

October 2016

News from Hugh in Moldova

For many many years now we have been sending Humanitarian Aid to Moldova and everyone's efforts has meant we have been able to despatch 1,000's of tonnes of aid to help the needy over these years. Our friend and colleague in Moldova, Ilia Vintu has been sorting out all the papers in Moldova, which is not easy. For every truck he must have well over 100 papers to deal with, well over ONE HUNDRED! In addition to all of this, Ilia, through his charity "Aven-Ezer", has helped with the storage and final distribution of all we have taken. Please remember that when everything is in Moldova they have to open all the thousands of bags of sorted clothing etc. and then make certain they are in a size to fit the recipients. You can imagine, they cannot just leave a bag with a family, they have to make certain everything is suitable. They distribute everything themselves so all this falls firmly on their shoulders.

The Humanitarian Aid programme is only part of our work. We also run our family support scheme and soup kitchens as well as educational projects. Ilia has largely dealt with all the distribution of the family and Soup Kitchen money, again involving pages and pages of paperwork. We haven't mentioned the distribution of about 4,000 Christmas boxes each year. Like us, Ilia does all this voluntarily.

Through his charity "Aven-Ezer" Ilia has been of invaluable help and enabled cr2ee to achieve a huge amount to alleviate some of the suffering in Moldova. In May during an official hand-over of some English Fire Engines I overheard a British diplomat talking to a Moldovan Government official say, "the work of Christian Response has done more over the years to alleviate poverty than the Moldovan Government". I don't know how well this comment was received!

Recently the work of "Aven-Ezer" was recognised by the Moldovan Government and Ilia received a Diploma of Gratitude signed by Pavel Filip, the Moldovan Prime Minister. Only two Moldovan Charities have received such recognition. Ilia wanted us to express his gratitude to everyone in the UK who has worked so hard. Well done everybody. You can all see how much even the Moldovan Government appreciates all our efforts.



The early autumn in Moldova is warm and people are busy gathering in the maize crop, this is largely being done by hand. Wood is collected throughout the year but at this time worry is starting to grow, "Will there be enough wood to last all the winter?". Prams and carts are laden and bundles of branches are being dragged home.

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When visiting families it is very disturbing to see the number who do not have enough food for today let alone the long winter months. More and more are forced to seek employment abroad, mainly to Russia to earn money for their families. Although they are pleased the harvest is much better this year but the despondence that abounds is very depressing. Paid work is so very difficult to obtain and many have given up hope.

In a total contrast to the general feeling in Moldova I was greatly encouraged when speaking to Vica Tomashevskia in the village of Baroncea. Vica is 23 and had a hard life. When she was a child there was little to eat in the house and at the age of about 16 her mother died from cancer and Vica had to care for and provide for her three younger siblings. CR2EE has been able to support her and the family to help them through these very difficult times. Three or four years ago Vica married a lovely man who has effectively adopted Vica's younger brother and sisters. Times have been very hard but this week Vica said, "for the first time in my life I can truly say everything is good.", They all worked hard in the spring and summer and now have an abundance of food bottled and stored for the winter. Vica knows they will have enough to last through the bitter months ahead, she is happy. The children are working hard at school and at last helping in the house, everything is good. We dread to think what would have happened to this family had we not been there, they would have been homeless and moneyless in Europe's poorest country, it is doubtful they would have survived. Many of the families supported through CR2EE are like this but for those we cannot support things are very different. We look forward to the day when we do not need to collect, sort and send Humanitarian Aid trucks to Moldova but sadly they are needed now and many families depend on them. Without these trucks and our other activities hundreds would suffer and many not survive. Please keep up the good work.



Our store in Exmouth is filling up and with the Christmas Shoebox Appeal just starting we are going to despatch a truck in the next few weeks. This leaves us with the mammoth task of finding and sorting sufficient clothing etc. to fill any space not taken-up with family boxes and the Christmas Shoeboxes.

Future open dates at Spiders Lane:-

Wednesdays 10am to 3pm	Saturdays 10am to 1pm
5 th October	15 th October
2 nd November	19 th November
7 th December	

Please aim at getting your Christmas shoe boxes to us by 19th November

For more information visit www.cr2ee.org.uk

or find us on facebook – 'CR2EE'

Thank you

CR2EE Management Team