



The Survivor Mitzvah Project

REPORT FROM MOLDOVA!

There is a Yiddish saying: "***One mother can care for ten children, but ten children can't care for one mother.***"

Many times on our Emergency Aid Expeditions the elderly survivors say that you, the people who help them, are "like kind mothers and fathers to us." And it does take all of us, together, to help care for them. So thank you to everyone who donates and makes it possible for us to bring aid to survivors in need – to make their lives better in so many ways. Because of your compassion and generosity, we were able to distribute over \$70,000 in Moldova and provide funds for food, medicine, eye operations for those who are going blind, and home-care for the bedridden. This was life-changing for them. It made a powerful impact on their immediate circumstances and, importantly, let them know that they have not been forgotten by the world. We visited recipients of your kindness throughout Moldova and Transnistria (once a part of Moldova, now an independent country).

On a cold, snowy night in Kishinev, we drove to a tiny, ramshackle hut to meet brother and sister Anna Moiseevna and David Moiseevich. My first glimpse of Anna was through a frost covered window by her bed, her only portal to the outside world.



Their living space was so small it was barely possible to fit all of us in the same room. Anna, in her '90s was ill and bedridden. David, also elderly, was trying to manage her care. Your donations make it possible for them to get the help they so desperately need.



In Balti, 91-year-old Elizaveta Vladimirovna, [pictured at left] managed to survive the Holocaust with her mother, sister and younger brother, by running from place to place to avoid the killing squads. They suffered hunger, illness and cold but stayed alive until the old house they sought shelter in suddenly collapsed, killing everyone but her. She made her way alone during the post war years. Now she too is bedridden and needs the home care and medications you help provide.





Endless thanks to everyone who sent us Star of David necklaces, pins, and keychains. These were special and treasured gifts.

Many who received your gifts said the same thing as **Haya Sruliena** in Tiraspol [*pictured at left*], "**I have wanted this my whole life.**" When Haya was a child in the ghetto, she was forced to wear a cloth star on her chest and back and didn't realize that the star had a meaning beyond marking her as a prisoner, destined for death. **Only after the war did she learn that "this was a beautiful symbol of my people."**

For Haya and countless others, your thoughtfulness brought them great joy.

Pictured at right:
Sunia Isakovich in Ribnitsa and
Berta Grigorievna in Kishinev.



We also visited 97-year-old Malka Zelikovna, in Balti. During the Holocaust, Malka jumped on a train to escape the mass killings in her town.

A passenger started harassing her and then threw her off the moving train. Days later she was found by a railroad worker. She was unconscious. Her skull was fractured and she was missing an eye - two injuries that affected her health then and make her an invalid today.

Bedridden and blind, Malka needs expensive medicine and 24/7 home care, and because of you, she receives it.



We also brought aid to those who were subjects of medical experiments while in the ghetto, such as **Riva H.** in Soroca, who was injected with the polio virus as a child and now cannot walk. *[Pictured at left].*

Petr Semenovitch *[below]* in Tiraspol, was a victim of the mass shootings when he was just a child. He was lined up with the other boys in his village whose parents and relatives had just been executed and thrown into a large pit.

He woke up hours later in that same pit, in a sea of dead bodies.

For a few moments he didn't know if he was dead or alive, but knew enough to remain still and let night fall. Then he climbed out, naked and covered with blood, and ran into the woods. A kind farmer's wife took him in, gave him a bath, fed him, clothed him and then sent him on his way. It was too dangerous for her to let him stay there, as she and her family could be executed for helping even a small boy who happened to be Jewish.



At first I thought that Polina Samoilovna in Kishinev must have several grandchildren, because there were toys displayed in her apartment.

Polina told me that her husband, also a survivor, bought these for her as gifts during their brief life together. He died at a young age and they never had children.

She explained that the reason he did this was to make up for the fact that **she never had a "childhood", and never had a toy during her years in the ghetto.**

[Pictured at left: Polina holds some of her treasured dolls].



Feodor Nusimovich, [at left] ran with his mother and two young sisters trying to escape the slaughter, only to encounter Romanian Nazis who raped his sisters in the forest. Using their last ounce of strength, the family ran East to Uzbekistan, where Feodor passed as an "Uzbek" shepherd boy. Along with his mother and sisters, they suffered starvation and illness, but survived the War.

We heard so many stories of unbelievable horror, it is hard to imagine how anyone could recover from those experiences, or how anyone's heart and soul could heal after suffering this magnitude of evil.

And yet, time and again, we

were greeted by sweet, loving, kind and gentle individuals who were so grateful for a visit, so touched to be remembered, and so honored to be the recipients of your kindness, the kindness of strangers.

Our Moldova Expedition was challenging; the weather was icy cold, snowy, and the roads were bad - sometimes it took hours to travel just 20 miles. But we were relentless and traveled throughout Moldova and Transnistria to bring your aid to those who needed our help so urgently. - *Zane Buzby*



[with Evgenia Leibovna in Balti.]

Our work in Moldova continues. Our personal experience there showed us first-hand that the need is great.

We are planning another distribution immediately, because hundreds of survivors are still waiting for us.

Will you help us raise \$70,000 to give them the care that they so desperately need? Please donate now to be part of this life-saving effort.



Donate online at: www.survivormitzvah.org 800-905-6160

100% of donations go directly into the hands of a survivor in need!

Or send a check to:

The Survivor Mitzvah Project
2658 Griffith Park Blvd., Ste. #299
Los Angeles, CA 90039



Many thanks to everyone who donated funds, airline miles, gifts, and video equipment. Thank you to our crew: our beloved guide and translator Liudmila Makiadonskaya (from Belarus), our Moldovan driver Igor Mocrienco, and special thanks to our remarkable filmmakers, Wayland Bell and Jason Tongen, who volunteered their time and talents to record and preserve the testimony of the last survivors of the Holocaust for SMP's Holocaust Educational Archive.

THE SURVIVOR MITZVAH PROJECT is a 501c3 non-profit public charity.