



# WINGS OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL

TRANSFORMING **the lives of people in MOLDOVA**

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## Message from the President

I hope you had a prosperous 2014. As we are approaching the end of this year I would like to update you on the work that we have done to improve the lives of the neediest in Moldova during 2014 through Wings of Hope International (WHI). This was made possible through the generosity of many people like you.

During the summer of 2014 I spent almost five weeks in Moldova. During this period of time I spent time implementing various projects through WHI. This newsletter contains information about the projects that we implemented this year and projects that we might implement in the future. We continued to focus on our three main goals: education, healthcare, and elderly assistance during this year. In the area of education, the students at Cobani High School now have a classroom and many tools to complete activities for the arts and crafts classes and the students at the kindergarten have a variety of new instructional materials. In addition, 89 of the most needy families in the village received food packages to improve their diets and the Health Center in Cobani, which serves patients from five surrounding villages, received a new piece of equipment to test the eye sight of patients.

On behalf of many Moldovans whose lives have been touched during the past year, I would like to express our sincerest thanks to many of you who have generously contributed financially to the work of WHI in the past year. I hope that you will continue to support us in our endeavors to improve the lives of the neediest Moldovans in the future.

With hope for the Moldovan people,

Alec Zama, WHI Board President

## Educational Project with Long Lasting Impact

During the summer of 2014, WHI focused its efforts to improve the learning conditions for children in the village of Cobani. Earlier in the year we were contacted by one of the teachers at the high school who teaches home economics/shop classes during the regular hours and holds after-hours classes in arts and crafts. This individual is a known artist who has been asked to exhibit his work at many exhibitions but due to lack of funds he hasn't been able to travel. Instead he has decided to devote his time to teaching the students in the middle and high schools in Cobani on creating works of art with local supplies. He has been doing this for a few years and has been using tools that are very old. He was able to attract a good number of students who were eager to learn how to make new things with their hands.



During the summer, we implemented two projects in this area. For the first one, we purchased more than 70 items/tools and some materials which students could use in creating works of art. For the second project, we covered the labor expenses for the remodeling of the classroom where these classes are taking place.

The most important aspect of his classes is that he tries to use local materials, specifically, local plants. He would take the children to the fields and then they would collect a variety of plants and then process those plants and transform them into work of arts.

We are pursuing two main goals with this project. The first one is to keep students engaged in some school related activities after their regular classes and with the second goal we we hope to have a more long lasting impact. There are many students who are very skilled and these classes provide them with an opportunity to further develop their skills and we hope that they can use these skills upon graduation to explore economic opportunities and start new businesses. We believe that these students could become an important part in developing rural tourism in Moldova as this sector is one that holds some promise in the future of economic development of the country.





## New Equipment for Health Center

The Health Center in the village of Cobani offers a variety of medical services to about 5000 patients from five surrounding villages. As with the majority of healthcare establishments in Moldova, the health center has encountered many difficulties in providing quality services to its patients during the past 20 years. Limited government funding and limited ability to pay by the patients has led many healthcare establishments to deliver substandard care. That's where WHI has come to play an important role in the improvement of the delivery of healthcare in the village of Cobani.

Over the past six years, WHI purchased various pieces of medical equipment which helped the health center to improve the quantity and quality of care. At the same time there has been a significant increase in the number of patients with eyesight problems in the village of Cobani during the past 15 years. Many of these patients have completely lost their eyesight or have had severe consequences. One of the major reasons of these consequences is the lack of diagnostic and prevention equipment. This year we purchased a tonometer for doctors to use in diagnosing eyesight problems. With the new equipment, the local doctors will be able to diagnose the problems in the early stages and then direct patients to specialists who could address the problems in earlier stages of the diseases. That way doctors will be able to prevent more severe consequences.

## WHI Goals for 2015

WHI will continue to improve the lives of the most needy in Moldova in 2015. We will 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:

*Children projects - \$6,500*  
*Healthcare projects - \$3,500*  
*Elderly projects - \$5,500*

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



Please check our website at [www.whintl.org](http://www.whintl.org) for more pictures and testimonials.

## Helping Needy and Life Altering Service

During the summer of 2014 WHI continued to support the elderly and other needy with food packages. Eight nine families with elderly and sick members and families with low incomes, received food packages that included rice, wheat meal, wheat flour, corn flour, buckwheat, sugar, and vegetable oil.

To the following categories of needy Moldovans:

Elderly who don't have any relatives – 42 people  
Disabled from childhood and disabled children – 12 people  
Disabled of 1<sup>st</sup> Category – 35 people



1 kg – Corn Meal  
1 kg – Wheat Meal  
1 kg – Buckwheat  
1kg -Sugar  
1 kg – Rice  
1 kg – Pasta  
2 kg – Wheat Flour  
2 liters – Sunflower Oil

In the fall of 2014 we have partnered with another entity in the village of Cobani to serve 20 needy families. These families included 10 elderly, 5 disabled families, and 5 low income families (there are 13 children in these families – 5 are attending school and 8 are attending daycare). All of these families received food packages and hygiene products, while the children also received school supplies. The work to serve these families was done by a group of volunteers from Cobani High School. These volunteers have been very enthusiastic to be involved with this project and they will continue to visit these families to assist them with other needs besides those mentioned above.

After the implementation of the first project, one of the volunteers stated that it will probably take her one week to recover because she couldn't imagine that there are people living in such conditions. It was a very emotional and deeply felt experience for her. These volunteers have decided to start raising funds to meet various needs of needy families in the village of Cobani.



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