



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: A GUARANTEED RETURN ON INVESTMENT!

Imagine being told by an investment planner that they had an opportunity that would guaranteed a high return on investment – regardless of the size and time commitment – it would be a sure-fire runaway success that people would clamour to invest in!

At Mission Without Borders we can guarantee this very thing! Investing in a child's life, through the ministry of Mission Without Borders has a guaranteed return on investment! Lives are changed for eternity and children and teenagers are walking into their future with the knowledge that they are loved and worthy of a future!

If children and teenagers have suffered years of abuse, neglect and are heading for adulthood with chips on their shoulders, little social skills and bad attitudes, is it really worth our while investing in their future? ABSOLUTELY! The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow, good and bad. We would love your continued support for kids and teenagers who have had rough starts and can best be described as very rough diamonds, but diamonds nonetheless...

Alexandra Popa, whose words are written below, has put her finger on the pulse of how easy it is for emotionally immature, vulnerable young people, to fall by the wayside without good guidance they can relate to and trust. They either seek refuge in, or become innocent victims in the often soul-destroying spheres of crime, prostitution and human trafficking, that scar them for life. Now Mission Without Border's staff, in our field countries of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Albania, Bosnia and Bulgaria, are playing active roles in the lives of children who live in abject poverty with their families or have spent the best part of their young lives in institutions. Thanks to our S.E.E.M program, it's starting to show! And today I'd like to tell you something about just how the program works.

With many years of experience behind us, we have learnt that a child's life should include Spiritual, Educational, Emotional and Material components; it is these elements that make up our S.E.E.M program. And, because it's a program that offers opportunities for active participation, personal experience and life skills training, with the help and understanding of appropriate role models, these children have a far better chance of becoming well-rounded adults who can cope with life on their own.



Take Moldova as an excellent example. Here the teenagers of Chisinau Children's Home are eagerly participating in their S.E.E.M program. The school's Director, Maria Musat, fully



supports the program and knows how important this special time is to the teenagers who suffer intense feelings of loneliness and isolation. "I am grateful to MWB because they seem to know exactly what our children need. Our school cannot offer them anything more than basic education and encouragement. However, there is so much more to life. Now the children eagerly await their weekly program activities, including the trips, competitions, discussions and games."

The Emotional Support portion of the program includes showing teenagers how to practice forgiveness and gratitude, enabling them to open up and talk to carefully selected MWB staff members about life issues which concern them. They also get to experience life outside their usual environment, with organised outings. Vasile, 15, and his younger sister Galina are part of the program. They live with their parents, but have known only deprivation all their lives. "I really enjoy going out walking in the park because I feel like a normal member of society. And we can discuss anything that troubles us..." shares Vasile.

The spiritual side of the program (Christian Ministry) is what Galina cherishes most of all. She has been encouraged to and enjoys praying for her family each night. "Learning to love Jesus and to put into practice His teachings has changed my life for the better," she says. Galina and her classmates have also learned about anger management, empathy, friendship, how to handle money, and subjects like personal hygiene in their Life Skills training.

S.E.E.M is a broad development program undertaken by Mission Without Border's staff. It prepares these children, who would otherwise find themselves on the street, ill equipped after their basic education, the chance to do something with their lives and to overcome the huge obstacles and tragedies that have characterised their early years.

As always, we need your help to ensure this program functions and can expand to cater for the children still needing our assistance. Whatever you're able to give, would make a huge difference in a needy child's life. We are so grateful to you for your understanding and support.

Investment Provides Great Opportunities

Preparing teenagers for lives of self-sufficiency by providing Vocational Courses is a priority of MWB's ministry. Forming part of our Spiritual, Emotional, Educational and Material goals, many Vocational Training Courses are taking place in our Training Centres, Community Centres, run in partnership with local churches, and the 215+ Children's Homes we work with.



Whether they reside in a Children's Home or with a poor family, skills are vital for a successful future. It is our privilege and commitment to provide children, teenagers and young adults with Vocational Training – and the results are inspirational! We work with nationals in our field countries and are therefore able to offer nationally recognised diplomas. The courses are well known, highly regarded and very popular.

It is always wonderful to hear of parents who, with little education themselves, see the education of their children as vital and do whatever they can to support them. Albania is a desperately poor country, suffering the effects of decades of communism, decay and is now crippled with crime, corruption and desperate poverty.



In amongst this grim picture is the Bena family. They see acquiring English as the foundation of successful learning. The Bena children, together with many other pupils, are attending the very popular English course run by Mission

Without Borders. They take their lessons very seriously and their results are very promising. The parents, especially their mother Sadete, encourage them to study hard. Their father, Haxhi, is completely paralysed. He was imprisoned for almost 30 years under the Communist regime and suffered irreparable damage physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Despite this persecution and treatment he is now at peace in his life with his family.

The four Bena children love the English Course and have big plans and dreams for their future. "I would sacrifice everything to offer my children this English course because I know it raises their level of education and it provides a wonderful opportunity for them to be able to find a job and help their family in the future," Sadete spoke frankly. Aishe is the eldest and in her second year of high school. She dreams of becoming a journalist and knows how vital this course is. "Mastering the English language is an absolute necessity for me. It is the ultimate language of communication throughout the world." Romina would like to become an interpreter and is willing to study hard, determined to make something of her life. Twin boys, Gledis and Alis, have more ambitious dreams. Gledis would like to become an advocate/campaigner and Alis dreams of studying medicine. Sadete knows these are big dreams, but nonetheless encourages her children to study hard and be determined to achieve their goals. "Knowing English is an absolute necessity and this is the greatest sponsorship of our children's future. They feel privileged and are highly motivated to study hard," Sadete shared. "Learning English was my dream when I was young but being persecuted by the Communist regime, I was deprived of the right to study or speak a foreign language. Through this opportunity my children are now enjoying,

I find the realisation of my dream. I will never be an obstacle to their education and see it is as the green light to a brighter future for them."

As the new academic year begins this month in Eastern Europe, please consider supporting this vital ministry.

Mission Without Borders is committed to financing and resourcing these vital education and training opportunities. Time and again the students of these Courses share their joy in new skills learnt but also show they now see hope in their future and move forward with improved self-esteem and belief in themselves. Now this is investment with a guaranteed high return!



Your gifts this month will finance these vital courses and if you would be willing to participate in our growing Vocational Training Pledge Program (for example contributing \$50/month) you will be helping fund these courses throughout the year. We will update these Pledge Partners four times per year on the Vocational Courses changing lives – I am sure you will be inspired!

Does our comprehensive help extend to the medical needs of those living in the 215+ Children's Homes we work with..?

Yes!



The Klevan Children's Home is very grateful to MWB for the medicine they received recently— just in time! They discovered through medical examination that 23 pupils were experiencing significant eyesight deterioration. The school would normally transfer these children to the Children's Home for the Blind in Klevan, but these children also have intellectual disabilities, making them illegible. Their current Home therefore had to deal with this problem on their own. MWB provided the Home with necessary medicines, vitamins and glasses. With this help 8 children now enjoy significantly improved sight! Olena and Ol'ga are two friends who are over the moon with their improved sight!

To encourage them in their learning and improved sight the children were given the task of writing a letter to the person who is dearest to them. Olena's letter was addressed to her Mum, **"Dear Mummy, why don't you come and visit me? You promised me you would visit, but I wait and you never come..."**

After this task, the teacher began reading the childrens' letters out loud to encourage them in their written expression work. While the teacher was reading Olena's letter, and had just finished reading the

first sentence, someone knocked on the door. An unfamiliar lady came in asking, "Excuse me, can Olena Omelchuk please be excused?" It was Olena's Mum!

It is only the second time in this girl's life that her Mum has visited her at the Children's Home. Olena, with eyes full of happy tears, ran to hug her Mum. This story could only give hope to the other children who also wait for their parents to come and visit them...

The Mission Without Borders S.E.E.M. framework ensures we meet all the needs of the children and teenagers in our programs. We hope you are encouraged and inspired by these stories. **Every donation you contribute ensures these programs can flourish** – thank you so much!

If you would like to Sponsor a child (\$40/month) we currently have children available in our Ukrainian program. If you would like to partake in the **sponsorship of the entire Children's Home, for example the Cluj Children's Home in Romania** (also \$40/month), they need your support!

Your care and support of these children is greatly appreciated!



We would love to say a huge thank you to Christian Mission International Aid (CMIAid) that donated an entire 20-foot container of aid to us recently! It has arrived in Europe and will be distributed in the coming months through all 6 field countries- Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine! We are so humbled by your incredible generosity! We know a lot of love and care was taken in the creation of the knitted items. The Mother Packs and School packs will also be an incredible blessing to the Mums and children in our programs. It is wonderful to see Christian Organisations working together to relieve the poverty and suffering of the poor throughout the world! We look forward to sharing photos with you later in the year of the blessings of your generosity!



PARTNERSHIPS WITH PURPOSE – Melbourne Dinner *last chance to join us for a great night! RSVP closing September 10th!*

You are invited to join us for an evening to learn more about the work of Mission Without Borders – and how in partnership we can make the dreams come true for children and teenagers in Eastern Europe.

Two areas of focus for the dinner will be:

1. Children with disabilities suffer terribly in Eastern Europe. MWB Australia is responsible for the sponsorship of the Cluj Children's Home in Romania. We need to raise the funds necessary to cover the required support for the Home.
2. Vocational Training and Scholarships are changing the lives and future of thousands of teenagers! The Courses and students need our help!

Please contact our office or Jenny Grainger in Melbourne if you would like to come along.

Melbourne: Partnership Dinner

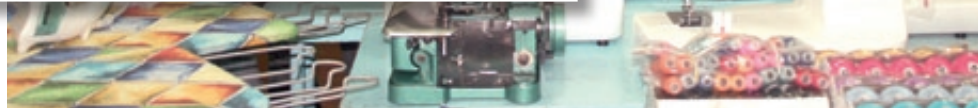
September 20th, 7pm
Churches of Christ Theological College
44-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave. 3170 (Mel.Ref 80 K3)

Cost: \$25/person
RSVP: 10th September 2008
Jenny Grainger, (03) 9795-6141
Email: jenn.mwbvic@internode.on.net



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

Even as spring bursts forth in Australia we know thousands are continuing to knit for Mission Without Borders - thank you so much and keep them coming! Our field countries love your hand-knitted items – for they not only keep the poor warm, they convey so much love and care to those suffering the effects of poverty. Our next container is filling up fast and will go as soon as it is full. It is ongoing ministry, so if you miss the next shipment, do not fear, we will add your items to the next one, sure to leave within a few months.



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

All knitted items:

- Blankets – large and small. The ideal blanket is 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.
- Jumpers – Crew neck patterns are best for the harsh climate. All sizes are great, but teenagers & adults are most in need.
- Scarves, beanies, bed socks
- **If you would like some guidance, knitting patterns are now available on request - contact Jenny Grainger (details below), our office or visit our Website: (www.mwb.org.au) for patterns now!**

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

COORDINATORS AND COLLECTION POINTS

This is an ever-growing list. Any others willing to assist please contact us.

For details on collection you are welcome to contact our office, 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

Leila Lydeamore in South Australia:

33 Ina Close
CRAIGMORE South Australia 5114
Phone: (08) 8255 0092
Email: leila@chariot.net.au

Jenny Grainger is our Victorian Coordinator based in Melbourne:

3 Exner Drive
DANDENONG VIC 3175
Phone: (03) 9795 6141
Email: jenn.mwbvic@internode.on.net

Debbi Wilson in Western Australia

5 Collier Street APPLECROSS WA 6153
Phone: 0417 926 695 - to arrange drop off
at warehouse in Claremont.
Email: wilsond@westnet.com.au



Thanks for your partnership,

Michelle Dorey

**Michelle Dorey
National Director**