

CRI FOCUS

Child Rescue International is the child sponsorship programme of Mission Without Borders

Hullo from us!

Dear CRI Sponsor

In late September to early October, 7 Kiwi supporters and sponsors went to Ukraine and Moldova to see our work there and meet sponsored children and families. We saw sponsored children in State Children's Homes and in Community Centres run by Mission Without Borders. CRI in Community is a new form of sponsorship in Moldova and Romania, where we reach children in their own communities who live in socially vulnerable living situations.

In Moldova, one of our tour group, Lynley, got to meet her sponsored child Dorina, who attends the Maranata Church Community Centre in Straseni, a town of 20,000 people, close to the capital, Chisnau. Some diary notes and photos about the visit are below.

Thank you for being a child sponsor. And if you have just become a sponsor, a very big **welcome** to you and thanks, it makes a huge difference in children's lives to know that someone outside of their situation knows and cares about them. And the practical love they receive gives them hope for the future, hope in a God who is by no means indifferent or uninvolved.

May God richly bless you in 2012,
from the MWB NZ Office



Dorina tucking into lunch.

NZ Sponsor Tours to Eastern Europe

For those who can, going to meet a sponsored child or family is an unforgettable experience.

Visiting countries in Eastern Europe, seeing the conditions, and seeing the commitment of Mission Without Borders' staff there, will leave a lasting impression. These are not our words but those of the group that has just been in Ukraine and Moldova.

We are looking at the possibility of offering a similar experience in 2012, travelling to another two countries in Eastern Europe.

We will update you in a later newsletter.

Visiting children at a Community Centre – Moldova

Andrew's Diary note – 3 October 2011:

After a visit to Chisinau Children's Home to see Jenny's sponsored girl, Tatiana, we go to Straseni Community Centre so Lynley can meet Dorina.

Thankfully it was only 30 min by reasonable roads to Straseni. We recognise Maranta Church and its little community centre room as we pull in.

We are met by Nicolai and his wife Dorica, and ushered into a room where more than a dozen children are waiting to meet us. Lynley recognises Dorina and there are quick 'Hellos'.

They sing to us with gusto – a Christian song. Nicolai plays the guitar and loves the kids – big smile.

We hand out balloons and the sweets we bought in Chisinau. There is laughter at the rude farting sound some make with their balloons – kids are same anywhere!



Having fun with balloons and lollies.



To see more about CRI in the Community and find out more about our work on YouTube. Just search under 'mwbit' and you will get all our videos.

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

CRI Focus continued

Nicolai asks the sponsored children to lift their hands – about two-thirds do. (These are CRI in Community sponsored children)

Two boys are wearing donated sweat tops given by The Warehouse and I can remember packing and sending them in the container last year!

The children are hungry and need to go home, having had school in the morning. Dorina stays. She doesn't say much but looks very sweet. A happy kid. She is eight. She stays and sits by Lynley, like a little VIP.

We go into the adjoining room where lunch is laid out for us on a dining table. It is the usual soup and bread



One of two boys wearing a smart NZ donated top.

followed by chicken, mashed potato and a fresh mixed salad plus bottled juice and water. Dorina doesn't waste any time. This is followed by a dessert of fancy-looking tarts with tea and coffee. Very nice – we complement the cook who is very unassuming and shy.

(Nicolai is a deacon in the church, runs the Community Centre and is the local CRI Coordinator for the 200 CRI children in the area. From 12noon – 2pm each day, the centre offers a good hot meal to roughly 25 elderly. Afterwards the enrolled children come to get a meal and do homework and other activities)



Friends (sponsor Lynley and Dorina, Moldova).

Nicolai tells us about Dorina. She has a brother and sister. Her father has gone overseas to get work, but is not coming back. Her mother is unemployed and struggling to raise three children – a typical scenario. She misses her father.

Lynley gives Dorina some gifts – a pullover she's knitted for her, hair clasps, warm pyjamas and fluffy slippers. With the help of the interpreter, Alexandra, she shows Dorina some photos of her home, family and animals.

Dorina tucks into one of the dessert tarts with relish!

Lynley picks her up and gives her a big hug and little Dorina doesn't mind at all.

Goodbyes are said outside and the little girl heads off happily with her schoolbag as well as a shopping bag full of gifts from New Zealand. She'll have a lot to tell her mother, brother and sister when she gets home.



Nicolai from MWB and Dorina

Looking for more child sponsors

In 2012, we will continue to look for more sponsors for the children in our Child Rescue International (CRI) sponsorship programmes. We still have children on our books living in State Homes or 'at risk' situations who need sponsors.

If you know of folk who may be looking to sponsor a child (or a family), please point them in our direction. We think sponsorship is a vital part of what we do for the poor and overlooked in Ukraine, Moldova and Romania.

Helping at summer camps

We already have 4 Kiwis who have said they are keen to help at summer camps in 2012. This is exciting for the children because they get to interact (in English where they can) with people from distant countries like New Zealand. They get to meet people who really care about them, enough to circumnavigate the world to be there! It is also great for the Kiwis who get to experience our camps and meet the staff, other volunteers and of course the children. If you are interested in helping in 2012, please get in touch with us early as the approval and planning takes time to arrange