

Dear Supporters of Mission Without Borders,

Mihaela is 13 years old and in sixth grade in a school in Southern Moldova. Mihaela steals everyone's heart with her kind and beautiful smile. It is staggering that she has enough strength to be able to function, let alone smile... Her older sister Nadejda (18), left long ago to try and escape the poverty. She now lives alone with her father, who works as a tractor driver but never earns sufficient income to provide even their most basic needs. "Because of the financial crisis my father now often works for no pay..."

How did we discover Mihaela and her plight? She was invited to come to the Community Centre we operate in partnership with the local church. In the beginning, Mihaela was shy and withdrawn. We had no idea about her extreme poverty at home. Over time, as we gained her trust and she considered us friends, she was able to share about her life at home. The poverty has been crippling, she has had to take charge and run the home with

her father working long hours for often no pay, and the hole left by her mother who abandoned her long ago is deep. She has badly missed her mother's love, pieces of advice, her mother's care and the simple but vital feelings all children should experience... her mother's loving arms around her feeble body.

Her poverty has forced her to repeat a year of school, she is mocked by the other children and the teachers have rejected this poor neglected waif. These factors have left deep marks on Mihaela's self-esteem and dignity. We should never entertain the notion that poverty only attacks a person, an adult, a child materially. It is all consuming...

Every day of Mihaela's life is a fight for survival. The girl with hazel eyes looks towards a future with hope- that tomorrow will be better. While many children her age play games after school, this hardworking girl spends her afternoons working in the garden, taking care of the ducklings, cleaning the house, washing clothes and dishes, preparing meals, etc.

However, Mihaela does not know what she wants to do when she grows up. For Mihaela, the world is small, ending at the edge of the community, for she has never gone anywhere else. The same thing can be said about many

other children from the community- those 'kidnapped' by poverty. With no prospect of graduating from high school, many children from this community foresee a future which is represented by eking out an existence on the land – a land burdened by drought, but also a land that produces nothing for more than half the year because of snow, ice and extreme cold.

Mission Without Borders Moldova has been changing the lives of tens of thousands of children from Children's Homes and from poor, large and socially-vulnerable families through the generosity of supporters around the world. But now we have begun changing the lives of many children who live in the community, with no parents, or who have only one parent or grandparent, and are crippled by extreme poverty. With Moldova beginning to implement the policy of closing down Children's Homes in favour of children living in the community, many children are



Mihaela trying to prepare soup for dinner time



Mihaela cleaning inside the house



Mihaela working in the garden.

languishing without the support they deserve and crave. We want to offer them a hope and a future with the message of our Lord Jesus Christ and the support they need.



Mihaela and her dear Dad.

BUT HOW?

CRI in Communities Moldova will have the same key elements as Mission Without Border's Child Rescue International Sponsor Program currently operating in Children's Homes in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine:

PHYSICAL support:

- 1) Hygiene - provide toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo and dental check-ups.
- 2) Medicines- basic medical needs assessed and met through periodical visits by medical staff and medicines.
- 3) Eye examinations and glasses for those in need.
- 4) Clothes and shoes.
- 5) School Supplies - families must provide school supplies for their children. Without these, they are unable to attend school.

SPIRITUAL support (Christian Ministry):

- 1) Christian ministry runs in close co-operation with the local churches and volunteers with a clear plan for sharing the Gospel through songs, Bible lessons and discussions.
- 2) Bibles and Christian literature- children are given a suitable Bible as well as Christian literature upon need and maturity.

EMOTIONAL Support:

- 1) Counselling - children will be counselled with sensitivity to their individual life situation and encouraged to make healthy life decisions.
- 2) Birthday parties- a monthly party for all children having their birthday that month is a highlight for all children, regardless of their age.
- 3) Christmas and Easter Celebrations expressing the core truths related to Christmas and Easter, as well as a joyful, festive and memorable party.

MWB will provide this support in co-operation with the local churches and volunteers through the MWB Community Centres.

Mission Without Borders has been working in Moldova with children since 1996. For more than 50 years Moldova was a Soviet republic and for the last 9 years Moldova was once again trapped by a communist government. During Communism all Christian literature was forbidden, especially the Bible. Believers were persecuted and the schools carried out atheistic propaganda. Christian morality and ethics about unconditional love, faith and hope were, for many, unheard of. We have faithfully shared this message since communism's fall around 1990, but this message was recently challenged by some echelons of the recent Communist Government. Praise the Lord they now once again have a democratic government, which means Mission Without Borders will once again enjoy wholehearted government



support. The local government authorities are very supportive of our new endeavour to reach out to children living in the community as they realise these forgotten children are in desperate need of support.

Would you prayerfully consider supporting a child like Mihaela? While no one would argue with the theory that children are better in families than in Children's Homes, living with no or one parent in dire poverty is never in the best interest of the child. Bureaucrats may wage a case that the plight of children is improving in Romania and Moldova with fewer children in Children's Homes, but this is masking a crisis that Mission Without Borders and our partnering churches refuse to ignore.

Your sponsorship will help meet the needs of children like Mihaela but also be a tremendous encouragement! You can communicate with your sponsored CRI in Community child in just the same way as you can communicate currently with a sponsored child in a Children's Home.

We have children waiting for sponsorship now! \$40/month will support a CRI in Community Child and the Community Centre they regularly attend.

Thank you for your prayer, financial and practical support of our ministry. Every effort you make, every prayer offered, every dollar given is making a difference in our ministry. I come today once again pleading for your support of these forgotten children, children living in communities in Moldova, but living without the support they

deserve. If you are able to give, whether that is by a one-off gift to this new vital ministry or through regular sponsorship of one of the needy children in the communities of Moldova, attached to the structured ministry in our Community Centres (\$40/month); that would be a blessing. I know you give so sacrificially and for this we are so very thankful. If financial giving is not possible, please do not be discouraged. Our staff and volunteers in our field countries covet your prayers, for daily they are faced with what are insurmountable challenges, grinding poverty, children, families and elderly who are at the edge of despair. The Lord is asking each one of them to respond with compassion, care and to share the message of God's love. This exhausting ministry is a labour of love for each one of these dear brothers and sisters in Christ and they appreciate our prayer support.

Your partnership in our ministry, now celebrating its 50th year, is such a blessing, thank you so much!

God bless,

Michelle Dorey

Michelle Dorey



Upcoming Event in Melbourne

Jenny Grainger and Morag Thorne, who coordinate our fantastic workshop in Dandenong, invite Victorian supporters of Mission Without Borders to join them on Saturday 27th March, 2-4 pm at Churches of Christ Theological College, 44-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave to hear reports on the work of MWB in Melbourne and Eastern Europe, followed by afternoon tea. Contact Jenny Grainger for more information (03) 9795 6141.

Sponsor Tour April 11-28 – Albania & Romania

11 participants are committed to going and getting very excited! Please pray for safe travel and wonderful fellowship!

'Gift in Kind - Operation Cover-Up' Update



As we organise the Australia-wide Collection of our Gift in Kind from individuals and companies, we are so thankful for all involved. Our faithful Collection Points are amazing and Total Care Logistics, who are now transporting much of our aid from capital cities to us in Sydney or Melbourne, is a generous company who are honestly a huge answer to prayer – thanks Total Care!

If you would like to donate your time as a volunteer in our office/warehouse in Sydney, we have a huge need for volunteers willing to sort our donated items, as well as help in the warehouse itself. Please contact us if you would like to get involved.

We are always interested to hear from companies who have excess NEW stock to donate. We have a regularly updated list of items our field countries are able to accept and badly need, so please contact David Turner our Australia-wide Coordinator of our Gift in Kind ministry if you know of companies wanting to donate excess stock.

As companies are providing large quantities of excess stock, for individuals, we are restricting donations to:

Knitted, Crocheted and handmade items are needed:

- **Blankets – large and small.** (Large blankets can be knitted by: Size 8 needles, 8-ply yarn, 40 stitch x 80 rows to make 56 squares, for a blanket 1.6m x 1.4m).
- **Jumpers** – the older children, teenagers and adults are in greatest need.
- **Scarves, beanies, and bed socks**
- **Knitted Teddy Bears**
- **We are not able to accept the tiny sleeveless jumpers known as 'Aids Baby Jumpers'.**

- **Knitting patterns are now available** - contact Jenny Grainger, our office or visit our Website (www.mwb.org.au)

- **Patchwork quilts**

All items for sewing, embroidery, knitting and craft activities - material, wool, needles etc. (For the Vocational Training courses as well as for the poor families who would love to sew or knit, but cannot afford the materials).

ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW (CUSTOMS REGULATIONS WE MUST ADHERE TO)!

COORDINATORS AND COLLECTION POINTS

This huge country of ours presents some challenges of how to get your wonderful hand-knitted items to us in Sydney or our 'Workshop' in Melbourne. Please contact our office for the latest comprehensive list, or contact the nearest collection point listed here.



David Turner is the Australia-wide Coordinator of our Gift in Kind

10 Stubbs St, AUBURN NSW
PO Box 7533
SILVERWATER NSW 1811
Phone: (02) 9647 2022
Email: dturner@mwb.org

Leila Lydeamore in South Australia:

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

John and Hermina Thierry in Victoria - Geelong area

24 Coulter Street
NEWCOMB VIC 3219
Phone: (03) 5248 7437
or
Mobile: 0407 502 733

Jenny Grainger is our Victorian Coordinator:

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
Email: wilson.debbi@gmail.com

Yasmin Scott in Queensland - Brisbane:

SEVEN HILLS QLD 4170
Phone: 0402 232 259

Carlene Irwin in Tasmania

114 Sheffield Rd
SPREYTON TAS 7310
Phone: 03 6427 2531

PO Box 7533
SILVERWATER NSW 1811
Phone (02) 9647 2022
www.mwb.org.au

Michelle Dorey
National Director

email: australia@mwb.org