

2023 MINISTRY REPORT

We Are Hiring!

If you have a passion for the plea of Ukrainians, or mission work in general and want to use your skills to help Mulberry share our vision across multiple channels, please contact us.

We are looking for a **marketing/promotion professional** with experience to join our team!

For the job description and information, please email: info@mulberryinternational.org

Summer Camp in Germany!

Last year, we conducted our first summer camp for the evacuated Ukrainian children's home in rural Germany. Kids and staff loved every minute of it and asked us to come back.

Would you like to **bleed 29 children, ages 7 to 17**, with a fun camp? Join our team and show God's love in action!

Dates: July 6-14, 2024

Cost: \$1,500 + roundtrip ticket to/from Frankfurt, Germany.

More information:
info@mulberryinternational.org



Leadership's Trip to Ukraine

The highlight of the past year was the leadership's field visit and the first team meeting since the invasion.

In the fall of 2023, the Executive Director, Natasha Reimer, and Board member, Georges Carillet, visited two regions where our workers are ministering to displaced and hurt Ukrainians. We met with new partners in Izmail and our core team in Chernivtsi. Pictured above is our team meeting in Chernivtsi, a central location, where the most of our teammates were able to come from three different regions of Ukraine. We discussed our current outreaches and prayerfully planned the future of Mulberry's ministry in Ukraine and beyond.

We are excited to introduce to you our first Ukrainian Director Volodymyr Kavkovsky (pictured on the top row above)! The Lord has blessed our ministry through Volodymyr's dedication and passion to expand God's Kingdom in Ukraine. We are now in process of registering our own non-profit foundation in Ukraine to advance the efforts of all our SEVEN ministry centers across the country. Please pray for this new chapter in Mulberry's ministry.

Good Samaritan Children's Home

Twenty-nine children and sixteen adults were evacuated from Mariupol, Ukraine, in March 2022 and resettled in rural Germany. They have been living together under the same roof in a foreign land, learning another language and culture for two years now. It has not been easy. Everyone is homesick and heart broken. Yet, through the grace of God, they have been able to get used to the Home's routine, appreciate the host culture, and make new friends. God blessed the Children's Home with Christian social workers assigned by the state to help them as refugees. God brought Germans of Russian/Ukrainian/Kazakh descent, who have been helping the staff and the kids with the language barrier, answering a million questions, giving them rides, preparing documents, etc.

Your giving enabled Mulberry to provide Good Samaritan with everything they need. Some of you sent care packages, Christmas gifts and school supplies. Together, we made their school year and school breaks meaningful and fun.

In June 2023, Mulberry sent a team to relieve our overworked staff and conduct an American camp for the kids. We played American games, ate American foods, sang worship songs in English and made life-long American friends. The kids and staff were blessed by our team of six counselors, six interpreters, five therapists and two fearless cooks! Everyone loved the camp so much, we are coming back in July 2024!



In the summer, the four oldest teenagers of Good Samaritan were baptized! Despite the hardships of evacuation and loss, God gives them Eternal Hope.

Saving Lighthouse Children's Ministry

War zones and restricted access regions are still mostly in ruins. The building of our Children's Center has been completely destroyed by shelling. For the time being, we continue to reach out to children from war-torn areas at our local partner church, which is now a home to the Saving Lighthouse Children's Ministry.

Every week, a dozen children attend our after-school program, eat a warm meal, get homework help and receive a food package. On Saturdays, they come with their parents. These children come from displaced or at-risk families and need food, shoes, clothing, school supplies, etc. We provide for most of their needs, and more. In 2023, 40 children received Christmas presents and over 30 children attended summer camps. These kids witnessed a lot during this war, and we try to tend to their hearts with love and care.



Kyiv Children's Ministry



A new children's outreach in a Kyiv's suburb, at a new church plant, welcomes 10-15 children every week. They learn about God and have an opportunity to play, learn robotics, eat snacks, and form friendships. Sometimes, their parents come as well. These families are invited to attend church and other events, such as an Easter Pageant, Fall Family Fest and Christmas puppet show. We also have sponsored 8 teens to attend a Christian Christmas camp this winter.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Ministries

This aspect of our ministry has become one of the largest outreaches in terms of funding and impact. Our teams reach out to displaced families who fled their destroyed cities and villages to safer regions.

One of the locations is a rural community close to **Chernivtsi**, in the western part of Ukraine. Most of our teammates from Mariupol evacuated and settled at a church shelter there. Being the IDP themselves, they minister to about 70 IDP every month, providing them with food packets and basic necessities. Just in the last year quarter, we provided them with 300,00 lbs of firewood!

All these families flock to the church as they have seen the body of Christ having cared for them physically, emotionally and spiritually. Four people were baptized this past summer! In addition, our team conducts evangelistic events, such as Easter or Christmas programs, where they share the Gospel and distribute humanitarian aid. Over 100 children received Christmas gifts and attended summer and winter camps.



Our team continues to help and witness to the displaced and at-risk families in the war-torn region in **southeast Ukraine**. Only half of the villages remained intact, and most of the people fled that dangerous region. We continue to deliver food packets, medicine and firewood for those who stayed. The Bible studies at our partner churches and four remaining village churches meet weekly. In August, 6 adults were baptized and joined the church.

In 2023, we started supporting a new IDP outreach: a shelter close to **Izmail**, in the southwest corner of Ukraine. The shelter is set by a beautiful lake and houses 100-120 people, including 20-30 children, on a regular basis. The displaced families have their personal room, are provided hot meals three times a day, medicine, clothing and basic necessities. We also helped purchase and distribute 60,000 lbs of firewood

for the people in the area who lost power due to Russia's shelling last year.

Every week, the residents have an opportunity to attend a Christian service at the shelter and attend church in Izmail. Because of its spacious and quiet campus, the shelter hosts camps for youth, single mothers, children with disabilities and families all year-round.



Through another partnership, Mulberry provided safe-saving aid to destroyed and devastated villages in **Donetsk region**. Only elderly, sick and impoverished people are left there, living in inhuman conditions, in destroyed and desolate area, forsaken by everyone. Our volunteers delivered close to 100,000 tons of water, over 10,000 loafs of bread, fuel and firewood, clothing, shoes, home wares and tools. The biggest help for these people is not only aid, but the fact that someone cares and loves them enough to cross thousand miles into a dangerous territory to show God's love through action.

The biggest IDP outreach is organized and conducted by our national director Volodymyr. In addition to two vans, we bought his team a semi-truck to deliver humanitarian aid to another severely devastated region of Ukraine: **Kherson**. It was shelled mercilessly and many towns were wiped out. In the summer of 2023, the Kakhovka dam was bombed and flooded the area, destroying entire villages, hundreds of houses, fertile grounds, fresh water sources, and livestock. Our team took trips to the Kherson region



twice a month, filling these vehicles to the brim with humanitarian aid. We delivered about 400,000 lbs of food, close to 10,000 liters of drinking water, and about 600,000 lbs of firewood! All of that have been distributed to about 3,000 people through local churches! Our teams of volunteers restored and rebuilt 13 houses for the people who lost their homes to shelling or flood. The testimony of God's love and provision didn't return void and the people we've helped started coming to church. Praise the Lord!

Good Gatherings Outreach

The influx of IDPs has spilled over to the very south region of Ukraine. There, we helped and ministered to 25 families with children every month. Over 80 children attended our weekly Bible studies "Good Gatherings". These kids received school supplies and Christmas presents, and half of them attended our summer camp along with their parents! In addition, our team visited a local rehabilitation shelter with Easter and Christmas programs and conducted a summer day camps for dozens of children and their families there. In addition, we support three foster families in that region.

