

christian
response
to
eastern
europe

cr2ee



**A brief outline of the work
of Christian Response,
a voluntary charity**

Christian Response to Eastern Europe
Registered Charity Number 1062623

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Bringing relief to the poor in Moldova

For over 27 years **Christian Response to Eastern Europe** has helped thousands of people in Moldova and Romania. We have transported and distributed several thousand tonnes of humanitarian and medical aid. This has only been possible as a result of generous financial support from concerned groups and individuals.

cr2ee is proud to be a voluntary charity. Having no paid staff, we rely solely on volunteers. The bulk of our work is now concentrated in Moldova, a country described by the BBC as a 'European country with African levels of poverty'. Life in this little known country is harsh and many people there are desperate.

Each year **cr2ee** sends around 70,000 Euros to support struggling families, run soup kitchens, provide medical help and engage with many other projects. We aim to be a personal charity, making every effort to understand the needs of those we help, which means we can direct aid towards the most vulnerable. Our trustees regularly visit Moldova, staying with families in order to get to know the reality of Moldovan lives and recognise the worries and needs of the people our charity helps.

We are a Christian charity with the aim of showing love and offering practical help to those in need. We support the people of Eastern Europe whatever their faith.

cr2ee may not be able to change an entire country but aims to make a huge impact on individuals, families and schools. This leaflet outlines four key ways in which we do this:

- Humanitarian Aid
- Family Sponsorship
- Soup Kitchens
- Christmas Shoebox Appeal



Humanitarian Aid Truckloads of Love

cr2ee aims to offer support in a practical way by sending humanitarian aid trucks. We take articulated lorries laden with good quality clothing, bedding, school supplies, computers, together with medical supplies and equipment. These are distributed without charge to benefit as many as possible.

We do accept second-hand donations, but stress that they must be in good condition as our intention is to provide the best we can for the people of Moldova. A team of volunteers comes to our store to spend several hours sorting the donations and packing and bagging everything, and finally loading the truck. We are always on the lookout for extra hands, so please do contact us if you would like to take part. We always welcome donations for our humanitarian aid trucks.



Family Sponsorship

cr2ee also runs a family support programme in which a British family is able to sponsor a specific family in Moldova. This can provide the underlying finance for the very basic needs of Moldovan families and can even enable the parent to stay with their children. Many families face daily questions about basic existence: 'How can I feed my children?', 'Can I afford medicine?'

Frequently families will write to each other and get to know each other during the course of several years. This is often a wonderful source of encouragement to the Moldovan family. Sponsorship for a small family is from as little as £15 - £20 per month ranging to a large family at £40 - £50 per month. This is a fantastic way to make a real difference and change lives in a meaningful way.

Nastea's story

"At 5 years old my parents abandoned me, leaving me in the care of my grandparents. It was very hard for my grandparents; they didn't have steady work and had to send money for food and clothing to my uncle in prison. They got into debt for unpaid utility bills and there was no money for me to go to kindergarten. Financially and emotionally we were struggling. None of us knew where my mother was until she called out of the blue to say she was living with a man in another village and did not want me. With so many troubles my grandparents often argued and sadly turned to drink. When I was 6 years old I met Hugh Scudder from cr2ee at Saint Emanuel's Church in Chişinău.



I am now 24 years old, with a university degree and a desire to live and create a strong and united family. All this is due to the help of cr2ee, and my English sponsor, Aunt Lizzie who has generously supported me for many years and the Burlacu family. If it wasn't for them all I would have a completely different life because no one would care about what I did or where I went. I am frightened when I think what could have happened to me."

"I had the privilege of going to Nastea's wedding, and it was here that she told me; 'Thank you for giving me my life'. This meant so much to me but is so true for so many. We have helped a helpless child through much of her life providing support and love. Now Nastea is a lovely confident 24 year old with a good life ahead of her. Without our help I dread to think where she would be. Her words, 'Thank you for giving me my life', says it all, and brought tears to my eyes." **Hugh Scudder**



Soup Kitchens

In Moldova many ordinary families fight to survive on a day-to-day basis. cr2ee is fortunate in having supporters who donate regularly to help with our soup kitchens, educational projects or one of our many other missions. Our Soup Kitchens are currently aimed at children from very poor families or who live alone, though it is our aim to expand these to help the elderly, a particularly vulnerable group in Moldova.

In our Soup Kitchens we not only provide good nourishing food but give the children an opportunity in a safe environment to play, have fun and hear something of the Christian message. The children have a fabulous time with some very imaginative games.



Christmas Shoe Boxes

Over the years our Christmas Shoebox Appeal has become increasingly popular. This may be because we are a small charity who can ensure every box is given appropriately, whether this be a general shoebox to a child in one of our Soup Kitchens or a Christmas Shoebox that has been prepared for a specific child or family.

It is not our intention to open the boxes which have been donated, but we do ask that time and effort goes into ensuring that each box given is crammed full of NEW items, small toys, sweets, hat, gloves, soap, anything you feel a child or grandparent would like. It is so important for us to show these children how much we value them. Each box is given with love and will be treasured by the children. Please request a leaflet to find out more.



CHRISTIAN RESPONSE IS A VOLUNTARY CHARITY AND RELIES ON DONATIONS

If you would like to support this work please make cheques payable to CR2EE or direct bank transfer to Barclays in Exeter 20-30-47 account number 20902446

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We are very grateful to antalis for their ongoing support by donating the paper for this and previous publications.