

Asociatia Obsteasca

La VIA

Annual Report 2020



Vision/Mission

A transformed world in which each person is loved, valued and empowered to achieve their full potential. A.O. La VIA builds community among the vulnerable and the marginalized: children and their families. We create a space of respect and hope, offering equal chances of holistic healing through practical activities that all contribute to their rehabilitation and integration into society.



Thoughts on 2020

We didn't know what we had until we lost it. The year of 2020 was a moment of awakening to the incredible gift we have at La VIA Community Center. We are made for relationships and social connection. The loss of community was sorely felt when we were suddenly required to stay home, isolate ourselves from each other and keep a distance. During the initial lockdown in March thru May, found ways to connect virtually, but discovered it just isn't the same. For children and families without unlimited internet access they found themselves once again on the margins and excluded from these virtual connections and on-line learning opportunities.

For our staff community at La VIA, 2020 was also a year of painful pruning as we said goodbye to one of our educators and also our national director of ten years. Most painful was the inability to properly celebrate their service with us, due to restrictions that prohibited gathering together in large numbers. We also reached our ten year anniversary as an NGO, but again, chose not to celebrate together as we had hoped.

So we are sore from the pruning, tender from the disconnection, but we enter 2021 hopeful that God is still growing us as a community. He is shaping us like a potter molds his clay. We may not see the final shape yet or the summer fruit yet, but we cling to

our hope in the One who is faithful to provide, and we seek to listen to the voice of the Shepherd leading us onward.

With hope,

Rachel Dyachenko

Director of Advocacy

COVID-19 Crisis Response



A.O La VIA staff organized a crisis response program during the initial lockdown through which we contacted each family by phone to assess their needs and offer support. Since that time more than 15 families have begun to contact us regularly for advice on financial matters, for help finding jobs, for medical advice, legal help, etc. Before the pandemic, parents rarely contacted us for support with personal matters apart from money or food.

The practical help we offered included:

- 1 family was received in a Safe Home for victims of domestic abuse
- We distributed over 2 tons of dried goods and 1 ton vegetables(mostly potatoes)
- 2 women completed vocational training
- 4 families received help with rent and utilities
- 4 families received financial help
- 15 children participated in our summer day camp
- 3 children received free dental care



Highlight

Hampers of Hope was a fundraising campaign organized by friends Tim and Ellie Button from the UK in the weeks leading up to Christmas 2020. They exceeded their fundraising goal of 2,000 GBP and through radio broadcast and social media they sensitized the public to the needs of the vulnerable in Moldova. The goal was to provide forty families with a generous basket of food for the Christmas and New Year holiday. Over the course of three days, the baskets were filled and distributed, an act of kindness through which each family experienced the abundance of Christ's love. A highlight of this event was that ten of LA VIA beneficiary families invited a neighbor or friend to come along and receive the gift basket as well. One mother was heard to say as she made her way home, with tears in her eyes, "I never believed that anyone would offer me help."

Impact and Growth

- 6 new partnerships with local schools, non-profits and businesses (Mixbook, Food Bank "Diaconia", Association Against Violence "Casa Mioarei", Heritage International School, Vadim Furtuna (lawyer), Open Gate International
- 34 new financial donors
- 40 families including over 150 individuals impacted by La VIA programs/services
- 31 children of which 7 were new children enrolled in La VIA afterschool program

Administration

In September 2020, La VIA reorganized the Board of Directors and appointed a new Executive Director, now called Administrator. Seven members met in October 2020 via zoom with the reorganized A.O. La VIA board of directors.

Board Member	Position	Years serving
Graeme Innes	President	1
Elena Putina	member	1
Igor Putina	member	1
Rachel Dyachenko	member	1
Vitaliy Dyachenko	Administrator (ex-officio)	1
Aurica Saftiuc Peters	member	1
Oxana Sutreac	Censor	8

Finance

Due to the unprecedented events of 2020, La VIA was unable to host the annual sleep away summer camp, nor the annual staff retreat. These changes altered our budget over the course of the year. Instead, a greater percent of funds went toward direct emergency relief for families in need to support food security and housing security.

Finance	2019	2020
Income	\$30,952.48	\$37,119.00
Expenses	\$32,306.77	\$36,539.26



Testimonial

“My first interaction with WMF was during outreach with YWAM in Africa, Sierra Leone. I was deeply touched and amazed by the people who work there, by their commitment and love for the community. There I learned that WMF is also present in Moldova. Being back home I visited La VIA. It was so great to see that the same spirit is present in different parts of the world, the Spirit of God and His love for His children that is manifested through the people involved in this mission. La VIA is making a great impact in our society and community life.” -Corina Leahu, volunteer (pictured left)

Communications

Word Made Flesh Moldova e-news

<http://eepurl.com/g0Qdf1>

Dyachenko Family e-news

<http://eepurl.com/gAwsjb>

Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/laviamoldova>

Facebook @AOLavIA

Instagram @wordmadeflesh_laviamoldova

Youtube @La VIA Cantam Impreuna