



# Dear friends and partners

In times of war and suffering, it is a privilege to show the love of Jesus to devastated families.

We would like to thank all our partners who have prayed and given sacrificially to serve such needy and brokenhearted Ukrainian families, our HCI families, and our Romanian school children. Today we ponder these words of Jesus more deeply:

“I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:35,40.



## An Amazing Spiritual Journey

Late one night Olga arrived with her two daughters at HCI with only a plastic bag in each hand. Slowly, Olga opened her heart to us. She had arrived from Kharkiv, Ukraine where she and her family had endured the horrors of severe Russian bombing for months. Her husband, Alex, pressured her to flee with their children to the Western Europe. Weeping, she recounted her painful separation from her husband and her fears to travel alone with their children to an unknown, foreign country. We provided Olga and her daughters a private room in a HCI home with our missionaries and four other Ukrainian Christian families. As Olga carefully observed our lives and faith, she was deeply touched by the love and kindness that she and her children received. After about six weeks, she shared with us that her father wanted her to return to Ukraine and live with him. Concerned for her safety, we gave Olga our address and telephone number with the assurance that she could return anytime if she would need a refuge or our help.

About a month later we received a telephone call from Olga informing us that she, Alex and their family had just crossed the Romanian border and would arrive at HCI in about 30 minutes! The following days were amazing. We often saw Alex reading a small, pocket-sized Gideon New Testament and praying. Then Alex and Olga told us their incredible story. During those terrible months of unabated bombing in Kharkiv, their neighbors invited Alex and Olga's family to take refuge with them in the cellar of a Baptist Church. In the beginning, Olga and Alex were skeptical of their neighbors' motivation, but today they speak with great reverence about these Christians who saved their lives.

After Olga departed to Romania for safety, Alex remained with these Christians, began reading the New Testament, opened his heart for the Lord Jesus and was baptized. During Olga's separation from her husband, she stayed with us and experienced such Christian love that her heart was also deeply moved. When Olga and Alex were reunited, they realized that they both had been called to follow the Lord Jesus. As they left HCI to travel further to Western Europe, they were determined to seek out and join other believers and to start a new life together.



### Romanian and Ukrainian Children Celebrate Together

In November, Romanian schools celebrated a "Global Week" to promote peace and friendship between different countries and nationalities. Our Cornerstone School invited Ukrainian children and their parents to participate in various projects and to work together on a mural representing the friendship between their countries. The dove of peace symbolized this unity as the children sang Romanian and Ukrainian songs and enjoyed traditional Romanian cookies.

## After-School Program Unites Romanian and Ukrainian Children

Last year HCI established an After-School program for our Cornerstone School with 135 participating children and teenagers. These pupils and their parents were enthusiastic about this alternative educational approach that increased the children's academic performance and raised their school grades. This school year, over 220 Romanian and Ukrainian children and teenagers attend our After-School courses. Our Cornerstone School campus is daily a bee hive of activity with over 260 children attending the morning kindergarten and school classes, and during the afternoon, 220 children and teenagers attend our After-School courses (Romanian grammar, literature, math, English, German, flute, and guitar) as well as sport activities. The Ukrainian children living at HCI are enrolled in the Ukrainian online school in the morning, and during the afternoon, they join the Romanian children in various After-School courses and activities of their choice.



## Construction Projects

With such an increase in number of children enrolled in our Cornerstone Kindergarten and School, our After-School activities and the Ukrainian refugees living on our HCI campus, various construction projects needed to advance rapidly.



## Sewage system

With HCI serving so many families and children daily, our sewage system was hopelessly overwhelmed, and its capacity needed to be urgently extended. This was a complicated process requiring many governmental permits to lay over a third of a mile of underground sewage pipes in order to connect into the city's sewage system. The Dorohoi City Council gave us their approval and all the needed legal permits in April. However, the city had no funds to finance this undertaking. After hearing about our dilemma, an American NGO generously donated the necessary finances in May, and a Romanian company was then hired to lay and connect the pipes to Dorohoi's sewage system by the end of June. Words cannot express our thankfulness to the Lord for His goodness, His miracles, and His provision.



## Multipurpose building

Our multipurpose building needs to be completed to serve not only our many Romanian children and their families but also our Ukrainian neighbors fleeing from war. From April to November, six volunteer teams worked tenaciously on the building's interior construction. We are praying, working hard, and hoping to finish the building as soon as possible.

## Outdoor sports

With so many children needing space to play, a HCI employee excavated a large area behind our Cornerstone School and multipurpose building in order to provide an outdoor soccer field, a volleyball court, and a basketball court. In the spring, we will be planting grass for the soccer and volleyball fields and hopefully complete the outside basketball court as soon as possible.



# Great news

Our website has been outdated for years, and it was very difficult to update about HCI's growth and its expansion of new ministries. HCI now has a new website, and we would like to invite you to check it out. We really hope you like the new design and its menu layout. We can now make the updates ourselves quickly and directly. Of course, we still need some time to get used to the website's many possibilities, and we ask for your patience as we work out its flaws.

[www.hci-online.de](http://www.hci-online.de)



We wish you a blessed  
Christmas time,  
may God be with you.



**HCI**  
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