



For families enrolled in our Family-to-Family program, life has dealt many blows, but success does happen. The feelings of abandonment, disappointment and stress can be overwhelming for many, but the care and assistance we are able to give, thanks to your support, makes all the difference. Our Family-to-Family Coordinators become treasured friends and forge bonds far stronger than anyone who was simply a delivery person of the practical support we provide.

These bonds and the transformation of families, thanks to your support, were so clear on our recent Sponsor Tour. Passionate Mission Without Border's staff members and volunteers love them with God's love and are committed to walking with the families as they heal and work towards self-sufficiency. It was such a highlight to meet many families sponsored by Australian sponsors. They came in many forms, from small to large families and ranged from families just starting out on their journey to self-sufficiency to those on the cusp of being withdrawn from our Family-to-Family program, thanks to their new found self-sufficiency. How exciting it was to meet families who were now able to say, "Thank you, we are now ready to walk on our own!"



Elvir, the talented builder and strong, loving head of the family



Kukolj family with Beryl Drinkwater and letters from Beryl's friend, one of their sponsors

Heart-felt stories overflowed as we shared our lives and their humble existences challenged our notions of what one truly needs for a contented life.... As we travelled the countryside of Bosnia, we looked on somberly at the cemeteries that literally exist on every hill, and could only look on as we heard stories of lives and opportunities lost with the devastation of the war. Yes the war ceased 15 years ago, but its legacies remain. Those in retirement had their retirement savings stolen during the war and are now destitute. Many families who before the war were proud self-sufficient families who could hold their heads high and care for themselves in their own properties are now destitute. Their family homes lay in ruins, with many

no longer able to return, as their villages are now strongholds of an ethnicity not their own. Serbs, Croats and Bosniacs no longer live together in harmony in many areas, leaving many to drown their sorrows in alcohol. With unemployment over 60% and no unemployment payments available, one could look on in hopelessness and wonder whether life is worth living. Into these homes we ventured, often with trepidation, but what we discovered showed glimmers of hope...



Her letters kept me alive

For the Kukolj family, they are so happy to be in their own home! Until 9 months ago, they shared a two room apartment with Elvir's family. They had one room for their five member family and Sanela

and their 3 daughters were not allowed to speak. This oppressive environment greatly affected Sanela and their two eldest daughters. Despite Elvir's constant efforts, he has struggled to find regular employment, but is ready and willing to take any opportunities that come his way. His talents are clear for all to see when we surveyed their simple, yet beautiful home he has built! It was a very emotional time when Sanela shared her story. When we mentioned one of her sponsors (whose close friend was on the sponsor tour), this shy, emotional Mum rushed to show us all the letters and photos she has received. She simply said that her letters kept her alive and gave her hope when her situation seemed hopeless.



The great new home for the Kukolj family

For the Janjic family, life since Narcis abandoned the family has been incredibly stressful. After announcing that his trips to Slovenia were actually to spend time with his other family – a partner and a few young children, Demirela was devastated and had no idea how they would carry on. Our visit to their home which consisted of one room; used as their kitchen, living and bedroom; revealed broken hearts, yet a determination that was inspirational.



I will be there for you

Demirela left school young to marry her sweetheart. Now left alone after he abandoned the family, she regretted not completing her education. With more than 60% unemployment in Bosnia today, finding any employment opportunity is hard enough. If you have not completed your education, you are almost always discounted from scarce available job opportunities.

When we visited we were accompanied by the Family-to-Family Coordinator, Mira, who cares for the family. Demirela clung to her and related to her like Mira was her most treasured friend, as this is what she has become. We also met another champion of Demirela during our visit, her mother-in-law. She still loves her son, but is mad and very disappointed in her son's choices and has vowed to support Demirela and her children wherever possible. Seeing what difference our support has made was a great encouragement. Our regular support, through Family-to-Family sponsorship was clear, but the two scholarships they have received have literally revolutionised their lives. Demirela's scholarship is enabling her to finish high school. When she graduates she will qualify as a shop assistant – she is thrilled! Miron, her 15 year old son, is receiving a scholarship to attend a specialist high school, which has him on

a tract to eventually qualify as an architect, his dream. He hopes to one day be able to sufficiently care for himself and his mother.

Demirela and her children still have a hard road ahead, but our visit confirmed to us that they are on their way. They are loved, cared for and encouraged on a regular basis. We are making a good contribution to their ongoing needs and their scholarships are building capacity for self-sufficiency. They dearly want to be self-sustaining in the future and I believe that one day this will come true. Thank you for your support that enables this comprehensive help to flow to families eager to throw off their identity as charity dependant and downtrodden. If you are able, we have many families waiting for sponsorship (contact our office for details or visit our website for details of families waiting now). Their current practical needs are acute, but they are ready and willing to play their part to work towards self-sufficiency. If sponsoring a family is not financially possible, a one-off gift this month will enable us to meet the critical needs of families we identify. Please also pray for this great ministry. The coordinators are the champions here and our recent Tour revealed some wonderful women and men of faith who are walking alongside the downtrodden. Please pray for their ministry, it is a labour of love. And finally, please pray for the families we serve; for unity despite adversity and the strength to endure.



Mira, Demirela and her mother-in-law

Rejected by parents but loved by God....

For many children, life is a struggle from the very beginning. Many of the children living in Children's Homes never had the luxury of indulging in childhood adventures, having fun and not worrying about tomorrow, because they have irresponsible parents who neglected to care for them, often forgetting their very existence.

Olesea is a wonderful student who endured such a sad start in life. She was born in Balti, northern Moldova. Olesea is studying at the Polytechnic College in Chisinau and is in her 4th year of study. She enjoys her specialty of metrology, standardisation and product control. *"I really like this specialty. I love working in this area and hope to find a job as an engineer when I graduate. This profession is a very good one and I am really enjoying my studies. I love the fact that I can focus on my studies without any other responsibilities,"* shared Olesea.

Olesea's memories about her childhood are not positive. *"I remember just a few things about my father. He was an alcoholic with very violent and aggressive behaviour. I lived with him until I was about five or six years old, then one of his cousins took*

me into her family. He occasionally visited me, but gradually abandoned me. When I was little and needed my mum more than ever, she was deprived of her parental rights and disappeared. This complete lack of maternal love and affection really affected my life," shared Olesea.

It did not take long for her Aunt's family to decide they could not manage to keep her in their family. Life changed forever when she was sent to the Children's Home in Balti. *"I was in first grade when I realised that I didn't have a family; a father, mother, brothers or sisters. From that day I realised the Children's Home became my home, the teachers, my parents and my classmates, my brothers and sisters. In the beginning, I was afraid of everything. I hated everyone there. I was introverted and didn't want to hear or listen to anyone or anything. I did not want to have friends, because I was afraid that they would forget me and abandon*



Olesea



Olesea is a dedicated student

me as my parents did. The Home teachers and staff, to whom I am very grateful, helped me and offered me their love and care. They made me feel loved, important and useful. I slowly started to open up and become friendlier. The Mission

Without Borders coordinator and Christian Input volunteers (from the local church) were always close to me. Through the Bible lessons, I understood how great God is and that He watches over me day and night. I remember how they encouraged me to be stronger and rely on God, who is the Father of those who have been abandoned like me. I can say with certainty that God changed my mind and my heart. I fondly remember the Christmas and Easter parties organised by Mission Without Borders. I enjoyed the Mission Without Borders summer camps the most. I will never forget those carefree days at summer camp. I was abandoned by my parents, but God adopted me and revealed Himself to me and now I have lots of friends from Mission Without Borders", expressed a happy Olesea.

At one of Mission Without Borders' summer camps, Olesea was informed about the Mission Without Borders Scholarship Fund and she realised that it might be a chance to have a new beginning in her life.

"With the help and assistance of Mission Without Borders, I was able to choose the right college and specialty and to continue my studies. I want to confess that without Mission Without Border's help, I would have never had the opportunity to study. I didn't just receive a monthly financial scholarship, I received so much good advice that helped me in my daily life," said Olesea.

Two of Olesea's friends, both named Ana, so admire her tenacity and efforts, "Olesea is a very ambitious girl and she always achieves everything she puts her mind to because she is so hard-working. She has a wonderful heart and likes to have true friends, choosing friends not by social status, but by who they are inside."

"I am very impressed by Olesea's life. I respect her a lot for her courage to face life's difficulties, her desire to move on and make the most of her life. Even though she isn't in a very good financial situation, she is ready to help others in need. She is so thankful for the scholarship from Mission Without Borders. She wants to follow this example by helping those more worse off than herself. I have to confess this motivates me too".

Mrs. Natalia Rosca, Olesea's teacher, is very pleased with her results. "I met Olesea in her first year of study. She was very shy. She integrated into the school environment easily. Olesea is respected, helped and loved by the other students and at the same time, she is sensitive to the needs of others. I think that everything that has been invested in her education will bring remarkable results in her future life and in our society," said Mrs. Natalia concerning Olesea.



Olesea and her two friends both named Ana

Olesea now has a strong faith and knows how to appreciate every blessing she receives from God. Thanks to Mission Without Border's Scholarship Fund, young Home graduates like Olesea can hope for a better future and life.

If you are able to support our Scholarship project, we have many students waiting. With the new academic year beginning in September, you can support these motivated students in two ways:

1. Make either a one-off gift or regular gift to our Scholarship Fund. This pool of funding will be used by our six field countries to supply scholarships to children like Olesea, graduating from Children's Homes or from poor families who cannot provide for their needs.
2. We have a number of scholarships for individual students. These scholarships need funding in one lump sum and are around \$1,000 each. If you are able to fund an entire scholarship you will receive an update on how their studies are going and will be able to write and encourage them. If you are interested, please contact our office for more details of students waiting.

Upcoming Event!

Sydney dinner

Saturday August 13, 2011 6pm

- **Carlingford Baptist Church**

(corner of Pennant Hills Road and Alamein Avenue, Carlingford).

- **Cost:** Donation of \$20 to cover catering costs would be appreciated.

- **RSVP** by July 27th – call office on (02) 9647 2022 or email: Australia@mwbi.org

For those not able to make the dinner or for those who may prefer a daytime event, we will have Open Days in November (details to follow soon).



'Gift in Kind – Operation Cover Up' Update

With five containers on their way from Sydney and Melbourne so far this year, our 'Gift in Kind' ministry is busy and making a great impact at keeping the poor of Eastern Europe warm. We know the knitters are now working furiously with the cooler weather – we look forward to seeing your wonderful items soon!

There has been much chatter about our request for a warm backing to be added to the blankets. This is not obligatory, but if you are able to, it would be most appreciated. For those sewers out there, perhaps you would like to team up with a group of knitters to make the blankets as large and as warm as possible.

Thanks for your participation in this great ministry. Your generosity is keeping the poor warm, whether they are children in Children's Homes, poor families or the elderly struggling to provide the basics in food, housing and heating. Know the need is still great and seeing your knitted items recently in Bosnia and Ukraine was exciting! So please be inspired to keep knitting and spread the word to those able to join our large band of faithful knitters!



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

Knitted, Crocheted and handmade items:

- **Blankets** – large and small.
- **Jumpers** – the older children, teenagers and adults are in greatest need.
- **Scarves, beanies, and bed socks**
- **Knitted Teddy Bears**

- **Patchwork quilts**
- **All items for sewing, embroidery, knitting and craft activities** - material, wool, needles etc.

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

***Please note, we are not able to accept the tiny sleeveless jumpers known as 'Aids Baby Jumpers'.

COORDINATORS AND COLLECTION POINTS

Please contact our office, or your nearest collection point listed below, to organise getting your donated goods to us in Sydney or Melbourne.

God bless,

Michelle Dorey

Michelle Dorey

David Turner

is the Australia-wide Coordinator

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is our Victorian Coordinator:

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Workshop: 8 Birch Avenue,

DANDENONG VIC 3175

(Open Fridays 9am-3:30pm and 1st Tuesday of the month 1pm-4pm)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Leila Lydeamore:

33 Ina Close CRAIGMORE SA 5114

Phone: (08) 8255 0092

Email: leila@chariot.net.au

Brisbane, QUEENSLAND

Yasmin Scott:

*** Please note Yasmin's new address for drop-offs.

45 Randall Rd, WYNNUM WEST QLD 4178

Ph: 0402 232 259

(Yasmin requests that items be delivered in boxes wherever possible)

Please Note: You are no longer able to just drop off your donations to Debbi's home!! Please contact her to arrange a time for drop off (now only possible weekends or weekday evenings).



Street Address: 10 Stubbs Street AUBURN NSW 2144

Opening Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

Postal Address: PO BOX 7533 SILVERWATER NSW 1811

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