

2016 Year End Report

Mulberry International

Despite being a very hard year for Ukraine, 2016 was an incredible opportunity for our ministry there. Having launched a new outreach in an area that experienced active military action and has been flooded by internally displaced people, Mulberry was blessed by an outpouring of donations, prayers and new partners.

Please read the report below and give thanks to our God who opened doors and provided for thousands of people in Ukraine!



Multigenerational Bible studies, held in homes of internally displaced families

Caring For the Whole Person

Mulberry International had started several outreaches to internally displaced and at-risk families in Mariupol, eastern Ukraine, in November of 2015. In 2016, following God's leading, we expanded our ministry there. Ministering in a new area, through a new team and in a new outreach, we stepped out in faith, knowing that it was God who led us there. Looking back on 2016, we are amazed at His provision and faithfulness, as we witness the results of our work.

During 2016, three our partner churches and countless volunteers served **over 7,000 hot meals to the needy and hungry people. Over 1,000 internally displaced and at-risk families received some type of assistance:** whether it was a food packet, life-saving medicine, basic necessities, or warm clothing. Hundreds of families who fled the fighting zone, the elderly as

well as at-risk families with children saw the true care and concern for them, something that most of them never experienced before. Moved by genuine love and touched by loving fellowship, they wanted to discover who God is and why these Christians were happy to serve them. The doors of opportunity to share God's Love and Hope were wide open.

Over 100 people joined church and about 200 regularly attend Bible studies. Several people were baptized and many more have asked Christ into their hearts. Not only unbelievers found new Hope, all three churches were renewed in their faith. Seeing the outpouring of YOUR donations and supported by YOUR prayers, Ukrainian Christians were encouraged and poured out their hearts to love the "untouchables" and forgotten.

In addition, Mulberry was given an opportunity through grants from the International Disaster Emergency Service (IDES) and a generous supporter to develop and implement a **few initiatives to provide jobs for the unemployed.** Now, we can reach out to many more people through workplaces as well as provide dozens of internally displaced and at-risk families with opportunities to earn a living and break the cycle of poverty and despair. As a result of our ministry in Mariupol, the whole community is being transformed.

We would not be able to do any of these incredible things without YOUR support! On behalf of our volunteers and beneficiaries on the field we THANK YOU for such a blessed 2016!



Left: The elderly who fled the war zone have been left with nothing to survive. We provide them with basic necessities.

Right: We've set up programs for children from the IDPs and at-risk families. They've experienced a lot of trauma in their short lives.





Left: Hot meals served for internally displaced and at-risk individuals have been often the only meals they received.

Right: One of our work projects - a Repair Shop - employs men who fled the war zone. They now can provide for their families.



Left: Mulberry also continued ministering to single mothers and abandoned and neglected children in the shelter. Pictured are several kids from a halfway house program. Our team tutors them, plays with them and shares love and hope with them through mentoring.

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