



COVID Relief

Will you help at-risk families and children survive the pandemic?



\$25 will provide one child with masks and sanitizers for the winter season



\$100 will provide one at-risk family with children with masks and sanitizers for the winter season



\$300 will provide medicine for 25 orphans at the Children's Home for one month

The situation with COVID-19 is turning grave in Eastern Ukraine

The numbers of active cases are growing at an alarming rate every day. Although the government does not provide reliable statistics, it is acting in panic. Ukraine shut their borders until the end of 2020 and imposed a quarantine on schools and universities. The news reports that hospitals are overcrowded, there is no room for new patients and they have put hospital beds in the hallways already. When people call for an ambulance, they do not respond unless a person cannot breathe. The doctors are urging sick people to stay at home and to recover on their own.

The Mariupol News reported that 60 doctors and nurses called in sick in just one day. They have asked retired doctors and medical personnel to come and help. They've called on medical students and said they will be hired on the spot. The doctors are trying to treat as many patients as they did back in 2015, when Mariupol was shelled and under fire.

Our local team has been hit hard. A couple of our volunteers and team members have just recovered and a few are sick at home with limited medical help. Doctors diagnose symptoms over the phone as they discourage people to come to hospitals. Those who ended up in a hospital report overwhelming costs of staying there. Ukrainians do not carry medical insurance and unless you are officially on welfare, a COVID hospital or ICU stay can cost up to \$750. If you consider that a typical wage in Eastern Ukraine is \$200, that amount is unbearable for most people. The prices for medicine are going up. To buy over-the-counter medicine to treat someone with respiratory sickness at home cost up to \$75.

Critical situation among at-risk families and children

Mulberry ministers to the most marginalized and at-risk families in Mariupol and the surrounding villages. These families are already struggling and cannot afford medicine, masks and sanitizers to protect themselves from COVID. They are especially vulnerable as their health is very poor.

Alyona is only 40 years old and a single mother of seven. She is an alcoholic and lives in a dilapidated house with six of her children. Since Alyona cannot hold a job, her oldest daughter, Julia, left her home and is living with a man just to be fed and taken care of. Alyona has lived with different partners, some of them had tuberculosis and other communicable diseases. Recently, Alyona got so drunk that she carelessly jumped off a cliff by the sea, leaving behind her children at home alone.



Vitaly (left) and his younger siblings: Anastasia, Vlad, Kseniya, Dennis, Anna

Thankfully, paramedics were able to save her, but she might now be handicapped for the rest of her life. While she was in the hospital, Julia and Vitaly (her older son) had to take care of the younger siblings, and the neighbors alerted social services. When the Child Protective Service visited their home, they decided to place all the children in the Good Samaritan Christian Children's Home that our ministry supports.

The children have been evaluated for multiple illnesses and are especially vulnerable during the pandemic. Two of the children have acute tuberculosis, one has HIV and all of them are immune-compromised due to malnutrition and chronic illnesses. **Most of the children in our care are in a high risk category for COVID-19 and need your help.**

Will you help vulnerable children and families like Alyona's with a COVID Relief donation this holiday season?

Your special gift of:

- ✓ \$25 will provide one child with masks and sanitizers for the winter season
- ✓ \$100 will provide one marginalized family with children with masks and sanitizers for the winter season
- ✓ \$300 will provide critical medicine for 25 children living in Good Samaritan Children's Home for one month



Kseniya and Dennis at the Christian Children's Home

1

PRAY

Pray for the most vulnerable as well as our workers in Ukraine

2

GIVE

Donate ONLINE or BY CHECK to provide medicine and protective equipment for at-risk families and children

3

SHARE

Share this letter with your friends and family and be our advocate