

Trip Report of the Save the Orphans Team to Moldova May 2019

In mid-May, Chairman Sylvia Mader, Vice-Chairman Roch Turco, and Secretary Roger Tweed traveled to Moldova. Their plan was to continue Save the Orphans' (STO) objectives of assisting the lives of orphans and displaced families, fighting human and sex trafficking, and to sharing Scripture with children. This has been their 12th year of visiting Moldova to help orphans there.

Because orphans must leave the safety of the orphanage at age 15 without any education or training, orphans often have no place to go. They are extremely vulnerable to trafficking. STO seeks to provide assistance to these orphans for vocational training and to aid them with scholarships for their college studies. STO provides food, winter clothing, and school supplies for traditional orphans, social orphans, orphanages, and transitional homes. STO provides Bible studies and Scriptures with the orphans through reading, skits, and songs to encourage the children about God's great love for and plans for them.



Sylvia with Gymnasium #3 children after the program. Roch, Sylvia, and Roger with Gymnasium #3 leaders

Orphanage Visits

During the first part of the trip, STO officers, together with their Moldovan co-worker Diana Todica, visited the Carpineni, Bulboaca, and Straseni Orphanages, and Gymnasium Number 3, also an orphanage. The Bulboaca facility cares for children with special needs. On these trips, student volunteers from Divitia Gratiae University (UDG) spoke to the children, led them in Christian songs, and helped the children performed dramatizations to reinforce anti-trafficking principles.



STO members distributed tee shirts with a message in Romanian from Isa 41, and hats printed with the “Save the Orphans” logo, as well as anti-trafficking pamphlets, fruits, sweets, and nuts.



UDG students assisted at nearly all locations with music, skits



Sylvia, Strasenii girls hold “Stop trafficking” material



Children from the Straseni orphanage with the STO team at right rear.



Sylvia and her co-workers distributed dozens of t-shirts with Isaiah 41:10 printed in the shape of a cross: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

The Oak House

Tuesday evening, STO officers visited the Oak House, a traditional home in Chisinau for 22 orphans and young women (ages 16-25) as they complete their studies and start their careers. The home was originally established by Youth for Christ, which remains active in its operation. The STO team was joined by several Oak House alumni living in Chisinau. These impressive young women are pursuing careers in medicine, law enforcement, fashion design and the law, and we had a lively discussion about making careers choices and preventing human trafficking. Save the Orphans has supported the Oak House for several years; a charity from Holland is also a major supporter.



Sylvia and team (in front row) with Oak House Women



Making Pizza at Oak House

Ce trebuie să faci când vrei să pleci în străinătate?	Ce trebuie să faci când vrei să pleci în străinătate?	"Eu credeam că mie nu mi se poate întâmpla..."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -spune rudelor și cunoștințelor cu cine sau la cine pleci; -nu accepta promisiunile persoanelor necunoscute privind diverse slujbe necalificate în străinătate; -nu da nimănui pașaportul, cu excepția organelor statului sau străin; -învăță limba țării de destinație sau cel puțin, un volum minim de cuvinte ca să te poți descurca; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -află diverse informații privind coordonatele ambasadei sau consulatului în țara respectivă; -în caz că ai nevoie de ajutor peste hotare adresează-te acestor instituții. 	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Linia fierbinte națională La Strada 0 800 77777 <i>Apeți gratuit din orice localitate a Moldovei</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">+373 22 23 33 09 <i>pentru apeluri de peste hotare</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Telefon 24/24 al Centrului pentru combaterea traficului de persoane 0 22 25 49 98 <i>din Republica Moldova</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">+373 22 25 49 98 <i>din străinătate</i></p>	

Rear side of "STOP" flyer

Rezina District

On Saturday morning, STO officers and Diana traveled to Otac, Roshkawa, and Cuizavca, three villages in the distant Rezina District, to deliver large bags of food staples to eight families. The homes in this area have running water and limited electricity. The team delivered bags of food staples and sometimes two bags for families with over eight children. These staples will provide food for up to eight weeks. The mothers cried and hugged us. Diana shared with the recipients that the gifts were from God and that the team was honored to be able to provide them.



The mother here (second from left), a shepherd, has 11 children



Sylvia (right) with a poor village mother and daughter.



Soldanesti

On Saturday afternoon, STO officers participated in the children's program at Pastor Vasile Surdu's Church in Soldanesti. There are about seven boys at the Soldanesti home, but Vasile and his volunteers serve other children are located nearby. After the children completed their lessons about the grace of Jesus, Sylvia gave a presentation on human trafficking prevention, then led a discussion on the topic.



Children listen to a Bible story message.



Children enjoy arts and crafts time after the message.



A girl from the village displays a heart she made.



Children gather outside the Soldanesti Church. (Note the Isaiah verse in this photo and the one at left.)



Sylvia meets with Valeriu Ghilechi (left), founder of UDG in 1993 and with Pavel Popereciii (right), faculty member in UDG's social work program.