

# CHEVRA REPORT



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

NOVEMBER 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](http://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.

## OUR TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ▶



IAN SCHNEIDER/UNSPLASH

**M**y father was always very active in his fraternal Lodge, the Knights of Pythias. He literally had a wall full of plaques for the things that he did in service to others. He gave gallons of blood to the Red Cross and he did a lot of things for charity. The plaques were an acknowledgment of all he did and reflected appreciation for his efforts.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of my work in the former Soviet Union. The work itself has been amazing and I feel good that we have made a real difference in people's lives. Chevra USA is a small ministry, and I love it but our work is largely unknown. Some ministries mark their anniversaries with dinners and plaques, but we don't so I don't have the wall of recognition that my father had. Instead, what I have is tears. Tears

from widows we visit in Ukraine when I pray for them. Tears of a mother with a crippled son whom we prayed for and to whom we provided food.

We also have smiles and thanks from the elderly in the soup kitchens who appreciate the food we provide which saves their lives. They know what we do, and they are grateful. That's what really matters to me.

As I said, Chevra is not a large or well-known work, yet what we do is really crucial to the survival of the 1,400 people we are feeding every month. As we put together our budget for the coming year, we are facing a shortfall of about \$1,000 a month. Quite frankly, we do not have the

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reserves to meet that deficit. It would not take that much for us to make up this deficit if we had 30 people who would commit to giving \$33 a month the deficit will disappear. If we had 10 people who could give \$100 a month The deficit would disappear. I could probably make up the deficit by not traveling to Ukraine anymore but that's a big part of what we do. We can't cut out overhead because we have so little of it. The people we feed depend on us.

If you aren't already a Chevra supporter, I'm asking that you seriously consider supporting us for \$33 a month, or more. If you are a regular donor, thank you for your partnership. In either case, please share what we do with others so we can continue this work and make a difference in lives of people in Eastern Europe.

## UKRAINE

The war in Ukraine is continuing. We are feeding 1400 people each month, five days a week. We need to increase the number of people we are feeding, but we don't even have the funds to support the people we are feeding now. When I visited the soup kitchens, people were so grateful for our help. They thanked us for helping them. There was a great sense of love.

We visited a widow with a teenage son. He had a severe case of scoliosis, and was in a body brace. We provide daily food for them. We visited an elderly woman living in a run down cottage. Her home was heated by a wood stove, and she had almost nothing. She too was a widow. She was 86 years old and could not get to our soup kitchen. We have food brought in to her. We visited a holocaust survivor who attends a soup kitchen. He expressed gratitude.

It reminded me of an elderly woman I met in another soup kitchen. Her name was Rita. She couldn't walk and asked me to come to her. I sat with her and she said she wanted to express gratitude for the soup kitchen. I never want people to feel beholden to us for help, so I told her she didn't

have to thank me. Its what we do. She grabbed my arm and said I didn't understand. She told me before the fall of communism, she was the chief physician for the region, and now she was living on very little. She looked me in the eyes and said if it weren't for the soup kitchen, she would be dead, and all the people here would be dead, so she wanted me to know they were grateful. I was choked up, and said a woman like her should never have been in this situation, and that I was grateful to be able to help her. Our soup kitchens are the difference between life and death to the people we help.

We need your help this coming year. If you would consider becoming a monthly supporter, it would enable us to continue feeding these people in need, and hopefully, feed more. I wish you all blessing for the coming year.

Sincerely, with gratitude,

*Michael Schiffman*

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.