



ProjectsAbroad

Salutare Moldova

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTERS OF PROJECTS ABROAD MOLDOVA



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Inside –Out

Sireti Monastery



The **Sireti Monastery** is situated 16 km from Chisinau and was erected on December 10, 1998, the day of the prayer of Saint John Jacob the Persian.

The base was established on May 24th, 1994. At that time the construction was started as well.



The first abbot of the monastery was high-priest Porfirie Dobre. Under the supervision of father abbot, one year was enough to build the church. On September 27th, 2000, the day of the Saint Cross Raising, the cross of the new building was hallowed by Petru Paduraru. The monastery was hallowed and dedicated to the Saint Jacob the Persian festival on October 29th, 2000. Together with the Mitropolitan Bishop of Basarabia and priest Petru, Casian Craciun, bishop of Dunarea de Jos, served as well.

In the church of the monastery had been deposited the relics of Saint Jacob the Persian that were brought to Sireti from the Dragomirna Monastery, Romania.

The monks at the Sireti Monastery have the intention to build a refectory, a body of cells, a fence around the place, a succursal and a well.



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Volunteer Corner

Medical experience

By Hope Hendricks, NORTH CAROLINA, USA



I was raised in a small North Carolina town on the east coast of the United States, and stepping off of the plane in Chisinau, Moldova felt like stepping into an entirely different world. Though I had tried to anticipate the abrupt change in culture and environment over the months leading up to my trip, I quickly learned that it is impossible to prepare for such an inundation of the unfamiliar and unknown.

I arrived in Moldova on May 24th, 2011, a Tuesday, to begin a month-long placement in the various hospitals around Chisinau. I am about to enter my third year of undergraduate school at North Carolina State University with a major in Human Biology. Having the chance to shadow in a hospital five days a week is an amazing opportunity for me and a good foundation for my future goals of getting into medical school and becoming a pediatrician. But there are hospitals everywhere, so the reasons I chose to come to Moldova lie more in the culture and the adventure of living and working in a country I know nothing about.

Most of my family and friends had never heard of Moldova when I told them of my trip, and I don't think any of them knew where it was. I, too, knew very little about the country. And that is why I decided to come to Moldova; the mystery makes the country so interesting and appealing from the outside looking in. Many of my fellow volunteers have told me that this was a factor in their decision as well.

One of the first adjustments I had to make was to the food, not only to the taste but also to the quantity! At every meal the portions are huge, and you are kindly expected to eat all the food on your plate. At first I could barely eat half the food I was given, but the longer I am here the more I am able to eat, and I have found that there are many foods my host mother prepares that are delicious and unique. The main thing to emphasize when it comes to Moldovan food is that it is fresh. All the vegetables used to make salad, the jams, honey and bread, are bought at the market fresh or grown at home. The eggs I eat every morning come from my host family's chickens. In Moldova this is nothing special, but in countries like mine where so much of the food is packaged and covered in pesticides, eating natural and chemical-free food is almost unheard of or way too expensive.

One of the pleasant surprises I experienced on my first day walking around the city was the beautiful parks at the center of Chisinau. For a city so large, heavily populated and bustling with life, the oasis of green behind Stefan cel Mare statue and surrounding the cathedral is welcoming and beautiful. Day to day activities in the city can be stressful—from catching the trolley bus or waving down the mini-bus, weaving in and out of the packed open market or simply trying to cross the street. Walking under the cool shade of the trees or relaxing on one of the benches and enjoying the free Wi-Fi is a great way to forget you're in a huge city and take a much-needed break.

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In all the excitement of exploring a new culture, I haven't forgotten why I am here, and that is to gain more experience in Medicine. Though I have only been working for a week I have seen more than I ever imagined I would in the E. Cotaga Republican Hospital for Children. Many of the doctors and nurses have expressed excitement and enthusiasm in teaching me about their hospital and their work, and have allowed me to observe the amazing things they do to save children's lives. I wasn't sure whether I would be allowed to see a surgery, and I have already seen six. Much of my positive experience has been due to my wonderful translator, Liuda, who is confident and determined to help me learn all that I can and is already very knowledgeable about how the hospital and its staff works, and how to maximize the experiences every day.

While I spent the first week of my trip at the E. Cotaga Hospital, I will rotate to several other hospitals in the coming weeks, including an emergency hospital and a mother and child hospital. I know that my knowledge will only expand with each new setting and the experiences it presents. I look forward to learning and seeing so much more, not only in the hospitals and the city but also in the outlying villages and areas that enrich the culture and history of Moldova.



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Volunteer Corner

Teaching Project

By Robyn Caron, CONNECTICUT, USA



Some closing remarks about my five weeks in Moldova: In the morning I will fly home and to my great sadness, leaving the magnificent country of Moldova. My time here has been amazing- made possible by all of the wonderful people I have had the privilege of meeting along the way. From the volunteers, to my host family, to my students, to the random people who have thanked me in the park for coming to Moldova (yes that happened today), I am so lucky to have encountered all of you. As sad as I am to leave, I will never forget this experience and all that I have learned from it. I have always believed that whenever you meet someone or have even a seemingly unimportant experience (like buying bus tickets for example, or taking a cold shower, or trying to open the door) it has the potential to change you and I know that my experiences over these past five weeks have indeed changed me in a very positive way.

My last day here was spent well- in the morning, Brian (volunteer - Teaching Project) and I went to the children's home again. When we left I got to say goodbye to all the kids and they gave me one of the best hugs I have ever received (although Connor - volunteer in Teaching Project, this evening was also a good one). Even though I was not able to work with them for very long, I hope that my presence at least suggests to them that there are people in the world who care and that they have not been forgotten. After we left we got some lunch at a wonderful cafeteria and I completed my shopping. In the evening I went out with all the volunteers for a final dessert together. I will miss everyone quite a lot, as they have been a big part of why I have loved my time here so much. I am so lucky to have had this opportunity- I know it's a cliché to say that I will treasure my memories of Moldova, but I truly will. And maybe if I am lucky enough, I will be able to come back to make even more memories.



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Donation

June Donations



We would like to say thank you to all those who contribute with a donation for the children from Moldova. Thank you to Brenda Curry, Ian Simon and company "Tyne & Wear Sport", who sent a set of clothes for the children from Moldova's orphanages. Projects Abroad Moldova staff helped to distribute the donation of t-shirts to the children with Down Syndrome from "Start" orphanage. This donation was made on 1st June, on Children's Day.



Also on this day, our partners from "Start" Daily Care Centre celebrated 10 years of activity. The donation from Brenda Curry, Ian Simon and company "Tyne & Wear Sport" was a double holiday for these kids.



Beate and Verena made a donation to Social Centre "Fantastic", both of them donated the children's favorite game "Schokohexe", the children liked this present very much.

In June, Projects Abroad Moldova, on behalf of our volunteers Verena and Beate, made this donation: balloons were bought for the celebration of June 1, and they paid for the work for plate/tiles to be put in the toilet of "Casa Gavroshe" Orphanage.



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A significant donation was made by Carl Lévesque, Business volunteer from Canada. Carl Lévesque has made donations to some orphanages in Moldova. He made a donation of 1000 lei for the Republican Orphanage. Carl and the direction of the orphanage bought some toys and games for the children using the money.

Another important donation was made for the Specialized Children's Orphanage from Tarigrad, Moldova. Carl donated shoes for girls and boys: about nine pairs of shoes, clothes, soap and washing powder, etc. Project Abroad also made a donation for these children which consisted of 10 kg of oranges. The children of Specialized Children's Orphanage from Tarigrad, from the North of Moldova, have organized for Carl and Projects Abroad staff a short instrumental concert. This was a way of saying:

Thank you!



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Photos page

Volunteers' Happy Moments



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Events

Anthropological expedition to Baroncea

By Galina Rogovaia, author and host of TV program «СВИТАНОК»



Projects Abroad volunteers went to visit the Trinity feast in the Ukrainian village Baroncea from north of Moldova, in the district of Drochia for becoming acquainted with our multiethnic country, its people and customs. The Trinity feast is very respected among the Orthodox population from Moldova. The volunteers of the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland and Japan who arrived in Moldova to selflessly work in orphanages, hospitals and educational institutions to make good things where needed, and to celebrate this day with people from Baroncea. The trip was

organized by Projects Abroad Moldova, which is working with foreign volunteers, and the purpose was for organize a closer entry to our country and to show the life of people from Moldova.

In Baroncea, dear guests have met Mihail Rotar, the mayor of Baroncea, who briefed the visitors curious about the history and the modern village, with the institutions of social infrastructure: a kindergarten, a library, the house of culture, health posts, schools and streets where the feast was spent in the village. Characterizing the commune of Baroncea, the mayor said that it consists of 2 villages: Baroncea and New Baroncea. Baroncea was established in 1723, the New Baroncea was established in 1925. If we compare the age of old Baroncea and the neighboring Gribova and Chetrosu villages, the age of Baroncea is over 100 years. The unusual name and the creation of the village explained the history. It has Cossack origin. The date of the establishment of the village is 1723, it is quite convincing. It coincides with the beginning of punitive actions of the Russian tsarist against Zaporizhzhya Sich. Freedom-loving Cossack did not reconcile with the imperial government and the restriction of their liberties, and rioted, but in the end, the families left Dniester cliffs and crossed the Dniester, where they founded their settlements on the territory of Moldova, where there was no serfdom. The name of the village is in accordance with the name of the Cossack village Ivancea from Orhei area. Villagers are interested in the history of the village and proud of it.

Baroncea is home to about 1700 people and they all tend to work the land in agricultural production. The mayor of the village, Mihail Nicolaievici Rotari, has described his countrymen as an extremely hospitable people. Especially during the holidays, they will not leave the guests without one meal. The Trinity is a special celebration! On this day, every house from the outside is decorated with green branches nut and lime, and inside with fragrant flowers korovatika, mint and thyme.



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This 12th great feast, is one of the most important holidays of Orthodox churches from the 12th feast number, demonstrating the unity of all living things in the world as God's creation, magnifying the summer; warm and green. The Trinity customs combines the Christian and pre-Christian character. One of these practices is to clean the world from all evil, bad and unclean just with herbs. After all, according to ancient beliefs, especially active in these days are mermaids in the surrounding forests and lakes! Get rid of the mermaids you can only decorate the head with a wreath or a bouquet of fragrant herbs.



Guests have admired the lovingly restored church, even though this was a very old village church built in 1839, they attended the religious ceremony. The priest of the church, father Ivan, not only serves in the church, but also helps the school in the moral upbringing of children.

Later, the high school students have pleased the foreign visitors with the representation of ceremony of "Troita" (Trinity), "green" rituals. Ancient customs and traditions, artistically have been presented by a lovely "Родничок" (SPRING) ensemble from the school band, their members are under the leadership of Artistic Director, Lilia Stati. It is in democratic times that the national minorities from Moldova, including Ukrainians, had an opportunity to define themselves nationally, to learn their native language, to develop the unique culture and keep their ancient traditions. The people from the Ukrainian village want to be familiar with their native language and traditions.

So the decision to introduce the teaching of Ukrainian language and literature "- told guests headmaster Valentine Markoch. In addition, from 1 to 9 classes in high school are taught the history and traditions of the Ukrainian people. The children like it very much. "The fact, the children like the traditional culture was obvious. Presented in the performance of pupils "Trinity" ceremonies (Troita) consisted of the original Ukrainian songs and dances, glorifying the summer heat, sun, zelo, youth and beauty. Decorated wreaths, captured by the ancient melodies, the guests could not resist and willingly began to dance together with young artists of the school band" Родничок" (SPRING), Moldovan dancing "Hora" and Ukrainian "Норак".

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At the end of the stay in the village Baroncea, foreign visitors (volunteers) have experienced the famous hospitality of Ukrainians. Festive table was lined with traditional Ukrainian dishes. Here, picturesque neighbors soup and sour cream, jelly and stuffed cabbage, bacon and poppy cakes, fresh vegetables and pickles, bagels and ... vertuty. The holder of this event, Igor Fonari, paternally took care of his volunteers because they seem to be the first time when they were trying such dishes ... However, young volunteers, have tried all offer of the dishes!

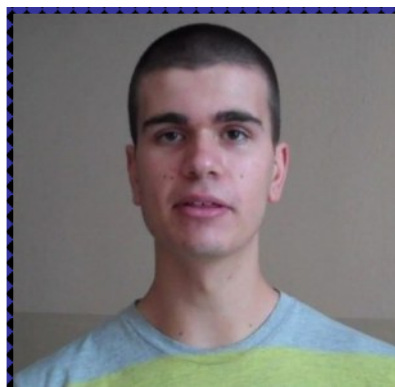
The recording in the album of baroncheskoy gymnasium of the distinguished guests is full of enthusiastic words with exclamation points: "A wonderful trip! Wonderful people! Beautiful day! Unforgettable!" - So these were the opinions of the guests regarding the visit to a small Ukrainian village Baroncea from the Drochia area.



Connor Mellegers' Birthday, 16 June

Projects Abroad Moldova staff wishes you be filled with sunshine and smiles, laughter and love, a gathering of friends, great happiness and a joy that never ends. We hope your birthday blossoms into lots of dreams which will come true! We wish you to be blessed and have many loving people around you, peace in the soul and health. Let the god decorate each rain drop which will reach you with wishes of success and prosperity.

Happy Birthday!



Peasant Soup



Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 pound bacon, cut into small pieces
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped shallots
- 1 leek, sliced
- 2 stalks celery, chopped, with leaves
- 5 cloves garlic, sliced
- 2 cups dry mixed beans, soaked overnight
- 3 carrots, sliced
- 1 turnips, cubed
- 1/2 small head cabbage, finely shredded
- 4 quarts vegetable stock
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Heat the oil in a large pot over medium high heat. Stir in the bacon and sauté just to render the fat out of the bacon; do not cook until crisp. Then add the onions, shallots, leek, celery and garlic and sauté for about 5 minutes, stirring frequently.
2. Then, add the beans, carrots, turnip and cabbage along with enough vegetable stock to cover (about 4 quarts). Allow to simmer for 2 hours, or until vegetables are to desired tenderness. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Enjoy the meal.

Social Media

We invite all of you to join our Facebook Group: **Projects Abroad Moldova-The Official Group**: You will find here useful information, photos, and news about the projects, and information about Chişinău's events. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71172725834> .

A monthly update with Projects Abroad Moldova Newsletters: <http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/moldova/newsletters-from-moldova/>

and information about Projects Abroad Country Blog:

http://www.mytripblog.org/mod/blog/group_blogs.php?gl=true&group_guid=2943