

SUMMER MEMORIES

HERE ARE A FEW OF MY PERSONAL SUMMER MEMORIES FROM 2022

While I'm not typically any kind of a flag person, I couldn't help but wear this T-shirt on the 4th of July in Romania with my teen Ukrainian refugees – they loved it...and reluctantly so did I!



Our oldest refugee, Mr. Anatolli asked me for a couple of weeks if I could buy chickens for the camp. I finally found the time to buy 15 chickens and he renovated our 'coop' and the day I brought them said, "oh Debbie now I'm at home and I don't need to go back to Ukraine." He tends to them like his children and who knew such a little thing could bring so much joy!



A little 'pet therapy' is good for every age! There are many emotions during these trying times. There are happy days, sad days, melancholy days, bored days – but, any day pets enrich our lives. Each of these little ones have adjusted well to camp and little pets help. Each has processed being at a new 'home' and away from their dads for more time than anyone wishes in their own individual ways. Pets just help all the way around!

Thank you again to each and every donor and prayer partner who has provided for those in need. We hope to see you in person soon!

Yours in Partnership,

Debbie and your
HHMI Board

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR FUNDRAISING EVENTS!



HOME OF HOPE CELEBRATIONS!

Cristina came to the Home of Hope in June of 2019. She comes from a dysfunctional poor family and was recommended to our program from a local church. She had finished High School but had no possibility to go to college. This past June Cristina graduated with a degree in English and German Literature. She speaks fluent English and German and this next week will begin her Master's program in Business Administration.



During her time at Home of Hope Cristina has often volunteered at camp and with our Christmas and Easter programs. She enjoys working with children from vulnerable situations and can easily relate to their struggles. She has younger siblings that she is an example and mentor for.

Cristina will join us by Zoom at our in-person events and by livestream. Hoping you can join us to hear her own story of hope in her own words. Thank you to all that have provided for Home of Hope so that this incredibly bright young woman can indeed have a brighter future!



September has seen our young ladies prepare a Romanian favorite "Zacusca" vegetable spread; preparing and canning for winter. At far right – Sara, originally from Orlat, has learned to make a delicious Cheesecake!

CAMP OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD 2022 SEASON

With the refugees at camp, we decided to have a VBS day program at the Turnu Rosu Placement Center Monday-Thursday and an all-day of fun Friday at Camp of the Good Shepherd. We were blessed to have volunteers Brian at left and Gleb at right from Louisiana join us for the week of Turnu Rosu. With only 2 American volunteers that week we were also blessed to have returning Romanian leader, Ruth Rosian, and 4 young ladies from Home of Hope complete our team. The children were understanding of the situation and loved their day at Camp meeting the refugees but at the same time surely hope they will get to enjoy an entire week at camp next season.



In lieu of traditional camp we were able to provide a week of VBS to the Orlat Placement Center. This week we had 3 American volunteers join us, long-time volunteer Greg Seifert with his daughter Christy and grandson Jackson. They helped facilitate the VBS program at Orlat, providing for a fun and encouraging week to children in need at Orlat. We were rained out from taking them to camp on Friday so substituted a pizza party for our last day with them. Romanian leader Sebi Solomon shared important devotionals each day regarding the love and saving grace of our Lord Jesus. Pictured at **Right BELOW**: Greg, Christy, and Jackson saying goodbye to some of our refugees they lived with at camp. IF you're able to join us at either fundraiser you will also hear their stories!



We were able to have a full Monday-Saturday Camp with the children from Village Bible Club Ministry! We had 40 Romanian children and their capable leaders at camp and our refugee children also got to enjoy and participate! Our refugees helped and assisted as they were able for a blessed week.



UKRAINIAN REFUGEE UPDATE

Camp of the Good Shepherd continues to be home to Ukrainian refugees. This summer saw us take in two new moms with their children – here are their special stories.

Pictured at Right: Mom, Viktoria, thought she could wait out the war but when bombs started coming to her neighborhood, she knew it was time to flee. Her oldest son, Vlad, knew his soccer friend from school Vova was at Camp of the Good Shepherd. Vova assured them it was a safe and good place to come and so Viktoria, 16-year-old Vlad and 2-year-old Svyat arrived in June, leaving behind their husband and dad for the safety of Camp of the Good Shepherd. Like many of our refugees they are from the dangerous Eastern side of Ukraine. They have adjusted well into our community and have found a safe- haven for this season of life.



Pictured at Left: Grandmother Ludmyla, grandson Ivan and daughter Valentyna. This June also saw the arrival of this sweet family. The picture at left was taken upon their arrival in June. They are from the Donetsk region of Ukraine. Valentyna's husband is still there and is a coalminer. Valentyna is Ludmyla's only child and Ivan is Valentyna's only child.



In May, Valentyna was diagnosed with breast cancer. When it was time for her to see the Oncologist – the war had escalated to a point where even the doctors had left her area. One of Ludmyla's friends had found a refugee spot at a church just across the Romanian border. That church knew we had cared for a man with cancer and reached out to see if we could help Valentyna.

They arrived at Camp of the Good Shepherd on June 19th and through our contacts at our local hospital, Valentyna had her surgery in July.

In August her pathology came back, and she has a variant of Triple Negative Breast Cancer at Stage 2. She will complete her 4th session of chemotherapy this coming Friday, October 7th. She will take a short break and begin a second round of chemotherapy with a different formulation at the end of October.

The picture taken at right was taken September 26th. Though she has lost her hair she has not lost all of her joyfulness, fighting spirit, and strength. In the short time I've had the privilege to know Valentyna – personally accompanying her to her appointments, surgery, recovery, and all the waiting for answers... I can attest to her strength and faith. She feels the responsibility to be strong for her mom, her son, and her husband still in war-torn Donetsk. She is grateful for her place at Camp of the Good Shepherd and the care she is being given. WE thank each and every one of you that have contributed to Camp of the Good Shepherd for her care and ALL of our refugees in their time of need. We plan to have our refugees participate in the livestream at our CA fundraiser on November 12th – please join in by going to www.heartofhope.org and clicking on the link if you are not able to join us in person!

