



STUDY

INVESTING IN A BETTER FUTURE

Nicoleta still remembers the heavy smell of chlorine bleach, the walls around her painted light blue, the small windows, and the raised voices of teachers and cleaning staff. And every day, other children making fun of her; feeling isolated, sad, and a terrible sense of belonging nowhere.

Nicoleta went to live in a children's home in Moldova when she was 7. Her mother had mental health problems and was often in hospital. Her grandmother lived abroad, coming back to visit once every four years. Nicoleta's grandfather could not afford to look after her as he lived in poverty, but she would go and stay with him every weekend.

Nicoleta said, "I used to be so impatient for the weekends when he would come collect me. Every Saturday we would go to a park, and the biggest treat was when we would go fishing. I remember how I used to count the days until Friday when Grandpa would arrive."

Her grandfather used to cut Nicoleta's hair very short and give her very boyish clothes to wear. Nicoleta wondered if this was partly the reason why other children would always make fun of her and reject her.



Nicoleta went from living in a children's home to studying to become a computer programmer, as a recipient of a Mission Without Borders education scholarship

The worst day of Nicoleta's life was the day her grandfather — her best friend — died. She still misses him very much. Her response to this heartache was to withdraw even more, to build a wall around herself, and to push people away.

Looking back, Nicoleta can remember when the Mission Without Borders coordinator visited her orphanage, and life began to change for the better.

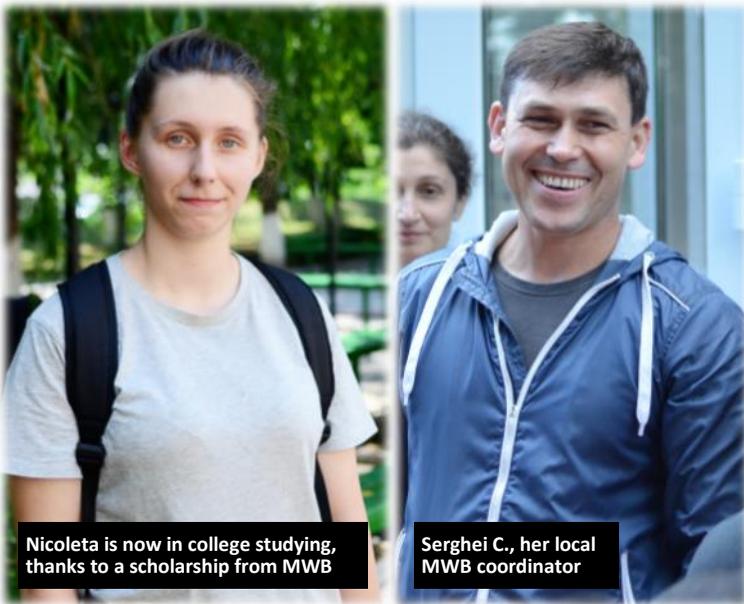
MWB held regular events at the orphanage, providing the children with emotional, educational and material support, and teaching the children about Christ.

She said, "The coordinator was like Santa Claus ... bringing us gifts, letters, school supplies. But most of all, I liked how he was so open and friendly."

The summer after second grade, she attended a MWB summer camp for the first time.

Now 17 years old, she remembers it well: "The games, the interesting Bible lessons, and most of all, those kind people who were so good to us. I saw and felt so much love and care and warmth."

Contribute to education today ...
Scholarships run from as little as \$100 to over \$1,000 per child or young adult



Nicoleta is now in college studying, thanks to a scholarship from MWB

Serghei C., her local MWB coordinator



Rodica, scholarship coordinator for MWB

Serghei S., MWB coordinator who visited Nicoleta's orphanage

Nicoleta particularly enjoys Information Technology (IT), and decided that she would study to become a computer programmer, as this is a well-paid job. After high school graduation, her plan was to get any job, work hard, and save enough money for college. **Her biggest shock came when she got a phone call, informing her that she would receive a scholarship from MWB.**

“When I heard that I was accepted for a scholarship, I thought I was dreaming!” she said. “What a joy! Now I have the chance to follow my dream, to some day have a small house and a garden full of all kinds of flowers. I’ll sit on a chair in the fresh air, enjoying a good book and a cup of tea,” she said, smiling.

Serghei C., the local MWB coordinator, said, “Nicoleta is such a positive example of someone who, despite her situation, chose not to give up but to fight for her future.”

“Scholarships are a much needed and welcome tool in many children’s lives. There is nothing more sad than a wasted life. Some young people end up in prison; others are forced to go abroad because they couldn’t find any opportunities here in their own country. The Mission’s scholarship program is such a support to those who want to continue their studies.”

Rodica, our scholarship coordinator in Moldova, said:
“Nicoleta is a special girl and her teachers are proud of her results. She is the only one from that children’s home in the last three years to have gone to college.”

“I feel so blessed to see the real impact, joy and hope that students achieve through this support from the Mission.”

“Still, there is also a sad element – and it’s the fact that we can only offer scholarships to a limited number of people. It breaks my heart when I see so many requests from children who want to continue their studies, but we can’t offer a scholarship to all of them.”

Your support will impact the future of young people in Eastern Europe!

Serghei S., MWB’s Christian Input coordinator, said: *“It’s such a joy when I meet up with scholarship students. They all remember the times we visited their school or localities with our program, performances or from summer camps.”*

“It is a very special thing is to see some of the scholarship students coming to summer camp as volunteers. Years ago, they were those little children from the camp; now they are leaders for other children. It’s great to see them sharing what they once received: kindness, love, and encouragement.”

Scholarships are not only for higher education or vocational training, but also for elementary children, who might not be able to go beyond Grade 8 because the next grade up is in another village, and they can’t afford the transportation costs.

Statistics show over & over, that for each grade higher that a child can achieve, helps them further down the road in life.

Can you partner with us, to see even more children of poverty in Eastern Europe stay in school? If we can assist them to become better educated, it WILL give them a more promising future, and help end the cycle of poverty.

As always, your donation of any amount is gratefully received and put to good use ... Thank you!

Bonnie
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All donations will be used for MWB-approved programs and projects; remaining funds will be used to fund other programs in areas of greatest need.