

## Highlights of TOUCH 14 Delegation's Trip to Ukraine - September 2014

Five members of the TOUCH 14 Delegation traveled to Ukraine including:

Mary Breithaupt Sabra Killen Els Lofgren Alice Rampton Marc Vomocil

The TOUCH14 delegation was small in numbers but seasoned in experience. The five delegates had participated in over 55 trips to Ukraine combined. The war in Eastern Ukraine was of great concern to the delegation members and Uzhhorod citizens. At no time, though, did the delegation feel unsafe or at risk. Each member paid for their food, airfare, lodging & other costs.



### Activities of the TOUCH 14 delegation included:

- Meeting with our program leaders and friends at a Welcome Party in the new Panorama restaurant.
- Assisting in the interview process of 10 youth from all five TOUCH programs who applied for scholarships.
- Taking over 120 children shopping from the Chaslivtsi Orphanage and New Family Program.
- Taking the honor students at Public School #14 out for pizza.
- Seeing the 2 new milk cows and milking machines at Pavlovo Farm Home. Having a meal with the Pavlovo young women and touring the expanded home setting.
- Attending an Uzhhorod Sister City meeting.
- Watching New Family & Chaslivtsi youth perform concerts.
- Observing the breakfast program at Public School #14.



- Attending the Social Work conference at Uzhhorod National University. The theme was prevention and Els Lofgren

presented on smoking prevention and Mary Breithaupt spoke on visual imagery as a stress reducer.

- Observing the training at a Rehabilitation Center new soap making workshop initiated from a donation by Elaine Rea and Valley Presbyterian Community Church in Portland, Oregon.
- Being in awe of a sensory room at the Rehabilitation Center for children.
- Visiting Vocational Training School #5 where many Chaslivtsi grads are learning skills. Discussing possible life skill training with the new director of that facility.
- Spending time with Hannah Bittner, C-USCA board member and recent college graduate who is living in Uzhhorod for 9 months and teaching English.
- Touring Dr. Paul Kolesnyk's wonderful new Family Practice Clinic where residents are trained and later having dinner at his dacha in the mountains.
- Attending a performance in Uzhhorod of Carmen by the Kiev Modern Ballet Troupe.
- Visiting the medical clinic which serves 2000 Roma children and 4000 Roma adults.
- Visiting Zholt Lakatos's home for young men who have graduated from an orphanage. Zholt is a graduate of Chaslivtsi.
- Enjoying meals with Ukrainian friends at homes and restaurants.
- Spending time at the park with children from the Rehab Center and their families.
- Honoring our 70 volunteers including high school and college students, teachers and friends who helped with the program and served as our interpreters.
- Thanking Zita, our Uzhhorod Director, for a job well-done and presenting her with a



“Super Zita” cape made by Sabra Killen.

- Ensuring that TOUCH donor funds were distributed responsibly.
- Sharing time together with the children in The TOUCH Project - taking their photo, talking with them, doing annual reports, sharing sponsor letters, and letting them know that we are grateful to know them.