

# CHEVRA REPORT



*Chevra means friendship. Our goal is to help our people in their time of need.*

DECEMBER 2011

## HELPING IS EASY!

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## CHEVRA USA

Chevra is the American entity for our international effort. Chevra's work is a way people can make a real difference in the lives of many people in need.

## IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION

Living in a time where we face a shrinking economy, and depressed dollar makes it a challenge to do our work to help people. Less dollars come in, and the ones that do buy less and less. One way we have been able to do great work is through cooperation with other organizations.

A few months ago, Max, our co-worker in Holland told me about a great opportunity. A Christian organization in Sweden collected shipping containers full of clothing and furniture for the poor and was offering it to any humanitarian organization that could use it. The container had goods worth over \$100,000. Max said we could take it if we could ship it to Israel. The cost was \$4,000.

At the time this transpired, I was visiting Rabbi Russ Resnik, the Executive Director of the UMJC, and told him about it. He said they

had about \$1,500 in a fund designated for Israel help. Since we were going to ship it to Israel, he got approval from the board, and they chipped in the \$1,500. Chevra USA gave the other \$2,500, and we got the container. We shipped it to Israel, and gave the container to another ministry there, and they distributed the materials free to Israeli believers who needed help.

By giving it to the other organization, we didn't have to bear the cost of storage or distribution, something the other organization was set up to do. Most people didn't even know Chevra did this, but that didn't matter. What mattered was that we got to bless a lot of people, and that we did it in cooperation with other friend-organizations; the Swedes, Dutch, UMJC, and Israel, and it only cost us \$4,000. I can't think of a better way to stretch a dollar,

and we accomplished so much more than if we did everything ourselves.

Another point of cooperation is our camp in Northern Poland. We cooperate with a group that does camping programs as a way to reach out to people, and they run the camp. Another organization that works with elderly Jews and Jewish teens, organizes and brings in people for the camp. Together, we create a camping program and environment that becomes a blessing to many people. Shouldn't that be our goal?

*Michael Schiffman*

Michael Schiffman,  
Chevra USA



## SERIOUS NEED IN POLAND

We have been working with a group of Polish Jewish Veterans who were partisans during the war, fighting the Nazis. They made us aware of fifteen holocaust survivors in Poland who are in dire conditions and need us to supplement their income by \$300 each. It

would come to a total of \$4,500 a month, funds we don't have. We are making a special appeal for people to help these elderly survivors of the holocaust in Poland. If you can help with a one-time gift, or monthly, large or small, it would go a long way in helping these needy Jewish survivors, and we would be grateful. We are limited in what we can do, but we want to do everything we can. ■



## REPORT FROM UKRAINE »

Irek was with a group of young Polish Catholic and Protestant volunteers in Ukraine (*photo 1*). He writes:

In Kiev two Americans joined us and two people from Former Soviet Union; Dzhabul from Vladikaukas who is helping Jewish People in the Caucasus area and Sasha, a Messianic leader from Crimea. With such a mixed group of cultures, language, age, denomination, and background, we decided to come and serve Jewish Community in the city of Korsun.

We've been visiting the city of Uman and helping there. We met with the Jewish Community, visited the sick, helped with medicines, exchanged old and rotten beds for new ones, supporting people physically and spiritually.

We met with Ghetto and Holocaust survivors, and most of us were impressed by the testimonies they shared:

- During the German occupation in Uman, a large group of Jews were forcibly dragged into the basement with the help of the Germans and the local police. They connected hoses to the cars and sent exhaust fumes into the interior. Most of the Jews were gassed; however, there were a few people

who survived.

- Maria (81 years) – She was 12 years old at the time. She was miraculously pulled out of this oppression and secretly smuggled into the country, thanks to God and good people there who remembered her grandfather and honored him (*photo 2*).

- Evgenii (71 years) – He was two years old at that time; his family escaped. He still remembers this nightmare, though he was then a small baby (*photo 3*).

- Bela (71 years) – She was two years old when her parents managed to escape from certain death at the last minute (*photo 4*).

Today, most of these people live in poverty, forgotten, with pensions of 80 Euros per month.

- Raja and Evgenii – Evenii is a 47-year-old man who has a rare disease that is associated with withering and gangrene of his limbs. He has now had his legs and almost all his toes amputated. His wife Raja is his nurse and they have two teenagers. With one small salary and pension it is hard to survive, but Raja is full of optimism and she has hope in spite of this terrible disease through which her husband goes. We helped them with the purchase of a new

bed; they were very grateful and surprised by us (*photo 5*).

- Frida – she is 80 years old. She is alone and is very sick. She had a complicated life; her husband was wounded in the head during the II World War and has had mental problems. Forced deportations caused problems from the beginning. She raised three daughters and her husband died early. Ailing elderly are in need of help every day (*photo 6*).

People were crying and were very thankful for help. We also prayed with them and brought words of compassion and comfort to them. These visits also changed our people; they came back home with the new perspective and desire to serve and share with the poor, especially to God's beloved chosen nation.

We collected our money. Everyone paid for the trip and gave some money for us to offer for Jewish people, so we could do very good things for a Yeshua's glory. I send you thanks in the name of Jewish holocaust survivors in Ukraine. I hope one day we go with you to Ukraine.

With Yeshua's love  
Irek

