

November 24, 2020

Dear **TOUCH** Sponsors and Donors,

Happy Thanksgiving this Thursday to all of our sponsors and donors in the USA. We also send a belated Happy Thanksgiving (Oct. 12, 2020) to our Canadian sponsors and donors.



THE TOUCH RENEWAL LETTER IS “IN THE MAIL”

The annual renewal letter has been mailed to each of our donors and sponsors. Included in this mailing is a copy of the budget for 2019-2020 and how your donations were allocated. As we wrote in the letter, “To date, we have wired \$50,549 of the \$54,183.50 raised this past year from all of you. These children, and the programs which support them, need our partnership now more than ever. It has been a very difficult year in Ukraine with the COVID-19 virus, closures, and economic instability.” We hope that you will renew your support of **The TOUCH Project**. Thanks to Meta Phillips and Robyn Childers who helped us stuff envelopes for the mailing. We wore masks and socially distanced around a large table.

THE COVID19 VIRUS IN UKRAINE

Here are the most recent stats comparing October and current data on the rapid rise in the virus in the Ukraine and the Transcarpathian Oblast during the last month. Our good friend and physician in Uzhhorod, Dr. Paul Kolesnyk, said that he has seen about 12-15 positive cases of the virus daily currently at his clinic.

In Ukraine:

Coronavirus Cases: 293,641	October 20, 2020
Deaths: 5,517	October 20, 2020
Coronavirus Cases: 612,665	November 22, 2020
Deaths: 10,813	November 22, 2020



In Transcarpathia:

Coronavirus Cases: 11,626	October 20, 2020
Deaths: 329	October 20, 2020
Coronavirus Cases: 17,620	November 22, 2020
Deaths: 433	November 22, 2020

UPDATED WEBSITE FOR CSCA AND THE TOUCH PROJECT

We are so very grateful to Don Prickel (who help start the sister city relationship between Corvallis and Gondar, Ethiopia) and Stephen Hodges (OSU Program Manager and CEO of BosonHub Digital Development Agency - <https://www.facebook.com/bosonhub/>). Don and Stephen spent HOURS redeveloping the Corvallis Sister Cities Association website which includes wonderful links to information about **The TOUCH Project**.

Explore the information about Corvallis’ 2 sister cities – one in Uzhhorod, Ukraine and one in Gondar, Ethiopia by going to this site:

<https://sistercities.corvallis.or.us/>

Then click on Uzhhorod and bring the menu down and click on The TOUCH Project
Or go directly to the pages about **The TOUCH Project** by clicking on:

<https://sistercities.corvallis.or.us/the-touch-project/>

They have done a terrific job of updating the website and making it more user friendly. If you prefer to renew your sponsorship and/or make a donation online, you can now go to:

<https://sistercities.corvallis.or.us/being-a-sponsor-or-donor/>

Thanks so much, Don and Stephen!

GRATITUDE FOR OUR PROGRAM LEADERS

We couldn't be more thankful for the work being done by the five program leadership teams in Uzhhorod who are trying to stay aware of the needs of the 400 children in **The TOUCH Project** during this pandemic.

They include:

- Dr. Ira Roshkovych and Dr. Oleg Kyrylenko at the Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disabilities
- Mariya and Vasyl Lutso at the Pavlovo Farm Home
- Anna Stynych, Pavlo Blonar, and Mychaylo Mychaylovich at Chaslivtsi Boarding School
- Oxana Legeza, Andy Legeza and Roman Stoyka at Public School #14
- Valentina Balan-Chervonookaya at the New Family Center

In addition, we are thankful to Vasya Chubar for his valuable direction and input as our Interim **TOUCH** Director in Uzhhorod, Arpad Kron who is organizing the interviews for recipients of the **TOUCH** Educational Fund Support, Dr. Paul Kolesnyk who keeps us abreast of health issues in Uzhhorod, and Katherine Bizilya and Morika Radetski who have arranged for hundreds of teen interpreters for the various **TOUCH** delegations the last 20 years. What a team! We miss Zita Bathori-Tarsi (**TOUCH** Director for nearly 20 years) very much who now lives in Hungary. But we still communicate with her often and she sends her love and greetings to all.

Here's just one example of how Valentina Balan-Chervonookaya has supported **The TOUCH Project**.

Since we are wiring over the funds to Ukraine this year, we explained that each child in her program would be getting \$40 from their sponsor. We asked her to do the following regarding those funds:

1. Change the money into Ukrainian currency once it is wired to Uzhhorod
2. Put the \$40 into an envelope with the child's name on the outside for each of the children
3. Ask the child to come to the New Family Center to receive the money from their sponsor
4. Take a photo of the child with the envelope

Valentina was so gracious with our request and these photos are just a few examples that we recently received from her. This transparency is important and her diligence meant a great deal to us. We received over 90 such photos and you will be receiving one soon in your renewal if you are an individual sponsor.



And thank you to Maria Lutso, "Mama" to the young women at the Pavlovo Farm Home for sending us this photo upon receipt of the wired funds. Here are the Pavlovo young women with their \$40 (about 1100 UAH in Hryvnia) from each of their sponsors. This will be such a big help to the girls this winter.



Once again, please stay safe and healthy during Thanksgiving! Hopefully, this virus will pass and it will happen faster if we all do what we need to do. Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

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