



WINGS OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL

TRANSFORMING the lives of people in MOLDOVA

Volume 13, Issue 1

Fall 2022

Impact of Events in Ukraine

By Victor Zama

The war in Ukraine has impacted its neighbouring countries and Moldova was not an exception. The influx of Ukrainian refugees in Moldova allowed us to become involved in addressing the needs of many refugees in various places. The main assistance that we provided was to refugee families who came to stay temporarily in our neighbouring towns. We also helped families who were transiting through Moldova, aided refugees who were staying in capital city, Chisinau, and also contributed with financial assistance that was sent through other organizations to Ukraine.

At the local level, the war in Ukraine has had grave consequences on the energy supplies and on the prices for all products. Consequently, the categories of the population who have been affected the most are those with low incomes and other needy families. We were able to implement a few new projects that allowed us, for the first time, to expand our services to four neighbouring villages. Most of our work was focused on social services including donations of the following: coal for home heating, adult diapers and hygiene packages, food packages, vegetable seeds, and delivery of hot meals to individual homes.

A PERSONAL STORY: Stanislav, his wife, and three children had to leave their country because of the danger caused by the military conflict in Ukraine. Their youngest daughter was born in a bomb shelter. They wanted to leave their home, but didn't know where to go. Finally, they arrived in Moldova, searching for guidance regarding a secure place to stay longer term. Through our networks we were able to help them to travel to Germany where they found a job and an apartment.



Retired persons club enjoy a craft project at the Community Center



Children at the summer camp

Message from WHI President

By Alec Zama

As we are coming to the end of 2022, I would like to thank many of you for the support that you provided this past year. The current global inflationary phenomenon and the war in Ukraine has been having a significant impact on the entire country of Moldova. Since Moldova imports all of its energy and a significant part of manufactured goods, the level of inflation has been between 35-40%. We had to readjust our budget in the middle of the year, but we were able to provide all the funding for our partner in Moldova, NGO Neemia, to function at full capacity and for WHI to continue support for medical care, childhood education, and the elderly.

After dealing with various COVID obstacles the two previous years, this year Neemia faced staffing issues with one employee going on maternity leave in June (maternity leave in Moldova can last up to three years) and a second employee choosing to work outside Moldova for a few months. Despite these new challenges, Neemia resumed all their regular activities at the community center and even expanded their activities both programmatically and geographically. A grant from a foundation allowed Neemia to expand most of the social services they provide in Cobani to four neighbouring villages, Butesti, Molesti, Brinzeni and Camenca, and started a new program for retired citizens in Cobani.

In addition to the work being done through the Community Center by Neemia, WHI continued to support other entities in Cobani and beyond. We purchased medical equipment for the health center in Cobani, educational materials for the kindergarten, coal for the elderly to heat their homes, and orthopedic mattresses for the county hospital in Glodeni used for patients requiring long-term hospital stays. WHI also welcomed two new board members: Andy Otto, as treasurer, and Corbin Zea, as a member at large.

I would like to thank all of you for your financial support that made it possible for us to impact lives in Moldova. We would like to ask for your support to continue our work and that of our partner, Neemia. Please consider sending a donation to the address indicated on this newsletter or donate online at www.whintl.org.



Neemia's youth volunteers assist with street cleaning.

Alec Zama



Community Center Clubs & Camps

The Community Center in Cobani initiated a new club this past year for retired people in Cobani, allowing them opportunities for interactions, relationship building, and to become more active in the life of the community. This club has 15 members who enjoyed a variety of activities including: preparing dishes for a regional Cheese Festival and for the volunteers who installed benches throughout the village; engaging in games and discussions; visiting historical and cultural locations in the country; participating in educational activities such as an introduction to painting; exchange visits; and joining various community activities.

Our volunteers program continued to be a vibrant part of our organization, making a great impact on the community. More than 30 youth served as volunteers in 2022. They were involved in many activities such as: preparation and delivery of food packages; delivery of hot meals to the elderly; assistance with the children's club; cleaning of streets and other areas of the town, helping with fundraising, and participating in the organization of summer day camps.

During the summer of 2022 we organized eight week-long day camps: craft camp, soccer camp, English language camp, and five children's camps. For the first time last summer, we organized two camps in the village of Camenca where more than 100 kids, ages 8-15, benefited from all camps.



Pictures, left to right: Hot meal delivery to Eugenia in Butesti. Food package delivery to Alexandra in Camenca. Coal delivery to elderly in Cobani (Victor Zama is far right). Adult diaper delivery to Elena in Camenca.

WHI Goals for 2023

In 2023 we will continue to support the operations of the Community Center in Cobani, continue to focus on improving educational opportunities for children, continue to improve access to quality healthcare, and continue assisting the elderly. Here are the fundraising needs for the upcoming year:

Community Center - \$42,000

Educational projects - \$ 2,000

Healthcare projects - \$ 2,500

Elderly projects - \$ 2,500

Please join us in achieving these goals. You can donate online or by mail by sending a check to the address indicated at the bottom this page.

Remember, your WHI contributions are tax-deductible!

A PERSONAL STORY: Vlad is a 10 year old from Camenca. He says: "I really enjoyed participating in the soccer camp. It was very interesting to participate in practices and play soccer. If you have additional time, maybe you could come again to organize such camps for other kids in our town"

Impact of Donations by Number

SOME 2022 STATISTICS:

- **Hot Meals Delivery**—8,820 hot meals to 60 beneficiaries in 5 villages
- **Donations of coal**—180 recipients in 5 villages
- **Donations of adult diapers and personal hygiene products** – 144 packages to 20 recipients
- **Donation of food packages**—160 packages to 40 families, one time in two months January-July
- **Donation of vegetables seeds** for 60 families with many children
- **Donation of chickens** for 20 families with many children
- **Donation of medical equipment and furniture**—4 adjustable exam tables, 5 stainless steel tables, 4 cabinets for medical records, 1 cabinet for storage of medications and medical instruments, 6 orthopedic mattresses



A PERSONAL STORY: Elena is 57 years old and is bed ridden. We were able to provide her with coal to heat her home, hot lunches three times per week, adult diapers and hygiene products. Every time when we go to visit her, we see the suffering that she is going through and with tears in her eyes, she is extremely thankful for all the assistance that she receives. Many of our beneficiaries are elderly and all the material help that they receive means some hope for them as they feel that they are not forgotten.

WHI Board of Directors

Alec Zama, President
Andre Drost, Vice-President
Andy Otto, Treasurer
Becky Zama, Secretary
Corbin Zea, Member at Large

