

Newsletter 1 November 14th, 2019 (18th volume)

Camp Ukraine 2020 & Working Hands 2020



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Dear reader!!

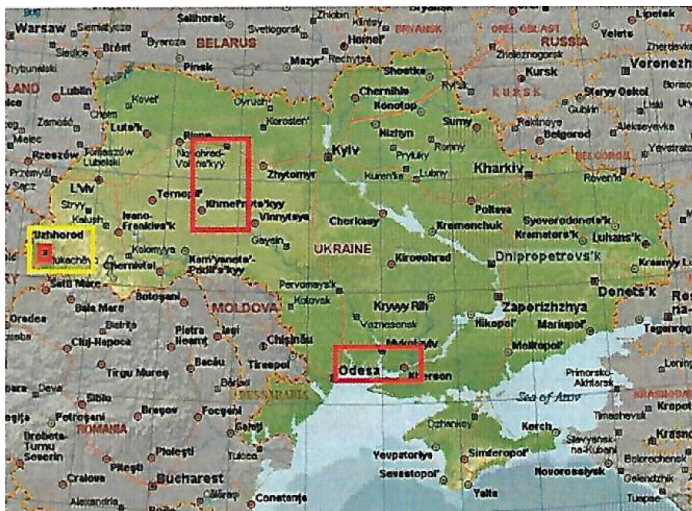
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Ukraine

The situation in Ukraine is changing very gradually. The small steps forward are sometimes followed by a big step backwards. With the election of the new president there appears to be some limited progress regarding national politics. This also applies for the troubled areas in the eastern part of the country. You don't notice this yet in the small villages. Poverty is substantial, the significant deflation of local currency, while young people are moving abroad to work and/or to stay there. As a consequence, children stay behind to be looked after by their old grandfather or grandmother. One can only work with what one is given.

The area surrounded by the yellow rectangle on the map is where the annual summer camps do take place. The children come from the area surrounded by the red rectangle. That's also the area where all 20 projects are located that Working Hands completed since 2007.



Camp Ukraine 2020

3 – 18 August we will again organize three summer camps for kids and teenagers in Trans Carpathia. This is the area within the yellow rectangle on the map. During summer 2020 the kids will come from Rivne (3rd time), Dunavitsi (2nd time) and Hlynsk (3rd time). The 3 summer camps are located in Huta, Klyniovits and Lavki. For the kids it will be a real holiday! The Carpathians, one of the most beautiful nature resorts in Ukraine, are a dream for the kids! A few days out of their daily routine. Often their home situation is permeated with liquor and poverty. With a particular group we have camps for a maximum of three successive years. As a result, the youth work of the related local church does get a boost! This has led to great youth clubs and Sunday schools in many places. Splendid to see those consequences.

Camp experiences

Experiences of Lisette who has participated in 3 summer camps but who skipped 2019.

We asked her why she has decided join Camp Ukraine 2020 again. Answer: In the meantime, it's more than 1.5 year ago that we decided not to join Oekroe in 2019. This was a very tough decision. We did join Oekroe summer camps for three consecutive years, which has been a splendid experience! The long (but very cosy) bus journeys, the awesome kids, the nice stories and the extraordinary moments of faith. Nevertheless, we have decided 1.5 year ago to skip one year as we were backpacking through Thailand. This has been a very special experience; however, we did miss something. We missed the sweet faces of the children and the sincere joy in their eyes when you were playing with them. We still doubted, did we have to go again? We attended a youth weekend. We had different tasks there and were busy with different things. It was a splendid weekend with various activities, musicians and speakers. With the last speaker we were both, separately, very much touched by the spoken words. It became very clear, we had to go to Ukraine one more time! We will be privileged to share once more how great our God is and what he could mean for the children. It is special what God can tell you when you are listening. Do you also want to give those disadvantaged kids the summer of their life? Please come to one of the information events!

*Camp Ukraine 2020 and Working Hands 2020 activities of Foundation Oekroe at Rijnsburg
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Working Hands experiences

Albert ter Haar will join Working Hands for the third time in 2020. Why?

Many children in Ukraine live in poor conditions. Foundation Oekroe "Working Hands" provides underprivileged children good school and childcare accommodations. When we look around in our own surroundings in The Netherlands we do not miss anything. In Ukraine this is quite different. When something is available, they are unable to pay for it. A good reason to help and to work with our hands. Of course, you want to be there as well for those Kids. Therefore, join Foundation Oekroe "Working Hands"!

Working Hands 2020

During 2007 a first group of enthusiastic Foundation Oekroe volunteers went to Ukraine to create a basic living and learning environment for disadvantaged children. To this end, schools, boarding schools and hospitals have been refurbished and renovated. Furthermore, several childcare and a rehabilitation centre for disabled kids have been realized in areas where those facilities were hardly or not at all present. All projects that we started have been completed successfully. 18 – 29 May 2020 we will go to Ukraine again for the 14th time to realize a construction project. The first preparations have already been started. Also, this year we will work with a trusted Ukrainian partner who – like Foundation Oekroe – wants to offer disadvantaged kids hope and perspective for an independent future. Come to our information events if this appeals to you and you are not afraid to make your hands dirty.