



Family to Family

F2F is the Family to Family sponsorship programme of Mission Without Borders

NEWS BRIEFS

Greetings

Dear F2F Sponsor

In our March *Focus News* newsletter, I wrote about a family in Ukraine that was “withdrawn” from our F2F programme. While it seems to be a pity for the sponsorship to come to an end for up to four Kiwi sponsors, in fact the opposite is usually the case.

It means that the family is able to stand and walk forward, without leaning on the Mission for food parcels, clothing and other practical and emotional support. They are doing well, and together we can rejoice at having been part of bringing a positive change in their lives.

Since March, we have had four Bosnian families in that situation. It is great news, but it doesn't mean the wider need and opportunities to help have gone away. It just means we can direct our resources to others that desperately need a helping hand and life-changing Hope for the future. People like the family highlighted below.

Thank you for sponsoring and for being an important part of the answer.

Andrew Wilks, NZ Director, MWB NZ Office

NZ Supporter Tour 2011

In late September, a group of 8 Kiwis will be travelling to Ukraine and Moldova for about two weeks to visit sponsored children and families, and to see the Mission's projects there. This will give opportunities to see what life is like in the towns and villages for some of those we work with.

You will hear more about the trip afterwards in some of our publications and on our web site. We hope to be able to offer a similar experience again in 2012 but to different countries in Eastern Europe.♦

Starting at the bottom

Here is some background about Bosnian families at the beginning stage of our work. It takes a time to build trust and relationships, the basis for change.

The Roma settlement is behind an “Interex” supermarket about 6km outside Mostar, where MWB is based. Around 90 families live there.

Romas (gypsies) are the social under-class, and often despised, across all of Europe. Their situation is complex: when they can find work, they work hard. They have come from other parts, and therefore don't qualify for government assistance of any kind. In fact the local authorities want them to go. They like to be self-reliant people, who stick to themselves, and don't like to be seen as “beneficiaries”. But their children need help, as they suffer from lack of food and proper hygiene and health issues, and schooling is constantly interrupted. Mission Without Borders helps these families with food, clothing, medical and hygiene distributions several times a year, and they were given Operation Christmas Love food parcels last Christmas.

One of the families living in the “Interex” settlement is the family of Halil Salkanovic.



The older Salkanovics, Halil and Senija, with church volunteer Claire in front of their home

This extended family of 8 lives in a house with two rooms. They have been there 10 years. The father, Halil, the mother, Senija and their three young sons live in one of the rooms. Their married son, Mahir, and his pregnant wife, Ramiza, and young son live in the other room.

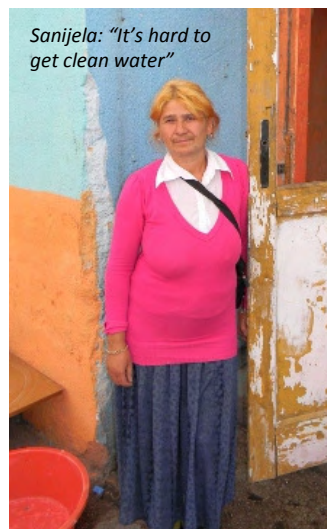


Young mother Ramiza and her younger son

Halil, the father and grandfather, told us what life is like: "We have no electricity or water. We have to use a generator in the evenings for three or four hours so that our children can see to do their homework. We fetch water in containers from nearby businesses. Our windows are in a bad state and it is really cold and draughty in the winter.

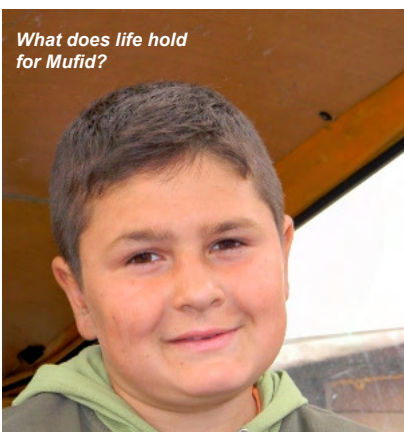
"All the residents here live as we do and many of them are in an even worse situation, as the walls of their homes are not made of concrete like ours, but of bits of furniture and carpet. We find the things we need, furniture, bedding, pots and pans, carpets and sometimes even food, in rubbish bins around the town. These days, we are finding fewer and fewer things in the rubbish, as the town's citizens are themselves in greater need, so they are throwing less away and even taking things out of rubbish skips themselves."

The mother, Senija, continued, "Although it is hard to get clean water, hygiene is very important to us. We don't like to send our children to school dirty so, even in the winter, we find a



Sanijela: "It's hard to get clean water"

way to do this even though it is very cold to wash at that time of year."



What does life hold for Mufid?

They told us, "The only people who remember us, and help and visit us are Mission Without Borders, the church and 'Novi Most' (who work alongside the Mission)". They told us that the city authorities, other organisations and everyone else has abandoned them. And there is even talk of them being evicted soon.♦

This newsletter goes to all our **Family to Family sponsors**. It is sent by email to those sponsors who have given us their email address — so if you would like to receive future editions that way (and haven't this time), please email us and we will add you to our email list for the next one.

To remove your name from our e-mail list, or to request a paper copy instead, please email nzadmin@mwbi.org and put "Unsubscribe" in the Subject heading or call us on 0800 469 269 (Auckland 09 309 6969).

More F2F sponsors

We have had many new sponsors join our F2F programme in recent weeks. So if you are one of them, then a big WELCOME to you! And many thanks for becoming part of the answer for families that need a hand up.

Summer camps - F2F

Our F2F children are offered the chance to go to Summer Camps (June-July). For most, it is the first time they have ever had a holiday—and for some in Albania, it's the first time they've ever been to the beach (even if it's just a few kilometres away). It is life-changing for many.



You can follow aspects of our work on YouTube. Just search under "mwbit" and you will get all our video clips.

You can also find short videos on our web site www.mwb.org.nz.♦



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