



Mulberry International Crimean Children's Ministries

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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year and Merry Christmas!

No, that greeting isn't backwards. In Ukraine, Christmas is observed on January 7 according to the Orthodox calendar. This is a good time to look back over the past year and reflect on God's continued blessing. The recaps below will be short. If you have questions, feel free to contact me.

As always, thanks for being part of this ministry. We couldn't do it without you.

Don't grow weary.
Charles

Foster Families

God is Good. Three large families continue to live in the Evpatoria building purchased and renovated by Mulberry. The total number of children living there is now 26. The two large families in Simferopol are both in major building projects. This can be a slow process because of bureaucratic roadblocks and construction is only done as funds become

available. There are 23 children in the two families, three are toddlers added within the last two years.

Although there have been some nervous moments, all of our parents remain committed and we added children in 2012.

Abandoned Baby Wards

This ministry is now stronger than ever!

In July, we began a new work in a Simferopol hospital. The Titova Street Hospital is the largest children's hospital in Crimea and receives the most difficult cases. Luba has become a fixture in the ward, loving on babies and helping the staff meet needs.

Hussein continues to split his time between two hospitals. He is such a regular the staff gives him a white coat and calls him "the doctor in tennis shoes." He also offers advice regarding the other hospital ministries.

In January, a local church will re-start this ministry in a Sevastopol hospital. They will recruit a worker and provide oversight.

Orphan Care Partnerships

Mulberry was one of the sponsors for the first-ever Orphan Care Conference held on October 27. Over 100 attendees heard presentations from a dozen different agencies.

The primary benefits from this conference were increased awareness of the work being done by Mulberry and other ministries and increased promotion of orphan care from the pulpits of local churches.

As a result of this conference, Mulberry has received several requests for assistance from couples interested in becoming foster parents. These requests will be reviewed by a local council.

Legal Issues

Mulberry's charitable foundation in Evpatoria has been liquidated. Our challenge to that liquidation has reached a regional appellate court. According to the law, this court's ruling (due in January) should be final. We expect a conclusion this spring.

Ownership of the large building in Evpatoria won't be settled until the status of the foundation is resolved.

Our legal saga continues, but appears to be coming to an end. Whatever the outcome, Mulberry remains committed to continuing support for the children, families and staff in our ministry.

Matters for Prayer

Praises-

-In spite of our difficulties, the ministry continues to grow and add children to our families.

-Other ministries are joining with us to recruit more Christian families as foster parents.

-Local churches are recognizing a responsibility to care for orphans.

Requests-

-Wisdom for our local council as they review requests for assistance.

-Favorable rulings from the appellate court.

Coming Events/Trips

Please contact us if you are interested in a visit to Ukraine.

We have two construction projects and could use a worker team.

Exploratory trips can be arranged to fit your schedule.

Mulberry International is a 501(c)3 organization. Tax deductible donations can mailed to:
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