

CHEVRA REPORT



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

AUGUST 2018

HELPING IS EASY!

Please consider supporting Chevra with your donations.

Please note our new giving address in Worthington, OH, effective immediately.

ONLINE ▶ At our website: www.chevrahumanitarian.org
Visa, MasterCard or Paypal
If you have questions about online donating, please e-mail from the 'Contact us' page on our website.

MAIL ▶ Send checks to:
Chevra USA
P.O. Box 168
Worthington, OH 43085-0168
U.S.A.
Please, never send cash or currency!

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.

SPRING VISIT TO UKRAINE ▶



I have made several trips to Ukraine. In March, I went to Burdaynsk and saw our soup kitchen up and running. We are feeding approximately 40 people there. They were very happy that we were feeding them. Most of the people were refugees from the war with Russia. I visited several of the people in their homes.

Getting to Burdaynsk is difficult. I flew from Florida to Kiev, and Kiev to Zaporoshe. From there I had to hire a driver and a van and drive three hours over pothole filled roads. These potholes were made by artillery from the war. At times we were driving five miles an hour. The driver asked what American drivers would be

paid to drive on such roads. I asked if he wanted the truth. He said yes. I said we don't have such roads in America.

One elderly couple told me they were having breakfast and they were disturbed by a loud knocking on their door. Russian soldiers were there and told them since they were for Ukraine and not Russia, they had to leave immediately. They gathered a few belongings and found themselves out on the street walking with many other people. They heard loud noises from artillery and saw their apartment building being blown up. As they walked along the road, not knowing where to go, a van packed with people

picked them up and they were driven many hours to Burdaynsk, where they were left on the beach. A woman saw them and let them stay in her home for a week in exchange for their jewelry. They contacted their daughter and the government, and found a small, cheap apartment. The government sent their pension money to them, and their daughter

helped, but they had very poor furnishings, and no food. They had to pay for their medicines. They are coming to our soup kitchen five days a week. They had nothing.

Another woman we visited is in her 60s and is handicapped. She had an equally sad story. She washes her laundry in the sink, and offered us tea, since there was no food in her apartment. She eats in our soup kitchen as well.

We met another man in our soup kitchen. He was a journalist in Donesk, but when the Russians demolished it, he and his 91-year-old

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mother fled to Burdaynsk. He eats in the soup kitchen and brings food home for her, since she needs a walker to get around. He can not find a job and they are living in refugee housing. They were embarrassed about their situation, and said they were fine although they, too, had nothing.

We visited a family where the husband was an invalid. They were living in a small apartment. They come to the soup kitchen for food. They were pleasant, and I sensed their embarrassment for their situation.

We went to Kornotop, a city near to Ukrainian border with Russia. They feed about 40 people in the soup kitchen there. Funding from U.S. agencies has been cut, so they have been very happy to receive help from us. I watched the people chatting with each other in the soup kitchen, and we were introduced as the sponsors of the kitchen. They were very appreciative of our help.

We also visited a soup kitchen in Harkov. They had the same funding problems as Kornotop, and they were very appreciative of our support.

We visited a soup kitchen in L'vov. It had two seatings of about 20 people at each seating. People got soup, chicken, salad, and drinks. A woman asked me what my job was. I said my job is to coordinate this soup kitchen. She asked what she could do for me. I said if she eats well, I will be happy. People kept coming up to me thanking me for the soup kitchen.

Our soup kitchens have various types of venues. We look for inexpensive ways of feeding people well. In L'vov, our soup kitchen is in a private room in a pizza restaurant. They serve the food we contract for, and the room is private. In Berdaynsk, our soup kitchen is in an upstairs cafeteria over a bakery. In Zaporoshe, our soup kitchen is in a Cafeteria in town. In Kornotop, its in a community center. We have found that being flexible in this way enables us to feed people good meals at a lower cost.

When I come to visit, I bring a wad of cash. You can't visit the poor empty handed. We give out sacks of food items. In Berdaynsk I gave out 100 food parcels. That alone cost \$1,500. I also leave money with each person I visit in their home. Hugs are great, but money helps them live.

For the past several months we have been operating in a deficit. We are a very small organization which is funded solely by our donors. We really need your help to continue our work. The 1,400 people we are feeding depend on it, and truth be told, we need to double the amount of people we are helping. If you would please consider becoming a regular, monthly donor, it would be a great help to us.

Donations can be made on our website:

- www chevrahumanitarian.org/donations

Or mail a check to:

- Chevra USA, P.O. Box 168, Worthington, OH 43085

Thank you all for your support and helping make this work possible.

Sincerely,



Rabbi Dr. Michael Schiffman
DIRECTOR OF CHEVRA



Chevra USA is very grateful to First Fruits of Zion for covering the cost of printing and mailing the Chevra Report, thereby ensuring all your donations go directly to helping people in need.