

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Moldova



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Message from the team

Bună ziua! Autumn in Moldova means gathering the harvest, weddings and making wine, as well as the beginning of a new school year. The month of September began with The Day of Knowledge (1 September), which is celebrated in our country in a special way. After a long period of almost three months of summer holidays, on 1st September all kindergarten, general schools, lyceums, universities and other private course centres open their doors for pupils, students and teachers. On this day in lyceums and schools, students from 12 forms; having children from primary classes; make a circle in front of the audience sending the message of the ring bell. In this way, children announce with the sound of the ring bell the opening of the doors of the education institution and invite everyone to their first lesson. This is also a big and important day for classes from first form as these children come to school for the first time. It is a moment full of emotions for children, parents, and teachers and all this happens at the meeting named *careu* (the moment when teachers, students and parents meet each other and tell poems about school, sing songs, teachers and directors makes opening speeches). In this day all around the country you will see children dressed nicely for the holiday with flowers in their hands which are intended for their teachers.

For Projects Abroad Moldova this month is important as at the beginning of September we said goodbye to our last volunteer from summer season, and welcomed our first volunteer for the autumn season.

This autumn we began to work with new Journalism partners from "Работай & Отдыхай" (Work & Rest) Journal, with whom we expect to have a long and productive collaboration.

The Projects Abroad Moldova team began the working season with Jillian Ganz from Australia, who was working at the "Работай & Отдыхай" Journal, and which had a warm and welcoming induction at her placement, host family and in general, in Moldova.

Other important moments are our new Medical projects in Dentistry; we begin to work for the first time with two volunteers who are interested in stomatology, and from these two projects we await great success, with high expectations.

We welcome all our new volunteers from this autumn, and thank you for choosing our destination for your projects!



Volunteer stories

Care 2 weeks special project

Greatest experiences in my life

By Paul Sibert from USA

My trip to Moldova was one of the greatest experiences in my life and I will never forget it. The first days could have been better, but that was just because I had to cross eight time zones to get there and combined with the heat, it was not pleasant. Soon it got better and I was able to start enjoying my placement. My first placement was "Motivation" which was wonderful. The staff were helpful if I needed assistance and it was overall a welcoming environment. Our week there was spent swimming in the mornings and in the afternoon, one of the volunteers would give a presentation about his/her country. Overall, the first week was very enjoyable and showed me that Moldova was a great place to be. This prepared me for my second placement at "Fantastic" daily care center. This placement was different because the children at the center had a lot more energy than me and I was tired at the end of each day. There were also a lot of activities that kept all the people involved, both children and volunteers. I don't think I had ever played so many games in my life, but the best part was just spending time with the other volunteers and enjoying what Moldova had to offer. The Projects Abroad staff were helpful when I had questions and were also supportive throughout the two week duration of the trip. The group excursions into parts of Chişinău were also enjoyable and interesting. The activities and work were well scheduled and I felt that our time was divided up effectively. My personal take-away from the trip was that there are a lot of very interesting people and places all over the world and I hope that one day I can visit them as well as return to Chişinău (this time as a tourist). I also learned some important things while meeting some great people and I only hope that I can have that great a time back here in the U.S. Finally, I just want to thank all of the staff of both centers and of Projects Abroad for helping me to have this once in a lifetime experience.



Business project

Pariez sur la Moldavie!

De Thomas Borel, France



Je m'appelle Thomas Borel, j'ai effectué mon volontariat en Moldavie, à Chişinău dans le projet Business pour découvrir comment gérer un commerce en Moldavie. Étudiant en classe préparatoire commerciale en France, c'était le secteur idéal pour mon volontariat. Avant d'arriver en Moldavie je ne connaissais rien de ce pays à part l'existence d'une région séparatiste, lieu de tous les trafics en Europe, c'est dire l'image que j'en avais! Mais ce n'est pas la raison de mon choix. Je suis venu en Moldavie parce que je voulais avoir l'occasion de perfectionner mon russe et je voulais découvrir un pays d'Europe de l'Est trop souvent méconnu en France. A mon arrivée, j'ai tout de suite été

pris en charge par les membres de Projects Abroad moldaves qui m'ont donné mon premier aperçu de la Moldavie par un tour de la ville et le détail de mes activités durant mon séjour. Je tiens à les remercier ici car c'est entièrement grâce à eux que mon séjour s'est bien passé et que j'ai pu bien m'intégrer à la vie moldave. Le logement en famille d'accueil est aussi un très bon moyen pour découvrir le quotidien du Moldave lambda. Ma famille d'accueil a été particulièrement attentionnée envers moi en m'invitant plusieurs fois à leur "dacha" dans un village situé à une heure de Chişinău et où j'ai réellement pu découvrir le mode de vie de ce pays et ses traditions. J'ai eu la chance d'avoir des cours détaillés sur la production de miel de la part du père de ma famille d'accueil, apiculteur. Lors de mon volontariat, j'ai été amené à travailler dans deux entreprises moldaves, une de céramique: Dalia et un distributeur de journaux étrangers : Deleu-Delev. Ce stage m'a permis de me rendre compte des difficultés que pouvaient connaître les entrepreneurs particuliers dans un pays où la paperasse et les démarches administratives sont très longues. J'ai aussi pu constater que les Moldaves sont des gens prêts à travailler énormément pour gagner ce que l'on considère en France comme un salaire de misère (le salaire moyen est de 200 Euros par mois) et cela m'a beaucoup impressionné. Mes responsabilités n'étaient pas très importantes, mais j'ai pu humblement participer à la vie entrepreneuriale en prenant contact avec des clients ou des fournisseurs étrangers, ainsi qu'en donnant un coup de main à l'élaboration du site des entreprises. A côté de mon stage, j'ai aussi pris du temps pour visiter. Bien que le patrimoine historico-culturel de la Moldavie ne puisse pas vraiment être considéré comme très riche, certains endroits méritent largement le détour à Chişinău. C'est le cas de nombreux musées et bâtiments que j'ai visités seul ou lors des sorties culturelles hebdomadaires organisées par Projects Abroad. L'histoire de la Moldavie est très intéressante et vaut le coup d'être connue. On peut aussi profiter du séjour en Moldavie pour aller visiter d'autres pays frontaliers, c'est ce que nous avons fait avec d'autres volontaires quand nous sommes partis en Roumanie, à Bucarest, pour un week-end.

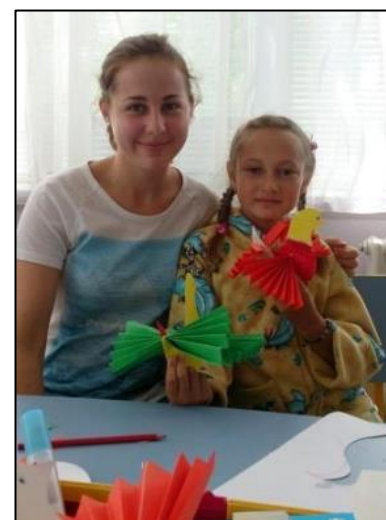


Care project

Meine Arbeit im Onkologischen Institut

By Sheila Honegger from Switzerland.

Nach vier Stunden Flug, mit umsteigen in Kiew, war ich endlich in Chişinău gelandet. Eine Mitarbeiterin von Projects Abroad hat mich vom Flughafen abgeholt und gleich zu meiner Gastfamilie gebracht. Am nächsten Tag hatten ein anderer Volunteer und ich unsere Einführung mit einer Besichtigung der Stadt. Ich hatte meine ersten Eindrücke von Moldawiens Hauptstadt und war total begeistert! Als ich am zweiten Tag meine Arbeit im onkologischen Institut in der Kinderabteilung begann, hatte ich noch ein kribbliches Gefühl. Ich sah die Kinder und hatte mit der Tatsache etwas Mühe, dass diese Kinder Krebs haben und nicht alle eine Chance haben, wieder gesund nach Hause fahren zu können. Mit der Zeit aber hatte ich mich daran gewöhnt und ich ging jeden Tag voller Freude zur Arbeit! Ich hatte von Zuhause viel Material zum Basteln (farbiges Papier, Farb- & Filzstifte, Schablonen, etc.) mitgenommen. So konnte ich mit den Kindern z.B. Gesichtsmasken, Geburtstagskarten, Figuren aus Knete, Origami, Armbänder und Hand- & Fingerabdrücke machen. Wir haben auch viele Puzzles gemacht, UNO und Memory gespielt. Die Kinder waren alle zwischen drei und siebzehn Jahre alt, was manchmal etwas schwierig war, denn für die Einen ist manches zu schwierig und für andere zu einfach. Aber ich konnte ein gutes "Mittelmaß" finden und so konnte ich mit allen etwas Passendes gestalten. Die ganze Zeit war auch meine Gastmutter, sie war gleichzeitig auch meine Übersetzerin, bei mir. Ich hatte eine sehr gute Beziehung zu ihr und war sehr froh um ihre Hilfe. Vor allem am Anfang war es schwierig, da ich noch gar nichts kannte und auch noch kein Russisch sprechen konnte. Ich hatte 14-Lektionen Russisch-Sprachkurs gebucht, was sich für mich sehr gelohnt hat. Die Doppelstunden waren immer sehr intensiv, aber ich habe sehr viel profitiert in diesen drei Wochen. Auch mit den anderen Volunteers hatte ich eine sehr gute Beziehung. Wir haben uns sehr oft getroffen und ausgetauscht. Wir hatten sogar eine kurze Busreise nach Bukarest unternommen, was sehr spannend war und viel Spass gemacht hat. Abschliessend kann ich sagen, dass ich eine wunderschöne, intensive und lehrreiche Zeit in Moldawien hatte. Ich habe mich in das Land, die Leute und in den Lebensstil verliebt und war sehr traurig als ich wieder nach Hause ging. Auch der Abschied im Institut von den Kindern war viel schwieriger als erwartet. Ich kann wirklich jedem empfehlen, einen Volunteereinsatz mit Projects Abroad zu machen und natürlich ganz speziell in Moldawien!



Donation

This summer the Projects Abroad Moldova team facilitated one very important donation thanks to our volunteer Miss Rebecca Goodchap from Australia. Miss Rebecca Goodchap made a donation to the Oncology Institute, Pediatric Cancer Department, and with the help of Projects Abroad Moldova staff members it was possible to transfer this donation to the hospital.

No border can prevent good things from happening

By Eugenia Doros, Social Assistant of Projects Abroad Moldova.

Children with severe diseases, hopeless parents and doctors who try with the few resources available in the hospital to do their job: this is the first impression that the Pediatric Department of the Institute of Oncology of Moldova has on the visitors. This life has taught us that pain doesn't make any difference and it's the same for everyone around the world. The first question that the mothers of the small patients usually ask our volunteers is if in their home countries, the people also suffer from this disease. The best answers for such kind of questions always come from a specialist, so really useful conversations could be found between the Moldovan patients and the Australian volunteer, who participated at a Care Project in Moldova in November 2013, Rebecca Goodchap. Besides the professional advice and explanations given with kindness to the Moldovan patients, having

a rich work experience as a nurse in an Oncology Hospital in Australia, Rebecca was stunned and outraged at seeing the conditions in which the nurses work here in Moldova. With simple gloves and lab coats; straight into the ward, without any ventilation system or any other kind of protection, our nurses prepare the chemotherapy and administer it to the children. The huge risk they expose themselves to is so evident, though this is one of the big disadvantages of working in one of the poorest country in Europe. While our state looks helpless unable to find solutions for this situation, not long after finishing the project in Moldova, Rebecca organized the "Moldovan Bake sale", a fundraising event in Australia, where together with people with big hearts, she raised an large sum of money, all of it used for purchasing medical supplies for the Oncology ward. Throughout the various things that have been sent, perhaps the most valuable is the protective clothing for chemotherapy and canellas of small sizes: chemotherapy equipment for nurses and canellas for children. The truth is that although it was sent in spring, the donation was received at the end of summer staying at Moldova Customs for almost half of the year. The complexity of legal procedures, our inability to solve problems, or simply Moldovan red tape- it's difficult to say what was the biggest obstacle in collecting the parcel and using its content, but one thing is for sure: it made all of us work together as a team, being all connected by one common goal: doing a good thing!



Looking back, it's amazing how many people got involved in it: beginning with Rebecca and all her friends in Australia, Projects Abroad Moldova's Staff, and finally employers of the Oncology Institute - nurses, doctors, accountants and lawyers. Yet, the most difficult was for Rebecca, being so far away and waiting on good news. She gave us an amazing example of how a good person should be, during all this time she taught us how to have patience, and instead of getting nervous, to find solutions and how right she was! Visiting the children's ward now, with the donation finally been taken, it's a real pleasure. Everyone is so grateful to the Australian volunteer for whom the distance is not an obstacle in helping people in need. As every experience is meant to teach us something, this one taught that actually there is no border (or customs) that can prevent good things from happening!



A Thank you word from Projects Abroad Moldova

Donations made by volunteers in destinations

One of the more important works, which is appreciated by the local community and which should be mentioned is the help of our youngest volunteers. Volunteers from the Care 2 weeks special project, together with Projects Abroad Moldova performed a charity act by painting benches and other objects in front of the Community Center for Children and Young and Fantastic Daily Care Centre. Administration and children from these centres expressed their deep gratitude to Paul, Tessa, Hannah and Elisa for their very useful work and contribution to keep the educational centres clean and in good working order. This is a definite indication of goodwill and good faith from their part and "Thank you all" for this magnanimous act.

We want to express our sincere thanks to Miss Catherine Henry for her active participation in the work with children and staff from Centre for Childhood, Adolescence and Family, and for her financial contribution during excursion (pedaling the catamaran, ice cream, transportation, etc.) with the children to the lake and swimming pool. We were truly touched by her thoughtfulness and concern for the Moldovan children. Projects Abroad Moldova paid the daily entrance of the children from Childhood, Adolescence and Family centre to the swimming pool. Thank you for making our children feel special by giving them such lovely memories.



Our ex-supervisor, Natalia Garleanu who returned recently from Russia to Moldova made a donation consisting of winter clothes for children and adults from our charity centre.

Finally, we wish to thank all people we have mentioned above and those who work from shadows for their generosity and goodwill and earnestly request you to develop this relationship further as thanks to each small help, you make the life of the Moldavian children easier by enriched with unforgettable memories about good people for all their lives.

Photo page



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ocial media

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and information about Projects Abroad Country Blog:

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