

Moldova Orphan Sponsorship Program

School System in Moldova by Amy Kreimer

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Similar to the U.S., children in Moldova begin school in Kindergarten, around age 5. The school structure continues in a similar manner:

- Elementary—1st through 4th forms (grades)
- Secondary—5th through 9th forms
- High School—10th, 11th, & 12th (the term 'high school' began use in the 1990s)

After completing the 11th or 12th form students can go directly to a University.

Orphans are housed in boarding schools and attend school through the 9th form. (Non-orphaned children also attend the same boarding school, yet they have families to go home to during the summer.) Once orphans reach the age of 16, or complete the 9th form, they graduate and must find another housing arrangement. High schools do not provide housing, therefore not typically available to orphans.

Orphans that desire to continue their education attend vocational schools or colleges, where free tuition and hostels are available. Within a vocational school there are different levels of certification for the specific trade, requiring between one to three years of study. In addition to being trained for a specific job, the students also continue classes in general studies. Colleges are considered a specialized secondary education (i.e. nursing) and take four years to complete.

What we hear from sponsored students is that they chose a school, therefore their trade, by what is offered to them tuition-free. Orphaned students receive a small stipend from the government and can pay to live in the hostels year-round.

Chisinau Vocational School #5—Food Industry



Students training as bakers help prepare lunch



One (new) computer room for 640 students!



Andrei (left) is a student in the sponsorship program



Human Trafficking



Mimi Chakarova presents an eye-opening look at the current state of human trafficking in Moldova in *Moldova: The Price of Sex*. You can listen to the story and watch a moving photo show at:

http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/flash_point/001moldova/

Or the photographer's website at:

<http://www.mclight.com/slideshow.html>

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