

June 23, 2021

Dear **TOUCH** Sponsors and Donors,

Greetings!

### **NEW MAP ON THE CSCA WEBSITE**

Don Prickel, webmaster for the Corvallis Sister Cities Association (CSCA) continues to add innovative information to the website. With the help of Vasya Chubar, **TOUCH** Project Interim Director, a map has been added to the **TOUCH** section with locations of all five programs. Plus, you can see Uzhhorod in relation to those cities and countries nearby. Check it out! <https://sistercities.corvallis.or.us/>

### **CHASLIVTSI WILL BE CLOSING**

It's official. Chaslivtsi Boarding School is closing. This was made into law by government officials who are striving to expand foster care and smaller group homes for vulnerable children. In 1999, Sabra and Alice were part of a humanitarian aid delegation from Corvallis Sister Cities Association. With the help of the US State Department, containers of medical, dental, and educational aid had been gathered and shipped from Corvallis to Ukraine. Included in the shipment was also a few thousand donated beanie babies and clothing for children. We visited three orphanages to distribute the items. One of the facilities was the Chaslivtsi Orphanage outside of Uzhhorod, Ukraine. 120 children resided at the orphanage; many of them were true orphans without living parents, but the majority had been abandoned.



Due to lack of funding, the orphanage needed help. The septic system was broken and 4-5 feet of sewage had gathered in the basement of Chaslivtsi. Outdoor troughs for handwashing along with outdoor toilets with holes in the ground were the standard. The children had little to none exposure to the world beyond the walls of the orphanage. After we had distributed clothing and beanie babies and treats, we prepared to leave, but were surrounded by eager smiling faces saying, "When will we see you again?" and "Will you come back?" and "Please, stay." It was hard to leave. Working with the administration at Chaslivtsi and Dr. Paul Blonar, a psychiatrist at the facility, who requested our support, we formed a partnership.

Upon returning home, we pondered how best to offer that support. We came up with the concept of individual sponsorship of the 120 children at Chaslivtsi by a person in the US willing to give \$60 annually. We would hand carry the funds to Ukraine each fall. In addition, we fundraised and received \$20,000 from many in Oregon to replace Chaslivtsi's septic system. We decided upon the name of the program to be The **TOUCH** Project- Take One Ukrainian Child's Hand. And thus, was born The **TOUCH** Project. Zita Bathori-Tarczy became the Ukrainian **TOUCH** Director until 2019 and was such an advocate for the children at Chaslivtsi. For over 20 years, we have worked side by side with Chaslivtsi Orphanage which later became a Boarding School. Enrollment has been down to 30-40 children and it is time for the doors to close. But how we will miss these precious children. Each year we heard them sing and we played with them. We took them on field trips, to a movie, to a restaurant, and shopping. For many of them, this was their first time ever.

Wonderful **TOUCH** donors and sponsors, along with non-profits such as Rotary International, Nu-Skin's Force for Good, Zonta, Altrusa, and Kiwanis helped to install a new playground and laundry facility along with the purchase of 120 beds, bedding and mattresses replacing broken bedsteads with ripped mattresses. Benton County quilters provided 120 new quilts, one for each bed. Sinks and toilets were installed once the septic system was repaired. A soccer field was built. Ten classrooms were remodeled, one entirely from memorial gifts in honor of Alice (Olynyk)Abbey of Flint, Michigan. We hope that our relationships with Director Michaylo Michaylovich, physician Paul Blonar, amazing music teacher Anna Stynych, the art teachers and vice directors and many others will continue. Chaslivtsi Orphanage played a major and pivotal part in the formation of The **TOUCH** Project. We will miss those children!

**FIRE IN ROMA NEIGHBORHOOD ADJACENT TO PUBLIC SCHOOL #14**

Just last weekend, a fire in the neighborhood behind Public School #14 caused extensive damage to many Roma homes and to the school fence which was a gift from Corvallis Sister Cities Association. Luckily there was no loss of life and the metal fence likely prevented spreading of the fire to the school buildings. We are awaiting more news on the situation.



**Stay safe and healthy! Thanks for your support. Please check the list of sponsors and donors below to ensure your name is included.**

Sincerely, Alice Rampton, Co-Chair  
The **TOUCH** Project  
541-231-6238  
[alice.rampton@gmail.com](mailto:alice.rampton@gmail.com)

Sabra Killen, Co-Chair  
The **TOUCH** Project  
360-834-1240  
[rankil@aol.com](mailto:rankil@aol.com)