

Missions Update -- Ukraine Orphan Ministry

Our ministry to the orphaned child in Krivoy Rog, Ukraine continues to grow as we share God's Love and Word to a group of lonely children hungry for both. This past year, over 1000 pounds of humanitarian aid was hand carried to the orphanages on our bi-annual trips. As we continue to live out our goal to minister to the orphaned child's mind, body, and soul, our year round, in country, ministry team "COMPASS," continues to grow, and now has 4 "full time" leaders, overseeing a group of 40 dedicated Ukrainian men and women, all who spend their free time, loving on and mentoring the orphaned child. Carried out through weekly planning and programming sessions with St. Paul team leaders, we work together to cast the nets to be "fishers of men," throughout the year, whether our church team is physically present or not.

Through the loving support of our clergy and staff, and through the generous donations of our congregation, we were not only able to maintain our daily programming in four different orphanages, we were able to provide for many extra physical needs in the orphanages as well. Replacing worn out kitchen equipment, replacing, or installing new, (where none had existed before,) hot water heaters and boilers, replacing or repairing issues with the orphanage buildings like drafty windows, worn out roofing, cracked heat exchangers, providing special medication and equipment for the orphanage medical facilities, providing televisions for several orphanage groups, providing personal duffel bags for the orphanages so that every child has something other than a garbage sack to keep their belongings in, as well as taking steps to provide special needs classrooms and expand our occupational therapy programs at our most remote, and most needy orphanage in the village, are all "extra" ways that we were able to share God's Love with the orphaned child this past year. In addition, we hosted two, week long, summer church camps at the orphanages, and, thanks to a very generous donation, we are now in the process of shopping for a van to be used by our ministry team in their daily work. This van will exponentially increase the number of orphaned children we can reach, and the number of hearts and souls God can use us, to win over, for Him! Through the continued love of our congregation, there are nearly 400 children today, and countless others since 2001 when this ministry began, who have experienced God's Love through the hands and feet of St. Paul and our ministry partners in Ukraine. More importantly, there are countless numbers of children, past and present, who know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, through the invitation He extends through us and our orphan ministry in Ukraine!

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