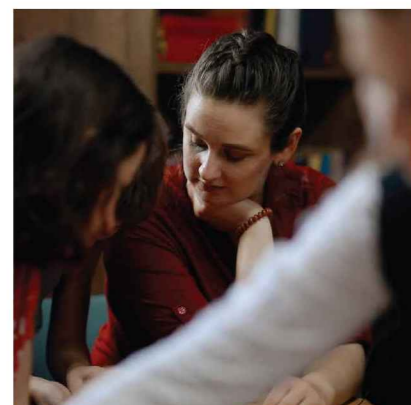


WMF MOLDOVA

WMF Moldova builds community among the vulnerable and the marginalized children and their families. We create a space of respect and hope, offering opportunities for holistic healing through practical activities that contribute to their rehabilitation and integration into society.

The current political and economic crisis due to the pandemic and now the war in neighboring Ukraine, have exacerbated the challenges for families already affected by poverty. Alcoholism and domestic abuse are an ongoing problem; anxiety and depression have increased; basic food and housing security is a serious challenge as Moldova faces high inflation rates and wages that can not keep up with rising costs.

WMF Moldova responds to children vulnerable to running away from home, vulnerable to dropping out of school, and vulnerable to social marginalization and ethnic discrimination. WMF Moldova supports them and their families through tutoring, speech therapy, access to computers and internet, literacy for mothers, assistance in finding employment, food packages, and assistance with utility bills. Bible stories, worship, and prayer are embedded into the weekly rhythms with the kids.



Valerie Sherbert

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

At the start of the school year, WMF Moldova held parent meetings where feedback was gathered, and one parent shared, "Word Made Flesh Moldova is our home."

44

CHILDREN SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY CENTER

26

VULNERABLE FAMILIES RECIEVED MATERIAL SUPPORT

Material support includes food packages, doctor and dental visits, prescription medication, and payment assistance for rent and utilities.

2,400+

HOT LUNCHES SERVED

270

HOURS OF TUTORING

38

VOLUNTEERS FROM 5 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Volunteer Spotlight

Valerie Sherbert's gap year in Chişinău, Moldova was a time of profound transformation and spiritual growth as she volunteered with Word Made Flesh Moldova. During this period, she experienced the challenges of separation, healing, the joy of new friendships, and a sense of family. Through her volunteer work, Valerie discovered the impact of simple gestures, like smiles and hugs, in building connections that transcended language barriers. Valerie's story reflects a profound gratitude and a strengthened resolve to trust in God's plan, as she learned to appreciate the lessons and blessings that unfolded during her time with the Word Made Flesh Moldova community.



HOW DID YOUR EXPERIENCE IMPACT YOUR WALK WITH GOD?

This year was my gap year. A year of the struggle of separation and the healing of old wounds, the finding of new friends, and the connection of found family. God showed me, very clearly, that He was there through it all, carrying me when I felt like I couldn't walk anymore and teaching me to run.

Through my gap year in Moldova, God has shown me more of His love and Glory, taking me places He knew would resonate deeply with me and sending me people who taught me things I had never thought of before. This last year has brought together many of the points God has been making throughout my whole life, wrapped up and set in front of me, waiting for me to open, and finally letting His words click; and they did. He helped me to realize so many of the things He's been teaching me and preparing me for. For that and more, I am forever grateful. God had been with me, watching me, and caring for me through it all. This year has strengthened my resolve to give my life to Him.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF THROUGH HELPING THE KIDS?

Despite not being able to speak the same language, one thing I learned was just how far a smile and a hug can go, how important just sitting with someone can be, and how much laughter a simple card game can bring. It's the simple things that build up to happiness, and the even simpler things that really show someone that you love them. God works like that, too, in many ways, and I've also learned how much we overlook the little (but many) things He does. We need to work harder to notice Him and thank Him. He added to the world the slight rustling of the leaves in the trees, the miniscule yet extravagant detailing on a singular snowflake, the small sparkle in someone's eye when they feel joy, and so much more. How much more is His love for us than we realize, if He even thought deeply about a fleeting raindrop on a hidden leaf? And how much more can we trust Him knowing how much He cares for a singular sparrow? He showed me this; how much closer I need to look.

God was there, and still is, orchestrating and leading us where we need to go, and all we need to do is trust Him. Through all the doubt, sorrow, and hardships, it's all for Him; always was and always will be.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY?

I can't exactly pick one favorite memory. I've had so many experiences with so many wonderful people. From playing hide-and-go seek tag with Little Ionuț to climbing the side of a mountain and exploring dark caves with new friends, I have loved every minute of the time I've spent with everyone. But, of all the wonderful memories I made, most of them were with my best friend, Paulina. She is the one who made my favorite memories my favorites.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT THE MISSIONAL WORK OF THE WMF COMMUNITY?

The people I worked with at WMF Moldova and a local church partner are true and good. They want to share their love with not only with hurting children, but with adults too. They understand how much people might just need a smile. Their eyes are set on the care of the uncared for, the seeking of the lost, and the spreading of the hopeful, never-ending Gospel of Jesus.