

# Hands of Hope News September 2023

## Thank you

for supporting us  
for reading this newsletter  
for encouraging us with messages  
for all the things you do that makes this work possible



## Romania

On September 11th, the children in Romania go back to school after their twelve-week long summer holiday. Our team have continued to give one-to-one teaching sessions, enabling the children to keep up with their learning.

At the end of August, we took some of the children to attend a 3-day bible school at a local church.

As an association (Lumina Pentru Copii, our partner charity) here in Romania, we have to comply with statutory legislation and undergo regular inspections. We are thankful that we passed all the requirements this year. We are also assisting a partner charity to process their paperwork.

Over the summer, we have shared much of the produce from our vegetable garden with the Cobila families and our neighbours. There is still a bumper crop of apples and plums to distribute and there seems to be more courgettes and tomatoes every day.

As this season draws to a close in Romania, we are already planning for next year. Winter tends to be a quiet time for many things as the temperature drops and snow is often present. Many people depend on seasonal work, some families still rely on the produce they have grown in the summer months which they have pickled and preserved.

People are resilient and make ends meet but there is so much uncertainty with rapidly rising prices, unpredictable seasons and war just over the border. Our prayer is that these people may know the peace and joy that Jesus brings with him.



## Ukraine

At the beginning of August, we spent five nights in Ukraine facilitating a holiday for 30 mothers and children who are all from Kherson. Many of them have known each other for years as they are part of a support group for children with additional needs. Some families fled their homes in the early months of the invasion. We first met those families in Ivano Frankivsk in June 2022.

It was wonderful to meet more of the group. For some families, it was their first time out from Kherson since the invasion. The emotional scars of war are evident in both the parents and the children. They often have "loud" days/nights with air raid warnings, missiles, and drones. The mothers had arranged activities designed to help the youngsters express their feelings. We also enjoyed delicious meals in the hostel and outings into the mountains. The families were so thankful to be in a safer area where there were only a few aid raid warnings.

When we are in Ukraine, we try to plan our stays around a Sunday so that we can attend the Ukrainian Assembly of God church in Chernivtsi. There is always a special time of worship, teaching and fellowship. We were thankful to share in a baptism service a few weeks ago and hear precious testimonies of lives changed through the love and relationship with Jesus. We brought a message of hope and encouragement using "The Four Points" in Ukrainian to share the Good News.

On our latest (and 21st) visit, we were there for three days. We drove to Zvenyachyn to see our friend Natalia and visit her school to plan a meeting for October when we hope to be there for four days to improve the WIFI/Internet in the school.

The next day, we drove up to Ivano Frankivsk to visit some of the families we had seen on the holiday break, share some food and enjoy a time together at a special café there. Just doing ordinary things can have extraordinary results, and we ate fantastic food in the bargain!



## Donations

Regular monthly donations are particularly welcome as it helps us budget for the year ahead.

Your generous donations keep the wheels turning in Romania and make a very real difference to peoples lives.

Bank details if you wish to set up a standing order or make a BACS payment are:

**Hands of Hope      Account no: 12629251      Sort Code: 55 91 00**

Cheques can be sent to "Hands of Hope",  
c/o C & R Baker, 14 Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BS or  
donations can be made via the  
Pay Pal link on our web site

[www.handsofhope.org.im](http://www.handsofhope.org.im)

