

P.O. BOX 43623 LOUISVILLE KY 40253 www.mulberryinternational.org



## For the Least of These...

We come to you today with both a dire need and a golden opportunity.

The situation in eastern Ukraine continues to be very unstable. Since the war broke out in April, 2014, **almost 2 million** people had to flee their homes to escape the shelling and bombings. Some left with only the clothes on their backs. Over **236,000 children** are part of those who are internally displaced.

Little Katya is one of those children, who left their homes looking for safety. Katya, her parents and four more siblings settled in a one-bedroom apartment in the city of Mariupol, just a few miles away from the front line. Katya has experienced the trauma of the war, resettlement, poverty and hunger.

Katya is the face of our ministry to displaced and poor families. Mulberry has been a life saver to at-risk families in Mariupol. For over a year, our volunteers have been buying food, medicine, clothes, and basic necessities for hundreds of families like Katya's. We were able to provide 500 hot meals every week, personally cared for over 100 families per month,





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<u>\$100/month</u> will provide a family in need with food, basic needs, or heat.

Will you bless these families by sending your gift today? and shared the gospel with every person. Dozens of families now attend Bible studies, volunteer at church, and are accepting Jesus as their Savior.

However, winter is coming and thousands of families will be in dire need. The minimum wage is about <u>\$60 per month</u>. For those who can't find work, the help given by the government averages <u>\$45 per month</u>. Due to the recent increase in utilities rates, a family of three has to pay now about <u>\$100 per month</u> for their heat alone! Times are grim for these families facing a cold winter ahead.

We want to also share a" golden opportunity" to help meet these needs. Have you ever said " I wish I could do more?" Now you can. You can double your gift and provide even more help.

We have been blessed by an individual who has offered to match every dollar given up to \$10,000 for new or extra gifts given before Christmas. Praise the Lord! May we embrace this challenge with open hearts.

Jesus told his disciples in <u>Matthew 25:35</u> that as His followers we are called to show compassion and love to those who are in need. He puts His face on everyone pleading for help: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in".

As we gather together this holiday season around Thanksgiving or Christmas, as we give thanks for all the blessings in our lives and share gifts, let us translate this gratitude to a BLESSING to those who have nothing to eat, or drink, or wear. Your gift will be a BLESSING to Katya, her siblings, and to hundreds of other children of the war-torn Ukraine. We cannot reach these families without your help!

Remember, it all gets doubled.

We will be praying as you consider your gift.

- Natasha Reimer, Executive Director and the Board of Directors