



items – all for use by children in the Vocational Training in the Children's Homes as well as for the families and elderly who would love to sew and knit for themselves, but do not have the money for supplies.

WE WOULD ALSO LOVE TO HEAR FROM COMPANIES WHO HAVE EXCESS STOCK they would like to donate. We have designated lists of what will be useful to our field countries and beneficiaries – but would love to talk with any company contacts, who have excess stock their company is willing to donate. This area of our ministry is growing rapidly – Pumpkin Patch and King Gee Clothing are two of a growing list of companies donating their excess stock – wonderful donations that will bless thousands!

FOR COLLECTION POINTS, we need more people willing to come forward as collection points. We have a small list at this stage. **If you have items for collection – everything must be new please**, please contact either:

1. **Our office** (02) 9793-8100 or by email Australia@mwbi.org
2. **Sheryl Rumball in Sydney**, our amazing volunteer who coordinates the collection of our 'Gift in Kind' from companies and individuals: Sheryl Rumball Phone 0432952762 or sherylrumball@hotmail.com.
3. **Jenny Grainger in Melbourne** who is playing a wonderful role in collecting our 'Gift in Kind' and also acting as a spokesperson for our ministry (03) 9795 6141 or jennymarg@hotmail.com

I look forward to sharing the news and photos soon, of where the items in the container we sent from Sydney in September have gone, and how they have blessed thousands of needy children and families! Please check our website for up to date information on this area of our ministry - www.mwb.org.au.

Thank you for your partnership! One child, one family at a time, we are making a difference!

God Bless

Michelle Dorey

Michelle Dorey



WHAT AN EXCITING YEAR WE HAVE AHEAD OF US!

Thanks to your generous donations, we filled three containers in 2007 – with the items already blessing thousands of children, families and elderly in our programs RIGHT NOW, as they endure the depths of the Eastern European winter. The message from our International Leadership and those staff and volunteers in the field countries is an overwhelming "Thank you and well done". The quality of the items we have sent are top class and all items have been so useful and such a blessing. Here you will see some of the beneficiaries of the container that has blessed the poor of Albania.

Many have asked when the next container is leaving Australia, and can they continue to send in their lovingly knitted items? Keep sending them in! The minute the next container is full, it will be sent immediately, and we will start packing the next one.

We would still love your knitted items: large and small blankets; jumpers - we have a particular need for older children and adults; hats; scarves; beanies and bedsocks. Our field countries have also continued to ask for knitting yarn and needles, as well as craft



Open windows today, will open doors tomorrow



One happy family relishing in new opportunities

Greetings dear supporters of Mission Without Borders!

As we send our children off to school for a new year and our teenagers, young adult children and grandchildren prepare for university and TAFE, we are reminded of the wealth of opportunity our children have at their fingertips! Our recent federal election and the first months of the new government have been filled with big plans for the future of education in Australia – an 'Education Revolution'.

For the poor of Eastern Europe, such a smorgasbord of choice and opportunity is only a pipedream... You would ascertain that the poor of Eastern Europe are the ones who need the education the most. With high unemployment, those without

skills cannot escape extreme poverty. The reality is, the governments are incapable of providing opportunities for their citizens – they lack the commitment to the poor, but most importantly, they simply do not have the resources to care for their citizens – today, and provide for their future through education.

Let me share one story with you to show how with a small investment we can change the lives of young people begging for opportunities.

On meeting the Mezi sisters of Albania, you may be distracted by the sheer poverty they endure, and yet their eyes are sparkling with joy! Why? They now know that what may seem to us like merely an open window, will actually be a big, wide, open door for the future!

That this opened door is an investment in a better education and a higher level of education will provide far greater opportunities for employment, in the tough employment market of Albania. As Albania continues to struggle under a never-ending transitional period from



The Mezi family home

Open windows today, will open doors tomorrow



communism to democracy, you instead see hope in the Mezi sisters' eyes!

On visiting the family, Marsida (17) and Sultane (13), hurried to proudly show us the certificates they received at the end of the computer course. "We have not simply learnt skills. We have mastered everything we studied. **This is a successful course and now we can visualise a future profession for ourselves.** When the school day is over, I often walk to the computer centre where the course is held, hoping to find any free computer to work on and put my knowledge into practice. Sometimes I go to the MWB office and I am thankful to the staff for letting me practice my computer knowledge", said Marsida, who is a student in third form at high school and is determined to not forget the skills she has learnt.

Fatmira Mezi, the girls' mother, is very thankful for the opportunity, "MWB not only offered opportunities, but a new life as well. My girls have realised the importance of education, and the computer training course has given them not only the opportunity to learn about computers, which is very important nowadays, but has highly motivated them to achieve great results at school".

The Mezi family have been enrolled in our Family-to-Family program since 2000. Their lives have been ones of tremendous struggle. **In 2003, their father Hyseni, died, as a result of diabetes. Two years later, they were homeless,** when the Durres

Municipality destroyed their home (along with many other homes) when a road nearby was under reconstruction. When they found accommodation in an abandoned warehouse, MWB provided the family with the basic necessities. This material help has continued and has been a tremendous blessing. **In this trying and soul-destroying time, the material, spiritual and emotional support has helped to soothe the open wounds of this family,** helping them to come to terms with the loss of a dear husband and father at such a young age. "Living the life of a widow, faced with raising two young girls, is not easy, but thanks to the Lord, there was and still is a door upon which I can knock at any time, that of MWB and my sponsors, who have been near me all the time. They have offered hope and concrete aid, which helps me believe better days are ahead for my girls", said Fatmira. **A smile played upon Sultane's lips, while listening to her mother. She hugged her and reminded her how much she loved her.**

Besides the provision of food, medicines, clothes etc., Mission Without Borders has another goal: **to raise the level of education in children, giving them hope for a self-sufficient future.**

IF YOU ARE ABLE, PLEASE JOIN WITH US AS WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES – OPEN DOORS FOR TEENAGERS AND ADULTS WHO WOULD LOVE TO NO LONGER BE DEPENDANT ON CHARITY, BUT BE ABLE TO HOLD THEIR HEADS UP HIGH, KNOWING THEY CAN NOW PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES, AND THEIR FAMILIES.



GIVING UKRAINIAN CHILDREN HOPE FOR A FUTURE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY

For the children of the 213 Children's Homes we work with in Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, the situation is often still very bleak. Promises are often made, but governments simply do not have the resources to provide for children in care. The perfect example is Ukraine. Although the focus of 2006 was the "Year of the Child", the lives of many children have not improved dramatically. **Many Ukrainian children are still abandoned to Children Homes or are neglected by their biological families. Mission Without Borders' Child Care Program endeavors to meet the spiritual, educational, emotional and material needs of orphaned and abandoned children (residing in Children's Homes), as well as children from poor families.** Due to the high unemployment rate, (unofficial estimates are as high as 50%), many Ukrainian families live in abject poverty. Parents often can't supply the basic essentials for their kids. As a result, they send them to the Children's Homes. Further

reasons for the large number of children residing in the Homes are when parents are deprived of their rights because of abuse, or children are orphaned because of the death of their parents. It is also commonplace for single mothers to simply abandon their children right after birth or leave them on the hospital's doorstep.

In previous years, children from institutions or even from large families were able to go to vocational schools after finishing public/boarding schools in order to continue their education. Nowadays, the government no longer provides teenagers with this opportunity. The focus has changed and government support is focused on food and the basic needs of the institutions, not on education. **In 2006, MWB rectified this situation by providing vocational courses that would enable the children to continue their education.** Children participated in the following vocational courses: English, tailoring, computers, bee-keeping and cooking. In addition, many children from poor families benefited from cooking, computer and tailoring classes held at the

newly opened Training Centre in Sarny. The state-approved diplomas

they receive at the end of these courses are their tickets toward self-sufficiency - finding employment, as well as helping them integrate into society.

As you listen to excited children and grandchildren share about new teachers, favourite subjects and opportunities, remember the children you have read about now. Pray for them, and where you can, we would love your support!

Enclosed with this Focus News you will see our new Sponsorship Brochure. This gives you in depth information on all our sponsorship programs – not only Child Sponsorship and Family-to-Family Sponsorship, but the regular ongoing sponsorship of Vocational Training in the Children's Homes and Community Centres, as described above, and the Scholarship Fund – scholarships for students completing tertiary study.

For those who would prefer to give one-off gifts, any financial contribution to these valuable ministries, would be most appreciated! We have courses running right now that need funding and we

want to be able to finance the expansion of existing courses as well as offer many more courses to many more students.

Thank you for your partnership. Take pride in knowing you are making a difference. It is humbling for us to know you care and are sacrificially giving – young people are now looking at open windows and know open doors are just around the corner!

Please visit our website for further detail on our ministry www.mwb.org.au – including children and families needing sponsorship, or as an easy option for making a secure online donation. Drop us a line if you have any questions or would like to discuss how you or your group would like work with us in 2008.