

Save
the
Orphans

2022

Winter Newsletter



WHO WE ARE

Save the Orphans (STO) is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to improving the lives of orphans and destitute families in Moldova, Europe's poorest country.

OUR MISSION

With the support of our donors, STO emphasizes the importance of education, acquiring job skills, and developing self-esteem for orphans and at-risk children in Moldova to provide an alternative to the deception used by sexual traffickers offering false promises of foreign job opportunities.

In 2022, we broadened our volunteer network within Moldova and increased our participation with other orphan-centered charities operating in Moldova in order to reach more orphans with our message of hope for their future.



FOOD BAG DELIVERIES

STO's volunteers expanded food bag deliveries, reaching more orphans, foster and destitute families. These deliveries of staples such as flour, sugar, rice, cooking oil, cereals, canned meats and fish, and household necessities have become even more critical as food prices in Moldova have increased dramatically due to the conflict in neighboring Ukraine.

SUCCESSFUL UKRAINIAN REFUGEE RELIEF

STO is very grateful for the donations of our supporters to help with the ongoing needs of Ukrainian refugees who have come to Moldova starting last February. Our partner organization in Moldova, the Oak House Transitional Home for orphans in Chisinau, continues to work feeding, clothing and housing these refugees.



CHISINAU ORPHANAGE

In April, Diana Todica, STO's on-site volunteer coordinator, in partnership with volunteers from the Oak House Transitional Home, visited Gymnasium Number 3, the largest orphanage/school in Moldova's capital of Chisinau.

Diana made a presentation to the orphans on the importance of education, self-esteem, and the dangers of human sex trafficking. Anti-trafficking cards and literature were provided to the orphans, along with treats, food and clothing. The Oak House volunteers, themselves orphan women of high school and college age, performed skits and sang songs with the children.



Sponsored Summer Camps

In 2022, STO sponsored summer camps for orphans and impoverished children in Soldanesti (one large camp for 125 participants and a second for 30 girls), Cricova and Chisinau. The camps in Soldanesti and Cricova featured outdoor activities, the teaching of life skills, and nutritious meals for the children. The program in Chisinau was a week-long introduction to robotics taught by Ion Gadarenco, an orphan who grew up in the Straseni Orphanage. Ion is a graduate of Universitatea Divitia Gratiae in Chisinau, and has been an STO volunteer since 2019.

INTRODUCTION TO ROBOTICS

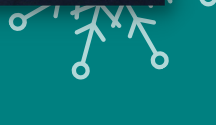
In his seminar, Ion introduced 21 orphans to the world of robotics. Starting from scratch, the children worked in teams to learn to design a robot. Using parts and tools provided to them, the teams built a working robot that can be controlled remotely, and a laser that lights automatically. The enthusiasm shown by these children when something they designed comes to life, fuels their interest in learning more about the skills and techniques required to make a concept become reality. STO plans to expand this program into something that orphans can participate in during the school year.



SOLDANESTI CAMPS

2022 marked the 11th year that STO has sponsored Pastor Vasile Surdu's summer camps for orphans and poor children. In July, 125 children, aged 14-17, participated in a week long camp where games and team exercises enabled them to get outside and learn to work with others toward a common goal. Along with team sports, the camps also featured First Aid training. A portion of each day was devoted to teaching life skills through discussions about the consequences of choices made in everyday life.

In early August, a camp for 30 girls aged 8-12 was also held. The girls camp was similar to the camp for the older children. The girls participated in sports, arts and crafts projects, and discussions about life choices.





CRICOVA CAMPS

STO, partnering with the local church, continued its annual sponsorship of a summer camp for orphans and local children. Pavel Pogor, a graduate of Universitatea Divitia Gratiae and an STO volunteer, coordinated this one week overnight camp which provided three nutritious meals to 160 participants. In addition to presentations on human sex trafficking and the importance of self-esteem and education, the children participated in team sports and problem solving exercises, and made group presentations on assigned topics.

SUMMER CAMP VIDEO



Sponsoship

In response to requests from our supporters to provide a direct and regular stream of support for individual orphans in Moldova, Save the Orphans will begin sponsoring Moldovan orphans. These children have been identified by our volunteers as those most in need. By designating a monthly or annual gift to sponsor one or more of these orphans, your gift will be combined with other similar gifts to provide a monthly stipend to provide food, clothing, shoes, school supplies and other necessities, including utilities and medical care to them. Our target amount to sponsor an orphan is \$50 per month, or \$600 per year. Together with your support, we will be able expand this sponsorship program to more orphans throughout Moldova.

ELENA'S FAMILY IN CRICOVA

Elena is raising 13 children in her two-room home outside the village of Cricova. Five of the children are orphans that Elena has been fostering since their mother (Elena's sister) succumbed to cancer three years ago. Save the Orphans has provided food bags, school supplies, backpacks, clothing, shoes, boots, and winter coats to Elena's family over the years. With the ongoing need to clothe and care for these growing children, and the increasing costs of food and energy throughout Europe, sponsorship for Elena's children will enable us, with your help, to provide food, clothing, school supplies and other necessities to these children on a regular basis. These are Elena's children:



ELENA'S FAMILY IN CRICOVA

Any gift to sponsor Elenas family or one or more of these children is greatly appreciated. When donating to sponsor one or more children, please indicate the name(s) as part of your donation.



SERGIU
1 YEAR OLD



NIKU
2 YEARS OLD



VERA
6 YEARS OLD



IRINA
7 YEARS OLD



TANEA
8 YEARS OLD



Four
brothers at
camp

Viorel
10 years old

Andrian
12 years old

Ion
12 years old

Mihail
14 years old



ELENA
10 YEARS OLD



MARIANA
15 YEARS OLD



LIBA
15 YEARS OLD



NIKOLEXA
13 YEARS OLD

MARIA



Maria is a thirteen-year old who has lived with her aunt in Soldanesti since her mother passed away last year. This summer, she attended a camp sponsored by Save the Orphans, where our volunteers learned of her situation. Maria's aunt has very limited resources with Moldova having no real social safety net, and although she does her best, it has been very difficult to make ends meet for the two of them. Through your generosity, Save the Orphans provided needed clothing for Maria in September, but through sponsorship we can help provide clothing, food and other necessities for her through the next several years. Your sponsorship donation can be in any amount, and our goal is \$50 per month for Maria.



Fall/Winter Programs

FOOD BAG DISTRIBUTION

This fall, STO is determined to grow the number of destitute families we reach through our food bag distributions. The need has increased, especially with the dramatic rise in food prices due to the war in neighboring Ukraine. With your help, we can insure that more Moldovan orphans and destitute families receive the food staples and hygiene products they need as the weather turns colder.



THE OAK HOUSE WOMEN'S TRANSITIONAL HOME

CHRISTMAS CARAVAN

Over the past several years, STO's engagement with the Oak House (a transitional home for high school and college age women orphans) has strengthened significantly. In addition to pursuing their studies and maintaining their house, these young women reach out to those in need in their community, and STO is proud to partner with these remarkable women in these efforts. With your help, STO will again provide funds for the Oak House Christmas Caravan, where house residents visit orphanages and group homes distributing new winter clothing and Christmas gifts. The Oak House volunteers also sing songs, perform skits and play games with the children to spread the holiday spirit.





Giving options



AMAZON SMILE FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GIFTS

Remember that you can support Save the Orphans by using Amazon Smile when making Amazon purchases. Turn on Amazon Smile in your Amazon App by going to Settings, and choosing Amazon Smile. Once you are logged on, designate Save the Orphans as the charity to receive a percentage of your purchase amount.

AMAZON CHARITY LINK



STOCK DONATIONS

You can now donate stock to Save the Orphans from your brokerage account. The information needed to make stock donations is included in the TO DONATE section on the last page of this newsletter.



Thank you!

Your continuing support means everything to Save the Orphans and our volunteers. Building a connection with Moldovan orphans and empowering them to break the cycle of neglect and exploitation through education and empowerment is all made possible by you.

With your help, we can reach out to more orphans and destitute families. Your continued support will allow us to further expand our anti-trafficking awareness and educational programs.

The Save the Orphans staff and network of associates in Moldova are all volunteers. 100% of your donations goes directly to our mission. Thank you in advance for your support, participation, and most importantly, your generosity.

With appreciation,

THE SAVE THE ORPHANS TEAM



TO DONATE

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moldovasorphans@gmail.com

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