



La VIA



**ANNUAL REPORT
2022**

LETTER FROM THE FIELD DIRECTOR

We have been through another unprecedented year in Moldova. The full-scale military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 thoroughly shook our felt-sense of safety, and catapulted us into action on behalf of the +400,000 people who began to flood the border into this small country with a huge heart.

During these difficult months we experienced God's provision through an outpouring of generosity, and through staff and volunteers who joined our team.

Kristina joined La VIA as a volunteer just days after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine when refugees began flooding across the border into Moldova. The La VIA team decided quickly we could not remain indifferent to the needs of our neighbors, and so together we created a daily program for refugee families. Kristina was immediately hired full-time to coordinate these efforts.

With both Ukrainian and Russian heritage, Kristina deeply experienced the pain of people fleeing this war. With compassion and a gift for hospitality she opened her arms and made welcome each Ukrainian family who entered La VIA Community Center. She also spent countless hours networking with local churches and NGO's to connect refugees to the resources they needed.

We continue to rely on God's faithful provision through **friends who share our vision and mission**. Together we are making a difference. **Thank you for your support!**

Rachel E Dyachenko

Rachel Dyachenko, Field Director



A STORY OF HOPE

A Place at the Table

Hai la masa! “Come to eat!” can be heard from the front door of La VIA Community Center, impatiently shouted by a 10-year-old boy who calls out to his classmates goofing around on the sidewalk in the warm autumn afternoon sun.

He knows a bowl of hot soup and a plate of chicken and potatoes(or spaghetti and meatballs) along with some chopped veggies are waiting for him inside. What is on the menu today? No matter what, this third grader knows that **empty stomachs will be filled, table manners taught and new friendships formed** around the lunch table at La VIA.

Along with “healing, integrity, and action”, **hospitality is a core community value at La VIA** Community Center. Every weekday, twenty boys and girls, aged 7-14, find their way to La VIA after school gets out.

Early in 2022 the tables at La VIA were full of food multiple times a day. Hot meals were served to toddlers, children, teens, parents and even one mother/daughter pair aged 60 and 83. In the context of war in neighboring Ukraine, anyone was welcome to share a meal at our table, rich or poor, young or old, traumatized or not.

Around this lunch table we listened to stories of love, fear, and anger. In fact, it was mainly after the meal, around tea and biscuits, when life journeys were shared, provisions embraced, and losses mourned.

Hundreds of thousands poured across the border into Moldova after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In Moldova, estimates say that circa 90% of refugees received hospitality and care from ordinary people, small business owners, church groups and community centers like ours. The hospitality shown by Moldovans was and continues to be truly extraordinary. At La VIA we served almost 300 portions of food to people fleeing war in Ukraine, and housed 43 in our homes, some for two nights and others for two months.

In June of this year, the WMF Moldova community received the terrible news that our beloved cook would need to begin intensive therapy for cancer. With tears and blessing, we bid her farewell as she flew to Italy for medical care. A call went out for a new cook in response to our urgent need. The first and most professional to apply was a woman from the city of Mikolaev, Ukraine. Without missing a single day, the lunch table at La VIA continued to serve hot nutritious meals prepared by loving hands.

And a miracle began: even as we offered employment and a safe place for a cook with her grandson to spend the summer days, we received in return the incredible gift of hospitality through delicious meals and sweets prepared with great love and gratitude.

At the end of the summer another transition. Our wonderful new cook who had become like family made the tough decision to return home to Ukraine with her daughter and grandson, to be reunited with the men of their family.

God’s love for His children was made manifest yet again in how seamlessly we transitioned to another cook with only a few days notice. And so, **the daily hospitality of a place at the table continues day after day.** Visitors, volunteers, and most importantly children from socially vulnerable families, come to La VIA and experience the warmth and welcome of a hot meal waiting for them every weekday.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

During the first 100 days of war in Ukraine, La VIA staff received in their homes 43 individuals, some who stayed two days, others three months. At La VIA Community Center we received 12 families in the daily program, served 218 hot lunches for Ukrainian parents and children, organized 9 special evenings for parents including a festive meal, and helped 8 families successfully immigrate to other countries including Israel, Germany, France, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom and Canada.

Fifty-five Moldovan children benefited from the after-school program during the school year(average 20 children daily), during which we did 318 hours of help with homework and offered 3029 hot lunches and snacks.

These children attended new after-school clubs including football, dance, painting, taekwondo and airplane model building.

- 26 families received bags of staple foods
- 3 parents were helped to find a job
- 19 Girls' Club meetings for girls 11-16 years old. Most of the girls are now independently attending local churches and growing in their faith in God.
- 8 weeks of day camp in La VIA Community Center during the summer
- One week of summer camp for 38 children from 3 localities and 2 countries (28 children from the program of the Day Center "La VIA" and 10 refugee children from Ukraine).

FINANCIALS

During 2022 La VIA partnered with Big Love Charity, UK, to employ a Refugee Program Coordinator for six months and completely renovate and furnish a third classroom.

Additional highlights

- Repair of the soccer court fence
- RoyalSystems.md created a landing page in three languages to expand our visibility in the local community.
- The local community participated in a fundraiser “Books & Cookies Café” where we had fun, raised \$696 for La VIA after-school program and made some new connections.

Statement of Changes in Equity

We are thankful to see positive numbers financially. God continues to provide for all our needs and help us meet the needs of others through the faithful generosity of friends around the world. This generosity enables us to continue offering a holistic response among those affected by poverty, exploitation and this year those affected by war.

The outpouring of generosity for Ukrainians affected by war enabled us to offer 3 months of a special program at the Community Center (March-May), to integrate Ukrainians into our summer camps and now to continue financial support of Grace City church in the city of Mikolaev, Ukraine, serving the vulnerable in their community still affected by war.

	Growth	Income	Expense s	Year end Balance
2020		\$37,119	\$36,539	\$15,449
2021		\$57,563	\$53,920	\$15,299
2022		\$108,075	\$78,975	\$44,943



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Your support has made all this possible, and we invite you to continue partnering with us in 2023! Even as armed conflict in neighboring Ukraine brought us new challenges this year, we continue to provide a place of hope and safety for vulnerable children and their families.

Join our community of support through prayer and finance by visiting one of the links below.

Stay Connected!

Lavia.md/en

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