

'I WAS SICK, AND YOU CARED FOR ME' (Matthew 25:36)



Mobile medical and dental clinics bring health care to rural regions and Gypsy peoples of Ukraine that are usually forgotten or ignored. For many it is the first time in their lives they've received proper medical and dental care.

Young Slavik unsealed a new toothpaste tube and squeezed some mint paste on his brush. "Doctors said I should brush my teeth every day to have a shiny smile," he commented seriously. "Not once a week, like I used to." He then earnestly demonstrated this important procedure.

Slavik and his family live in a Carpathian Mountain village in Western Ukraine. They don't have an indoor bathroom, so washing or brushing teeth normally takes place outdoors with well water.

This region of Ukraine feels like time has stood still, where a horse and buggy are the standard form of transportation. Jarring the senses back to the 21st Century is the prevalence of satellite TV dishes attached to 100-yr-old log homes dotted along the scenic hillsides.

Slavik admits brushing teeth was never important for him, but his recent visit to HART's mobile medical-dental clinic was convincing enough to change the little boy's idea of health and hygiene.

THE GIFT OF HEALTH

Starting early in the morning, mothers and their children are starting to queue up next to the **MEDICAL CLINIC on WHEELS**. For the next two weeks, these buses will serve as a paediatric and dental center for several neighbouring mountain villages.

A ministry leader will spend the day engaging the children and their parents while they wait for their turn to enter the buses. Christian literature is available to read or take home, and audio Bible stories are played for the children over speakers.

Most of those in line can hardly remember the last time they saw a doctor. Others, seeing a dentist for the first time are nervous and yet eager about it.

All services provided in the clinic are first class. Every child

undergoes a full medical examination and is given an official medical record sheet with recommendations, prescriptions, and basic vitamins and medicines, if needed.

The devoted team of paediatricians, dentists, and medical assistants see their work as a mission, not just a job. They are on the road serving in different parts of Ukraine, often sleeping on the buses, ready to sacrifice their comfort for a greater cause. **Their loving hearts for the children are just as important as the medication they provide.**

"There's a critical need for medical care in this region," the doctors exclaimed. "We see children with mental and physical development issues, malnutrition, skin diseases, and many intestinal issues. Some don't even have the faintest idea about everyday cleanliness or dental hygiene. Detecting the problems gives them a chance for a healthier future."

SAVING OUR KIDS

Luba has come to the Medical clinic with her three children, one of whom is in HART'S Child Sponsor Program. "It is truly a blessing for us," she says. "In our villages, we can only dream of quality medical diagnostics and treatment, not to even mention a free one. To see a dentist in our village – this is a luxury," she admits. **"Through this ministry, HART is literally saving our kids."**

Luba has brought up a problem endemic to the rural regions of Ukraine. Remote villages have no medical clinics or even a doctor's office. The nearest hospital may be 50-150 kms away,



which is prohibitive for most villagers who still use a horse and buggy.

One of the biggest challenges all people face is the cost of medical services and medicines. **Ukraine has an very expensive "free" health care system.** The "free" status is nominal, whereas the reality is that every medical service or procedure requires some form of payment.

It is no wonder that the HART medical clinics serving in the poorest regions of Ukraine are truly seen as a miracle from God and an answer to the prayers and needs of these people.

HISTORY OF COOPERATION

HART began its collaboration with the **MEDICAL CLINIC on WHEELS** (a USA-based ministry) in 2010. For roughly two months each spring & summer, clinics are set up at HART partner/project locations, serving vulnerable and underprivileged people, who don't have access to proper healthcare.



Our joint objective is not only to provide quality, free medical care, but to also share the Gospel with our patients and tell them about God's love and His healing power.

GYPSY VILLAGE CLINICS

One of the first clinics we arranged was in a Gypsy village in Western Ukraine. It was a community of about 2,000 people who'd never seen a doctor, let alone a dentist before.

The first challenge we faced was a cultural one. Since many Gypsies place little emphasis on personal hygiene, bathing usually occurs in the summer months at a local river or stream. The doctors were mortified that grungy, lice-infested kids would be coming into their clinics. So, we instructed the parents of the need to clean the kids up first.

HART workers and the local Gypsy pastor washed and showered the kids in his home, de-liced their hair, and gave them some decent second-hand clothing to wear. Next, they went happily off to see the doctors!

'I WAS IN PRISON, AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME.'

We also had a blessed opportunity to set up the **MEDICAL CLINIC on WHEELS** in a maximum security prison for juvenile offenders. Here, 14-18 yr old boys are locked away for up to 4 years. Most were abandoned as youngsters and prison is the only home they've known.

The boys were excited to receive proper dental care for the first time in their lives. Their stories of suffering for months with toothaches - without pain relievers - was shocking to hear.

They told us from time to time, an old dentist would come to the prison. However, they chose to endure pain rather

The children had to be showered and de-liced before they could enter the medical buses!



than allow him to work on their teeth. It became clear why, as the boys described the foot-pedaled mechanical drill (from the Soviet era) he still used!

One of the medical clinic doctors shared her thoughts about this experience: "Prior to entering the prison, I was truly afraid that something may go wrong in terms of security or contagious infections. But my conscience was telling me that I must do this work the way I would do it anywhere else. I opened my Bible and read in Matthew 25... 'I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Suddenly I did not have any hesitations."

"All of the boys were skinny and pale. They had many skin infections, but their teeth were in even worse condition because of their poor diet, lack of vitamins, and poor oral hygiene. Our help was so needed in this place."

"All of us could see in their eyes, how happy they were to receive our attention. Perhaps to feel someone's care may have reminded them of their mother's touch. Who knows when they'd last experienced this feeling."

"It was very emotional for them even to have a simple conversation starting with - 'How are you doing?'"

After their medical/dental treatments, the boys showered us with smiles and expressions of gratitude.

We pray our visit is a first step on a path that will help them change and have a good future, a Christian life, and faith in God."

GROWING MEDICAL NEEDS OPEN DOORS FOR HART

The needs for our medical projects seem to be growing as economic conditions worsen in Eastern Europe. **THANK YOU** for your support of them. **YOU ARE HELPING** us improve the health of vulnerable children, families, and communities.

We see how medical programs can transform children's lives - from a simple thing such as teaching Slavik the importance of brushing his teeth - to lessons on proper hygiene for the prevention of diseases.

More importantly, our medical ministries give us so many opportunities to share Christ's love with hurting people. A love that heals not only broken bodies, but broken spirits and broken hearts.

Thank you for working together with us to...

change the world - one heart at a time.

Lloyd Cenaiko
President/Founder



ways you can get involved

■ PRAY

Please pray for Ukraine's newly elected president. Most of us are cautiously optimistic about his desire to make the much needed changes in Ukraine, especially to fight corruption. Parliamentary elections are scheduled for the 3rd week in July. The next 3-4 months will be critical for the country of Ukraine. Much prayer is

✓ GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH - Support our Medical Projects



- **MEDICAL CLINIC on WHEELS.** Please consider supporting this important ministry giving health care to vulnerable children and families living in remote communities.
- **FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN in HART'S Child Sponsor Program.** 15-20% of HART's sponsored children have some form of disability that requires recurrent medicines, hospitalization, and medical care. These are not covered by the \$35/mo that sponsors contribute. **YOUR** gift to our **MEDICAL PROGRAMS** would be a huge help in assisting us to give additional health care to these children and their families.

- **FOR SENIORS in our "Sponsor a Senior" program.** Helping destitute seniors live in dignity, with a reasonable quality of life, means being able to assist in their Health Care. Please help us accomplish this goal by giving to our Medical Fund.

■ EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

HART's scholarship fund is providing post-secondary education to underprivileged youth, who, without **YOUR** support, could not attend university or vocational training schools. Starting in July, students will be sending in their application forms for a HART Scholarship for the upcoming academic school year.

Last year, we turned down many students, simply because we didn't have enough funds for all the qualified applicants. Here is a short letter of appreciation from one student who was able to go to university thanks to people like **YOU!**

"I can't express with the words how thankful I am to you. It is still hard to believe that such things are possible and that there are missions which help those who need it. I am thankful for every opportunity that I have thanks to you, for new knowledge and experience. I can't imagine my life without you! All love and gratitude to you will always be in my heart. I thank God every day for you! Thank you!!!"

■ SUPPORT CHRISTIAN ORPHANAGES

The goal of Christian orphanages that HART supports is to give abandoned children a much superior option than going to a Government run orphanage. These are horrible, abusive places for young kids to grow up in.

YOUR SUPPORT will help us save many kids from a destiny of drugs, alcohol, prison, or suicide.

"Every child is precious in God's eyes and has the right to develop fully the potential that God has put in them. The Christian values that we teach them change their way of life and world view. Thank you, dear brothers and sisters from HART, for your support, blessings, and prayers."

Liubomyr Zablontnyi, director of Grace Orphanage. Lviv, Ukraine

WHERE WE SERVE - EASTERN EUROPE



UKRAINE

Population: 45 million
Languages: Ukrainian, Russian
Main Religions: Orthodox (65%), Catholic (7.5%)
Protestant 1.9%, Islam 1.1%

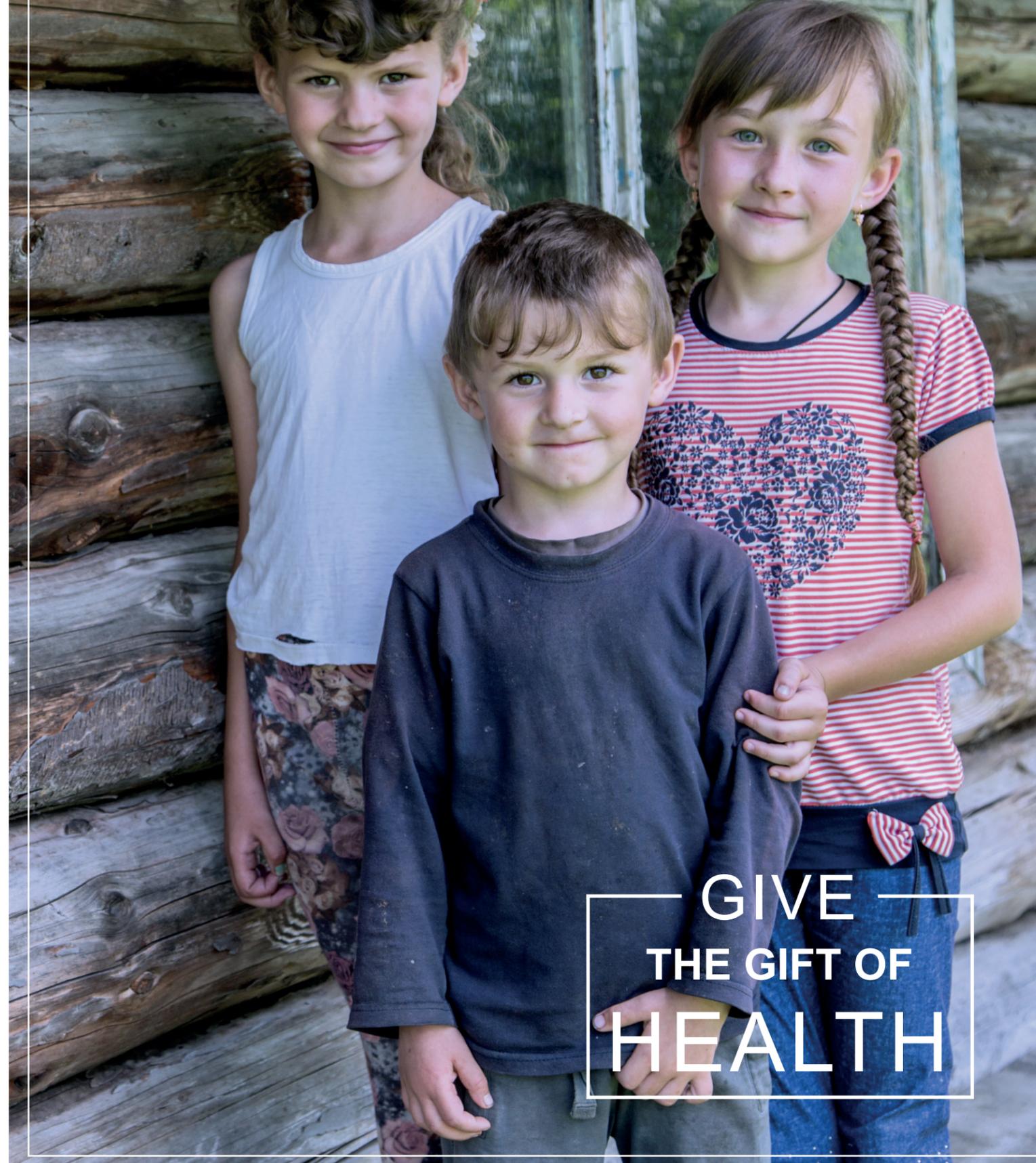
MOLDOVA

Population: 3.6 million
Language: Romanian, Russian
Main Religion: Orthodox (96%), Protestant (0.9%)

HART also serves and has partnerships in Romania, Russia, Georgia and Central Asia.

hartbeat

Humanitarian Aid Response Teams



GIVE
THE GIFT OF
HEALTH

 Humanitarian Aid Response Team
International Relief

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Tel: 403.230.8263 Toll free: 1.888.788.3880
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HART is audited annually by an independent accounting firm and our financial statements are available upon request. Our Board of Directors has established the policy that all contributions designated for specific projects shall be applied to that project, with up to 10% to be used if needed for administering the gifts. Occasionally we receive more contributions for a given project than can be wisely applied to that project. When that happens, we use these funds to meet a similar pressing need.

Life is too short,
the world is too BIG,
and **GOD'S LOVE** is
too great - to live an
ORDINARY LIFE