



The Don & Birdie Reeder Global Emergency Relief Fund

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill
the law of Christ. — Galatians 6:2*

Annual Report 2016-2017


Children's Emergency Relief International

The Don & Birdie Reeder Global Emergency Relief Fund Annual Report 2016-2017



Foreword

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 (Matthew 25:35). There are numerous Bible verses, similar to this one, that exemplify “carrying each other’s burdens” and this is exactly what The Don & Birdie Reeder Global Emergency Relief Fund (the Reeder Fund) does, on a daily basis, for children, youth, and families struggling with a life crisis.

The Reeder Fund provides homeless individuals with a place to call home. It provides medicine for the sick. It feeds the hungry, provides comfort to the grieving and hope to the hopeless. And none of this would be possible without the vision, contributions, dedication and passion of our Reeder Fund donors. Your generosity has gone beyond what we could have imagined. This report is our way of saying thank you to our donors and friends.

Executive Summary

The Reeder Fund provides relief to children, youth, and families struggling with life crises. The fund's guidelines are set up to empower CERI employees to respond to the urgent needs of CERI's beneficiaries and other people impacted by crisis. The fund also allows for some recurrent expenses, such as education (tuition disbursements), emergency shelter payments, and medical treatment. During the 2016-17 fiscal year, through the provisions of the Reeder Fund, CERI was able to assist more than 4,300 individuals through difficult situations.

Revenue and Balance

Revenues received during the 2016-17 Fiscal Year (September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017):

- Reeder Family Donations:	\$39,500
- Other Donors' Contributions:	\$2,255
- Total contributions to the fund:	\$41,755

Expenses and balances for the 2016 Fiscal Year:

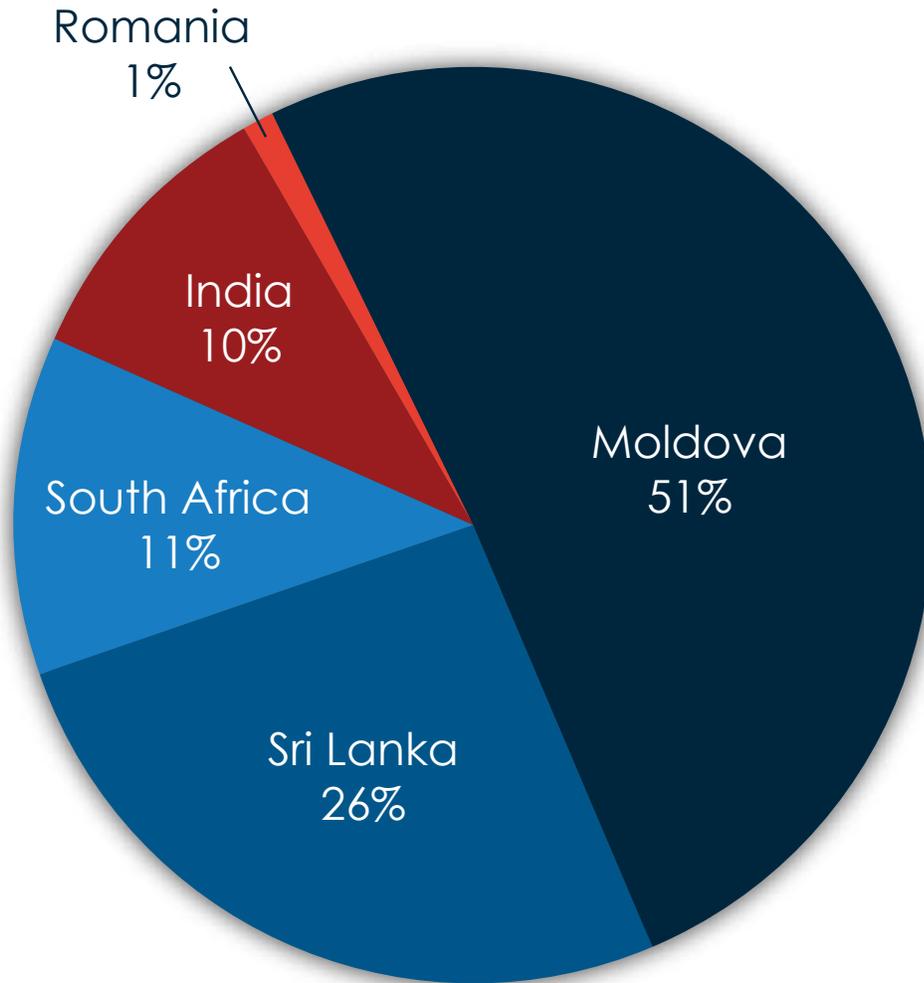
- Beginning balance on September 1, 2015:	\$17,611
- Expenses incurred over 12 months:	\$51,352
- Ending balance on August 31, 2016:	\$8,014

International Presence and Impact

Moldova	2,346 individuals
Romania	220 individuals
South Africa	202 individuals
Sri Lanka	1,380 individuals
India (launched March 2016)	200 individuals

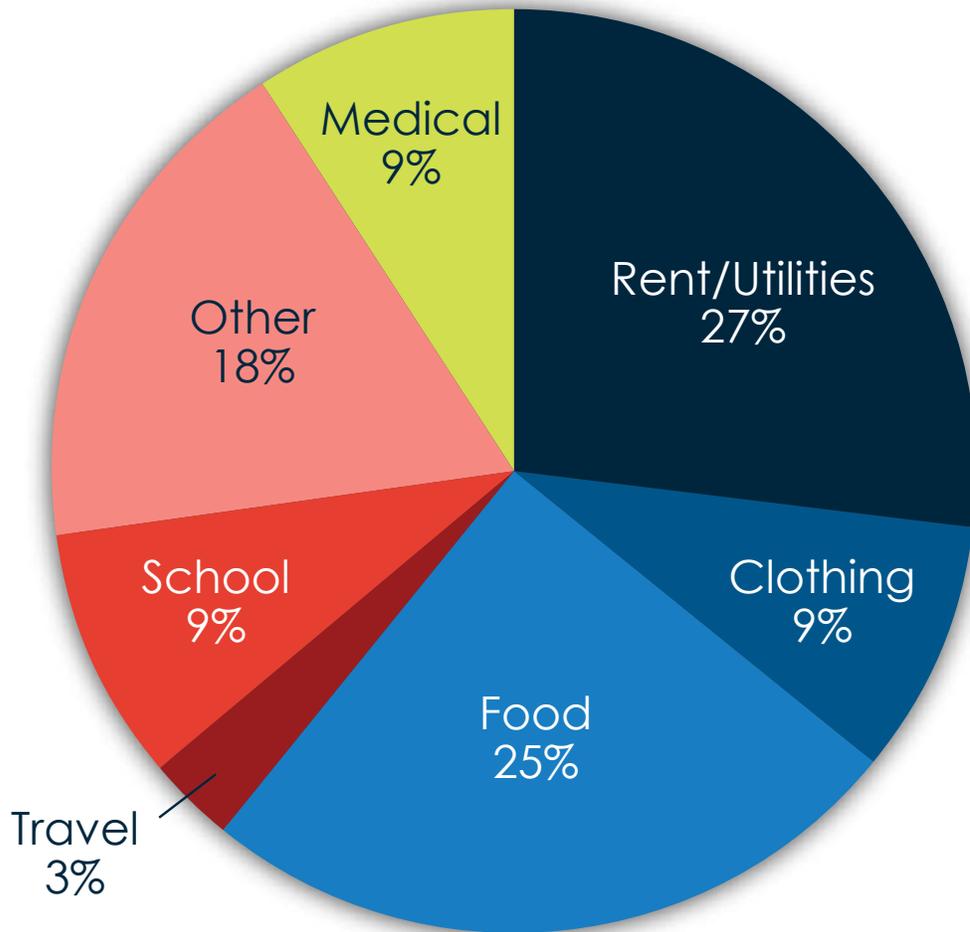
Total Individuals Served:	4,348 individuals
Total Funds Used:	\$51,352.00
Average Amount Disbursed per Individual:	\$11.81

Expenses per Country



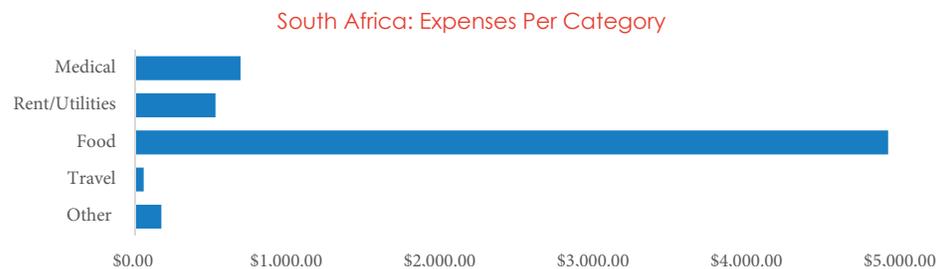
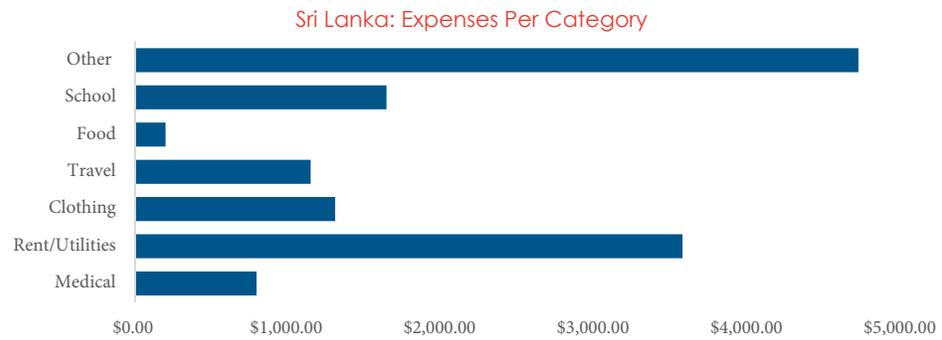
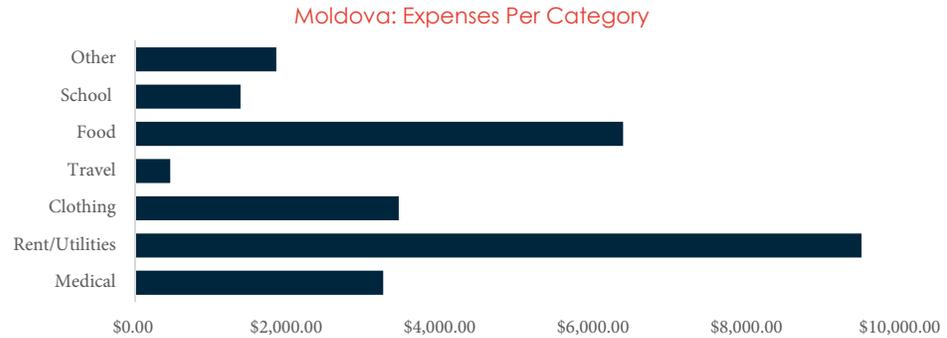
Moldova	\$26,190.21
Sri Lanka	\$13,367.93
South Africa	\$6,350.00
India	\$4,975.34
Romania	\$468.52
Total Expenses	\$51,352

Expenses per Category



Medical	\$4,716.28
Rent/Utilities	\$13,568.42
Clothing	\$4,744.30
Food	\$13,006.41
Travel	\$1,660.08
School	\$4,453.00
Other	\$9,203.51
Total Expenses	\$51,352

Expenses per Country* per Category



**Expenses per category are not illustrated for Romania, due to the low amount of funds spent in the country during the 2016-17 fiscal year.*

A Mother's Love

India



Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

- 1 Peter 3:4

Nothing comes closer to God's love for us than the love of a mother for her child. From the moment a mother realizes that she is carrying a human being under her heart, her instincts, body, and mind take over. The moment when the child is born marks a mother's transformation into a protector, nurse, cook, provider, artist, entrepreneur, musician... to the benefit of her child. Unfortunately, for some women, becoming a mother also means a life full of compromise, poverty, and chronic fear.

In Madanpur Khadar, one of the newer urban resettlement slum areas situated on the outskirts on New Delhi (India), mothers face unimaginable challenges raising their children. The area is dense, with a population of about 150,000 individuals. Madhanpur Khadar was created in 2000 and hosts people who were evicted from urban slum areas within the Delhi city limits and were resettled. The area has no water/sewage infrastructure. It is at extreme risk of liquefaction in an earthquake, and subject to constant slum fires. The majority of its population are rag pickers, and most buildings are mud houses or homes made of second-hand waste materials. A sewer that runs through the area is the main cause for health concerns for the occupants of this notorious slum.

Madhanpur Khadar is not only an area with limited economic and educational opportunities for the poor, it is also an area dominated by crime. Child trafficking, drug abuse, and domestic violence are common occurrences. The area is latent with crime rings that thrive with the connivance of corrupt law enforcement officers. Despite high crime rates, convictions are rare. Madhanpur Khadar mothers face a tough decision when they choose to work outside the house. Leaving children home alone or in the care



of a neighbor could mean they will never see them again. And still, most of the Madhanpur Khadar mothers have taken the position of breadwinners and caregivers for their children. Oftentimes single, illiterate, survivors of violence and discrimination, these mothers are exposed to extreme stressors, mental health issues, and unhealthy coping mechanisms. The lack of meaningful support systems and resources leaves both the mothers and children vulnerable to hopelessness and life-threatening perils.

In April 2017, CERI organized a unique educational event for the mothers of Madhanpur Khadar. Prior to the event, CERI staff and volunteers identified the most vulnerable mothers and children in their community: mothers who live in the everyday danger of losing their children to human trafficking, mothers who struggle to feed their children, mothers with children with disabilities, and those who are at risk of family separation. During the event, mothers were taught how to build safety nets (networks of trusted individuals in the community) around their children and keep them safe from predators and trafficking. They learned about the various faces of human trafficking and the different aspects of this phenomenon. The CERI event mobilized and motivated the Madhanpur Khadar community to respect and pursue the rights of their children, such as the right to a documented birth (birth certificate). Undocumented births are a widespread occurrence in India's slum areas and hence, promote child trafficking and sale.

Another critical component of the educational event for the Madhanpur Khadar mothers was information about the detriment of family separation, institutionalization, and the benefits of raising children in a family. The group talked about health concerns and sanitation. Finally, the mothers were taught to make wise decisions when leaving their children home alone for extended periods of time while pursuing employment opportunities. Unsupervised children are easy targets for human traffickers. CERI staff motivated the participants to be the effective and vigilant gatekeepers of their community, watching each other's children, and reaching out to the authorities when the situation called for it.

CERI equipped 100 mothers to protect and safeguard their children against the horrific perils of human trafficking, separation, institutionalization and disease/sickness. In India and across the globe,



Madhanpur Khadar, New Delhi, India

mothers are not always given the credit they deserve. However, their sacrificial love and protective maternal spirit make them the perfect guardian/protector for their children, families and communities. With support provided by the Reeder Fund, CERI had the opportunity to empower 100 mothers in a poverty-stricken urban community, mobilize the community, and make life safer and brighter for the children of Madhanpur Khadar.

India has the largest child population in the world. Unfortunately, 40% (170 million) of India's children are in need of care and protection, and about 5% (20 million) are estimated to be orphans, having lost one or both parents. It is estimated that by 2020, the number of orphans in India will increase to 24 million. India faces a huge challenge to care for and protect the rights of its children, especially the orphaned, abandoned, and vulnerable children. Data indicate that more than 50% of India's children have suffered from verbal, physical, or sexual abuse. India's government and civil society are failing in their tasks to protect the rights of its children, meet the needs of its growing population of orphans and street children, and prevent family separation and institutionalization. Change in the country's child welfare system is slowly gaining momentum, but there are currently few community-based services available that offer an alternative to institutionalization and the country's traditional approach to child welfare and protection.

The Power of Family

Sri Lanka



Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

– John 15:13

Imagine what your life would be like without vision. Close your eyes and try to keep them closed while going about your usual business. Thousands of people around the world live without eyesight. Vairamuthu Yogeswaran is one of them. He has permanently impaired sight, impossible to correct with eyeglasses, contact lenses, or surgery. He has lived without eyesight for most of his life. Affected by chickenpox at the age of two, his eyes began to deteriorate due to an unnoticed wound, and he went blind. From that moment on, Vairamuthu has lived without seeing the world. Loss of vision has not prevented him from obtaining an education. He studied at the Education Center for Visually Impaired and lived on the premises of the school for years. He had never hoped that he would, one day, start a family, until he met Priyadharshini, his future wife.

Priyadharshini, a strong woman, married Vairamuthu out of love. She recalls meeting him at the Education Center for Visually Impaired while she was working there as a clerk. The young people fell in love and decided to start a family. Priyadharshini feels fortunate to have married Vairamuthu, however, her family felt otherwise. She was shamed and neglected by her parents and relatives from the moment she made the decision to marry him. Their condemnation and lack of support caused a lot



of pain and suffering for the young couple. Priyadharshini sacrificed her relationship with her family to build a future with her husband. As a result, The Yogeswarans have been blessed with two beautiful children, Yuresha, age 7, and Kujishan, age 4, two healthy and happy children who love their parents and do their best in school.

Subsequently, since Vairamuthu is blind, he is unable to find employment and the family survives on the scarce monetary support offered by the Sri Lankan government through its Samurdhi program. While the family is standing strong before the daily challenges of living in a world where disability is equal to poverty, the one thing they were not able to secure was a proper shelter. Over the last ten years, the family moved in and out of rental properties, finding themselves in a desperate quest for a permanent home and stability. The family lived in a constant state of transition, instability, and fear. This was especially challenging for Vairamuthu, who feels guilt for not being able to provide for his family. His children, Yuresha and Kujishan, have lived their entire lives not knowing what “home” truly is.

Priyadharshini is the only member of the family that did not lose hope, continuing to knock on doors to advocate for her family’s needs. She made a request to the local government to ask for a home. Recently, a Sri Lankan law made it possible for a family to have a home if they could contribute one-fourth of the total cost of that home. Unfortunately for the Yogeswarans, in their current situation, it would be an unachievable goal for them to contribute this amount of money (\$1,000) toward a home. With their hope for a home fading away, a government child protection officer referred them to CERI.

CERI-Sri Lanka staff assessed Yogeswarans’ situation and decided to intervene with a monetary gift that would ensure the long-term wellbeing of their family. A contribution from the Reeder Fund, leveraged with other local resources and funding, allowed CERI to bring stability and joy to a family that would have otherwise struggled with homelessness for the rest of their lives. This gift enabled the Yogeswarans to stay together as a family and prevent possible family separation due to extreme poverty. The new home also made possible for the Yogeswaran children to grow up with their beloved family. As the home construction began, and the family felt hopeful: for a better future, for stability, for normalcy, and prosperity. The hope that comes along with the warmth and the welcoming atmosphere of a real home.

“I am presented with the responsibility and challenge of caring for my children and my husband, who must cope with the challenge of being blind for the rest of his life. I embraced my life and my situation from day one. In the same way, CERI embraced and understood our situation. This contribution is the most valuable gift I have ever received in my entire life.” – Priyadharshini



“I couldn’t support my family because of my disability. I was blessed to know that the government offered us a chance to have a permanent residence; however, we were not able to contribute the fourth of the cost of a house. But CERI did. CERI was there when no one else was. It is a beautiful gift to us all and I will thank CERI my entire life. Thank you, CERI, for your perfect timing.” – Vairamuthu

Food for the Soul

South Africa



*For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach.
Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*

– 1 Corinthians 9:16

South Africa is a country with rich ethnic traditions and a history of faith and spirituality. It is also a country with extreme poverty, where 55% of the population struggles to make ends meet, and the leading causes of death among the poor are tuberculosis, influenza/pneumonia, and the HIV virus. CERI works and ministers among South African families deeply affected by poverty, sickness, and loss, offering them spiritual and physical food to help them overcome their hopelessness and grief. By building vegetable gardens for vulnerable families and teaching them how to cultivate the land, CERI nourishes their bodies and souls while empowering South Africans to develop the gardens into a reliable source of food and income.

Entembi Mosley's garden, planted with assistance from CERI in July 2016 and paid for through the Reeder Fund, is well tended and cared for. Mosley, a single mother of three and grandmother of five, maintained the garden's trench concept, controlled the weeds and successfully replanted and harvested herbs and vegetables every season. Using the water tank provided by CERI, Mosley watered her garden carefully, to allow plants to grow and produce their harvest. Water is sometimes a scarce resource, but she has been able to fill her water tank, with a hose or pipe, from a spigot across the street from her property.

Mosley is proud of her garden and grateful for the opportunity to harvest it: “I have enlarged my garden further and this allowed me to sell some of the vegetables to community residents as a source of income. I have also began saving seeds for some plants, mainly herbs, to share or sell to neighbors.” Mosley also stated that she is teaching her grandchildren how to garden and proudly showed us the vegetable seedlings the children had planted. Her garden currently contains corn, peppers, herbs, spinach, chard, tomatoes, squash, beans, onions, carrots, cabbage and more. In 2017, she was also provided with seedlings for onion, spinach, cabbage, and seed potatoes ready to plant. Mosley’s garden exemplifies the ideal sustainable gardening concept. Since CERI first helped install the garden for her and her family, she has progressed to not only tending and harvesting it for herself and her children for better nutrition, but has turned it into a self-sustainable and reliable source of income, selling surplus vegetables to neighboring families.



In summer 2017, CERI teams planted another four gardens, bringing hope and relief to more needy families. In addition to vegetables and herbs, teams also planted fruit trees. The trees will sustain a flow of fruit to the community, for a modest price, thus allowing the beneficiary families to realize some income that would allow them to enlarge their gardening capacity. Leslie Goff, a certified master gardener and CERI volunteer implemented the concept of square-foot gardening, utilizing the most efficient use of space available to plant in each trench. More than 1,200 seedlings were planted in each garden using this technique.

CERI’s work and ministry in South Africa includes fellowship, spiritual encouragement, and experiencing God’s blessings. Impromptu soccer games, mealtime, and random conversations are all perfect occasions for sharing a personal testimony or telling others about the miracles God performs in people’s lives. Spiritual and physical food are the blessings experienced by South Africans and CERI team members alike.

Community and Unity

Romania



May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.

– Romans 15:5

Imagine a home the size of your queen size mattress. Now, add six individuals to that mental picture and visualize how they all live in that space. This is a reality our CERI staff witnessed when visiting a Roma family in a Romanian village. A couple and their four children resided in a shack, 60” X 80” in size. A storage area was connected to the tiny structure they called home, separated by a sheet of glass and a door. The storage area roof was assembled with 2x4 beams with a thin tarp that served as a makeshift shelter. To keep the harsh winter elements from entering the home, the family used newspapers and magazines as a crude substitution for real insulation, stuffing it around the one window. A coal stove in the room was the only source of heat. Used for both cooking and heating, the stove was the only commodity in the home that made it inhabitable during the winter. When the stove cover was opened, the entire living area filled with smoke so thick that it was difficult to breathe.

Roma are heavily discriminated against for the color of their skin, their customs, lifestyle, and beliefs. They make up the largest and most vulnerable minority group in Eastern Europe, with 71% of Roma households living in extreme poverty. Coupled with lack of education and employment opportunities, Roma are bound to

social immobility and the perpetration of generational poverty and low-level occupations, such as scavenging, door-to-door hawking, or collecting recyclable materials.

The father of the family CERI staff visited spent his day scavenging in a nearby dump. His wife and children focused on the daily challenges of obtaining food and surviving the brutal cold. Through the provisions of the Reeder Fund, CERI was able to gift this family a one-month supply of food. The gift came at a critical time during the year—in the middle of the winter, the hardest time to find daily jobs or remaining crops in the fields. Since food was the number one concern in this family, the food pack offered them the time and emotional energy they needed to focus on their children's needs and wellbeing. Like many Roma women who have unassisted births, this family's four children do not have identity documents and could not be enrolled in school. Project Ruth, a Romanian nonprofit that partners with CERI to offer economic and educational advancement to Roma women and youth, took the family's case and is now working to document the children and gain them access to child development resources and education. Project Ruth also afforded the mother and father opportunities to enroll in programs and services that allow them to continue their education, access governmental resources, mental health services and career guidance.



The dedication and service of a community of individuals who loved and cared for each other, allowed this family to receive another chance for a fulfilled future. A food pack and some case management that connected this family to resources were the critical actions this family needed in their moment of dire need in order to take the first step toward a better future for their children.

A Home During Trial

Moldova



Because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist them.

- Job 29:12

For most children, home is where you live with your parents, surrounded by siblings and familiar things. Even long after graduating from high school or college, many children and youth find themselves depending on their parents for financial and emotional support. Having someone to lean on during the college years, or even in young adulthood, is a true privilege that many youth in Moldova do not have. CERl's youth shelters—apartments that offer youth aged 16 to 21 housing, food, case management, and mentorship—provide that support and empower youth to continue their education and pursue their dreams, in spite of all the odds stacked against them.

Due to Moldova's high rate of poverty, massive migration, and an underfunded child protection system, hundreds of thousands of children and youth find themselves in a situation where they can no longer attend school or engage in career development. Without parental supervision and resources, youth must fend for themselves and, oftentimes, their younger siblings. The need for shelter and food forces many of them to start working at a young age, when their development level, education, and skills will not meet the demands of the labor market. This situation places youth at risk for human trafficking,

unpaid labor, slavery, crime, and lifelong mental and physical health issues. CERI's youth shelters, funded through the Reeder Fund, close the gap between homelessness and opportunity, offering youth a place to stay and services that allow them to go to school and build their futures in the right way. Some of these youth's stories are presented below.

Ion. A graduate of the orphanage system, with no parents or relatives to give him a hand, Ion entered technical college at 17 years old and, luckily, secured a bed in the school dorm. The dorm offered him a place to stay during the school year, but unfortunately, not during the summer and school breaks. Ion's biological sister, sharing a tiny home of her own with her husband and children, could not help Ion, nor their youngest brother with a place to stay. With limited housing options, Ion talked to a CERI case manager about his situation and was afforded the opportunity to stay at CERI's boys' shelter during the school breaks. The mentorship and structured activities in which Ion participated at the shelter helped Ion feel optimistic and hopeful for his own future.

Olesea. Olesea is a student at a college in Chisinau. She loves children and her career goal is to become a teacher. At a young age, Olesea experienced repeated tragedy, losing her parents, and then her adoptive parents, to alcoholism and sickness. However, through her own unwavering and strong spirit, and services she has received from CERI, she continues her life journey with hope and dignity. When Olesea was accepted into college, she was also given a spot in the school dorm. However,



"I can't believe I stayed at the school dorm for so long, in those horrible living conditions. I cannot even start comparing the two places. Now I live in a far safer place. I am grateful for such a good place to stay."

- Olesea

the living conditions at the school dorm were unimaginable – missing glass in the windows, broken doors, extremely cold in the wintertime and no showers. Olesea and her roommate would put blankets in the window to keep the cold out and would brace the door with a chair to keep out unwanted visitors at night. Olesea's CERI case manager recommended that she move to the CERI girls' shelter. The move allowed her to focus on her education, instead of constantly worrying about her own safety and wellbeing.

Ruvim. Ruvim comes from a rural, impoverished, single-parent family far from Chisinau, Moldova's capital city. Ruvim wanted to continue his education after the ninth grade, but since there are no high schools in his village, he applied to a school in Chisinau and was accepted. While the thought of moving to the big city scared him, he was hopeful that he would somehow get by. His relationship with CERI started when Ruvim was at an orphanage, before being reunified with his biological family. His CERI case manager offered him a place to stay at the CERI boys' shelter. The shelter filled a critical need for Ruvim, allowing him to go to school and live in a safe place. Ruvim is an active in several CERI programs, volunteering his time for social projects, such as helping the elderly, cleaning community parks and visiting children shelters.

Natalia. The CERI's girls' shelter is lucky to have Natalia, a happy and joyful young lady, as a resident. She loves joking and teasing, making everyone around her forget about their problems and have a good laugh. Natalia comes from an abusive home which left deep scars on her life and health. The safe environment at the CERI shelter along with the professional counseling services provided allowed her to begin the healing process toward overcoming her trauma, function day to day, and go to school. Natalia is a devoted Christian and her faith is a central element in her life.

She acknowledges that God's love blessed her with this housing opportunity, and feels compelled to overcome her past through her faith.



"Because of the things I've been through, my life is not easy. I'm grateful to CERI for offering me this opportunity - to live in the CERI apartment. If I were not living here, I know my life would have been different... different in a bad way. But God took care of my needs and now I'm here."

- Natalia

CERI youth do not take for granted the opportunity to live in the safe space of the shelter. They understand the value, both monetary and emotional, that the shelters offer. Without income, support systems, or family, our youth are predestined to homelessness, poverty, and a life void of education. CERI's shelters offer youth an opportunity to pursue their dreams while learning about community, friendship, sharing, and serving others. Although temporary, CERI youth are grateful for a place they can call home.

Thank You

CERI is proud to carry on the Reeder family's legacy through

The Don & Birdie Reeder Global Emergency Relief Fund.

Since its inception, the Reeder Fund's gifts to CERI have touched thousands of lives, healed thousands of wounds, and brought comfort to thousands who were suffering! This annual report, in addition to quantifying the Reeder Fund's impact on CERI's outreach and programming, is our way of saying "thank you" to all the individuals who gave to The Don & Birdie Reeder Global Emergency Relief Fund.



CERI
Children's Emergency Relief International