

# Support for the Ukraine Ministry

The question of where the money you donate to support the Family Centre is spent, sometimes comes up. Everyone knows there are costs to run a program, but what is acceptable? Here is a brief chart showing how the money was spent in 2012.

We want you to know, your prayers and financial support keep this program alive. You are part of God's answer to the prayer of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine in their time of need. Our hope is that these programs are models that are replicated and that at some point, the programs can be self-supporting and turned over to the local people to run as their own, not only in Zaporizhzhya, but in many other locations.

## 2012 Mennonite Family Centre Expenses

Direct Program Costs .....	\$112,990
Assistance to other organizations .....	15,112
Vehicle expenses .....	12,806
Bank and Money transfer costs .....	6,482
Accounting, Audit, Insurance, software...	13,953
Administration and travel .....	7,532
Fundraising & special events .....	11,835
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$180,710</b>
<b>Spent in Ukraine .....</b>	<b>\$147,390 = 82%</b>
<b>Spent in Canada .....</b>	<b>\$33,320 = 18%</b>

**YES, I WANT TO HELP THE NEEDY IN UKRAINE! USE WHERE MOST NEEDED.**  
 **I WANT MY DONATION TO GO TO THE SUSTAINING FUND FOR EXPANSION AND LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY**  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal/Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

*In Canada, make cheques payable and send to:*  
**The Mennonite Benevolent Society**  
**1045 Concordia Ave.**  
**Winnipeg, MB R2K 3S7**  
*Registered charity # 119244952 RR0001*

*In the USA, make checks payable and send to:*  
**The Mennonite Family Centre (USA) Inc.**  
**2955 Regent Ave. N.**  
**Golden Valley, MN 55422**  
*Registered charity # 83-0361680*

For information, contact Louie Sawatzky, Project Director, at the Canadian address above, or call (204) 253-3631, or email to [lnsaw@mts.net](mailto:lnsaw@mts.net) If you no longer wish to receive this Newsletter, please advise as well.

# BEACON of HOPE

*To the Friends and Supporters of the Mennonite Family Centre in Zaporizhzhya Ukraine*



by **Louie Sawatzky**  
Project Director

This Newsletter is meant to give you an update of the work of the Mennonite Family Centre in Zaporizhzhya, and is our accountability to you, friends and supporters of this ministry. This spring and summer in Ukraine has

brought warm weather and much better conditions than a year ago. Conditions for seniors and those on fixed incomes have not become lighter. Living costs continue to increase, and life for those on the margins is difficult. The Family Centre programs continue but have expanded in various areas. We have been blessed with your sup-

port and were again able to pay all expenses in 2012. In spite of the many negatives you may hear about the political situation, or corruption in Ukraine we have not had any obstacles in our way by government or other forces. We believe that is support for our work. We now have a total of 26 care providers working with the programs.

## Mennonite Family Centre in Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine

### Our Mission:

- To develop and initiate delivery of health and social services programs, based on Christian values from a Mennonite perspective, in the Zaporizhzhya community:
- for needy individuals with a primary focus on the elderly,
  - that train service providers and caregivers, and
  - that demonstrate and promote the principles of volunteerism, sustainability and a civil society.

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# Ministry Update

**The Home Care program** continues to be the biggest of our programs. We continue to expand

the program by adding clients most in need. We now have over 120 Home Care clients.



*The Day Program is for clients who are coping but are unable to work due to age, and for whom health needs, poverty and loneliness has become a new reality. With assistance, they are able to come to the Centre.*

are accepted based on need. We do not ask about church affiliation, but you find many have faith from which they draw strength. Care is determined by their individual needs. For some it is help with cooking and house cleaning, for some it is changing dressings and wound care and medications, and a

# Ministry Update continued

bath, and for all it is an opportunity to talk and have a visit.

I visited five clients again in April to see for myself. In all cases, clients did not have family that could help them. They are lonely and in desperate circumstances. Some are bed ridden. Some still have a spouse but that spouse is no longer able to help and is overwhelmed. For all of them, it was unbelievable that someone took the time not only to look in but to care, with a care worker returning week after week. They all expressed their deep gratitude, with many tears, for the help they are receiving. They all talked about how they thank God daily, and pray for those people who support this work.



*Mother (Raissa) and daughter Tanya live together in a 5th floor apartment but can cope only through help from the Centre.*

Meet one of the Home Care Clients: Raissa Jeriskova is 75 years old, a widow, living with her daughter Tanya, who is 45 years old. Raissa has problems with her back, and legs, and can't sit down

or walk without some help. Her daughter has Cerebral Palsy, and can get around only with two canes and someone to lean on to guide her. They live in a fifth floor apartment without a reliable elevator so normally can't go outdoors. Slowly, with some help, Tanya comes into the kitchen, and sits on a chair. She does not want to miss out in meeting us.

They lived in Russia for many years as a family, where Raissa's husband was in politics, and she was a well-known actress. Raissa proudly shows us her portrait on the wall. It is the portrait of a beautiful young woman at the height of her career. Then her husband's political rivals had him beat

up, and he died of his injuries. Mother and daughter had to flee for fear of their lives, and came to Zaporizhzhya. Because they are not Ukrainian citizens, Raissa has no pension in Ukraine, but must go to Russia every three months, to collect her small Russian pension. This is a real hardship but they have no other income.

**They cannot understand how it is that someone in far off Canada provides support, asking nothing in return. It is not enough to tell them it is because of our faith,**

**and in part, to honor the memory of our parents and grandparents. The only way they can understand this is that it is an answer to their prayers and we have been sent by God. "Spasieba, Spasieba Bolshoy, Slava Bohoh, Slava Bohoh" (thank you, thank you very much and thank God) they say as they hug me with their tears staining my cheeks.**

**This experience confirms again, this work is not a project, it is a ministry and it is not about us - it is about God, and His response to prayer. We are but his messengers; his visible hand.**

**The Respite Program:** This program has 6 beds for Respite Care. This part of the program involves the Pentecostal church, who supplies the workers (4 in total, and this is over and above the 26 listed above). These beds are usually taken, with many clients staying all year round. We supply the space to the church, we pay all utilities and maintenance, and also support the program financially.

**The Day program** is a program for clients able to come to the Centre for the day. When they arrive at 9:00 am, they have tea and a light snack, and then lunch at 12:00. Most of them make sure they don't eat everything so they can take a portion home. As is their custom, they ask the blessing before the meal, then stand around

the table again after the meal and give thanks.

We support a small clinic in Morosovka (Hochfeld) open one day a week. This has been important from the beginning, but since the country is not doing well economically, many hospitals are closing, so this becomes even more important. We have been very pleased with the "Feltcher" (Nurse Practitioner) who runs this clinic even though it is very basic medical care. Because this is a warm place, villagers often come for a bath at the small church housing the clinic, and also drop in just for a warm

place to be in winter. They then have conversations with the Pastor.

We continue to support the work of the Florence Centre, which is under the direction of Lucy Romanen, an Associate Professor of Social Work, and her team of energetic and well trained students and volunteers. The Centre works with schools to promote healthy lifestyles for young adults, they have a program for youth in the local jails, and have a program for children with special needs. We provide funds for the rent on the apartment they use for this work and for some salaries for specialists working with the children.

We continue to provide financial assistance to the small group called "Das Haus der Barmherzigkeit Menora" in Katusovka (Petershagen). This senior's care program is in the church building at Katusovka, with 9 widows living there. We are impressed at the way they are attracting local young people to work in this program; even taking on leadership roles. These clients (all are widows) have no home or family to go back to and would be homeless were it not for this program.

## Children with special needs

Two years ago we met with parents of children with special needs, through the Florence Centre. These children live as outcasts in society because of their disabilities. We challenged the parents to work together, rather than wait for the system to do something for them. As a result they formed a Parents Association, referred to as "Promitea". They now rent a large apartment and have a staff of 6 persons plus volunteers many of whom are University students. Parents of the children pay most of the costs. At a Children's concert in Winnipeg in December we were able to raise \$6,000.00 for this program. This money pays the rent for the apartment for one year. There are 27 children (from 8 months to 6 years old) which include children with Autism, Downs Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and various other special needs. Obviously they needed more space, but it was so interesting to see them addressing the various needs. They still receive about 2 calls a day from parents asking to have their children enrolled in the program. The hope is that many of these children will learn communication, social and other life skills and at some point be accepted



*These children are part of the "Promitea" program; an early learning Centre for children with special needs.*

in the school system. This is much more than a Day Care program and it came about through the parent's initiative and a change of attitude that has been so empowering for them. This program is rapidly becoming a model for other parents in the city.