



# The Don & Birdie Reeder Global Emergency Relief Fund

*~ A legacy of genuine love for humanity ~*

Annual Report 2015-16

**CERI**

Children's Emergency Relief International



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## Foreword

Individuals who have endured unforeseen life circumstances develop a keen awareness of the transience of material things and the immeasurable value of human life. Their stories of tragedy, despair and hopelessness give birth to stories of resiliency, faith and hope.

Through the Don & Birdie Reeder Global Emergency Relief Fund (herein Reeder Fund), CERI helps these individuals begin a new chapter by tending to their urgent needs and touching their lives in a positive way. Our hope is that our immediate and compassionate response helps those we serve to see God's hand in their lives and understand His plans, "plans for welfare and not for evil, to give [them] a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Since its inception, the Reeder Fund has been crucial in furthering CERI's mission to represent the hands and feet of Jesus in the lives of the least fortunate and to lead them towards knowing Him.

## Executive Summary

The Reeder Fund allows Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI) to provide assistance to struggling children, youth and families in developing nations. Between September 2015 and August 2016, the fund made it possible for CERI to help 405 individuals around the world.

## Revenue and Balance

Revenues received during the 2016 Fiscal Year (September 2015 to August 2016):

- Reeder Family Donations:	<b>\$17,500</b>
- Other Donors' Contributions:	<b>\$12,950</b>
- Total contributions to the fund:	<b>\$30,450</b>

Expenses and balances for the 2016 Fiscal Year:

- Beginning balance on September 1, 2015:	<b>\$4,133</b>
- Expenses incurred over 12 months:	<b>\$16,972</b>
- Ending balance on August 31, 2016:	<b>\$17,611</b>

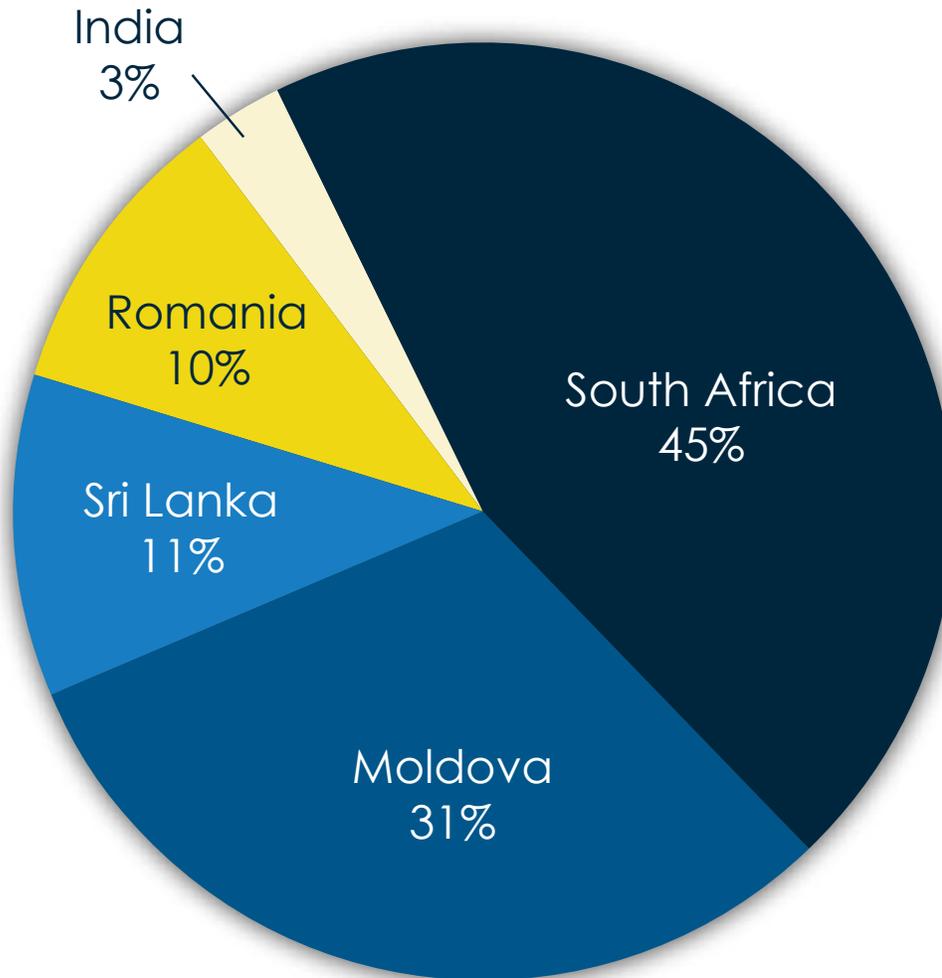
## International Presence and Impact

We have been blessed to see the expansion of the Reeder Fund's impact this year to five countries across three continents. Through the fund, CERI has met the immediate needs of children, youth and families living in Moldova, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and India. The following breakdown indicates the number of individuals served in each country:

Moldova	<b>315</b>
Romania	<b>14</b>
South Africa	<b>58</b>
Sri Lanka	<b>2</b>
India (launched March 2016)	<b>16</b>

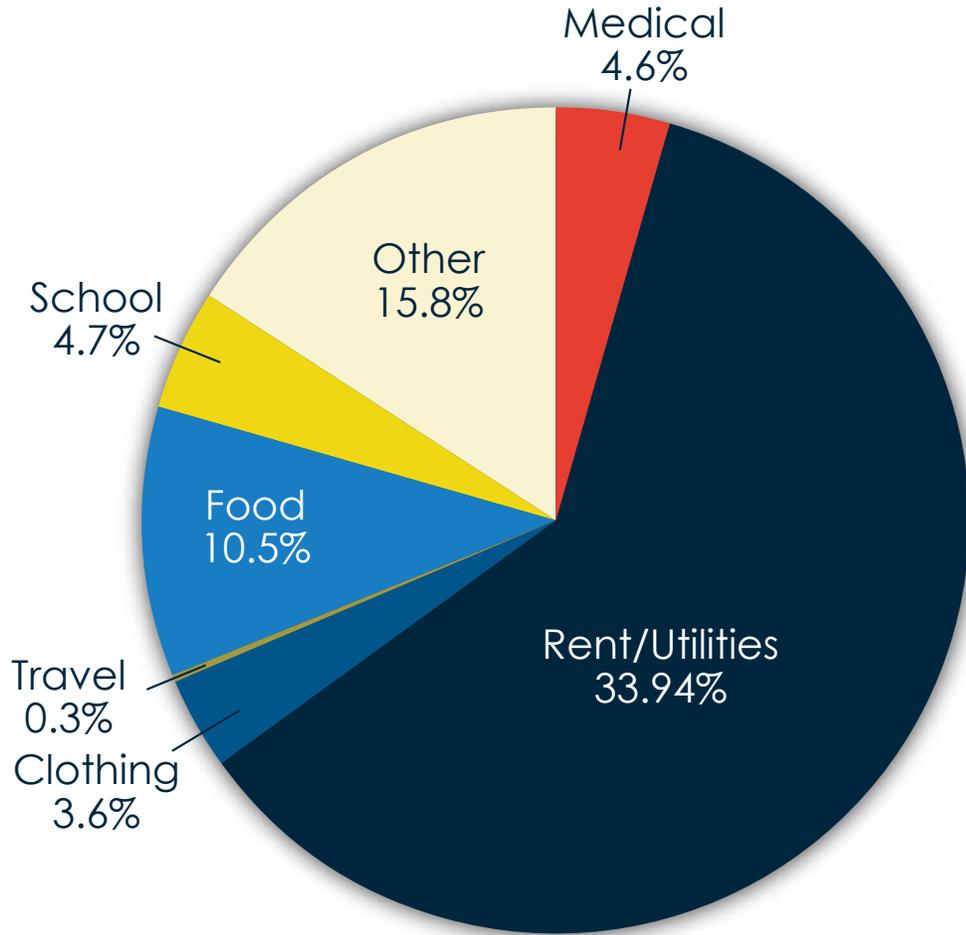
Total Individuals Served:	<b>405</b>
Total Funds Used:	<b>\$16,972</b>
Average Amount Disbursed per Individual:	<b>\$42</b>

## Expenses per Country



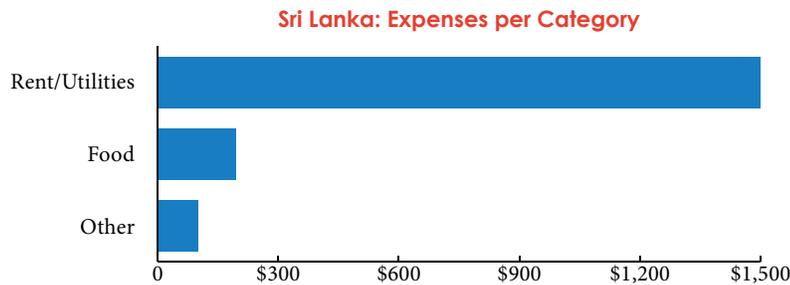
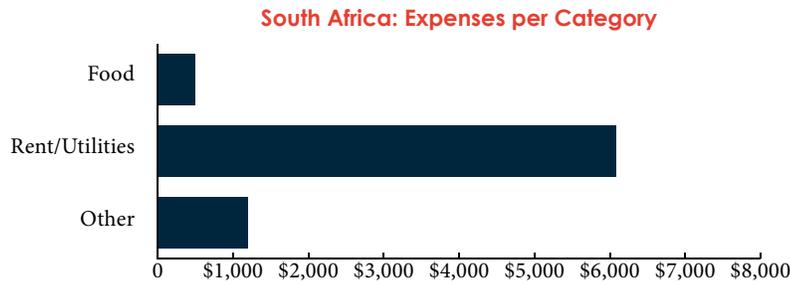
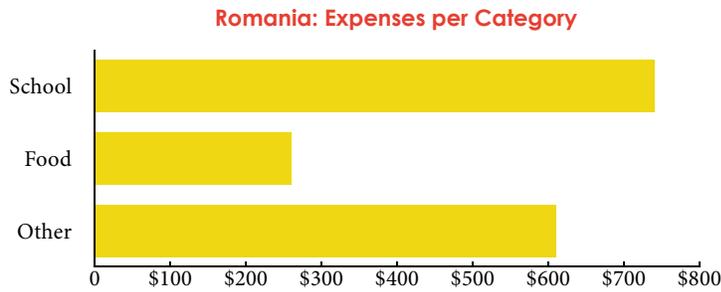
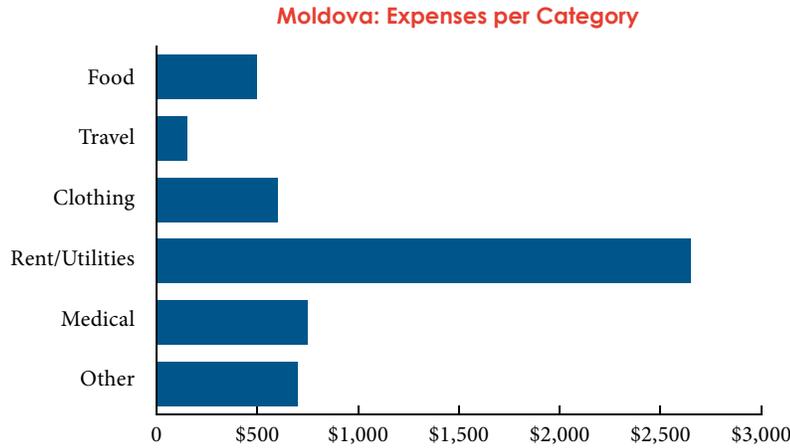
Moldova	\$5,370
Romania	\$1,615
South Africa	\$7,757
Sri Lanka	\$1,799
India	\$431
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,972</b>

## Expenses per Category



Medical	\$766
Rent/Utilities	\$10,267
Clothing	\$617
Travel	\$53
Food	\$1,788
School	\$805
Other	\$2,676
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,972</b>

## Expenses per Country\* per Category



\*Expenses per category are not depicted for India as a result of the small amount of funds disbursed in the country in FY16.

## Our Story of Love

### Moldova

After Ruslan Grosu's mother died in 2007, his father refused to take responsibility for his son's care, leaving Ruslan without a home or family. Ruslan entered CERI's Transitional Care program and began living independently while he was still technically a child. Through the Transitional Care program, CERI helped him enroll in school and taught him the skills he would need to successfully live independently. Earlier this year he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and had to be hospitalized for two months. Financial assistance from the Reeder Fund made it possible for Ruslan to obtain health insurance; receive professional care, medicine, and food; and set off on the path to a full recovery. His health insurance will also allow him to receive periodic medical services and checkups while he's in school and pursues his dreams for a better future.



Stella's story is very similar to that of Ruslan and so many others in this historically impoverished part of the world. She is a former resident of the Albinet orphanage and a mother of two beautiful girls, Luminita and Oxana. The two elementary school age girls are blessed to have their mother by their side thanks to the Reeder Fund. A year ago Stella was diagnosed with a cancerous GIST (gastro-intestinal stromal tumor), but fortunately, with financial support provided by the Reeder Fund, she was able to pay for the necessary tests, treatments, surgeries and follow ups that helped her recover and continue to provide for her family and care for her daughters.



# Our Story of Faith

## Moldova



Youth who transition out of state-run orphanages and foster care often end up homeless, without an income or a way to support themselves. In many developing countries around the world, including Moldova, there is no concept of affordable housing or state-sponsored transitional housing. Youth who cannot pay rent face the reality of becoming homeless and living on the streets. Through the Reeder Fund, CERI is able to maintain two apartments—one for boys and one for girls—that are used by CERI program participants at risk of homelessness. These apartments provide the youth a safe and welcoming home environment while they continue their education and learn skills vital to self-sufficiency as an independent adult. Christian mentors reside in the apartments and play a role in teaching the residents important life skills, such as financial planning, job skills, smart shopping, cooking, apartment cleaning and other important responsibilities. Weekly Bible studies address the spiritual needs of the youth and teach practical ways of showing love, using God as the supreme example.

# Our Story of Survival

## Romania

Human trafficking continues to pose a great threat to youth in Eastern Europe. However, over the past decade, what was once a sinister underground phenomenon has become a heartbreaking last resort for many desperate and hopeless individuals. The young woman pictured below found herself in such a situation. She was in such despair that she openly considered entering the Bucharest sex trade in order to survive and support herself. With no family and no education or job skills to make a sufficient income on her own, human trafficking appeared to her as the only viable option. This quickly changed thanks to the financial assistance that CERI was able to provide her through the Reeder Fund. The Reeder Fund gave her the means to enroll in vocational training courses in cosmetology, a dream she thought would always be unattainable due to her extreme poverty. Though it may seem simple, this one important intervention changed her life, preventing her from falling prey to human trafficking. Once she completes her education, she will have the opportunity to secure a job that will provide her with a steady income, and she will be able to live a healthy and happy life.



# Our Story of Joy

## Romania

For one family of five living in an inner city area of Bucharest, unemployment and a lack of a steady source of income have made it difficult to afford even the most basic necessities. The mother is a beneficiary of CERl's Women's Economic & Educational Empowerment program and a professing Christian. The father, a new Christian, suffers from a chronic illness and has struggled with alcoholism for most of his adult life. Extreme poverty was taking a toll on their three children – a high-school aged son, a middle school-aged son and a newborn daughter – who were already suffering from a lack of nutritious food and struggling to cope with the harsh cold winters. Through the Reeder Fund, CERl provided this humble family groceries that would last them for an extended period of time. But what the Reeder Fund provided was more than just food. This simple act brought smiles to their faces, joy and hope to their hearts and trust in God's providence.



# Our Story of Empowerment

## South Africa

Accessing healthy food is often difficult if not impossible for many impoverished communities in South Africa. This is particularly true for the indigenous population living in the rural areas surrounding the town of Ladysmith in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, where CERI volunteers have been instrumental in aiding residents to build gardens that provide a year-round sustainable source of fresh food. This year, the Reeder Fund made it possible for an additional four communities to receive gardens and seedlings. The CERI team, assisted by local residents, lifted up fences with gates, dug trenches, secured water sources, and planted seedlings to start growing the first crops! Each garden, at maturity, will feed a family of five, producing enough food to spare and share with others.



# Our Story of Perseverance

## South Africa



Among the many lives CERI has touched in South Africa is a single father who has been struggling to raise five children alone. Impoverished and HIV-positive, he still puts the needs of the children first, but in 2015, the family lost their home after heavy rainfall collapsed the leaky roof that he couldn't afford to repair. The community rallied in this time of need, and a fundraising effort, combined with financial assistance provided by the Reeder Fund, resulted in a brand new home for the family. The father underwent an amazing transformation upon moving into his new house. Though he had been discouraged, feeling overwhelmed and ashamed, he was now a smiling, confident and proud new homeowner. The entire community celebrated the change in this father's heart and soul. Now, he and his children have a safe place to live. Now, he can focus on providing for his family and taking care of his own health. Now, the future will unfold in a more hopeful way for this family.

## Our Story of Hope

### Sri Lanka

Luxshana Nanthakumar, now 18 years old, was raised by her grandmother since the age of 10. Not long after her mother died in the 2004 tsunami, her father remarried and abandoned Luxshana and her grandmother, leaving them to fend for themselves. Her father also took the money that had been donated to their family by a nonprofit, to build a new home for himself and his new wife. Luxshana and her grandmother were left to live in a half-finished home that barely protected them from the elements. Even worse, the dilapidated structure left them exposed to predators, thieves and other malicious people. When her grandmother fell ill, Luxshana's anxiety about her already uncertain future grew. Through the Reeder Fund, CERI was able to complete the construction of their family home. Not only did this give Luxshana and her grandmother a tremendous feeling of safety and security, but it also gave them hope for the future and renewed their courage to face each new day.



Hancy Sandruwani was a newborn when she lost her parents to the tsunami that hit Sri Lanka's Eastern Province in 2004. In the aftermath, Hancy's aunt became her foster mother and raised her as her own daughter. But Hancy and her foster family have since fallen on hard times, going through a financially difficult period and struggling to put food on the table. CERI was able to purchase much needed food, clothing and school supplies for Hancy and her family, through the Reeder Fund. The security afforded by this basic needs assistance has encouraged the family and empowered them to pursue economic self-sufficiency and independence.

# Our Story of Compassion

## India

Global Family Charitable Trust is a Christian licensed short-term shelter for girls in New Delhi, India. The shelter primarily serves sexually abused, homeless and orphaned girls from New Delhi and the surrounding region. Every day local police officers drop off new residents at the shelter. Shelter staff deliver compassionate care to each of them, providing them room and board, health checkups, in-house education and clothing. While the shelter is able to cover most of its residents' basic needs, it cannot provide for their urgent needs, such as emergency medical care or mental health interventions. The Reeder Fund has made it possible for CERI to provide support to cover pressing expenses related to healthcare for this vulnerable population.



# 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, this gift to CERI has touched thousands of lives, healed thousands of wounds, and brought comfort to thousands who were lost—and continues to do so today!

This report is our way of saying “thank you” to all the individuals who gave to  
The Don & Birdie Reeder Global Emergency Relief Fund.



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