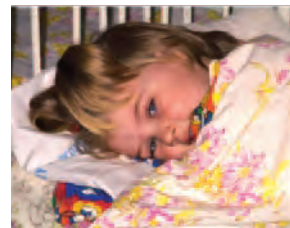




In 1998 we began our Moldova mission with two joint U.S. military/civilian assignments: to rebuild a 120-bed hospital in Ceadyr-Lunga, and repair severe winter storm damage to a small orphanage in Drochia.



Following its reconstruction, the Ceadyr-Lunga facility evolved into the National Children's Rehabilitation Hospital where any Moldovan child can receive long-term care at no cost to the family.



For the past 25 years, the renovated Fortuna Family Home in Drochia has continued to receive monthly assistance from Moldova World Children's Fund (MWCF).



Youngsters aging out of orphanages frequently have nowhere to go...if they did, then many wouldn't be placed in an orphanage in the first place. A good number are truly interested in continuing their education, and MWCF sponsors as many as possible to attend vocational/technical colleges and universities.



Not long after the death of her father, preschool aged Diana was accompanying her mother while she was working in an open field when lightning struck and instantly killed her mom. Diana suffered from traumatic mutism until the staff of a MWCF renovated boarding school coaxed her into speaking again. On the rebound, Diana finished at the top of her high school class, then earned an undergraduate degree...and earlier this year received her Masters in Social Work...thanks to one of our generous donors.

Constantin's mother died while he was in elementary school...and his father is an alcoholic. He ran away from unbearable conditions at home when he was around 12 years old and was caught while swimming across the Prut River in an attempt to illegally enter Romania. He was placed in a boarding school until age 17. Since his father was still alive when he finished high school, Constantin was not able to claim status as an orphan...and thus ineligible to receive further assistance from the State. He was 'living on the street' in Chisinau when he ran into a familiar face...MWCF in-country colleague Irina Rusanovschi. He is now attending a vocational college learning to be a professional chef. Constantin is on schedule to graduate at the end of this school year and is excited about his prospects for the future.



First the COVID-19 pandemic, then Putin's murderous whole scale invasion of Ukraine have brought four straight years of extreme hardship upon the people of Ukraine and Moldova.

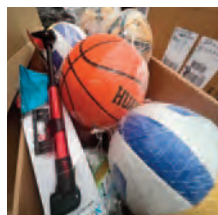
In June of this year, Europe's worst environmental disaster since Chernobyl occurred...caused by Russian invaders intentionally blowing up a huge hydroelectric power plant dam on Ukraine's Dniپر River. To put things into perspective, the Danube is the only European river west of the Dniپر which is larger. Thirty towns and villages were washed away. The common wells of villagers and community water systems were flooded...fresh water was mixed with the sewage of outhouses and septic facilities across hundreds of square miles downstream from the explosion. Thousands of homes, along with their below ground level cellars which for centuries have served the purposes of food refrigeration, preservation and storage, were completely swamped with diseased filth. Adding to the horror were the many bodies of those unexpected people and animals who were unable to escape the disaster.



MWCF responded quickly and as best it could, given the security concerns within a hostile war zone. In early July, our field teams and vehicles entered the Mykolaiv area with the following in support of the Ukrainian Marine Corps and National Police: a mid-sized inflatable boat...a large outdoor motor...fuel...anti-drone/aircraft search lights...truckloads of sump pumps and hoses...dozens

of pairs of heavy duty waterproof work boots provided by Lions clubs...1000 containers of mosquito and tick repellent...2000 full body dry shower wipes...1000 boxes of antifungal foot powder...100 tourniquets...1000s of individual packs of instant coffee and sugar...canned

beverages...tens of thousands of high-nutrition food bars...dozens of thick moisture proof ground mats.



MWCF delivered a carload of soccer balls, shoes, uniforms along with volleyballs, basketballs, manual air pumps, extra inflating needles to a children's school and sports academy in Mykolaiv, Ukraine which now serves less than 250 of its previous over 500 students.

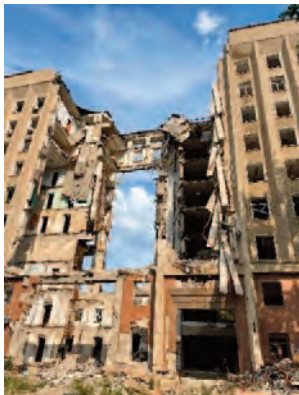
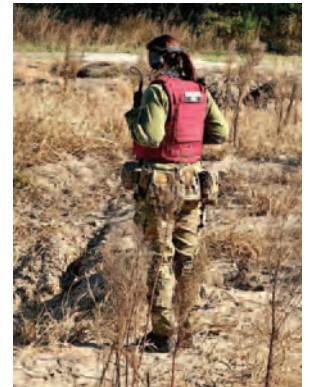


Volunteer members of our North Carolina/Moldova team ventured deep inside war-torn Ukraine last year during the first several months of Putin's full-scale invasion. The team's mission was in line with our experience...to cost effectively apply limited resources to help the most vulnerable...especially those typically overlooked in the midst of crisis. To recount last December's *A Report to Friends*: "From what we have been able to surmise, 9 out of 10 places targeted by Russian forces continue to be civilian, not military positions." Unexploded Russian bombs, missiles and other munitions are scattered across the country. The invaders have planted hundreds of thousands of land mines...widespread in formerly peaceful neighborhoods.



Children and adults, pets, livestock, and wildlife can unintentionally detonate such ordinance resulting in maiming, dismemberment, death. Our teams couriered to Kyiv specially designed explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) gear. Colleague John Culp of Waynesville, NC headed up much of the related hands-on training for the National Police of Ukraine. Many of the best EOD technicians are meticulously dexterous women...all of whom have lost loved ones in the fight to defend their homes. Snug fitting uniforms and custom size protective shoes...critical for job survival...were simply not available in female sizes. Being attentive, practical and less encumbered as an organization, with human assets on the ground, we have been able during the last four months to

quickly provide individually tailored uniforms and explosion deflecting footwear for all of the female field personnel at Kyiv's EOD headquarters. Two shipments of extremely cold weather clothing were also delivered.



Governor's office building in Mykolaiv destroyed by a GPS long-range missile ...37 civilians killed

From a thank you letter to MWCF and Moldovan colleagues Stefan and Andrei Homa:

"On behalf of the entire community of the Mykolaiv region, I express my sincere gratitude for your support and assistance to those who need it in this difficult time in Ukraine. We highly appreciate your humanitarian assistance aimed at meeting the urgent needs of the civilian population in our region. Thank you for your help and we look forward to continuing our cooperation. Sincerely wish you optimism and strength in your tireless work!"

Regional Governor Vitalii Kim

The best thing we can do for the children is help the war end on a relatively positive note as soon as possible.



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Jack Bahm, since 2007 a strong supporter of Moldova World Children's Fund, recently passed away...leaving us a recipient of a Revocable Living Trust.



Jack was a previous member of our MWCF Board of Directors and pioneered new outreach programs by providing the seed money needed to launch them. In 2009 he visited Moldova to participate with then U.S. Ambassador Asif Chaudhry in the dedication ceremony of a greenhouse and horticultural classroom at the Leova boarding school for abandoned children...the construction of which Jack funded.

Retired U.S. Navy pilot Jack, ever quick on the throttle, was not fond of donating to endowments. He preferred to stay engaged with people he trusted and to watch his gifts go to work immediately. He remained committed to his approach well into his 90s. Eventually he knew he was ready to think about how his estate could best be used going forward to support the causes for which he cared the most...and true to form, not for an indefinite period of time, but limited to a 15 year trust. It seemed like his generosity was endless...and now it will continue to sustain our unrestricted efforts in helping deserving children through 2036. We are committed to maximizing the return on his investment.

Moldova World Children's Fund held its Annual Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina this year on November 11th. The evening program was hosted by Dr. Steve Mackler and his wife Leslie, incumbent N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, MWCF founder Ray West and fellow members of our



Board of Directors. Informative remarks were provided by Moldovan Ambassador to the U.S. Viorel Ursu and Embassy Minister Counselor Anton Lungu, current U.S. Ambassador to Moldova Kent Logsdon, and former U.S. Ambassador to Moldova and Serbia Michael Kirby. Our principal fundraising gathering was well attended by generous and enthusiastic participants. You are encouraged to consider contributing to help grapple with what is shaping up to be more horrendous challenges this winter and through 2024.



Appreciatively,
Ray West

