

Further Information

A MODEL FOR CARE: Since 2002 our programmes has offered adolescent orphans secure accommodation and a 2 or 3 year programmes of educational support and independent living coaching.

The programme takes place in the local technical school where we have a dormitory set aside for up to 12 young orphans which provides

- Safe and secure residential accommodation
- On site “house parents (or support workers)” available at all times, day or night
- Space for privacy, study, friendship, camaraderie and fun
- Expertise in providing access to education, life skills and independent living

In addition, in 2011 we opened our family foster home where 10 teenage girls live with foster parents and receive not only the benefits of the independent living programme but also a loving family home. This element of the ministry is self-financing thanks to fostering grants from the local authorities and land for home-grown vegetables. The programme consists of various aspects:

Access to Education and Training

Staff members are able to help the young people improve their education and all are enrolled in various courses at the technical school which will enhance their chances of employment at the end of the two year term. These have included cookery and catering, hairdressing, construction and plumbing, painting and decorating, agriculture and horticulture.

We employ a specialist teacher to extend the education support and prepare the orphans for exams and entry into higher education

Behavioural, Emotional and Psychological Support

We break the cycle of dependency and instil a sense of self-worth and confidence. They learn to trust and respect adults and figures in authority. This can often be a lengthy and difficult process especially for those whose previous carers had become in fact their abusers.

Personal Health

The experiences and poor diet that the orphans have had while in institutional care has left them with greatly impaired health. Many of them have simply no idea about how or why it is necessary to maintain their own levels of health and hygiene. The knowledge of those health and hygiene issues which are of particular importance to women is scant indeed and sometimes wholly lacking.

Our Tutor and Support Worker provide a daily routine and on-going advice in all these matters and by the end of the programme the orphans leave with good health and an ability to care for themselves.

Life Skills

Our partners have developed a range of intensive life-skills courses – including, managing a simple budget, and how to find accommodation, employment and gain access to community services that they will need in developing an independent adult life, as well as practical advice on how to secure and maintain lasting relationships.

The Results

It is difficult to obtain meaningful statistics, but it is generally acknowledged that orphans leaving state care have considerable disadvantages and that a majority will enter the sex trade or criminal activity. The suicide rate is also abnormally high.

Recent “graduates” from New Beginnings have a near 100% rate of entering society with employment, or higher education or settling into a new family life of their own.



Nelya's single mother died of cancer. Her only living relative was an alcoholic grandmother, but she died in 2009. By the time she was 14 Nelya was smoking, drinking and sexually promiscuous. She was caught up in many violent street fights. She was increasingly vulnerable to involvement with the criminal underworld and in danger of being trafficked into the sex trade.

During her time in our programme her life was transformed. They helped her to understand the true source of her aggression which came from a fear of always having been alone and isolated. But by being part of a caring, loving and friendly group at New Beginnings she lost that fear and became a kind and generous young woman.

At the end of the programme our partners helped her to secure a job in a sewing factory as well as accommodation. She met Vladimir at church whom she married after a year. Now they have two children of their own.

After School Club

ChildAid partners with Ora Moldova to support Esther House in the village of Vălcineț, Călărași district.

A day centre for children aged 5-15 who are at risk. They are from poor families, often left with relatives or neighbours as parents work abroad, or are in single parent families or from families where there is alcohol abuse and violence.

The Centre is open five days a week and children arrive after school from 1pm onwards. It is also open during school holidays. It supports 70 children - with 20-25 attending each day.

The activities are varied and effective:

Homework

The children have tutoring classes in groups. The tutor offers expertise and encouragement and it is notable that school results are better than those children not attending the Centre.

Practical

The children love being at the Centre and are proud of it, so take it in turns to clean and maintain it.

Cooking

A whole range of skills are taught together with an understanding of food and where it comes from. It's fun, therapeutic and a great bonding activity.

Personal Hygiene

Receiving little parental guidance, the children are taught the importance of everyday hygiene. Attention is given to hair, skin, teeth, hands, nails, feet and menstrual hygiene.

Well-being

The staff seek to ensure that the child's well-being is paramount. A positive environment helps support the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of every child. There is mutual trust and respect and strong links are built with the school and community.

All of these courses aim to make the children more responsible and prepare them for life ahead in a more positive and developed way.