



THE MANY WAYS WHITE CROSS IS USED IN BULGARIA...

Left: Chris Marziale helps fill gift bags during a visit to Bulgaria.

Below: The filled bags. Each child was also given a teddy bear, compliments of the AB Women of Colorado.

In Orphanages:

During special times of the year, such as Christmas and Easter, we prepare gift bags for children in orphanages. Usually included are items such as chocolate bars, pretzels and other foods, a toy, hygiene items and personal things such as socks. Large quantities of dishwashing soap, cleaning supplies and napkins are also purchased for the orphanage kitchen.



Left: Excited children at the orphanage in Pleven, Bulgaria receive their gift bags.



Left: A lawnmower was purchased for the Pleven orphanage with White Cross funds. There is a large play area for the children which was overgrown with grass and weeds. The staff will no longer have to cut the grass by hand because of the new lawnmower. They were so thankful!

Vacation Bible School/ Children's Weekend supplies:

Various times during the year we help with a week-long Vacation Bible School or a weekend just for children, in a town or small village. White Cross monies have helped to buy supplies for games, crafts and snacks for the kids who attend.

Right: Children play an outdoor game in the town of Guliantsi during a VBS week.



Senior Citizen centers:

At Christmas, food bags are given to senior citizens at a center in Sofia, Bulgaria. Senior citizens in Bulgaria often live on less than \$75 per month, so any extra food they receive is much appreciated.

Operation Christmas Child:

White Cross funds help offset the cost of storage and transportation of hundreds of shoeboxes which are delivered to underprivileged children and children in orphanages around Bulgaria.



Left: Receiving a shoebox filled with surprises brings joy to a child who might not otherwise receive a gift at Christmas time. Pictured here are children in Brest, Bulgaria. In addition to the shoeboxes, these children also received children's Bibles and a Christmas story book.



Literacy Program:

A literacy program was started in the Sofia Baptist Church thanks to White Cross funds. Roma (or gypsy) children from the neighborhood around the church come twice a week for reading, writing and math lessons, a Bible story, singing, crafts, and a healthy snack.



Seeing any kind of doctor is rare. In the picture on the left, a visiting American pediatric eye doctor gives the children their first eye exam. White Cross monies pay for eyeglasses when needed, as well as some basic medications.

Most of these children and teens do not attend school, so teaching them basic reading skills is an important part of each meeting.

Right: Maria reads the Bible lesson for the day.

Below left: Some of the reading and math materials purchased with White Cross funds.

Below right: Rosa does a math lesson.



Right and below: Teachers, Dora and Plamy, help the children with their lessons and with fun activities such as puzzles.



Above: the snack the children receive may be the biggest meal they get all day. White Cross money buys bread, meat, fruit and a cookie or other sweet for each meeting.



Left: Roma families often live in substandard housing, with no running water or toilet facilities. Children coming to the literacy program can take showers and get clean clothes. White Cross buys shampoo and soap.