



A PROMISING FUTURE

Imagine going through life, and particularly your formative years, without the support of anyone... No one to spur you on to reach your dreams; no one to support you as you worked your way through high school and tertiary study...

Eastern Europe is trapped in poverty and many children are growing into young adults without the love and support our teenagers and young adults enjoy...

Rather than sit around and lament this dire situation, Mission Without Borders is committed to fulfilling the dreams of young adults wanting to complete higher education, so they reach their ultimate dream of self-sufficiency! Furthermore, we strongly believe that the strengthening of education among our beneficiaries, through an increased focus on Scholarships, is a significant element in helping disadvantaged children overcome their challenges of integrating into a future of hope.

In Ukraine, education is going the way of the Western world. The majority of the places are now full fee-paying, limiting the opportunity to those with adequate financial resources – impossible for children from Children's Homes or poor families. The government has a policy of keeping the small pool of fee-free places for true orphans, however this excludes a number of worthy students. The majority of students from Children's Homes and poor families have not had sufficient education, or obtained high enough results to qualify for tertiary education. For those who have, their options are extremely limited.



In the past, Oksana from Ukraine was trapped without opportunities. However, Mission Without Border's Scholarship Project has opened up a wonderful opportunity for Oksana! She is currently a third-year student at Zhytomyr

Law School. Studying is Oksana's passion. Why Law School? She is intelligent and wants to challenge others to make the world a better place!

Oksana's life is full of tragedy. Oksana grew up with a very abusive mother. She never knew her father. As a teenager Oksana did search for him, but was sadly unsuccessful. All her siblings have different fathers. A few years ago, Oksana's mother verbally rejected her saying, "You are no longer my child and you don't belong here". Perhaps the word 'verbally' does not sound so bad, but this has ultimately left Oksana without vital support. If her mother would officially abandon her, she would officially receive orphan status, and all the governmental privileges that go with it. "But my mother was afraid of the backlash she would receive for this decision," says Oksana.

Have you ever talk to a child rejected by their parents? If you have, you probably sensed the bitterness and the pain on the inside; but at the same time, their self-defence mechanisms and distrust of others. That's exactly what the MWB Coordinator discovered during her first interview with Oksana. The only person she trusted was Iryna Lykina. This woman has opened the doors of Oksana's heart and welcomed Oksana into her home. Iryna met Oksana three years ago. In the Children's Home where she lives, all the kids either go home to extended families, local Christian families or Summer Camps over the long summer holidays, but two girls, Oksana and Tanya, had nowhere to go. They hung around, helping the teachers clean classrooms and organise things while students were on holiday.



One teacher asked Iryna an unexpected question in Oksana's presence, "Would you take this girl home for the summer? She has no family and it's been a year since she left the Home." Iryna shares, "I was not ready to make such a big decision, but I also could not refuse. It was the fastest decision I have ever made. But at the same time, the only thing I was thinking about was how we often talk and preach about love and how we should love and serve others, ultimately a manifestation of our love and faith in God. It was ultimately God asking me, "Do you love me?" I said, "Yes". On the way home, Oksana and I were scared. But I knew I had not made this decision out of kindness or generosity. It was God who softened my heart and He has everything under control. I can testify how God has always taken care of both Oksana and my family. He's been providing for me and my household. In times of need, He was right there!"

Iryna's only son has left home and currently Iryna, her husband and her father share a 3-room house. Oksana thought if she could stay there for the summer it would be wonderful, but she discovered this family cares deeply for her and offer her a place to stay whenever she wants. Through the Lykina family, Oksana now calls Jesus her Lord and Saviour and God as her Heavenly Father. "I can't wait for the weekend to go to Novograd (to Iryna's place) and go to church," says Oksana.

Following the first interview, Oksana was keen to share how her attitude has greatly improved. She knows she can easily be angry and bitter about her harsh upbringing and lack of love from her biological family. However when asked about her faith in God and her involvement in her church this is what she shared, "I love the unity and love among my church family; the atmosphere is so special! Although I cannot be involved in as many ministries as I would like because my study is in another city, I make the most of every moment I am here and can't wait to come here as often as possible! How can I describe the grace of God in my life? This is hard, but not because I have nothing to say... There is so much of God's love and mercy in my life. I always feel His hand upon me. Many, many times I prayed asking God for simple and also big things. With faith He answered me every time; in His timing and according to His Will."

It is wonderful to see that the Lord has Oksana firmly in His care and has great plans for her life. She now has a home, a MWB scholarship, a self-sufficient life ahead and a firm and growing faith in God. Oksana's letter of thanks sums up her 'new' life.

*Dear supporters of Mission Without Borders,
Thank you very much for your help and encouragement. I am now in my third year at Zhytomyr Law School. I love my study; it is my dream come true! Now I feel like a 'normal' child, with a family that cares, a faith in God and a great future ahead of me! May the Lord bless you abundantly!*

*Sincerely,
Oksana.*

In Romania, the Scholarship Project supports hundreds of students attending tertiary institutions. Antione firmly believes anyone who thinks it is merely chance that they have secured a Scholarship from Mission Without Borders and are therefore able to complete tertiary education is terribly misguided - there is no 'chance' when God is in control! All the Romanian youths benefiting from Mission Without Border's Scholarships are conscious their 'chances' comes from God, who loves them and wants what's best for them. Without tertiary education, it is near impossible to secure a well-paid job in Romania; giving them the best chance to support themselves and their future families. A person's educational qualifications is the number one question asked by all potential employers.

Through the Scholarship Project, Mission Without Borders Romania is committed to making this a priority. In Romania, there are over forty universities coordinated by the State which offer potential students hundreds of degrees. Even so, the number of students wanting to attend University has increased dramatically every year as they see the necessity of qualifications. This education is not free and most require upfront fees to be paid. In

these conditions, the students who receive a Scholarship from Mission Without Borders consider themselves incredibly blessed!



Twenty-year old Diana receives a Scholarship. She is working her way through a Degree in Psychology at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iasi. Diana comes from a poor dysfunctional family. Her parents divorced many years ago and because her mother couldn't take care of her and her brother Cezar (17), she took them to a Children's Home. A few years ago her mother left Romania and Diana has not seen her since. She has no knowledge of her father's whereabouts. Diana and Cezar's grandmother is the only relative who ever visits them, but she is too frail to care for them. In spite of all these problems, Diana is strong and determined. She knows education is her only chance to escape poverty. She has always been a conscientious student achieving excellent results. "My rationale for choosing psychology is my fascination with how people think and can ultimately be counselled during times of crisis", shared Diana.

Without her MWB Scholarship, tertiary study would be an unachievable dream for Diana. The fees and supplies necessary for her course were completely out of her reach without any constant income. "Even though my financial situation is not the best, I am very happy and grateful to God for every cent I receive. I will never stop thanking Him for the Scholarship I receive from Mission Without Borders. I look forward to the day I graduate as a Psychologist and secure a job, because I want to help other people heal and move forward with their lives".

Diana and Oksana are blessed and loved by God. This helping hand God has offered them through their Scholarships proves His great love and care of them. The help, not only with University fees, but with study supplies and living expenses has left them thankful to God and thankful to supporters such as you that make their dreams come true!

Mission Without Border's ministry to children, teenagers and young adults, in partnership with local churches and Children's Homes is comprehensive and holistic. We care for every child and aim to meet their Spiritual, Emotional, Educational and Material Needs. As part and parcel of this holistic help, we would love to have your support of this wonderful Scholarship Project! But we need your help!



In the past, there has been great anxiety for students from one year to the next as to whether they would have the funds to continue their study – their dreams come true... Previously these Scholarships were funded through Special Projects (approximately \$1,500 in one lump sum). Mission Without Borders has addressed this issue, much to the great relief of students, with the Scholarship Fund. Mission Without Borders has therefore made a commitment to the students to fund their study and living costs for their entire Degree. Not only do we provide the financial resources, we are also committed to the emotional and spiritual well-being of the students- care that the students absolutely love!



You can fund this Scholarship Project in two ways:

1. Your donation this month will help provide funds for the Scholarship Project, responsible for the Scholarships of hundreds of students in all six of our field countries.
2. Alternatively, your regular pledge support of our Scholarship Fund is a wonderful way to provide ongoing support of this Project throughout the year. You make a pledge to give regularly, for example a monthly pledge of \$50. We will keep you updated four times per year on the life-changing help these Scholarships are providing throughout all six field countries. We know you love to hear personal stories. I look forward to sharing these encouraging and uplifting stories with you.

Your generosity towards our ministry is never taken for granted. Thank you for your love, encouragement and care for the poor of Eastern Europe; we could never thank you enough!

Special thanks go to the amazing 'Wrap with Love' knitters!



Wrap with Love Inc.

'Cold humanity is our concern, humans caring about other humans.'

There are millions of people in the world suffering extreme cold. In 1982 Wrap with Love began with the idea to help as many people as possible by providing warm Wraps to ward off hypothermia.

Many thanks go to 'Wrap with Love Inc' for their generous donations of over 800 blankets, now on their way to our field countries! Children, families and the elderly will benefit from your generosity in all six of our field countries: Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. Thank you so much! We look forward to sharing with you in the months to come the beneficiaries of your generosity. I hope your contribution and its ultimate blessing to the poor of Eastern Europe will inspire you as you take up the challenge once again this winter!

'Gift in Kind' with 'Operation Cover-Up'



Our latest container has arrived in Europe and your generosity has been amazing and absolutely inspiring! All six field countries will be blessed with your donations once again – with children, families and the elderly in Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine benefiting from your generosity!

If you ever wondered whether your knitted items were a blessing, here is just a taste:

Family-to-Family recipients in Albania said, "In these cold winter days without electricity we received the new blankets as a gift from God. Putting them around our shoulders we can freely move around home doing our housework without feeling too cold. Every time we wrap them around our shoulders we think of you and give thanks..."

"The staff and children of Gryshkivtsi Special Needs Children's Home (Ukraine) would like to thank you most humbly for the wonderful hand-knitted jumpers. Your attention to these poor children is a manifestation of humanity and sensitivity that illustrates your faithfulness to God and gives us a wonderful example of the Christian life. May the Lord abundantly bless you!"

This ministry is ongoing and we are already on our way to filling the next container. As winter takes hold, we know many will take advantage of the cooler weather to knit and we would love your donations! Our field countries are in tremendous need. Our leadership have also streamlined their processes and combined with the donations from our other funding countries, we must now limit what we send.

Therefore the items we are now able to accept are the following:

All knitted items:

- Blankets – large and small. (The ideal blanket made with Size 8 needles, 8-ply yarn, and 40 stitch x 80 rows to make 56 squares, for a blanket 1.6m x 1.4m). We have many wonderful stories of ladies knitting lots of squares, and if they are confident or able, finishing them off. For those not so confident or able there are always volunteers to sew them into much needed blankets - this is what I call great teamwork blessing the poor!
- **Jumpers** – Crew neck patterns are best for the harsh climate. All sizes are great, but teenagers & adults are most in need.
- **Scarves, beanies and bedsocks.**

All items for knitting, sewing and embroidery: material, wool, needles etc.



Coordinators and Collection Points:

- **You are welcome to contact our office for your options for collection.** Alternatively, listed below are coordinators and collection points we have organised (we are always looking for other volunteers!):
- **Sheryl Rumball is the Australia-wide Coordinator of our 'Gift in Kind':**
71 Hastings Road
WARRAWEE NSW 2074
Phone: 0432 952 762
Email: sherylrumball@hotmail.com
- **Jenny Grainer is our Victorian Coordinator based in Melbourne:**
3 Exner Drive
DANDENONG VIC 3175
Phone: (03) 9795 6141
Email: jenn.mwbvic@internode.on.net
- **Leila Lydeamore is our new South Australian Collection Point (Welcome Leila!):**
33 Ina Close
CRAIGMORE SA 5114
Phone: (08) 8255 0092
Email: Leila@chariot.net.au

COMPANIES WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

Perhaps you would like to donate your excess stock, like Paul Hartmann P/L who donated a container load of medical supplies, now on their way to our projects, as well as a number of hospitals in Ukraine. Large or smaller quantities are more than welcome. Contact Michelle Dorey on (02) 9793 8100 or mdorey@mwbi.org if you would like to discuss this further.



Thanks for your partnership,

Michelle Dorey

Michelle Dorey

National Director

