



TRC Diaconal Coordination Office
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Transcarpathian Reformed Church Diaconal Coordination Office



BEREGSZÁSZ

2020

WHAT IS „DIACONIA”?

Shortly: the service of help and love. It includes every possible way of finding solutions for people's problems.

The **Diaconal Coordination Office (DCO)** of the Transcarpathian Reformed Church was founded in **1993**. From the very beginning our main task was to maintain relations with other churches from western countries, to establish new relationships and organize help towards people in need. Since 1995 the DCO resides in an old school building, which has been renovated by us.

The DCO aims to serve people irrespective of their race or religion. As the spiritual and physical need in the Transcarpathian region is enormous, our office is anxious to assume this task. This is a mission that is given to us by God – to take the living good news to them:

„... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

(Matthew, 25:40)

That way you can prove the brotherly love without words – with the help of acts. God waits for us to visit others with the good news: **I AM READY TO SEE AND HELP FOR CHRIST.**

We are able to give help to people in need due to generous donations from abroad. Without these supports, the DCO would not be able to help hundreds of people across the Transcarpathian Ukraine.

So our main aim is to offer help, when and where it is required. Help may appear in different forms. Accordingly, DCO runs different programs, such as: running the Social Kitchen, the Bakery, the “Almond tree” Elderly Home, the Crisis Home and maintaining the Emergency Center.

OUR MAIN PROJECTS

1. SOCIAL KITCHEN



One of the most important branch of our activities is the work of Social Kitchen. It began its work in 1995 with the purpose of preparing and giving daily meal to old, lonely and needy people.

We regularly give warm meal to 330 people. The local social department assists us in surveying the social situation and finding those, who need this kind of help the most. Besides, they help us in delivering the food to some of the beneficiaries' home.



We also take part in feeding children living under poor conditions. We support two schools in Beregszász: School N°3, School N°7.



The Social Kitchen works in cooperation with the Bakery, the Women's Association and the farm of our office. They help the kitchen's work with noodles, bread, vegetables, dairy products, etc.

2. BAKERY



are not only huge numbers, but also a great help.



The Bakery helps church and state institutions, like kindergartens, children's homes and schools, reformed congregations. Like this bread is distributed to the lyceums of the TRC, Associations of the Disabled, the Mission for the Addicted in Csongor, Social kitchen in Bene, Elderly Home 'Almond tree' and the Mother-Child Home. Those, who are in great need and participate in other programmes of the DCO may also receive some bread as additional help.

3. 'ALMOND TREE' ELDERLY HOME

The Church's dream came true in 2003: we managed to build an Elderly Home. From 2005 all the responsibility of the construction works fell on the DCO. The original building used to be a part of a mental hospital. We received the building in ruins from the state and renovated it.



In 2006 we finished the renovation of the Home, which has place for 24 tenants.

By the grace of our Lord in 2009 we managed to start with the Home and presently there are 11 tenants in it.

The common expression of this project is: personal protection, prevention and safety. Through the advanced age and bad health condition of inhabitants we need to give a place, where they can have a safe life in in physical and mental terms.

Countless family members leave the country, searching for a better life and only a few percents of family members stay at home. These families usually choose the Elderly home for their older generations.



4. CRISIS HOME



The Home gives a great assistance for those mothers, who are in a hopeless situation in their homes with a possibility to stay here for longer or shorter period of time. The Crisis Home purpose is to support those pregnant women, and mothers with small children

in a crisis situation, who are exposed physical, mental and spiritual violence by husband,

partner or relatives in their home. Most of the residents were driven out from home or were exposed to constant abuse.



5. „GOOD SAMARITAN” CHILDREN’S HOME IN NAGYDOBRONY

It has been working since 1995. The leader of the establishment is László Katkó.

At the moment 74 children live there. This institution is not supported by the state, so it can only run with the help of the contributions of foreign supporters and the Transcarpathian Reformed Church.



These children are keen to participate in any kind of activity concerning folklore or different kind of sports.



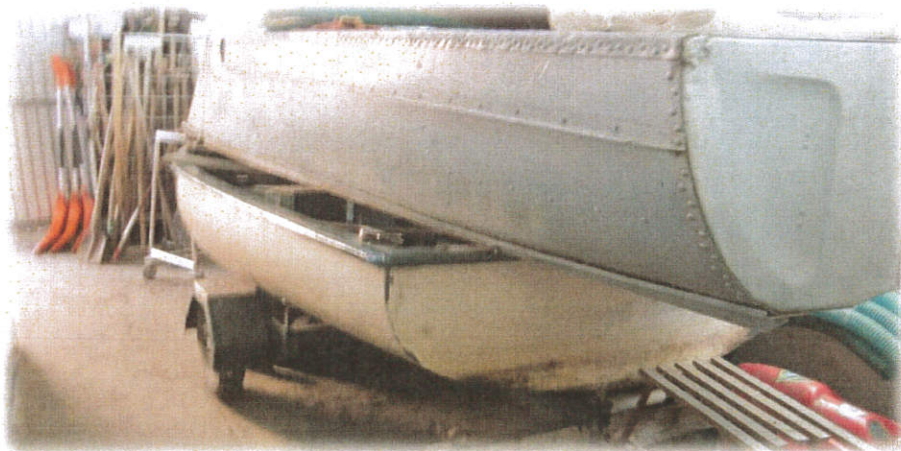
6. EMERGENCY CENTER

It was set up in 2002. It consists of two parts: a storehouse and rooms. The rooms serve as accommodation for rescuer teams and in „peacetime” for the guests of the DCO.

After the floods of 1998, 2001 and 2008 our church worked out a program in order to be prepared in case of any natural disasters. During the floods our Social Kitchen and our Bakery has given immense help to people who were in trouble. Food and bread was distributed to thousands of people. We took care of the feeding of local rescue teams as well.



We try to fill our store continuously in order to always be prepared to help. But our region has to cope with natural disasters very often, so the upload of the store is quite hard.



7. VOLUNTARY CHURCH FIRE DEPARTMENT (IN DERCEN)



It was established in 2005 with the purpose of giving a helping hand to people in trouble.

The leader of the institution is: Miklós Zzukovszky.

At present there are 23 volunteers in the team and 4 honorary members.



They are motivated to help others by their belief in God.

Фото: Церковна Добровільна Пожежна Команда с. Дерцен
Fotó: Derceni Református Egyházi Tűzoltóság

8. AMBULANCE SERVICE



Due to unfortunate circumstances in our country, we had to establish our own ambulance service. Just in the previous year many (42 in total) petitions have been presented to us in various life-saving cases. Some cases required surgery that could not be performed in local hospitals due to

inadequate equipment in local hospitals. In case of urgency, our center will try to help



people to solve the problems in Hungary. We manage to operate our own ambulances during the whole year. It means that patients can be transported faster from here to the hospitals in Hungary. In some cases this type of transport is far more effective and faster, than the Ukrainian counterpart.

The ambulance was donated by the Knights of St. George. They have been kindly taking part in our work as financial helpers.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

'GIVING A HELPING HAND'

In our 3 church districts we have 70 000 members of the reformed church. We are responsible for their social situation and their well-being. These people can be found in the 108 congregations of the TRC, so our attention has to be far-reaching.

Church district	Number of congregations
Bereg district	52
Máramaros-Ugocsa district	31
Ung district	25
Total:	108

It is also has to be mentioned, that 5000 out of these people live under the subsistence level. For them, we try to distribute aids and offer them different kind of services (treatment in hospitals, places in our establishments). They may also apply for food or clothes.







OTHER PROJECTS

1. **Christmas presents** – with the help of Dutch sponsors we give food parcels to poor families at Christmas time. This means a great help for poor or lonesome people.



2. 'Gift box' for poor children.



Christmas presents are distributed to those children who are poor, orphans or flood victims. This action is organized by the DCO, but many of these boxes are filled by the congregations.



3. Sponsor project



We have launched this project in cooperation with a Dutch foundation. The beneficiaries of the projects are old, lonely people or poor families, who are supported by a family from the Netherlands (food parcels and material help is given to them monthly).



4. „Firewood” project



It is a well known fact that in Ukraine the price of gas goes higher and higher. Like this many poor people cannot pay for it. So we have decided to provide poor families or poor people living alone with firewood for winter.



5. Advent period in the Reformed Gypsy congregation

The Advent period in our community is spent in waiting and esteeming each other.

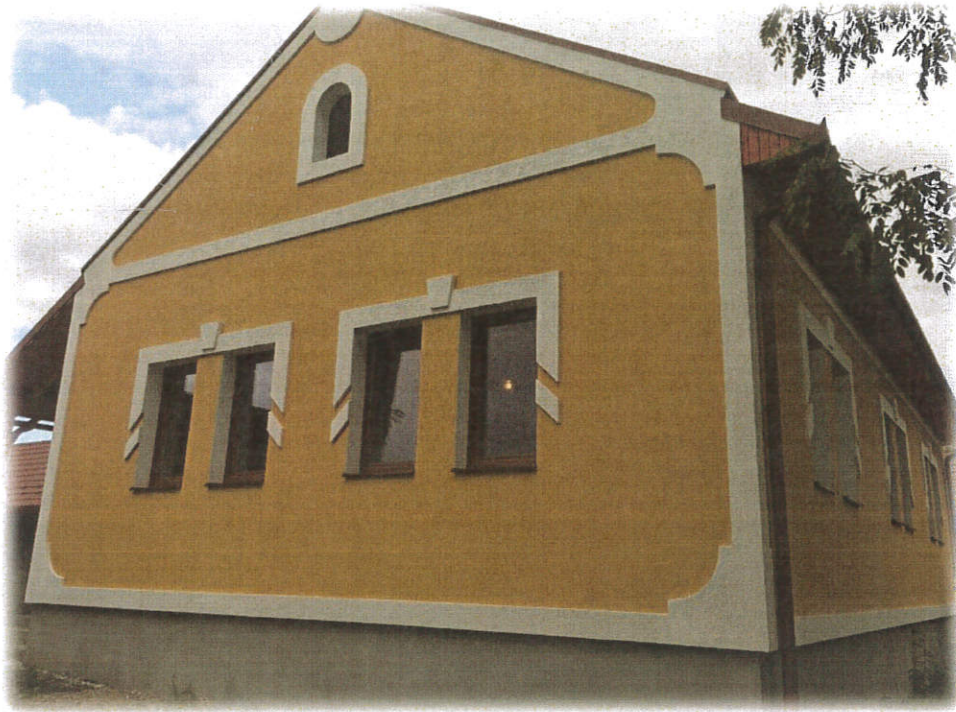


Every year we organize food distribution in the center of Beregszász and in the circles of the Reformed Gypsy congregation in Beregszász.

Every time we try to distribute around 1000 portions of food.



6. Community Houses



A prime example of our work in this area is the establishment and maintenance of the community house in the village Bulcsú. It was established in 2017 after a demand from the local community. There was a great need for a place, where the youth could gather and spend quality time together. Moreover, the older generation has also demanded the possibility of a common place and a receptive community.



Diaconal Coordination Office plans for the future:

- Maintaining the Dercen Ecclesiastical Voluntary Fire Brigade.
- The establishment of voluntary fire brigades in the Ung and Máramaros-Ugocsa Dioceses.
- Reinforcement of the Voluntary Ambulance Service.
- Expansion of the 'Almond Tree' Elderly Home.
- Enlargement of the Emergency Center.
- Creating a nursing home in the Bulcsú Community Home.
- The establishment of emergency centers in the Ung and Máramaros-Ugocsa church districts near the river Tisza.

We continuously monitor the needs of our congregations and the needs of poor people. As a consequence, we are able to help wherever and whenever it is needed.

It can be said that gratitude and fondness are the feelings that can be found in our hearts towards the partner organizations for their aids and towards our congregations for their cooperation.

Contact us:



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