



WINGS OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL

TRANSFORMING **the lives of people in MOLDOVA**

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Fall 2018

Message from the President

Another year has flown by so it is time for an update on Wings of Hope International (WHI) activities. This newsletter provides highlights and pictures of several exciting programs that were accomplished in 2018. There were additional programs and projects that were implemented this past year and a few more programs were started in November of 2018 when this newsletter was published.

All of these programs and projects have had a significant impact of the lives of elderly, children and the sick, as well as local schools and the health center. We would like to encourage you read this newsletter and visit our redesigned website to learn more information about our work in Moldova.

During our travel to Moldova this past summer we received many testimonials. Our partner, NGO Neemia, shared how the programs have grown and attracted the interest of others who requested new programs. The group of teenagers who serve as volunteers have grown as well. Those that benefitted from the community center or other projects in Cobani shared their enthusiasm and their gratefulness.

We couldn't have achieved these things without the financial support from many of you. If you are reading this newsletter for the first time, please consider making a donation to WHI. If you donated in the past, we sincerely thank you and hope you will continue supporting WHI as we transform the lives of villagers in Moldova in 2019.

With Hope for the Moldovan People,

Alec Zama, President, WHI

Community Center's Impact on the Village

In last year's newsletter, we notified you that the Community Center in Cobani was finally opened in February 2017 and it had a transformational impact on the village during the first year of its operation. We would like to report that our partner in Moldova continued to impact the lives of many in Moldova through the work at the Community Center. Alec traveled to Moldova in this past summer and witnessed firsthand the impact that the many activities organized by our partner NGO Neemia is having in the community.

MEALS FOR THE ELDERLY. The main program that Neemia continues for the elderly is delivery of hot meals to the homes of about 25-28 low-income elderly and/or disabled individuals. These meals are prepared at the community center and delivered by Neemia's employees and volunteers three times per week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays). For some of these individuals, these are the only hot meals that they will eat for the entire week because some of them are blind or bedridden and are not able to cook. Many children benefiting from the programs at the community center have become involved in the delivery of these meals. This is an opportunity for them to learn how to serve others and engage in conversations with the elderly. In many situations, the only interactions that the recipients of the meals have with other people during the week is with those who deliver meals to them. These recipients are waiting eagerly for the people who come to visit them as they want to talk and fellowship with others.



Alec Zama delivering a meal to Alexandra, who is 90 years old, blind and lives alone.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS. The same programs that were started last year were continued this year. They have been very successful as more than 100 children and young people were involved in these programs. The community center was full of life seven days per week with various activities. The clubs include: The English Club, The Reading Club, The Guitar Club, The Math and Science Club, The Adolescents Club, The Youth Club, The Volunteering Club, and The Culinary Club.



Children at the day camp.

SUMMER DAY CAMPS. This June and July over 40 children from grades 1 through 4 participated in day camps, with one week devoted to children from one grade. The children participated in a variety of activities from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. They were involved in arts and crafts, critical thinking lessons, physical exercises and other activities.



Children at the day camp.



Participants from soccer tournament in front of the Community Center. Victor Zama, director of Neemia, is far left, front row.

SOCCER CAMP. July brought together 40 children from Cobani for a summer soccer camp. During this week-long camp, children were involved in a variety of soccer drills and various lessons on topics such civic involvement, teamwork, and service in the community in the mornings. In the evenings, children enjoyed practice and games. At the end of the week, they organized a soccer tournament in which more than 80 children

Thank You and WHI Goals for 2019

On behalf of those who benefited from the services of WHI during the past year, we would like to thank you for your generous support. In 2019 we will continue to support the operations of the community center in Cobani, will continue to focus on improving educational opportunities for children, improving access to quality healthcare and assisting the elderly. Here are the fundraising goals for the upcoming year:

- Community Center - \$21,500**
- Children projects - \$2,000**
- Healthcare projects - \$2,500**
- Elderly projects - \$2,500**

Please join us in achieving these goals and remember, your WHI contribution is tax-deductible!



from five surrounding villages participated. As in the two previous years, the parents, children and teachers at the school praised this camp and the tournament, requesting that WHI and Neemia organize it again next year.

SCHOOL ASSISTANCE. WHI provided funds to the school in Cobani to build an underground cellar where they could store their canned foods, fruits and vegetables for the winter. This will allow the school to purchase fruits and vegetables in the fall after the harvest before prices go up throughout the year. By building the cellar, the school has been saving about 30% on their purchase of fruits and vegetables.



School principal in front of the new cellar.

HEALTH CENTER. WHI donated funds to the health center in Cobani for the purchase of an electrocardiogram machine. The center has been in need for such a machine for a long time and now more than 5,000 people from five surrounding villages could benefit from proper and timely diagnosis.



New ECG machine

KINDERGARTEN DONATION. This past year we donated funds for the purchase of educational materials for about 80 children at the daycare/ kindergarten. The teachers, parents and children were very thankful for this donation as it really helps the educational process.



Educational materials and toys for the kindergarten.



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