

Moldovan Student Sponsorship Newsletter

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An Unusual Christmas for Moldovans

By Angela Arhip

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No snow, no cold and no Christmas tree in front of the Government in the Great National Assembly Square. (We have one, but it's in front of the cathedral.) Fewer tinsels, fewer merry lights, fewer people smiling – it is the bleak picture that currently characterizes our country. It's very challenging to weave that fairy holiday canvas, when the country doesn't have a government, when people strike for more than half a year and the Square is studded with tents, when we the Moldovans face so many difficulties and don't know what "surprises" tomorrow will bring. However, a ray of light washes the sadness due to the children's lively voices that echo loudly in the kindergartens performing the whole week before Christmas. They still believe in Santa Claus and magically make us believe too - that 2016 will be crucial: the troubles will come to an end and we will start a new and better life. Our Moldovan Sponsorship Program youth also managed to smile and laugh and forget at least for a while about difficulties and enjoy the winter holiday emotions. This miracle happened due to you, Dear Sponsors, the Coordinator of this program in US, Marcy McHenry and CAS. We were offered a delicious and special Christmas luncheon and of course gifts. This year our students received candies, tea, and hygienic products. We met traditionally and greeted each other warmly, sharing the most recent news. Besides the exams bustle, we talked about plans, projects and dreams. Everybody expressed the wish for the next year and congratulated their colleagues, sponsors and coordinators. They set high objectives for 2016 and are sure that their dreams will come true. Their spirit of optimism gladdened me, and made me believe that this generation will change things in our country. I'm happy that you Dear sponsors help us grow a healthy generation – the future solid pylons of our society.

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An Unusual Christmas for Moldovans, continued

Editor's note: After reading the newsletter that Angela sent, I did a little research on the web to get further information on the "Unusual Christmas for Moldovans" – here's what I found.

<http://www.trm.md/en/social/in-capitala-s-a-dat-startul-sarbatorilor-de-iarna/>

Official opening of winter holidays in Chisinau



The main Christmas Tree of the country, located in the square of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Chisinau, was inaugurated on December 1. The holiday lighting all over the capital city was turned on together with the lights on the Christmas Tree. A concert was held on this occasion.

The inaugural ceremony involved the Mayor of Chisinau Dorin Chirtoaca. "I'm glad that we are celebrating the winter holidays together again, but regretfully, in a sad atmosphere, given that we have to gather together here, in a smaller area, not as usual in the Great National Assembly Square, owing to the turmoil through which we go", said the mayor.

In connection with Romania's National Day, which is marked on December 1, the mayor called on the people, in particular the young generation, to contribute to the removal of the borders at the Prut. "This could be the easiest road to the EU," he said.

This year, the ceremony was also attended by acting Prime Minister Gheorghe Brega. Though he recognized that Moldova faces problems, he expressed his optimism, saying that the Moldovan people are resistant and the difficulties will be definitely overcome by the end of next year.

The local authorities of Chisinau decided to light the upper part of the Triumphal Arch in the colors of the flag of France so as to make common cause with the French people. The lighting will be used up to the end of the winter holidays, IPN reports.

NEWS OF OUR STUDENTS

Pavel Gutu – returned in September from US. He was there with the program “Work and Travel”. In US he met with his sponsors, Ionel and Sorina Mitrica. Pavel spoke about his sponsors with pleasure and enthusiasm at our 4th quarter meeting. He told his mates that his sponsors are wonderful people and they are a good example for him. They motivate him to work hard in order to build a better life and realize his plans. Pavel would like to go again to the US, even though it wasn’t easy at all.

Teodor Mamolea – is currently working at a project in IT which will be new in Moldova. He doesn’t want to reveal too much about it, but promises to come with details when the project is ready.

Mihai Galbura left Moldova for China on the 23rd of December and will be back on January 6th. He went with the orchestra of Tele-radio Moldova and will have concerts in China every day. We’ll find out details at our next meeting.

Oxana Guțu – is very busy due to the winter holidays, participating at the festival of carols.

Olga Rusnac – is a student at State University of Medicine and Pharmaceutics. She is fond of volleyball and is a player of the university volleyball team. She is currently playing for the republic championship. Recently, she has had 2 competitions and won the 2nd place, being awarded with diplomas. Olga can’t imagine her life without volleyball. She says that this is the activity that helps her relax and gain new energy.

Victor Organ – is working at a new film. The film is an adaptation of the novel “Fading” by Liviu Rebreanu. The film is already shot and is in the process of being set. It is prepared for the winter exams.

Gheorghe Garstea – new student in our program. He is a student at the Financial College, but he is also performing with one of the most popular dancing troupe in Moldova “Codreanca”.

WE STILL HAVE New and returning students need sponsors! Do you know of anyone who might help?

- **Artur Tiutiunicov** (returning student)
- **Ilie Soloduh** (returning student)
- **Maxim Zagorcea** – NEW STUDENT

I’d be happy to forward the applications and additional information on any of these students.

A parting holiday wish from Angela and the students:

Dear Sponsors, CAS and Marcy,

Christmas is probably the best moment to tell how blessed we feel to know you and how grateful we are to you. May this holiday season sparkle and shine in your houses, may all of your wishes and dreams come true, and may you feel this happiness all year round. We wish you and your families a warm and happy Christmas, filled with the peace, joy and love. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!