cows from the model dairy farm. Also she asked if it would be possible that they work at the farm for two months so that they can learn how to keep the animals.

Olga and Pirike have been going to the farm to learn about farming, and they enjoy it very much and hope that in spring can get their own cows.



### FIRST ANNUAL Project Harvest Hope No-More-Rubber-Chicken Dairy Delights Dinner with Ribs and Beer!

Saturday, June 26 — 6:30 p.m.  
Rock Bottom Brewery  
One Pine Avenue  
Long Beach, California  
(diagonally from the Convention Center)

In celebration of the Harvest Hope model dairy farm in Transylvania, and of anything else we may want to celebrate.

Come enjoy a menu of  
**Barbeque Ribs**

**Brown Cow** Ale Chicken

Fettuccine with **Cheese** and Artichokes  
White **Cheddar Cheese** Mashed Potatoes  
Fresh Veggies and All Such As That  
And...Triple Chocolate Stout **Cheesecake**

\$35 per person. Tickets available at the Harvest Hope booth or from Board members and supporters.

Plenty of **Brown Cow** Ale and other brews available for purchase.

Come early or stay late  
and enjoy a game of pool or video games in  
our private banquet room.

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## NEWS FROM ROMANIA

### Easter Games in the Fertile Homoród Valley

Ancient Easter customs are still observed in the Homoród Valley of Transylvania, home to Harvest Hope pro Homoród's mill, bakery, dairy farm and offices. On Easter Monday, boys and young men visit homes that have unmarried young women ("flowers"), and sprinkle them, usually with a perfume spray bottle. The men enter the house and ask (poetically) :

*I was walking in the woods  
and saw a blue violet.  
It looked a little wilted,  
may I sprinkle it?*

If the girls (and their mothers) answer yes, then the men will recite a "sprinkling poem."

*I am a little gardener,  
who sprinkles with rose water.  
I sprinkle the girls  
like a gardener his flowers.*

*I started out early in the morning,  
did not eat or drink.  
My bag is heavy on my shoulders  
and I've worn down my feet.*

*I wandered 'round the world,  
saw many, many beautiful flowers.  
I have now found the most beautiful,  
and I cannot wait to water it!*

*Because girls are beautiful flowers  
perfumed water befits them.  
Who is not sprinkled on Easter Monday  
will be a wilted flower the next day.*

*Don't run away my beautiful flower,  
for the sprinkling you owe me three kisses!*

After the sprinkling the girls thank the boys, give them colored eggs and offer pastries.



### KIDS & COWS & WORSHIP Harvest Hope at the Long Beach General Assembly

Project Harvest Hope volunteers look forward to seeing you at the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly in Long Beach, California, on June 24–28.

Drop by the Harvest Hope booth in the exhibition area for cow conversation. The booth will be staffed this year during most exhibit hours, and information will be available there about all PHH and related events.

#### PHH Worship Service

A Harvest Hope Worship Service will be presented twice at GA. The preacher will be Maria Pap, one of the first women to enter the Unitarian ministry in Transylvania, and this year's scholar in residence at Starr King School. The service will be led by PHH co-founder David Keyes, who recently completed a term as president of the Partner Church Council.

#### **The PHH worship service is scheduled for:**

- ♦ Friday, June 25, 11:00 a.m.  
Room 103A, Convention Center
- ♦ Monday, June 28, 8:30 a.m.  
Room 103C, Convention Center

#### Kids & Cows

Kids & Cows is a PHH workshop presenting a lesson plan for religious education classes that will get kids of all ages involved with and knowledgeable about Harvest Hope, the model dairy farm, and how they can help Unitarians in Transylvania improve their lives. We hope that you'll want to take the lesson plan and related inspirations back to your congregation.

#### **The Kids & Cows workshop is scheduled for:**

- ♦ Sunday, June 27, 2:00 p.m.  
Room 102B, Convention Center
- ♦ Monday, June 28, 10:15 a.m.  
Room 203B, Convention Center

## STORIES OF MODEL DAIRY CHANGING LIVES



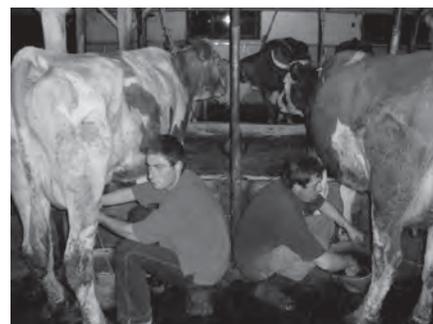
**Ferenc Szabo and wife, Karácsonyfalva**  
81 and 78 years old

“We have two children, who were chased away from home during Communism. Thus we were left alone; our children can come home from the city only seldom. Thank God our health is still good, this way we can work on the fields and even can keep three cows. But we feel that the work is harder and harder and we need to reduce our farm. Thus, we rented part of our land to the Foundation. We are very glad to have this opportunity, so that if we die our children will have a little return from the fields for which we and our parents worked so hard.”



**István Palosi, Homoródújfalva, and his son**

“I am 70 years old and I live alone because my wife died. My son came home from town for the weekend, to help me a little; just got done with pruning the grapevines, that is why we look so dirty. I am from Karácsonyfalva originally; after the end of Communism we got back some of our land also in Karácsonyfalva. Regrettably, I am old and I cannot work these fields. I can hardly manage my small plots in Újfalva. My son and his family have to help out with the work during the Summer. I am very glad that the foundation HHpH rents my fields in Karácsonyfalva; if they did not, the land would just lay there fallow like it did for seven years before; this way at least I have a little income to supplement my pension.”



**István Balazs (left) and Attila Bela (right),  
Karácsonyfalva**

### **Attila Bela**

“I am 27 years old, I live with my mother and sibling, my father died two years ago. I am courting a girl from Oklánd, who regrettably had to go to work in a sewing factory in Szekelyudvarhely, but she does not like to live in the city. I hope she will find employment here at home or can find some other way to make a living; then we can get closer to each other. We are thinking of me getting some more education so I can be a farm manager; this way if the job provides housing we would have the opportunity to start a family.”

### **Istvan Balazs**

“I am 20 years old and I have a job at the dairy farm. I am very glad to have this employment as it is very hard these days for young people to find a job anywhere. This employment came at the right time because our father died three years ago, and also because we have to pay out a lot so that my 15-year-old brother can attend school. My mother does not have a job; she keeps two cows at home from [the milk of] which she has a small income.”



### **Károly Varga, Karácsonyfalva, and his father**

49 years old, lives with his elderly parents: father 81, mother 79, bedridden.

“I worked at the agricultural machine station for 27 years then I was unemployed for four years. It is indeed great help for us that I received employment at the [HHpH] farm in Karácsonyfalva, as a tractorist. This way I can support my parents; with my father we keep one cow and one buffalo.”

## HARVEST HOPE PEOPLE



Dénes Barta

### News About Our Volunteers and Supporters

**Éva Kelemen** started her maternity leave from the Homorod Valley schools in February. She and **Levente**, co-founders of Harvest Hope pro Homorod, were expecting their third child in April.

In February, the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, California, hosted Levente Keleman and **Dénes Barta**, Oklánd, Transylvania congregation president. Dénes, a farmer who has been president for the past seven years, is proud of the renovations to the church and parsonage during his tenure. In one recent year, volunteers contributed 286 working days, and the annual average is about 100 volunteer days.

*How does the Harvest Hope dairy farm serve the people of his region? Dénes says: "We rent the land to grow feed for the dairy, so instead of rabbits kicking up dust in the fields, now we grow hay and corn and provide a little income to the old people from whom we lease the land."*

A delegation from the First Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, including new minister **Jay Deacon**, is planning a visit for this summer to their partner village, Karocsonyfalva, home of the model dairy farm.

PHH vice-president **Cecilia Kingman Miller** is now the capital campaign director at First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon. She will soon be able to compare cow notes with Harvest Hope supporter **Preston Moore**, who will be intern minister in Portland starting in the fall. Preston was a corporate attorney with a major San Francisco law firm when he first visited the Homorod Valley on a PHH pilgrimage in 1996. It was then that he began what he calls "the long walk together," connecting to people and a way of life that was progressively transforming, or as Preston puts it, "like wearing a sweater while you are still knitting it." Read more about Preston's journey and about how other lives have been changed by Harvest Hope at [www.projectharvesthope.org](http://www.projectharvesthope.org).

Thanks to PHH board members **Katalin Voros and Beverly Smrha**, who contributed greatly to this issue of our newsletter.

## The Milk of Human Kindness

### Your Gift of a Pure-Bred Heifer is Needed Today!

Only by selling milk from their one or two cows can the poor farmers of the Unitarian heartland earn money to send their children to school, buy medicines, or provide for a retirement free of backbreaking toil.

Harvest Hope's model dairy farm provides a breeding herd of superior cattle, pays villagers for rental of pastures, and provides purebred heifers to the neediest farmers. Our vision is to establish thriving dairy cooperatives in at least 12 villages, and to significantly improve the economy of the Homorod Valleys and surrounding area.

You can help today by sending your donation!

### Yes! I want to offer the gift of hope... ...and cows!

#### Here's my gift of:

- \$1000 for a heifer, including veterinary care and technical support
- \$500 for half of a share of a heifer
- \$250 for a quarter share
- \$100 for organic fertilizer and pasture improvements
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ a gift of any size will help, and will be greatly appreciated.

#### I'd like to make a pledge for the 2004-2005 year.

Pledge amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I'd like to pay my pledge \_\_\_\_\_ monthly  
\_\_\_\_\_ quarterly.

#### Please designate my gift!

I want to support the following efforts:

- Interfaith Conference on Economic Development
- General Program Fund

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

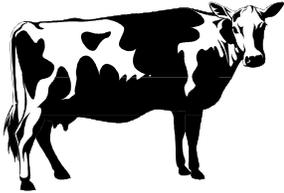
Please make checks out to Project Harvest Hope.

Send checks to: Project Harvest Hope  
c/o Unity Church-Unitarian  
732 Holly Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

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## Project Harvest Hope — April 2004

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### Visit the Project Harvest Hope Website!

Find out all the latest on Project Harvest Hope on their website at [www.projectharvesthope.org](http://www.projectharvesthope.org).

Keep up on correspondence from the Kelemens, news and pictures from the Karácsonyfalva Dairy Farm project, and how to participate in the Project Harvest Hope pilgrimages.



### Project Harvest Hope Board of Trustees

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