

Your investment in improving the lives of Moldova's children is paying off big time. Support for people can so often be short-lived when help provided goes to meet immediate needs while leaving things essentially unchanged in the days following. Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish, and he will feed himself for a lifetime. This ancient proverb holds true around the world today as training and education continues to provide solutions for those eager to learn. Moldova World Children's Fund (MWCF) embraces this concept...for 22 years balancing its dual humanitarian assistance goals of relieving suffering AND improving lives.

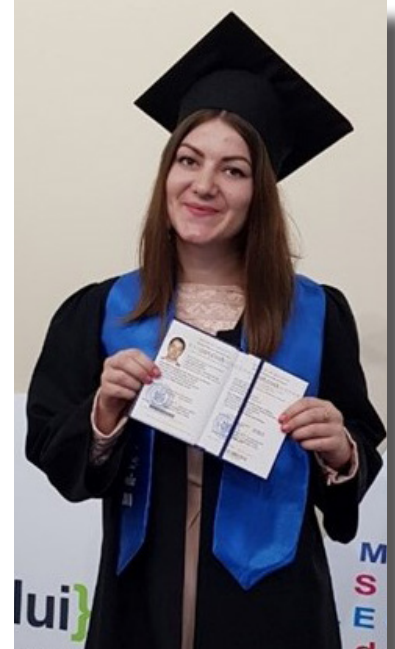


**Diana Chirgirie**  
Celebrating her degree in office automation with MWCF big sister Irina Rusanovschi

*2019 has been a time of rejoicing as several MWCF sponsored youth reached milestones in their march toward a better life. A sampling of diplomas earned:*



**Vera Botnaru**  
Graduated as a tailor, seamstress, and clothes designer



**Dorina Caraman**  
Received her Master's in Educational Psychology

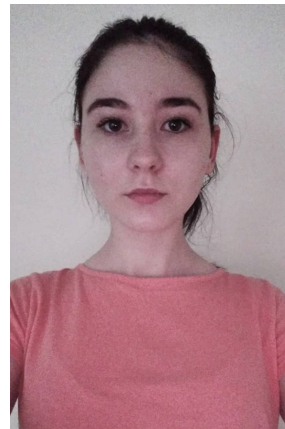
*For many other youngsters, continuing education is a dream come true.*



**Daniela Botnaru**  
Specializing to be a mid-wife at the College of Medicine



**Maria Gherjau**  
Has two more years toward her college degree in planning & administration



**Ionela Oloi**  
Studying to be a nurse at the College of Medicine



**Andrea Erchevici**  
Has been awarded a university scholarship in The Netherlands

*Moldova World is a source of help for those in need of medical care... from urgent life-threatening surgery and treatment... to continuing assistance for lifelong impairments.*



*Natalia is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer, while son Ian is doing his part by beginning kindergarten.*



*A wheelchair accessible van donated in Switzerland and transported to grateful recipients by MWCF*

*Alexandru Turcan is aging out of his boarding school for abandoned children. A victim of infantile paralysis, Alex courageously determined to attend college toward becoming an accountant.*



**M**oldova World Children's Fund, Inc. is a rather lengthy name for an organization...indeed a challenge when trying to fit it in the **To** line of a donation check. Some have commented as to why the inclusion of the word **World**. While Moldova is where contributions end up, gifts come regularly from around the world. Donations are primarily from the United States of America, while increasing from Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland.

In 2019, MWCF again transported humanitarian aid from the U.S. and Europe, in the form of hospital equipment and supplies for medical facilities, school books and educational materials, and furniture and clothes for needy families throughout Moldova. Large amounts of gifts-in-kind are made possible by a necessary, while moderate amount of cash contributions.



*School books from North Carolina*

*Clothes a-plenty*



*Young Olga modeling a dress from the U.S.*



*Hospital equipment and supplies from Europe*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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As Treasurer of the Board of Directors of Moldova World Children's Fund (MWCF), I believe that you, as a donor or potential donor, are interested in how MWCF spends the gifts it receives. My wife Joanie and I have served separately on the Board for the past eight years. Since 2004, as regular donors to MWCF ourselves, we too have had continuing keen interest in the financial integrity of the organization. Joanie and I have visited Moldova twice, each time visiting multiple projects...both trips on our own with an interpreter, but without the normal guided escort of Ray West, MWCF's founder and president.

There are far too many non-profit organizations proclaiming to be protectors of orphans and other needy children, the handicapped, abused and abandoned animals, veterans, to name a few, that spend most of their budget on management and salaries, executive perks, administration, and promotion. Vanguard of the truth, academia, sports, health, politics, and religion are also often found lacking when it comes to directly supporting the actual causes for which they solicit funds. Researching the spending of many of the best-known charities is frequently surprising and disappointing.

On the next page is a pie chart of MWCF expenses for its most recently completed year. Please look it over, paying particular attention to percentages. The Board of Directors are non-paid volunteers. MWCF's president is its only paid executive, who by legally binding waiver, refuses most all of his annual compensation, resulting in the unusually low figure for salaries and benefits.



Much of MWCF's income and subsequent expenses involve non-cash donations (Gifts-In-Kind) from medical centers and the NC Department of Public Instruction, participants in the North Carolina – Moldova Partnership. These contributions are shipped in transatlantic sea and land containers or airlifted by the Air National Guard to Moldova. Additionally, humanitarian aid from other countries such as Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, and The Netherlands is transported by truck across Europe. MWCF also manages, at no cost to primary sponsors, construction and service projects for the United States and other country governments and organizations needing in-country expertise throughout Moldova. Your cash gifts are leveraged in multiple ways to make these projects possible.

We on the Board are confident that MWCF has been, and will continue to be, a good investment of your substantial gift dollars. Thank you for your recent generosity and for reviewing the accompanying chart.

*Michael A. Covell*

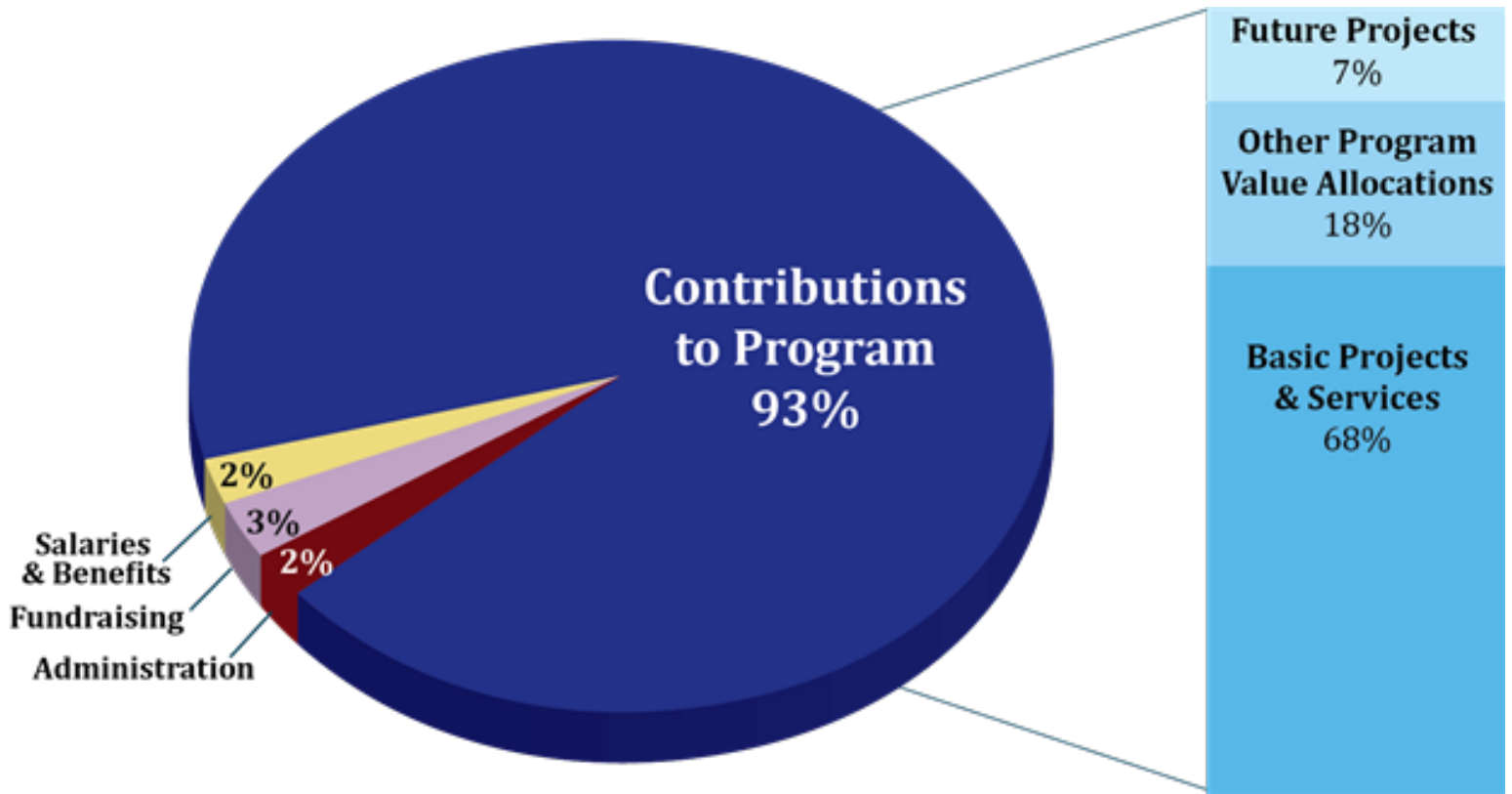
Michael A. Covell





*2018 Income from Annual Fund Donations and Restricted Gifts-In-Kind Totaled \$585,998*

**This is How it Was Spent:**



**MWCF 2018 Expenses**



<b>Basic Projects &amp; Services (68%)</b> .....	\$396,137
<b>Other Program Value Allocations (18%)</b> .....	104,717
<b>Net Additions over 2017 earmarked for Future Projects (7%)</b> .....	42,411
Contributions to Program (93%).....	\$543,265
<b>Administration and General (2%)</b> .....	\$14,171
<b>Fund Raising and Promotion (3%)</b> .....	14,799
<b>Salaries, Benefits, and Payroll Taxes (2%)</b> .....	13,763
<b>Total Expenses, Allocations &amp; Reserves (100%)</b> .....	\$585,998

MWCF is an approved IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization registered in the state of North Carolina. Form 990 is filed annually and is available at the IRS and NCSOS as public information.



*Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-814-5400. The license is not an endorsement by the State.*

## *Moldova has a new Friend*



On 02 November 2018, Dereck J. Hogan was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova. Previously he served as Deputy Executive Secretary of the U.S. Department of State. Prior to that, Mr. Hogan served as the Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d' affaires at U.S. Embassy Baku, Azerbaijan. Mr. Hogan's other senior positions in the U.S. State Department include Director of the Central European Affairs and Nordic and Baltic Affairs Offices, and Senior Advisor to the President's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke. He also served as the U.S. Department of State Representative on two civilian-military Provincial Reconstruction Teams in southern and eastern Afghanistan. His other overseas assignments include Russia, Belarus, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. In Washington, Mr. Hogan was Special Assistant to Secretary of State Colin Powell and a Watch Officer in the State Department's Operations Center.

Ambassador Hogan has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. He speaks English, Romanian, Russian and Spanish. Mr. Hogan is married to Anny Hogan and they have a daughter Hannah.

## *Board News*

Leslie Gordon Johnson of New York City, New York was elected in August to the MWCF Board at its Directors' meeting held in Greenville, South Carolina which was hosted by John and Chandler Boyd. She was born in Memphis, Tennessee and grew up in Tupelo, Mississippi. Leslie was graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Merchandising where she was inducted into the Ole Miss Hall of Fame. She moved to New York and started a career in the fashion industry where she began in sales and later specialized in product development. Leslie worked with Chris Burch of Burch Creative Capital, founded Winter and Miggs for Chris, and later developed her own apparel collection which she named Josephine and Laurentina. She presently works as a consultant in both marketing and product development.

She is married to James Johnson who has a private equity firm, Summit Park LLC in Charlotte, NC where Leslie also spends time. Jim and Leslie have two children: Colin, a graduate of Vanderbilt, now living in San Francisco and working in banking for Harris Williams, and Josephine, a sophomore at SMU studying Political Science. Leslie serves others as well, as she is on the Parents Committee of Vanderbilt, and is a member of the boards of Horizons Saint David's and the Center on Addiction, both based in New York.



## *Our Chaplain*



The Right Reverend Charles Farmer Duvall is MCWF's Chaplain.

He was the Second Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast (Southern Alabama and Northwest Florida)...consecrated 11 April 1981...retired 12 May 2001. A native of Cheraw, South Carolina, Bishop Duvall has spent the past 17 years with his wife Nancy in West Columbia, South Carolina. They have three grown children and six grandchildren.

He was graduated from The Citadel in 1957 with Honors in History, received his Masters (1960) and Doctorate (1982) of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary, then a Doctorate of Divinity from the School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee (1986). For twenty years he served congregations in the Dioceses of South Carolina, East Carolina (NC), and Upper South Carolina.

Reflecting upon his and Nancy's involvement with Moldova, he recalls *"meeting two Moldovan musicians at Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center in the early 2000s. They were delightful and talented, prompting Nancy to write a poem about them which led to her joining the MWCF Board. For six years she served and we gave. We visited Moldova in 2010 and were struck at the almost impossible things that were happening to improve children's lives. It has become one of the top three items on our giving list. In my retirement, I have served as an Assistant Bishop to two Bishops of Upper South Carolina. It is now time for me to travel less and spend more time at home. Becoming the Chaplain for Moldova World Children's Fund, at a time when I'm slowing down, is a sign of our commitment to their good work."*

In May N.C. Secretary of State and MWCF Board Member Elaine Marshall, along with Moldova's Prime Minister, signed a renewal of the North Carolina - Moldova Partnership.



Secretary Elaine and Moldova's Minister of Foreign Affairs were joined by participants of the North Carolina Team.

*Stellar student Daniela at the mic*



*Touching lives in Ruseni...  
Albert Gooch providing a lift*



2019 has been a very busy year for the construction side of MWCF's operations. Teaming with generous friends in The Netherlands and Germany, the kitchen at the Ruseni village school has been remodeled with durable new flooring, attractive ceiling and walls, along with replacement equipment and utensils.

The community center in the small town of Ruseni, envisioned also to serve neighboring villages, is beginning to take shape. Perimeter fencing and a new roof with improved guttering is now complete as is most of the renovated building's interior. An adjacent annex has been built to house a versatile central heating system. Remaining work involves adding thermal insulation and finishing the exterior.

*Ruseni's renovated school kitchen*



*Classroom/recreation area*



*Inside Hall*



*A Work In Progress*



## MOLDOVA WORLD CHILDREN'S FUND

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# A Mother and Child Story

by Martha Burke - Chilhowie, Virginia

It began with a phrase from an Operation Christmas Child report. "For children in orphanages in Moldova, socks and soap are considered luxuries." I cried. I did not understand my reaction at the time but I realize now that a Divine presence was working in my life. After having my first child at 40, my husband (age 53) and I decided we would be satisfied with our good fortune. However, when our son Robert was 3, he began letting us know that he wanted five sisters! We KNEW that was not a possibility so we let him continue to pray every night for a sister.



*Martha with Alina*



*Alina with Robert*

During that time, many encounters of various kinds kept leading us towards international adoption. The defining moment for me was (in the shower) when I heard a clear voice saying, "you were adopted and were blessed. I want you to do the same for someone else." It struck fear in me, but at the same time, confirmed what we had been pondering during the last two years. At the time, we lived in Greenville, NC and began the adoption process by looking for an agency that handled international adoptions. Carolina Adoption Services was our choice since I knew that we had to adopt from Moldova and they worked with the Moldovan government to process adoptions. At the time we began the process, we discovered that Moldova was closed for adoptions. I'm ashamed to say, but I was little relieved. I felt the call but wasn't sure I was up to the task. We continued to complete our dossier and have our home study done. Amazingly enough, the very day we mailed our adoption packet, Moldova opened for adoptions! I knew then that this was meant to be.

In November 2003 (nine months after our paperwork was received), we were given a referral for a beautiful almost 5 year old girl. Robert was five and a half so we were delighted! We went to Moldova in January 2004 to complete our adoption process. We experienced Siberian-like blizzards while we were there but learned how to say "play outside in the snow papa" in Romanian. Alina, our daughter, had been moved from the state run orphanage at Straseni to a smaller orphanage in Chisinau so that she could stay with us in an upstairs apartment during our 3 week stay. This was invaluable in terms of our learning enough Romanian and Russian to communicate once we got home. Robert was a huge influence on Alina in terms of language acquisition. She was not even eligible for English as a second language (ESL) the next fall when we enrolled her in preschool!

*Elaine Marshall with Alina and Martha 2018*





*I want to stay with you!*

During the first year after Alina joined our family, she and I returned to Moldova to assist in a Humanitarian Aid project sponsored by Children’s Emergency Relief International (CERI). We went back to Straseni where her young friends were so excited to see her. I have to say, she was a little fearful of being sent back, but soon determined that she was only visiting. We were able to provide medicines for the clinic there, as well as food and clothing.

The rest, as they say, is history. Once we returned and shared our experiences of being in Moldova, our church got involved. We understood that the humanitarian needs were great, especially for the thousands of children in the orphanages there. We also learned about Moldova World Children’s Fund (MWCF) and the many projects they had already carried out across this small country. Connections began to be made between members of our church and MWCF which eventually led to the opportunity for a young Moldovan girl to receive surgeries to assist in recovering from severe burns. Other projects unfolded including MWCF providing a unique hearing device which eliminated stuttering for a college age student who had been ridiculed and unable to respond in class.

By the time Alina finished second grade we decided to go back to Moldova so that we could be of assistance to children who were aging out of orphanages. The most logical thing to do was to live there for at least a year in order to help some of these teens get established. Again, through what we feel was Divine intervention, my husband and I were able to obtain teaching/nursing positions in Chisinau with a small English-speaking school. Since housing was provided, and our salaries were more than enough to cover our expenses, we were able to use these funds to provide shelter, food, clothing, water, and heat for a number of children.



*Alina sharing the love*



*Alina and Martha*

It was also during this time that we became more aware of the work of MWCF and the huge and lasting impact that they were having in the lives of children all across Moldova. Being in country allowed us to see first-hand how MWCF used their resources to improve the living conditions and quality of life for so many in need. We knew that we wanted to support this organization and have been privileged to do so, especially following the death of my father. It was because of him that we were able to adopt Alina. I was pleased to make a gift in his memory last summer at the Board Meeting held in July in Hendersonville/Flat Rock, NC. It was also such a pleasure to have Alina with me during that event. She is now 20 and hopes to become a veterinarian someday. Moldova has given me a beautiful and kind daughter. I am grateful to MWCF for all they do for future ‘Alinas’.

*Martha A. Burke*  
2019