

Moldovan Student Sponsorship Newsletter

Edited by Marcy McHenry
sponsorship@carolinaadoption.org



GRADUATES' LAURELS

by Angela Arhip

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It's the end of the school year... The last bell rang for our program, too. For some of our students, it is the last in their lives and of course its meaning is deeper than it looks. Emotions, memories and thoughts are flooding our graduates... Time has passed by so quickly and these school years have left a profound mark on their future actions and decisions. I'm very glad to see them after graduation and see how much they have grown professionally and intellectually, how well they do, and what their advice is for those who will soon say goodbye to school.

So, at this quarter's meeting we were lucky to see 2 of our ex graduates that we had invited: the sisters Orozova: Jazgul and Elmira. Jazgul is a student at a university in Tennessee. She left for the US 2 years ago when she was admitted to Lipscomb University. At this gathering she spoke with enthusiasm about her experiences and adventures. She recognized that at the beginning, life in US was not easy at all: new people, civilization, culture. The language barrier was a serious issue, too. She studies Physical Therapy and to learn the medical terms in a foreign language is also a provocation. She had moments when she was sure she would drop everything and come back Moldova, but the "greed" of fulfilling her dreams and hopes gave her stamina and energy to go ahead. She is proud now, because she hurdled the moment, although the homesickness is the same. Having been asked about her future plans, she answered: "After graduation for sure I'll come back to Moldova either forever or as a missionary. In fact, my aim has always been to help and treat children with disabilities in our country; so I'm working hard to complete this objective". Besides studying, Jazgul also works part time at the same university. She values this job a lot, because it is not only a source of earning some money, but also because it gives her the possibility of being among native speakers and improving her vocabulary considerably.

As far as Elmira is concerned, after graduation in Moldova she continued her studies at a university in Romania. For her, the challenges of being a student in a foreign country were milder because, at least, she didn't have to deal with the language impediment. The homesickness was a problem that she had to face too, but again being physically closer, she could afford to come to Moldova more often. She worked very hard to gain knowledge and graduate successfully and she managed. She graduated last year and came back to Moldova. Now she works as an editor at TeleRadio Moldova. She loves her job and is happy to be part of this team. However, she has set new goals and one of them is: "I'm not going to stop here. I'm determined to climb the professional ladder. I know I have to work very hard, but it doesn't scare me. On the contrary, this is stimulation and I'm determined to reach the tops." She expressed her wish of giving a piece of advice to the students of our program: "Work very hard, and only this will help you fulfill your dreams and achieve your objectives. Don't be disappointed by the country's situation, do not think that everything can be bought in Moldova, even though this is very common for us. I got my job only due to my efforts and endeavor. I'm happy I could make some professional progress and now I know that hard work is always rewarded. If you are not lucky from the very beginning, keep being insistent and try again until you succeed...".

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Elmira's and Jazgul's words had a very important impact on our students who enjoyed the discussion with them. Both students managed to inspire our youth with courage and self-confidence. Elmira and Jazgul are just two of our prosperous graduates, but we have many more. I hope the graduates we have now will have a "blooming" experience, and that they will wish to come and visit us in a few years and share with us their experiences and successes.

Elmira



Jazgul

The following students are graduating from their programs. Some may go off into the world to make their mark, and some may continue their studies. We congratulate them and wish them well in their future endeavors! (listed in order of photos)

1. Vasile Gratii
2. Valentina Garstea
3. Pavel Gutu
4. Mihai Galbura
5. Grigore Turcan
6. Eugenia Popovici



What our graduates have to say:

"The Sponsorship Program is a very good project for orphans and children who come from socially vulnerable families. I'm extremely happy I was part of this "family". During these years I got a stipend that a lot of students would need and I'm very grateful to those who offered this support to me. I hope that one day I'll be able to help, too, those who need assistance". **Mihai Galbura**

"This Sponsorship Program helped me tremendously during these 2 years. I have successfully finished the master studies: "The firm Finances and Accountancy". Due to your support, I had the possibility to study and broaden my knowledge. I'm very grateful to those who contributed to my wellbeing. I would like to thank Mitrica Family for their financial and moral support, which was so important for me. I would also like to thank the US coordinator Ms. McHenry and of course, Ms. Angela for their care and support, for their work and dedication to help and make happy students who need attention". **Valentina Garstea**

NEWS OF OUR STUDENTS

- **Olga Rusnac** – together with her university mate, participated in a volleyball competition in Cluj-Napoca, Romania where their team won 1st place. Her comments about the tournament: *"The experience there was interesting, full of energy and enthusiasm."*
- **Ion Terna** – participated at the Republic competition at weightlifting and won 1st place.