



**MALTESER RELIEF  
SERVICE IN UKRAINE**

ACTIVITY REPORT



2015

# ACTIVITY REPORT

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Front cover:  
icon of St. George, 15th century (fragment)  
Lviv National Museum

## MISSION

Malteser Relief Service provides a comprehensive and consistent support and assistance for children from boarding schools and orphanages, poor and lonely elderly people, people with disabilities, weak and vulnerable people who find themselves in crisis situations. The organization is well experienced and competent at resolving social problems, and as an expert in social care matters it offers services aimed to deal with the problems in this sector.

## VISION

Founded by the Order of Malta 900 years ago, the MRS keeps its tradition by remaining true to the Maltese motto "Defence of the faith and assistance to the poor". Having a respectable reputation among charity organizations in Europe and Ukraine, the MRS is efficiently and responsibly trying to support orphans and vulnerable children, the sick and needy, the poor and marginalized of the community, thus showing the modern world the true power of Christ's love in action.





“Defence of the faith and assistance to the poor” - is the unfaltering motto of the Order of Malta, and the Malteser Relief Service is its direct organizational and spiritual descendent. In Ukraine the Order of Malta is represented by various Maltese Aid Service independent branches. Bi-lateral relations were officially established in 2008 between Ukraine and the Order of Malta. In 2012 Embassy of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta opened its diplomatic mission in Ukraine. Before turning to the modern history of the Order and its representatives, it is worthwhile to review briefly the main events of the Order’s history, its formation and activities, even if mainly to satisfy the interest of those who know about the Order but would like to have a more detailed understanding of it.

The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta (the Maltese Order, the Order of Hospitallers) – this has been the official name of the Order since 1936.

From the reign of Constantine the Great (306 – 336 AD), from the time of the discovery of Christ’s tomb, the attention of the Christian world was focused on the Holy Land, specifically on Jerusalem, and the flow of pilgrims to the holy places was constant. In order to facilitate and support these long and dangerous journeys to Palestine, a whole network of aid stations were set up to provide shelter, food and assistance for the sick and poor. Documentation exists revealing that in 1099 when the first Christian crusaders took Jerusalem, they met with an already established hospital dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The hospital had places for up to 2,000 men and women injured or ill; treatment was given regardless of religion and Arab medical practices were used. The hospital was directed at the time by Brother Gerard (who died on September 3, 1120) and the staff comprised a brotherhood. After they had captured Jerusalem, a large group of crusaders joined the community that ran the hospital, and soon other such hospitals sprung up.

Not long after, the decision was taken to form a religious brotherhood and in 1113 Pope Pascal II in a Papal Bull recognized the group’s statutes and approved its religious rule according to which the members were bound by the three monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. In addition to hospitals and shelters, the Order was also in charge of approximately 50 fortresses in the Holy Land and due to increased militarization (because of the need to protect pilgrims at Haifa, which was the main port of entry for Europeans to Palestine, as well as to guard the burial place of Christ, and provide protection against criminals and unbelievers) the Brotherhood of St. John was transformed into a religious military Order and together with the Templars established a permanent armed force for the defence of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. At this time in the name of “Brotherhood” is changed to “Order”. The first documented participation of the Order in battle against unbelievers dates from 1137.

Very quickly the Order came to play a key role in the Crusades, as recorded in the battles of Ascalon (1154) and Acre(1191).

When Acre, the second capital of the Order of St. John and the last Christian stronghold in the Holy Land, fell in 1291, the remainder of the knightly Order settled first in Cyprus and then from 1306 to 1310 on the island of Rhodes, which because of its large number of harbors provided a convenient battle point with Muslims. It is also interesting to note that after 1312 when the Templar’s Order had been disbanded, the Pope directed that the majority of their property and goods beyond the borders of France be handed over to the knights of Rhodes. After 200 years in Rhodes, the Order had set up a clear hierarchy and structure. This militaryreligious order under the jurisdiction of Rome was fully independent of any governmental authorities or laws. A huge hospital along with a palace, fortress and schools were built at that time in Rhodes. The Order also developed a large, modernized fleet which took advantage of the most advanced knowledge of navigation and ship-building at that time. The Knights of St. John continued to do battle with Turks and Mameluiks, and carried out raids on the shores of Levantine, Asia Minor, and Egypt, constantly gaining in military strength. In 1480, in a tremendously

difficult battle, with huge material losses, the Order managed to stave off the assault of the Sultan, Mahomet II. This was one of the most famous sieges in world history because a host of enemy forces was defeated by an insignificant number of fearless men. But in 1522, under pressure from Sulieman the Magnificent (the father at that time of the one-year-old Selim, born to him by his beloved of his harem, Roxolana, of Ukrainian origin, whom he presented with the gift of an island upon their son's birth) the Knights are forced to leave Rhodes. The siege had continued for half a year and the Knights again put up defense with extraordinary bravery, and because of their small number proved a special inner strength. Seeing their courage, Sulieman made a noble gesture, and called a cease fire, under condition that they officially admitted defeat by taking down their flags and removing Christian relics from the churches, as well as archives, preserved objects of the Order, canons and other weapons, and provided them with boats to leave Rhodes.

For seven years the Order sought for a new home. Finally, in 1530, through the intervention of Pope Clement VII, the Order obtained rights from the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Charles V, the island of Malta and the accompanying archipelagos with the understanding that the Knights would defend the Mediterranean Sea from the Turks and African warships and maintain neutrality in inter-European conflicts.

As the defender for the next two centuries of Western Europe from the Muslim world, the Order gradually acquired significant wealth which in turn allowed it to assist in developing a spiritual and material heritage. In 1565, the Knights once again met up with Sulieman the Magnificent. One of the biggest battles between Christians and Muslims took place, known as "the Great Siege". The superiority of European weapons turned the tide, signaling the decline of Turkish rule over the Mediterranean and the apogee of the Order's glory. At this time, Malta truly flourished: its maritime academy became known as the best in the world, the Order's fame was recognized throughout all of Europe, Malta's college gained university status, and the library of the capital, La Valleta, grew to be one of the largest in the world. From the mid-16th century, Malta becomes recognized as a center of world learning – European educated elite cooperated and collaborated with scholars from the East.

In the 16th and 17th Centuries, flying the flags of Portugal, Spain and France, the Knights played a role in colonization taking place in Canada, India, Brazil and the Antilles. But gradually, as geopolitics changed, France - which had a strong influence on the Order and which was the location of much of the Order's wealth and property - and the Osman Empire entered into friendlier relations and so the policing activities of the Order were much less in demand. Little by little, the Order lost its status as a leader in Europe. In the 18th century the Maltese fleet fell into decline and with it the morale of members of the brotherhood.

Interestingly enough, ethnic Ukrainian territory of the 17th century had its ties with the Maltese Order. The Order is closely associated with the Ostrogski, Zaslowski and Sanguszko princely families. In his Testament, Janusz Ostrogski bequeathed most of the estate of the Ostrogski family to pass on the benefit of the Order of Malta. A century later, in 1797 on Ukrainian, Belorussian and Polish land, which came under Russian rule after the fall of the Rzeczpospolita federation, a Grand Priory of the Order of Malta was established. It was comprised of two parts, Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox. With time, all the Jesuit properties in Poland came into the possession of the Order. The flow of time inexorably makes its amendments to the modern history. The French revolution with its strong anti-clericalism put an end to the Order's existence in France. The French Convention in 1792 relieved the Order of all its rights and privileges in the country, and chased out the brotherhood beyond its borders. The Order also lost the island of Malta in 1798 to the French under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte during the period of his campaign in Egypt. Napoleon Bonaparte occupied Malta for its strategic value. Because of the Order's code (signed in 1530) prohibiting them from raising weapons against other Christians, the knights were forced to leave their island. An important leader of the Order, the Grand Master Hompesh resigns and a contingent of the Knights who by invitation of the Russian emperor make a harbor for themselves in far-away Russia, choose a successor (in contravention of Order statutes), Paul I. The declaring in 1798 of the married, non-Catholic, not ordained Paul I to be

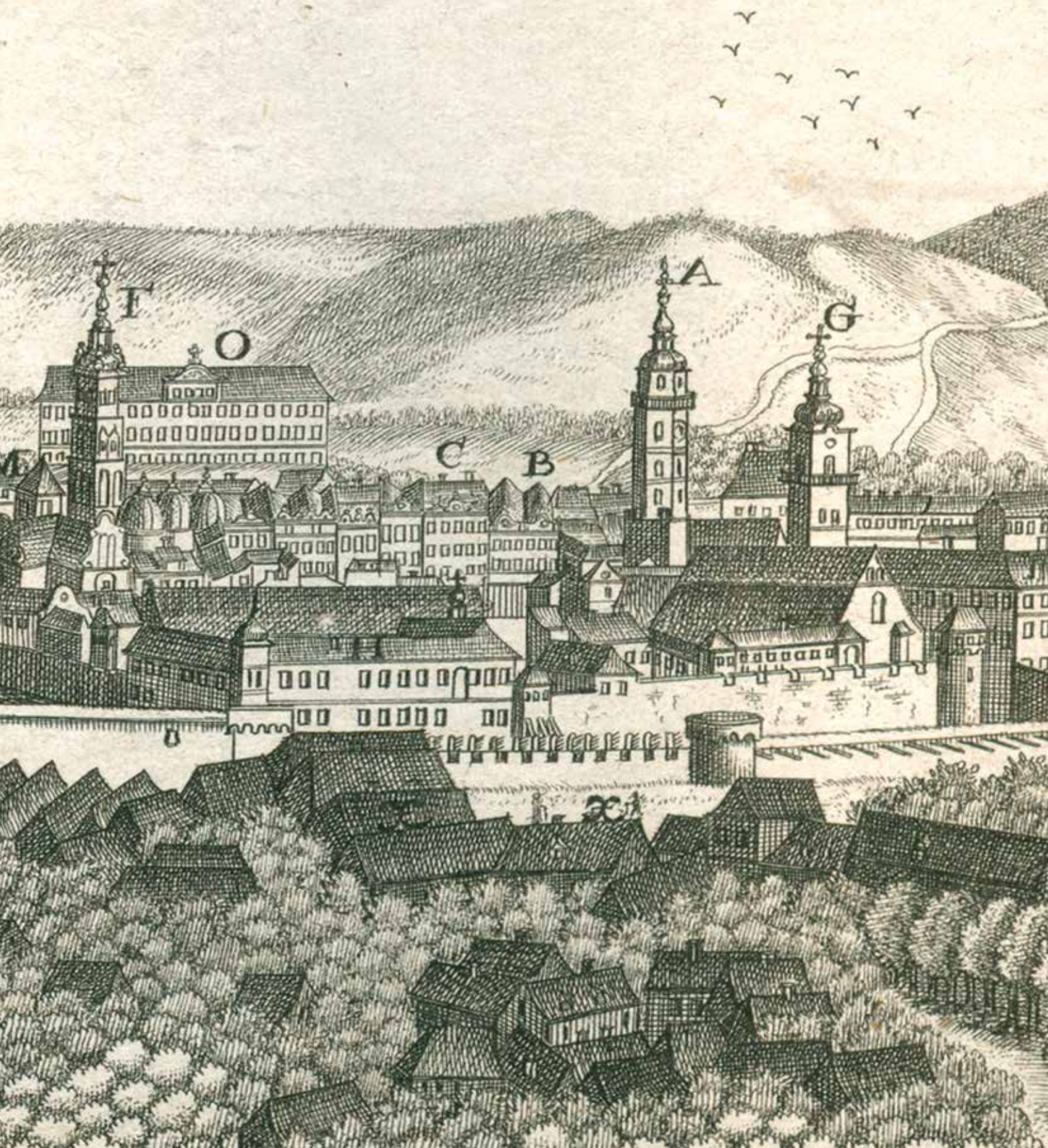
head of a Catholic knightly-monastic order is not recognized by the Pope and in the history of the Order he remains illegitimate. In 1801 Paul I died at the hands of an assassin and the heir to the Russian throne, Alexander I, in an effort to bring back legitimate rule to the Order, initiated new elections. An Italian, Tommasi, who was the candidate of the Russian Catholic Grand Priory, was chosen to be the Grand Master. He was confirmed by Pope Pius VII and the capital of the Order was set up in Italy. The Nineteenth Century saw the loss of much of the Order's property in Europe, particularly in Germany.

In 1834, after three decades of sojourn in Italy and Spain, the order finally settled in Rome where it made its home till today. In the second half of the 19th century, the Order became well-established and gradually transformed itself into an international charitable institution. The Order is still, however, recognized by the world community as a sovereign state operating under laws of extra-territoriality, and which declares itself a neutral entity, much like the Vatican. The Maltese Order maintains diplomatic relations with 104 nations and is represented by a permanent delegation at the U.N., Commission of European Associations, Council of Europe, UNESCO, WHO, and other prominent international organizations. Today, as in the past, one can speak without hesitation about the elite nature of the Order even after it passed a statute in 1961 at which time it became open to membership of non-titled personages. Those with aristocratic blood welcomed into their circle persons of aristocratic soul from among the political and intellectual elite. Focus on social welfare is the hallmark of the Order's mission from the start of the 20th Century. Its main activities became the fight against leprosy, assistance to refugees, provision of basic needs during natural and manmade disasters and relief for those living in post-conflict areas. Such assistance forms the basis of over 200 projects yearly in Africa and Asia. The Maltese Order also remains committed to its spiritual and religious values as well as education and culture. Its work is sustained by contributions from various churches and civic organizations, private individuals, and bequests of property in many parts of the world. Acting with noble, sacrificial love for one's fellow human being is the goal which inspired the first Hospitalers in the 11th Century and which, far from having been lost over generations and time, has become the established moral norm requiring unswerving service in Christ's name to others, here and now. The founder of the Order, Brother Gerard, spoke these words which still ring true: "Our community will live forever, because the soil in which we are rooted is the suffering of this world, and there will always be people who want to work to relieve this suffering!"

**"Our community will live forever, because the soil in which we are rooted is the suffering of this world, and there will always be people who want to work to relieve this suffering!"**

the founder of the Order, Brother Gerard, Kingdom of Jerusalem,  
the beginning of the 12th century







Malteser Relief Service (MRS) started its activities in Ukraine, Lviv in December 1990 as part of the German winter humanitarian aid program, and later on 23 February 1993 CO "MRS in Lviv" was registered on the initiative of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and Malteser Germany. Almost at the same time Ivano-Frankivsk, and then Berehove, Mukacheve and Kyiv-based centres were founded. In 2013 the centres merged to form Malteser Relief Service of Ukraine. The organization's main activities are to help children from boarding schools and orphanages, poor elderly people, people in wheelchairs, people with disabilities, children and mothers in crisis situations. A charitable kitchen was the first project of Malteser Relief Service. Since that time more than 3.5 million servings have been given. Each year we arrange Christmas dinner and Easter breakfast for the visitors of charitable kitchen, who are mostly low-income needy elderly people. In 2007 we launched a project on catering hot meals for needy people with movement disabilities "Meals on Wheels". For a couple of years now Malteser Relief Service has been helping boarding schools and orphanages cope with their urgent needs (renovating bedrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, classrooms; providing with teaching aids and classroom supplies; equipping dental offices, sports training facilities, libraries; large-scale replacing of beds, preparing gifts for children within the annual campaign "Saint Nicholas Goes to Orphans"). The preference is given to the projects of a "Help for self-help" type (tractor, apiary, sewing workshop, carpenter's shop, bicycle workshop). Another important area of our work is involving children from orphanages and boarding schools in communication with their peers (we arrange the work of guest volunteers, sightseeing trips, sport events, special entertainment and educational actions and workshops). We also run and implement intellectual, cultural and educational programs in boarding institutions. For more than 15 years we have been working effectively with disabled people in wheelchairs: arranging annual summer camps and pilgrimage trips to the holy places in Ukraine and abroad, as well as carrying out a daily work of social and psychological adaptation for people in wheelchairs. In 2009 we launched the program supporting family child care homes (FCCH) and started our cooperation with centers for families with many children and a number of crisis centers for mothers with children. We carry out the projects aimed at upbringing and educating young Maltesers. MRS has been a co-organizer of an annual May pilgrimage to the Sviato-Uspenska Lavra in Univ (the Univ Holy Assumption Lavra) since 1995. We provide the pilgrims with simple meals of soup and bread, medical assistance, and take care of the people with special needs. MRS has also experience in effective running of large-scale aid projects: providing assistance to the Zakarpattia flood victims; purchasing medical equipment for surgery in infants under cardiopulmonary bypass; rehabilitation for the soldiers in the Anti-Terrorist Operation; the support for the internally displaced due to the conflict in Ukraine's East; First Aid Training Courses, etc.





10 000 dead



18 000 wounded



1,4 million internally displaced



900 000 refugees to other countries



\$ 5 000 000 daily cost of war for ukraine

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**MINIMAL PENSION 2013: 130 EURO**  
**2015: 55 EURO**

world bank poverty limit:  
\$ 1,9 per day





The Malteser Medical Service of Poland have sent a convoy with humanitarian aid for the internally displaced who have suffered as a result of the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine. This is part of a large humanitarian convoy, organized by four Polish NGOs (Malteser Medical Aid Foundation, Caritas Poland, Polish Medical Mission, Polish Center for International Aid) with the support of the Polish Foreign Ministry.



Aid from the Malteser Service arrived to Zaporizhzhia and Mariupol. Altogether, the two "TIR" trucks brought in 23,160 kg of long-term storage foods and toiletries for children. The cost of the cargo comprised 260,600 Polish zloty. Aid from the Malteser was distributed to over 1,500 people (including 700 children). The foods were delivered to a Malteser field kitchen in Mariupol, where they were distributed among those in need by the project's Ukrainian partners from the Malteser Service of Ivano-Frankivsk.





Our partners from Malteser Hilfdienst of Trier, Germany, have donated an ambulance to the Malteser Service of Kyiv. The ambulance, equipped to transport the seriously ill, is being used to transport patients of the Irpin Military Hospital. Treated at this facility are wounded soldiers who have returned from Eastern Ukraine. The Malteser Service has been supporting them in various ways, and directing its efforts at their quick recovery, as well as their comfort and leisure while at the hospital. Prior to the beginning of its use, the ambulance was blessed by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, who emphasized the importance and necessity of non-governmental charity support of this kind.

30 Ukrainian soldiers have gone through a course of post-surgery rehabilitation at the Innovo Medical Center for Physical Therapy and Pain Medicine.



Malta Worldwide Relief





Centers for professional psychological help were opened as part of “Psycho-social Rehabilitation for Victims of the Conflict in Ukraine,” a project jointly financed by the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Malteser International, and the Malteser Relief Service Ukraine.

A team of professionals has been providing help since July 2015. Since then, we’ve opened seven centers. In Eastern Ukraine, these centers are situated in Mariupol, Artemivsk, Siverodonetsk, Sloviansk. Additionally, there are three such centers in the Kyiv region – in Boryspil, Irpin, and Kyiv.

Several thousand internally displaced persons, veterans, as well as members of their families, have already received free legal, psychological and social support; over 500 educators, civil servants, social workers, and volunteers have received knowledge and skills in psycho-social support for displaced persons and Anti-terrorist Operation veterans in various training programs, seminars, and roundtables.

The centers have been continuously working in these two directions: providing psycho-social support, and training/consulting psychologiss, social workers, and volunteers. We have psychologists, psychotherapists, social work specialists, and lawyers working with us. Some of these professionals teach at the psychology and pedagogy department of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, others are experts at international organizations, or members of specialized work groups at the local and national levels. The work of the centers corresponds to world standards, and is based on effective practices, particularly the Israel Trauma Coalition, WHO and UNICEF standards. The Malteser Relief Service implements the project jointly with the NGO “Ukrainian Association of Professionals in Overcoming Consequences of Psychotraumatic Events,” and the National University “Kyiv Mohyla Academy.”





Every mother wants her child to have a comfortable bed, civilized sanitation and hygienic conditions, adequate nourishment, basic dental service... There are more than 70 boarding schools and orphanages in Western Ukraine. More than 10 000 children in these institutions need our care and assistance. Many people take care of children from boarding schools, but surprisingly enough, this turns out to be insufficient. That is why MRS is trying in all possible ways to make a difference. By improving the living conditions at the boarding school, we improve the quality of life of its little residents. And by taking care of it today, we are also taking care of their future. Nobody can tell for sure what fate expects them, yet we do our best to offer opportunities and give hope to these disadvantaged children for a better life in future.





The Livtchytsi school houses and educates children with intellectual disabilities. The Malteser began their cooperation with this school back in 2000. The boarding school with almost 100 children was housed in a large old estate, and required serious help and substantial investment. Much has been done since then (kitchen, laundry room, dining room, showers, boiler room, heating system, a tractor, an apiary, bicycles, a repair shop, beds and mattresses, and many other things), and these children could now be said not to be lacking in everyday necessities. We endeavor to also take care of their health. About a decade ago, we installed a dental office. The equipment we started with was used, and is now entirely out of date. Members of the Swiss Rotary Club, who have helped us many times in difficult and expensive projects, supported us here as well. We managed to renovate the office, purchase new furniture, and completely replace the equipment. We were particularly pleased with the purchase of a new quality autoclave and KaVo dental handpiece. We can now be sure that the children's health is in the hands of professionals who have the proper technical resources and means.





We have organized sign language courses at the Lviv boarding school for deaf children. These were attended by parents of deaf children from boarding schools, teachers from the Lviv, Pidkamin, and Zhovkva boarding schools for hearing-impaired children, and a priest whose parishioners include hearing-impaired people. Over the two weeklong phases of the course, 50 people have either started their exploration of the world of sign language, or substantially improved their skill level, some even sufficiently to work as interpreters. This improved communication between deaf children and their family members, created conditions for better socialization through interpreter parents, and helped diffuse the fear of using sign language. The courses were taught by employees of the Sign Language Laboratory at the Institute for Special Pedagogy, National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine. All participants of the courses were given the "Ukrainian Sign Language Handbook for Parents," and a computer app for learning sign language that had been developed at the Lviv Polytechnical University.

The support of our Swiss partners has enabled us to purchase an OtoRead – a portable otoacoustic emissions device, supplemented with a computer, monitor, and printer. Early diagnostics of hearing impairment is crucial; it is known that if a hearing-impaired child receives adequate hearing amplification prior to six months of age, her psycho-physical and linguistic development will not differ from that of her unaffected peers. It is the registration and analysis of otoacoustic emissions that is seen as the most promising examination method, and one of the most precise, as well as painless, tests for establishing hearing impairment with the aid of a hypersensitive microphone. Now any child can have their hearing diagnosed at the Lviv boarding school for deaf children.







Swiss Rotary clubs have helped improve living and rehabilitation conditions at the Borislav Special Boarding School for Children Living with Consequences of Cerebral Palsy and Polio numerous times. This time, their support enabled us to renovate the massage room, and the rehabilitation room. Children affected by cerebral palsy or polio must engage in physical exercise if they are to develop their muscles and improve their mobility. However, they can't engage in ordinary exercise, requiring the special methodology and equipment suited for people with such needs. For this reason we have purchased a special rehabilitation system that allows to train and form a proper movement stereotype. Systems of this kind are used at private clinics that work with children with palsy. The system comprises a special stand, a system of braces with sensors, a table, a special "spiral" suit for correcting movements, a computer, a TV, and a game console; also included is the software license for an online system of virtual game rehabilitation. A special telemetric system for motion analysis can measure the movement in the many joints of the extremities simultaneously, and establish whether the movement is performed by the right muscle group, and within an appropriate range. There is also an information monitoring software that reflects the stats and changes in children over the course of rehabilitation.





The Krakovets special boarding school (Levels I-II) for special educational needs children houses and teaches children with mental retardation and intellectual disability. Their development, as well as the full and deep relaxation needed for therapy require special equipment. The Malteser Relief Service have equipped a special room at the school with sports and game equipment. The room is now one of the students' favorite places. The diseases that plague these children require constant work with the musculoskeletal system. A system of exercises and games led by the employees of the school in a so-called dry pool should be helpful in this regard. The dry pool is a receptacle filled with soft balls that immediately spring back to their original form due to internal pressure. During exercises in the pool, these balls provide a good massage, which supports the work of the central nervous system, the musculoskeletal system, and provides a load for all muscle groups. This helps develop and correct fine motor skills and movement coordination. Additionally, the deep relaxation achieved this way has a compensatory effect on the children's psycho-emotional state.







Lviv boarding school No. 2 is a large urban social institution with many needs. The school is housed in an old Austrian-period building and requires significant investment to ensure that students feel comfortable and provided for during the ten years they spend there. This level of funding is beyond the school's traditional budget, and indeed beyond the limited charity help. For this reason, our partners from Switzerland, the Smile initiative, and the Rotary Club, undertook to support the school.

To develop the children's musical talents, and provide good opportunities for leisure, we have organized a large assembly room. We have renovated the room, bought auditorium chairs, installed a stage curtain, and purchased some simple wind instruments (recorders and flutes). Moreover, we now have an electric piano synthesizer, which is very popular with the musically inclined children and constantly used for practice. It should be noted that music education and leisure at our school are taken very seriously, and children have good and dedicated professional educators.

In order to ensure balanced development and good physical form for our students, we have built a mini soccer stadium in the school's courtyard. To do this, we've had to go through major construction: level the soil and cover it with turf, fence the field properly, install specialized spotlights to enable the field's use after daylight hours. The turf requires regular professional maintenance, which will be provided by the Malteser Relief Service.

A laundry room was installed to respond to the everyday needs of this large school.



After graduation from the boarding school, the students frequently lack basic “home economy” skills, particularly as far as food is concerned. This is caused by the extant system of fully providing for their basic living needs. Classes, provided to compensate for this lack of knowledge and skills, are insufficient. For this reason, we’ve attempted to try a different approach: we’ve renovated two small rooms, and joined them into a single, roomy kitchen and cafeteria. This facility includes professional kitchen equipment, electrical stoves, fridges, and a rest area. We now intend to provide intensive cooking classes for senior students. Malteser youth will likewise be involved in this project. The facility also provides opportunities to relax and socialize over a cup of tea in the evening. Previously our students did not have this opportunity after dinner and the closing of the dining hall, which caused understandable discomfort.









Apart from the wellbeing of boarding school children, the Malteser Relief Service has always prioritized their education, development, and leisure. We never stop working in these areas. One of our latest achievements has been to install a dance studio at the Strilky boarding school. We built this modern, warm and well-lit classroom, suitable for dancing or other sporting activities, in the place of ruins of former annexes. This is an important component in ensuring quality of life and leisure for the children at this boarding school located in a remote rural area, a depressive, poor region that is difficult to access, with poor roads and educational infrastructure. A pedagogical policy aimed at keeping the children meaningfully occupied in their extra-classroom time, is absolutely crucial.



brother

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MADE IN CHINA

MAN

St. Nicholas has done a terrific job at the boarding school in Turka. It started with the renovation of a room, which was turned into a sewing shop. What followed was the purchase of work stations, a wardrobe, a large cutting table; yarn, scissors, fabric – all of the necessary raw materials; an overlock machine and ten new sewing machines of good quality. This is a great investment into the future of our students. Turka is situated in a remote mountain district of the Lviv region, which is, alas, depressive, and dependent on state support. Local residents frequently face trouble with finding jobs. A workshop that allows the opportunity to master a technical profession while still at school will certainly help a young person find basic material sustenance or additional income.





For over a decade, the Malteser Relief Service has been aiming its efforts at ensuring quality nighttime rest for children. The replacement of beds and mattresses has always been a priority and one of the important tasks in our work with boarding schools. Quality sleep affects the quality of life for schoolchildren both while at school, and in future. A healthy spine is the basis for the health of the entire body. We have completely replaced beds and mattresses in seven boarding schools of the Lviv region, which comprises about 1,000 beds. However, the need is not yet fully satisfied. This year St. Nicholas took care of children from the Sambir boarding school, and gifted them 40 beds with mattresses. In turn, our partners from the Swiss Rotary Club helped replace 70 mattresses at the Turka boarding school.





A sewing workshop installed with the support of the Swiss Rotary Club has been operating at the Strilky Boarding School for several years. The boarding school acquired its license for providing professional technical training, and its senior students are successfully learning the sewing profession. Recently we managed to organize a wonderful mutual assistance effort between boarding schools. We purchased the necessary quantity of cloth, and the students of the Strilky Boarding School used their sewing workshop to produce sets of bedsheets for their peers at the Lviv Boarding School No. 2. Responding to a household need is only the visible outward result. In fact, the effort became a lesson in good planning and management, an experience of a helpful hand and joint problem solving. All of the participants were happy and proud to see the work of their hands, as well as grateful for the friendly gift.





СВЯТИЙ М...  
ДІТАМ Э Ш...

НИК  
Н

Берегите Наших  
Счастливых  
Троих

Роман вкладки  
Полностью из ДВП с иллюстрациями  
Еще Счастливых Младенцев

Дары  
ДЕДУ МОРОЗУ

Полностью из ДВП с иллюстрациями  
Еще Счастливых Младенцев

LIGHTNING  
MCQUEEN

LIGHTNING  
MCQUEEN



Everybody eagerly awaits St. Nicholas' procession through the towns and villages with his bag of gifts. This is especially a children's holiday. However, there are children, for whom proof that true miracles can happen to them can only come this day. Several thousand children from orphanages, boarding school and family-based children's homes invariably await the Malteser St. Nicholas on the thresholds of their temporary homes. Our St. Nicholas does manage to make many children's dreams come true with the support of a numerous army of tireless helpers and friends, who are truly happy to help and to offer some of the warmth of their hearts to children. The St. Nicholas effort has been held every year since 1997.





It has been already seventeen years since the club of young disabled people “The Romantics” was founded under the guidance of Malteser Relief Service in Ivano-Frankivsk. About three dozen of young people with disabilities aged 18-40 years regularly meet here. These are boys and girls who have been confined to a wheelchair because of spinal trauma or other illnesses. As a result, they were forced to live in near penury and absolute isolation. The average disability pension in Ukraine is around € 100 and the cheapest active wheelchair costs € 1500. The absence of health insurance, bad living conditions totally unadapted and unworkable for wheelchair users, absolute lack of the accessibility infrastructure at public places and transport make the position of such people even more complicated. All of these factors are very challenging for both disabled people and organizations trying to help them. The systematic care of wheelchair users requires considerable costs and skilled personnel. Despite the Maltesers’ experience and expertise in assisting people with disabilities gained over many years, and with existing volunteer human resources, we are unable to launch similar work in our centers in other cities. The severe lack of wheelchair accessible vehicles and facilities still presents insurmountable barriers. The goal of the club is to help young people break their involuntary isolation, and facilitate their integration into society, reveal new personal qualities, make new friends and lead a full life. So we cut more doorways to the homes, make accessible entrances with ramps, and carry people on wheelchairs in our arms up and down innumerable stairs in typical apartment buildings. The





FITA

FITA  
FEDERAZIONE  
TENNIS ITALIANO

UKR

TEAM

members of the club are also provided with financial, medical and legal assistance. We regularly provide with the wheelchair accessible vehicles for them to get to their weekly meetings. This work involves a psychiatrist, a psychologist and a priest being consultants and assistants for the group as a whole and for each individual in particular. Around a hundred people have undertaken a rehabilitation program since the beginning of the club's activity. Each of them became a role model and support figure for others, and most importantly - the living embodiment of a personal dream not only for new members, but for many young people, both inside and outside the Maltese community. The club members are regular participants of the annual international camps organized by the Order of Malta. The annual pilgrimage to the Sviato-Uspenska Lavra in Univ (Univ Holy Assumption Lavra) and the pilgrimage to the village of Krylos have already become a tradition. In 2013 there was a long-awaited traditional for the Order of Malta international pilgrimage to Lourdes in France arranged with the assistance of the Austrian Grand Priory.

Professional sports is not a pipe dream for our romantics. We boast many victories, with many still to come. In 2015, three of our friends took several winning places at an international disabled ping pong tournament in Poland. Every fall, the Malteser Relief Service organizes the Malteser Friendship Ball for disabled people in Ivano-Frankivsk. 150 Maltesers from Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Kyiv joined our friends the Romantics in waltzing this year.





One of the aspects of MRS's activity is its work with young people. This is Christian education of youth and its involvement in social projects. The life of youth community is a multitude of frequent get-togethers, participation in various events, international and local youth and special needs camps. The First Aid School has been functioning at MRS since 1993. Young people take a proactive position when it comes to saving lives under critical circumstances. Senior pupils of secondary schools, college and university students willingly take lectures and attend first aid training workshops. They are aware of their moral and Christian duty to help those who find themselves in danger. They are also ready to consciously take responsibility for human life, overcoming their own fear and psychological barriers.







About a hundred people regularly take training courses in caring for people with disabilities. The training courses teach how to work with disabled people. Much attention is given to psychological aspects of the work. To apply their knowledge to practice Young Maltesers actively participate in the club of young disabled people, arrange parties and holidays for them, visit them at home.

Malteser youth are heavily involved in working with boarding school students, as well as in efforts aimed at helping senior citizens.

Our foreign partners invite Ukrainian youth to various international camps and meetings that are held every year in a different European country. We also have our own Malteser summer camp in the Carpathians. We relax, work, pray and learn. The food made with our own hands at the field kitchen is the most delicious. And it is the time for meeting old friends and making new ones.





Providing emergency medical assistance to the victim is a manifestation of love for one's neighbor, as well as everyone's civic and Christian duty. Anybody could find themselves in need of emergency first aid after a car, workplace, home or sport-related accident. In many cases, first aid must be provided immediately, before the arrival of a doctor. Its administration may relieve pain or even save a life.

Our First Aid Training Courses are aimed at people with no medical training. In addition to theoretical and practical training, we also look at the motivation to provide aid, and at overcoming the fear of providing aid. The course comprises ten hours for each ten-person class. The essential point in the course is to provide practical skills to enable a person to act automatically in a critical situation. For this reason, all training exercises are performed as many times as is necessary for each student in order correctly to administer aid. First aid courses have a long history in the Malteser Relief Service. We first started offering these courses in Lviv in 1993. Lately, the demand for this knowledge in civic society in Ukraine has grown substantially, which is why we endeavor to help everybody who is interested in acquiring the necessary skills. A training in Certified First Aid was completed in Lviv in the fall of 2015. This training was part of an international project by the Malteser Relief Service Ukraine, and the Malteser Medical Service Poland. The certified first aid course lasted for 10 days, and included both theory and practice. The training covered safety (own and victim's), inspecting the victim, evaluating her conditions, unconsciousness, algorithms of providing aid in various situations, and CPR. Each participant had the opportunity to apply their newly acquired skills in the role of aid provider, as well as victim. In addition to certified first aid, the course looked at aspects of tactical medicine, and included training in providing pre-medical aid to people with special needs, pregnant women, and children. The project was co-financed by the Polish Foreign Ministry Development Program.





The manoeuvres competition for volunteer rescuers were held as part of the Polish Foreign Ministry Development Program jointly with the Malteser Medical Service, and the Malteser Order in Poland. 12 teams of Malteser members from Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Kyiv, as well as Poland and Germany participated. The competition was the logical conclusion to the six-month training in Certified First Aid for Ukraine's Malteser, and a significant step in the direction of building a mature civil society. The goal of the competition was to test the acquired knowledge and skills in providing first aid to victims in various realistic scenarios. Actors were used to simulate various extreme situations, traumas and injuries. The competition lasted all day and took the form of a dynamic quest. Each assignment was evaluated by professional judges and rescuers from EU countries. All of the participating teams demonstrated a high degree of competence. This has been the main achievement of the manoeuvres, and an undeniable proof of success for the training given to the Malteser rescuers. Volunteers were present at every point in the simulated emergencies, and provided commentary on the goings-on, while interested spectators could get useful information as well as improve their own rescue skills on special dummies. After completion of the competition, an ceremony was held, where certificates of completion and awards for winning teams were handed out. Two teams from Lviv took first and third place respectively; a team from Germany took second place. All teams showed very high results, and the Malteser Relief Service Ukraine reached a new level, as all forty project participants who completed the course became First Aid Trainers in accordance to the provisions of the Polish Resuscitation Council and the European Resuscitation Council.





The first project the Malteser Relief Service implemented in Lviv was a charity kitchen. Over the years, the project has seen many transformations, and now exists in a form best suited to the situation Ukraine finds itself in. We support the work of two hot meal stations for the elderly and people in need at two Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church parishes in Lviv. Charity kitchens also operate in Berehovo and Mariupol. Each month we transfer funds that enable the work of these stations, and provide produce for the preparation of lunches. On average, we allocate circa 43,000 Euro per year for the work of charity kitchens for the needy.







The tradition of Malteser Christmas dinners and Easter breakfasts for senior citizens, held each year at the MRS charity kitchen is in its second decade. In 2008 we also started the annual Easter Basket effort. The Malteser charity kitchen also feeds homebound senior citizens. For these people, we put together wonderful Easter packages which we then have blessed and delivered to people's homes before the holiday (with the help of Malteser youth). In connection with events in Ukraine's East, we have also expanded our Easter Basket effort to include 300 people in the city of Kramatorsk.



## PARTNERSHIP FROM ABROAD

A number of quite large-scale projects have been carried out either under the sponsorship of our foreign co-operation partners or through Western European grants, which we manage to get under tough competition conditions. For many years, we have worked with the Swiss Rotary Club, and the private Smile Initiative, Switzerland, as well as Malteser International, and the Malteser Service branches in Germany, Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Lithuania. The key arguments and criteria motivating the decision of our foreign partners to finance the projects are Ukraine's clear European identity, a sense of neighbourly solidarity, and our ability to ensure the transparency and accountability of all the projects as well as their relevance and innovation. Through this partnership we manage to implement the projects, which would hardly be carried out on money raised in Ukraine alone. The support of our international partners has been extremely valuable and significant in the matter of rehabilitation for the soldiers in the Anti-Terrorist Operation, and the support for the internally displaced due to the conflict in Ukraine's East. Involved in this effort were the foreign ministries of Germany and Poland, as well as the Malteser Medical Service Poland, Malteser Poland, and Malteser International.

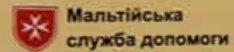




Подаруємо дітям  
радість життя



Один відсоток від суми Вашої  
покупки наш салон перераховує  
для допомоги дітям з інтернатів



Мальтійська  
служба допомоги



## UKRAINIAN PARTNERSHIP

Apart from private donors and foreign partners, we cooperate closely with small and medium businesses in Ukraine. As an example, we've cooperated with the Adamas Jewellers, who agreed to donate 1 per cent from every sale made in their shops in the four Western regions of Ukraine (Lviv, Volhyn, Transcarpathia, Ivano-Frankivsk) over one month to the cause of helping the children from boarding schools and orphanages in the area. The company matched the sum collected from the sales, and we used the resulting 55,000 hryvnas to purchase gym, developing, rehabilitation, and special medical equipment for children in Sambir, Lutsk, Vynohradovo, and Dolyna.



We want to thank everyone who has steadily supported us over the years. We would like to give special credit to those who do not expect any thanks from us and do not want to be mentioned by name. They are private individual donors who have chosen the form of regular support for our projects. Through this regular partnership we are able to plane our work and have the courage to consistently carry out large-scale projects. Many thanks to you for having a big heart!





To the north of Peremeshliany, among the beautiful views of the Holohory mountain ridge, lies the village of Univ, famous for its fortified monastery, one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in Ukraine. Oral history tells us of the miraculous healing of a nobleman, Alexander Lahodovsky near a spring in that area. As a sign of gratitude, he made a vow to build a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary on the site of this miracle (the Renaissance tombstone of the nobleman from the year 1574 has been preserved up to this day). Stories from the 16th century and archeological excavations in the neighboring Chernecha Mountain suggest that a monastery might have been on this location for almost 1,000 years, and that monastery buildings and the church of the Holy Mother of God had already stood there long before the Lahodovskys came there – historians believe that in the 14th century, King Fedir Liubartovych reconstructed the church and the monastery. Originally it was Orthodox, then after the Union of Brest in 1569 it became Greek-Catholic. Later on from 1700 to 1790 the monastery, which was considered to be one of the most important on the territory of Galicia, had belonged to the Basilian Fathers and after that fell into neglect. From the beginning the monastery was famous for its educational traditions and book printing. Yov Kniahynitskyi, Archimandrite Varlaam and Atanasios Sheptytsky led their monastic lives here. With the blessing of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky in 1919, the Studite monks\* were brought here, called to revive the ancient Rus' cloistral traditions of St. Anthony and St.Theodosiy Pechersky. After half a century of falling into ruination during the Soviet period, the monastery was renovated in 1990. Today the Univ Holy Assumption Lavra includes eight monasteries in total, both within Ukraine and abroad, and in 2008 it was granted Stauropegic status. The gates of the Lavra are open not only to candidates for monasticism. While remaining faithful to the strict ascetic rules of the Studite Order, the monastery is nevertheless open to every soul-searching person. Every year in May the Lavra hosts over 1,000 young people who make a pilgrimage from Lviv along a route of 67 kilometers, in this special way setting out to meet the Creator. Traditionally, on the second day the group is joined by persons living with disabilities, many of them in wheelchairs, who manage to cover 26 kilometers, just like the other pilgrims, aiming for their spiritual goals. MRS has been a co-organizer of this event since 1995 and provides the young pilgrims with simple meals of soup and bread, and assistance to those with special needs as well as anyone requiring medical aid.

\*The Studite Order was founded around the 8th to 9th Centuries by St. Theodore the Studite of Constantinople. The Studite monks came to Ukraine in the 9th to 10th Centuries. Their principal seat at that time was the Kyivan Pecherska Lavra, and in the last 100 years, their residence has been Univ.





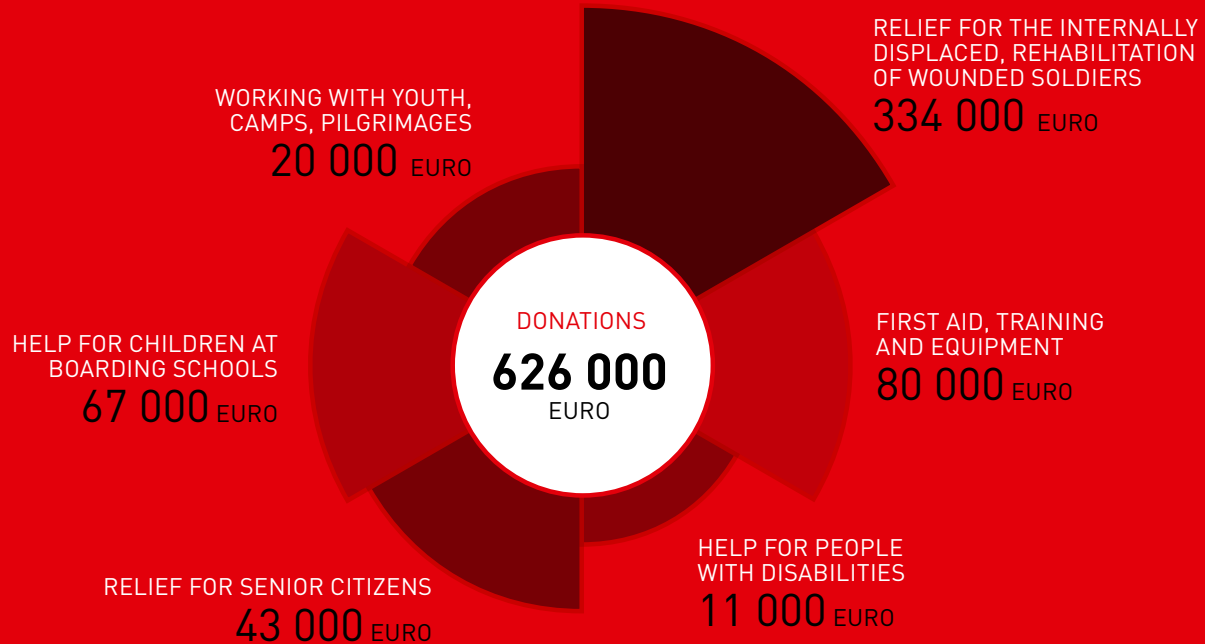
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By the year 2002 all the projects of the MRS and administrative expenses had been financed by Malteser Germany. Due to the fact that most of East European countries entered the EU and Ukraine officially declared to improve the living standards in the country and also because of the changes that took place after 2004, an emphasis has been shifted to the problems of African and Asian countries. A full stop to grants for Eastern Europe was planned for 2010, but in light of the financial crisis that affected the world, including Ukraine, support from international structures of the MRS continues to this day. Reasonably large projects continue to be implemented with the funding of our foreign partners, and grants that we manage to compete for and win in Europe. We receive much international support at the moment to implement relief projects pertaining to events currently unfolding in Eastern and Southern Ukraine.

The administrative costs of our organization comply with the norms of Ukrainian legislation and international standards for NGOs, and do not exceed 20% of the total annual budget.

The activity of the MRS is based on a number of fundraising technologies. Dissemination of information and conduction of campaigns, broad and regular cooperation with media, visual advertising on the streets, printing of advertising or promotional materials, personal contact with our donors - all that is an effective way to mobilize resources for our projects, raise social awareness in our society. Professional conducting of projects with its regular coverage in the mass media, as well as detailed reporting on the progress of projects, the outcome of fundraising campaigns and the use of publicly donated funds enable our partners and benefactors to be directly involved with our activity and easily monitor our work.

**If you have any questions or need more information,  
please contact us at:**

**Malteser Relief Service in Ukraine:**

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Tel./Fax: +38 (032) 275-12-00

E-mail: malteser@malteser.lviv.ua

**We need your help to be able to help others.  
If you want to support us you can donate to:**

**(for EURO)**

BENEFICIARY:

Maltiyska sluzba dopomogi u Lvovi

8/2 Bogomol'cya Str.

Lviv

Ukraine

ACCOUNT BENEFICIARY:

26003360005.978

BANK OF BENEFICIARY'S:

JSB „UKRGAZBANK“

320478

1, Yerevanska Str.

Kyiv

Ukraine

SWIFT: UGASUAUK

ACCOUNT BANK OF BENEFICIARY:

400886433201

CORRESPONDENT BANK:

COMMERZBANK AG

Neue Mainzer Strasse 32-36

60261 Frankfurt am Main

Germany

SWIFT: COBADEFF

DETAILS OF PAYMENT:

(Charity Donation)



