

Misiunea Socială „Diaconia” a Mitropoliei Basarabiei



DIACONIA

**Annual Report
2025**

**We build thriving
communities through
care and engagement**

www.diaconia.md

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Diaconia Social Mission

Who we are

Diaconia is the social structure of the Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia that has been active throughout the Republic of Moldova since 2001.



Who we are 

Our mission

Diaconia develops models of social intervention, based on human approach according to the image of God, into a sharing and trust-worthy relationship with social partners.

Our vision

An active society guided by Christian values as result of the permanent and coherent action of the Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia through Diaconia, which represents the model of excellence in supporting the neighbour in need.



Our values

Faith / Love towards the neighbour / We change because we care
/ Correctness / Responsibility / Perseverance / Solidarity.



Discover our projects and programmes:



Support for communities



Care for family in crisis



Assistance for children



Assistance for the elderly



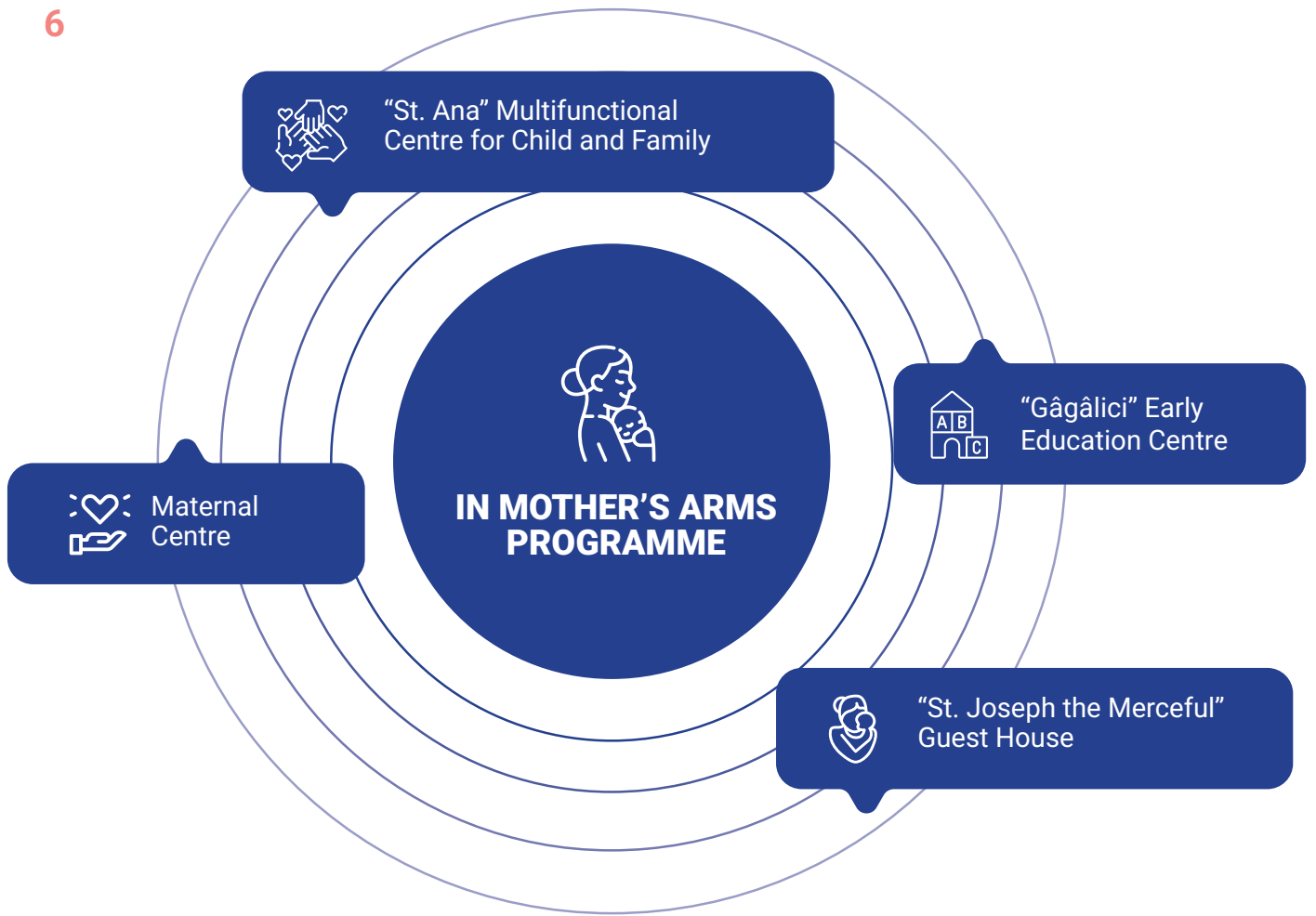
Promotion of volunteering



Advocacy and systemic change

2025 for Diaconia was the year in which we built communities with the power of solidarity and love, along with volunteers, donors, partners:





IN MOTHER'S ARMS PROGRAMME



Launch year: 2011

Purpose: To ensure every child's right to grow up in the family.



The Maternal Centre

is intended for mother-child couples or pregnant women in emergency situations. Here, the multidisciplinary team develops an individual intervention plan aimed at strengthening the relationship between mother and child, developing childcare skills, managing resources to create a mechanism for autonomous living.

The Centre also provides a safe and comfortable space for mothers and their children.

IMPACT:

In 2025, through the dedication and commitment of the social workers, and thanks to the acts of kindness from each of our donors and partners:

- **26 mother-child couples** received comprehensive care and assistance in the Maternal Centre;
- **11 mother-child couples** were assisted in the community;
- **140 families** in temporary crisis received support according to their needs.

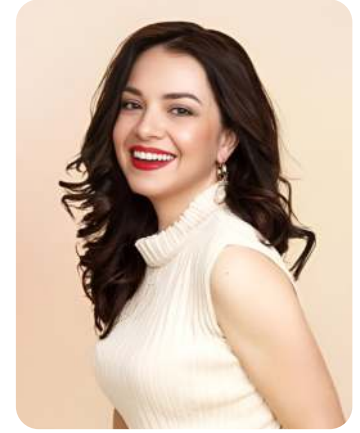




Because there are moments in life when you clearly feel that true joy does not come from what you receive, but from what you choose to give. I chose to bring joy to the mothers who had the courage to come to the Diaconia's Maternal Centre

I firmly believe that the world becomes more beautiful when we choose to see the courage behind every story, the person before the label, the future before the past. The Maternal Centre, "In Mother's Arms" is about safety, regained time, and hope – a place where mothers and children are welcomed without judgement, with care and respect.

In a world full of prejudice, the mothers from the Maternal Centre choose to see courage: the courage to ask for help, to protect their child, and to move forward, even when life has not been gentle. If this gesture of mine can inspire others to also choose to give – then my joy is complete.



Larisa Cepoi
donor to the Maternal
Centre, Dublin, Ireland



B. The "Gâgâlici" Early Education Centre

is a nursery-kindergarten where children (from 6 months to 3 years old) learn to explore the world through free movement and autonomous play, surrounded by affection and attention.

Throughout 2025, the Centre was attended by **28 children**:

- 4 children, beneficiaries of the Maternal Centre, "In Mother's Arms";
- 24 children from the community.

The service is intended for single mothers and families in various vulnerable situations. It also facilitates women's integration into the workforce by providing them with a safe and warm space for their children.



C. “St. Ana” Multifunctional Centre for Child and Family

It is a project designed to address the needs of family nuclei facing various crises. It brings together, under one roof, viable solutions for a wide range of needs encountered by refugee women and children, as well as those from the local community.

The “St. Ana” Centre provides individualised social assistance services, legal counselling services, access to educational activities for children, and a safe platform for open and regular interaction between social groups, especially women.



Throughout 2025, 1,211 refugees from Ukraine and 579 local people sought help or support, of whom:

IMPACT:

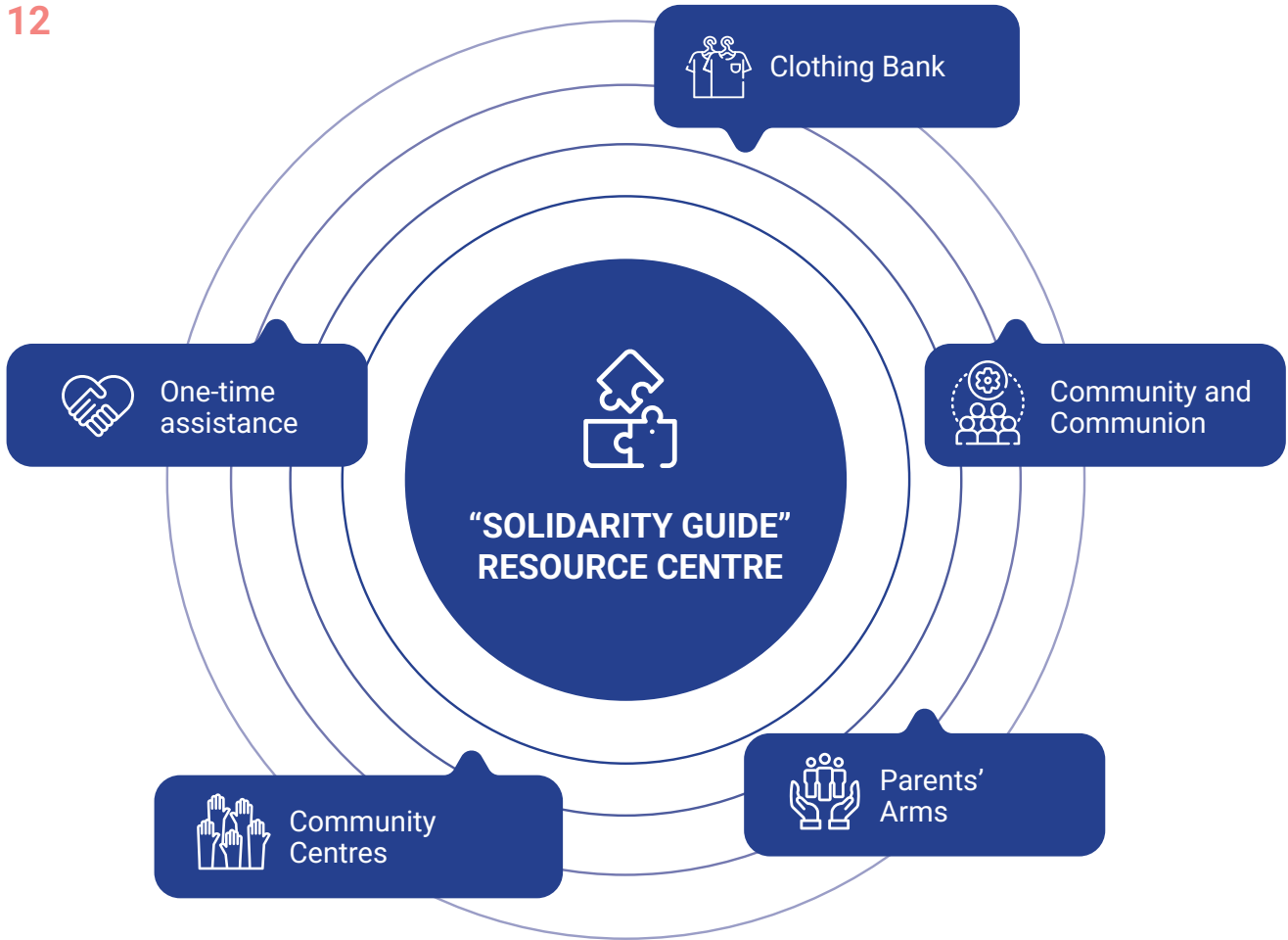
- **384** people received psychological counselling;
- **97** people received legal advice;
- **280** Ukrainian women socialised in a safe environment, benefiting from various creative workshops and sessions organised by the psychologist;
- **216** refugees received vocational counselling;
- **743** refugee families and **419** families from the Republic of Moldova received material assistance;
- **56** children benefited from Drop-off service (childcare service for children aged between 3 and 6 for 4 hours daily);
- **211** children benefited from the after-school service.



D. “St. Joseph the Merciful” Guest House

It is a service for refugees, offering Ukrainian mothers and children a safe and comfortable place to live, equipped with everything they need.

Throughout 2025, the Guest House hosted 12 beneficiaries: 6 mothers and 6 children received the necessary help and support to regain their independence.



“SOLIDARITY GUIDE” RESOURCE CENTRE





Launch year: 2015

Purpose: To support and stimulate social initiatives in the community.

The **“Solidarity Guide” Resource Centre** is the support tool for the community initiatives in identifying needs and finding community-level responses.

✓ A. Community and communion

The project involves community development and implies a paradigm shift from direct intervention to initiative through formal and non-formal leaders within the locality.

The goal of the project is to contribute to the creation of revitalised, cohesive and supportive rural communities in the Republic of Moldova.

✓ B. Parents' arms

The project supports at a distance the vulnerable families with school-age children by providing material support (food, clothing, hygiene products, school supplies, etc.).



✓ C. Community centres

The Community Centres are places where non-formal education activities for children and volunteering activities are constantly organised, and social services are provided based on the identified needs (canteen, wardrobe, psychological support, etc.).



IMPACT:

In 2025, we supported 70 communities to meet the basic needs of community members:

- **4 Local Initiative Groups** created and implemented projects and events for the development of their communities.
- **40 pupils and 25 pensioners** from 13 communities were supported through the projects: The Parent's Arms and The Rod of Hope.
- **The Community Centres** were active in **5 localities**, where more than **350 children** benefited from recreational and educational activities, and **75 volunteers** were involved in community activities organised here.
- **384 people** received vouchers for medicines and school supplies through the Community Centres in Cahul and Balti.
- **99 women** received psychological support and participated in various activities within the "Anastasis" Community Centre.



17

✂ D. Clothing Bank

Launch year: 2016

The Clothing Bank is a model of excellence in implementing a social solidarity mechanism, through which we have demonstrated over the past 9 years that, with local resources, we can clothe thousands of people.

The goods collected are then distributed through the network of social wardrobes in parishes. The beneficiaries of these donations are people in need: socially vulnerable families, the elderly, the homeless, etc.

157,7

tons of material goods
collected and distributed

32

beneficiary
communities

Thousands

of people in need assisted
thanks to donations

Impact 2025

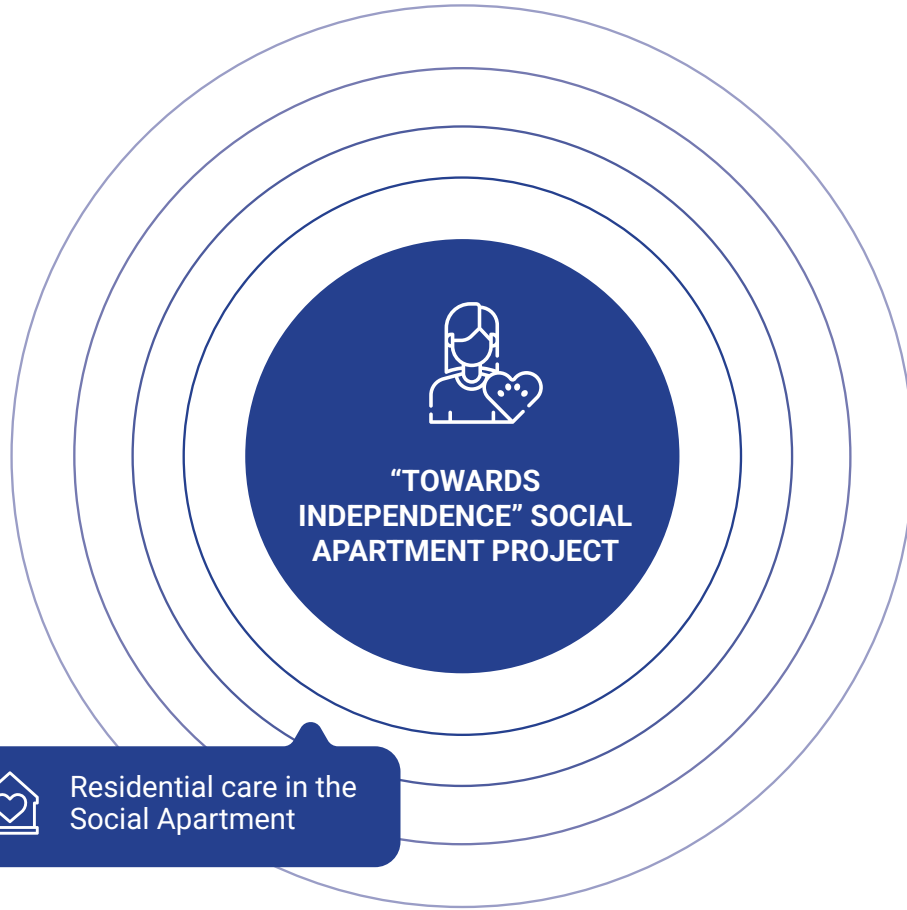


Thanks to the partnership and support provided by Monaco Aide & Présence and Petrom Moldova we manage to carry out initiatives worth following. We remain deeply grateful and thank all the people who, in growing numbers, continue to contribute to helping those in need.



Support our projects on www.diaconia.md





 Residential care in the Social Apartment



“TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE” SOCIAL APARTMENT PROJECT

Launch year: 2007

Purpose: To ensure the increase of the reintegration capacities of orphaned and socially orphaned teenage girls aged 15 to 18.

✍ **The “Towards Independence” project** ensures the social integration of young girls with the status of children left without parental care, who come from residential institutions or alternative care services, as well as girls at risk from socially vulnerable families.

Annually, 6 girls receive accommodation, comprehensive assistance (social, psychological, spiritual, vocational), and the opportunity to learn a profession at a vocational school or short-term vocational courses.

Four of them also have the opportunity to benefit from further support in the second phase of the project, which includes providing a living place and essential items such as clothing, shoes, food and hygiene products.



IMPACT:

So far, 19 generations of girls have been assisted through the Social Apartment project that has helped them to believe in their own strength, and where they have learned that people can be kind and loving.

Since 2007, 114 girls from all the districts of the Republic of Moldova have been carefully guided on their path “Towards Independence”.

28 girls benefited from the extended phase of the project, in assisted social housing.



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At Courtyard by Marriott Chisinau, we take an active role in the community by contributing to initiatives that bring a real and lasting impact to people's lives. In full alignment with the social responsibility values promoted by Marriott International, we believe in the power of partnerships that support the development and integration of people in vulnerable situations.

We are proud to support the “Towards Independence” Social Apartment project, initiated by Diaconia, which provides young people with a safe environment and the support they need for socio-professional integration.

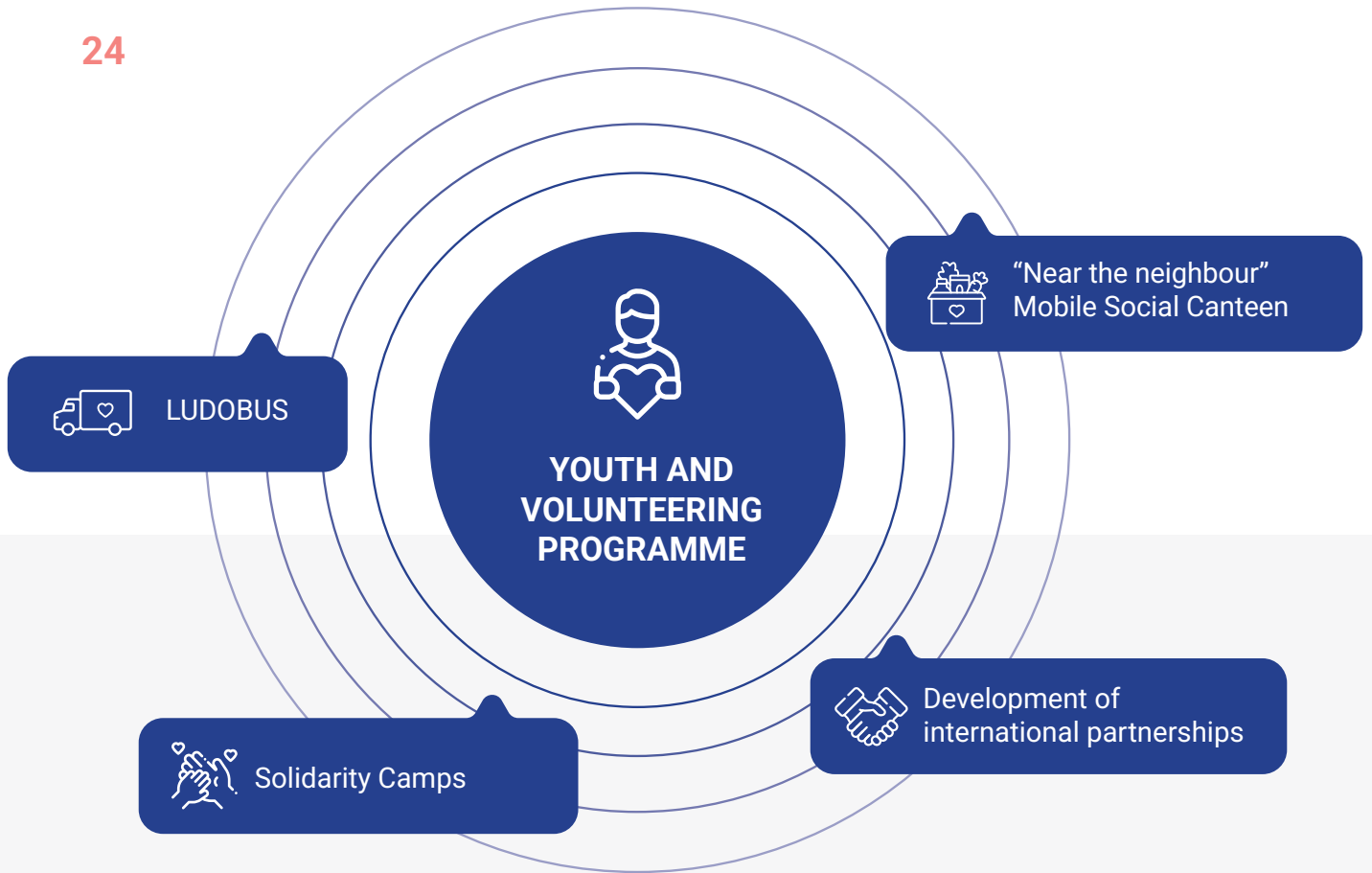
Our involvement in this project reflects our commitment to the community and our desire to actively contribute to creating real opportunities for an independent future. We believe that every young person deserves the chance to build their own path, and through these initiatives we aim to be part of this positive change.

We are honoured to promote values such as solidarity, respect, and social responsibility, contributing to the development of a stronger and more united community.



Ana Cozma
Hotel Manager, Courtyard
by Marriott Chisinau





YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME



Launch year: 2007

Purpose: To contribute to the development of initiative and active civic engagement among children and young people.

Ludobus

Ludobus is an innovative non-formal education service designed to provide children in rural areas with access to play and education. It is a minibus equipped with a play library, offering diverse activities and games suitable for all ages.

For volunteers, Ludobus represents a new area where they can volunteer throughout the year by putting their creativity at the service of communities while gaining new skills and growth opportunities.



IMPACT:

In 2025, **19 hardworking and brave volunteers** brought the joy of play to **32 communities** for **2,005 children**.

Both volunteers and children enjoyed unique moments of entertainment, outdoor activities, and creative workshops on topics such as electrical safety and food waste prevention.

This was made possible thanks to our partners Premier Energy Distribution and Kaufland Moldova, who covered the logistical costs of the workshops organised as part of the project.



✦ Solidariy Camps

The day camps are organised by several teams of volunteers from both Italy and the Republic of Moldova. The programme of each camp includes games, non-formal educational activities for children, and social activities (home assistance for the elderly, environmental activities, etc.).



IMPACT:

2 summer camps were organised in **Cetireni and Costuleni**, where a lot of fun-loving children gathered.

This year, the camps lasted 7 days each. The activities were carried out by **9 Moldovan and Italian volunteers**.

Team games and creative workshops focusing on communication and the exchange of experiences were organised in the two localities.

The young people also engaged in community work (helping the elderly, environmental actions).

Development of international partnerships

Diaconia develops long-term partnerships with two international organisations from Italy: with Caritas Ambrosiana for over 20 years and with Associazione BIR for 13 years.

The projects involve long-term activities within the host organisation, as well as volunteer training.

These initiatives strengthen knowledge exchange, promote best practice, and increase the impact of Diaconia's social activities.



“Near the neighbour” Mobile Social Canteen



Launch year: 2013

Purpose: It is the tool through which Diaconia cultivates social solidarity, giving everyone the chance to be a good person.

For 12 years, the **“Near the Neighbour” Mobile Social Canteen** has been bringing the joy of a hot meal daily to many elderly and needy people in Chisinau.

It is a model of showing care for the neighbour. A place where the elderly find not only a hot meal, but also a reason for joy, born from interaction with people experiencing similar needs.

Also, at the Mobile Social Canteen, people have the possibility to organise a memorial meal. Through this initiative, the traditional almsgiving becomes an act of solidarity and compassion – a gesture of kindness, an expression of love for the neighbour.



Find out more
details here

IMPACT:

During 2025, **44,240 hot meals** were provided to hundreds of beneficiaries in the two distribution points (Sergei Lazo Park and Mezon Park), thanks to the involvement of a group of **16 volunteers**.



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Magic happens at the “Near the Neighbour” Mobile Social Canteen. Every day, consistently, for years. It is a remarkable achievement by the Diaconia Social Mission. I am happy and honoured to be part of this project, contributing to help the forgotten elderly in need of support. I believe that through our joint effort, we can succeed in making the world a better place.

Ruslan Cojocaru, CEO/Founder, Tucano Coffee



Involvement in systemic change

Diaconia offers experience and expertise in the processes of improving the national legal framework in areas such as child protection, violence prevention, philanthropy.



IMPACT:

Diaconia was active in 4 national platforms: the Platform for the Promotion and Development of Philanthropy, the National Council of NGOs, the Alliance of active NGOs in the field of Child and Family Social Protection, the Communication Platform of the National Agency for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence with civil society.

Within the framework of the “**Partnerships for Inclusive and Resilient Social Canteen Services**” project, the advocacy actions carried out led to important results:

- 1 **Development of the implementation mechanism** for the Law No. 292/2022 on the prevention of food loss and waste.

Thus, starting from 1 January 2025, under the provisions of the Moldovan Tax Code and Government Decision No. 693 of 11 July 2018 on the determination of tax obligations related to income tax, food sector operators can benefit from tax incentives when donating food products aimed at preventing food loss and waste.



A new project was launched:

 **Love for the Neighbour – Empowering the Faith Community to Prevent Domestic Violence in Rural communities**



Through this project, Diaconia aims to contribute to:

- 1 Promoting gender equality** in rural areas of the Republic of Moldova;
- 2 Preventing domestic violence** by raising awareness and actively involving priests from the Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia.





During implementation, the project included several community initiatives aimed at building bridges between faith, family, and gender equality values:

- Two training sessions were organised on:
 1. Domestic violence and combating stereotypes in the Orthodox context – 10 priests trained;
 2. Spiritual Mediators – 14 participants.
- 10 community events were held, bringing together 843 people;
- The project concluded with a final event, where 24 participants reflected on the experiences and lessons learned.



With love for Ukraine

Throughout 2025, Diaconia Social Mission continued its active commitment to supporting refugees. During this period, solidarity, empathy and care for those in need were essential, and this support was manifested through the following directions:

1. Primary assistance

- **1138 people** received help in the form of vouchers for food, medicines and school supplies;
- **200 children** benefited from 3,655 hot meals.



2. Comprehensive and individualised assistance

A. Cash Assistance Programme for Refugees in Moldova

The programme provides financial assistance to refugees from Ukraine.

Diaconia managed the southern part of the Republic of Moldova. The operators worked in 4 Refugee Documentation and Support Centres opened in Chisinau, Causeni, Cahul and Comrat.

IMPACT:

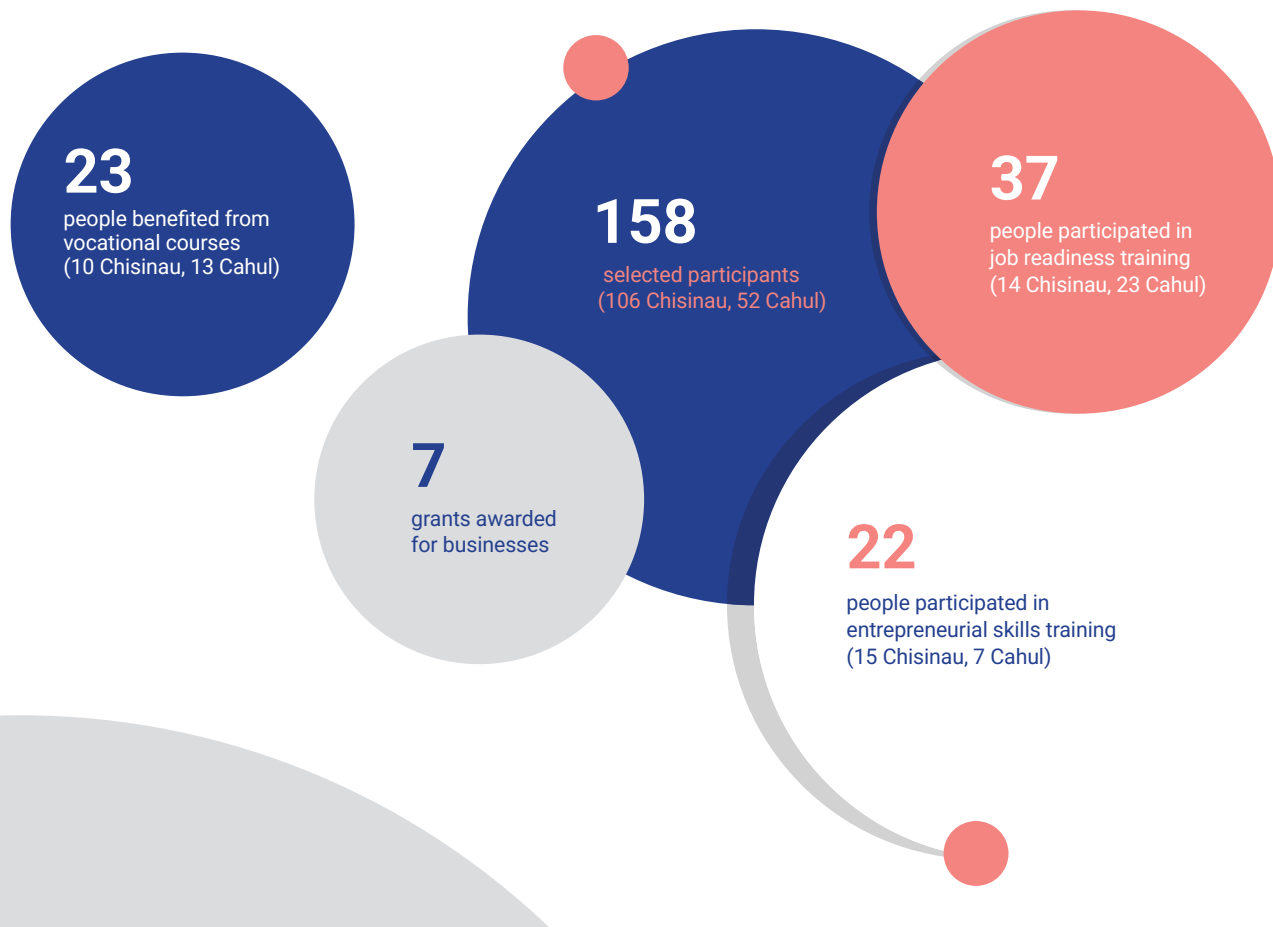
- **1.600 people** received cash assistance and support;
- **1,365 new family groups** were registered at the assistance centres;
- **8,300 families on record** were verified, of which **4,000** were visited at home by the mobile team.



B. Refugee Economic Inclusion Programme

The support project focuses on strengthening economic inclusion, autonomy, and labour market integration, aiming to help refugees achieve financial independence.

The project provides direct support to vulnerable refugees from Ukraine who have the potential to become self-sufficient with the right knowledge, skills, and resources. The proposed activities take place in Chisinau and Cahul.





We change because we care



A. “Table of joy” Easter campaign



YELLOW CODE OF KINDNESS for the 16th consecutive year. Year after year, the “Table of Joy” Easter Campaign becomes a true Festival of Solidarity, involving hundreds of volunteers.

Traditionally, the project culminated with the National Collection of non-perishable food products, conducted in the largest supermarket chains in Chisinau and across the country.



All the collected donations were transformed into hot meals, served throughout the year at Diaconia's Mobile Social Canteen, and into food packages distributed to people in need.



IMPACT:

85

tons of food products collected

1200

volunteers involved in the campaign

120

food stores in 32 localities



Partnering with Diaconia in the "Table of Joy" Campaign feels like a modest contribution compared to the tremendous effort this team invests in this act of solidarity. We say this with conviction, having been by their side at every stage of the campaign. We sincerely thank you for giving us the opportunity to play our part in contributing to the common good of society.

Liliana Francu, donor, "Table of Joy" Campaign
Brand Manager, Apa Bucovina



B. Solidarity products

In 2025, the supporters of our causes have chosen to give solidarity items on different occasions.

All those who purchased these small, emotion-filled symbols offered, from afar, together with Diaconia, care and safety to the beneficiaries of the Maternal Centre and teenage girls within the “Towards Independence” Project.



C. “In Mother’s Arms” Christmas Campaign

Diaconia organised the traditional “In Mother’s Arms” Christmas Campaign on the eve of the winter holidays.

This year, the campaign, through various activities, offered an opportunity to share the warmth and joy of the season with the children supported by Diaconia.

IMPACT:

- **3,060 martisoare** (traditional Romanian and Moldovan spring ornaments symbolising renewal and good luck) reached all corners of the world, bringing the joy of nature’s rebirth at the beginning of spring.
- **3,127 special greeting cards** brought the magic of the winter holidays to loved ones, partners, donors and the teams of 27 companies.



In this year's edition, **37 teams and hundreds of individual donors** responded to Diaconia's initiative. Their generosity translated into **852 days of support for a mother-child couple** in the Maternal Centre "In Mother's Arms" - days of safety, care, warmth and hope.



Budget 2025

1.830.868 ^{euro} ▲

576.468

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, emergency programmes

489.669

Specialised assistance programmes for family and children

135.993

Promoting solidarity and volunteering programmes

303.115

Community intervention

325.623

Administrative and institutional costs



**IGOR BELEI,**

Executive Director of the
Religious Institution "Diaconia"
Social Mission of the
Metropolitan Church of
Bessarabia

We transform communities into spaces of belonging where no one is forgotten

The year 2025 marked a stage of maturity and depth for Diaconia, which, in its capacity as the social arm of the Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia, continued, together with its team, the mission to be an active support to society through the development and continuous adaptation of our programmes. During this period, we worked diligently to build a network of resilient communities.

A key focus of our work was the expansion of programmes to combat violence. In this way, we succeeded in strengthening the Church's response to this phenomenon at the local level. Through training programmes, we were present in numerous communities and provided concrete tools to protect human dignity, right where challenges arise.

We laid the foundations of a new paradigm in community development. Through volunteering and public campaigns, we encouraged people to become "co-owners" of the future of the communities to which they belong. Our fundamental objective is for every member to feel part of the common good, and to transform communities into spaces of belonging where no one is forgotten.

DIACONIA

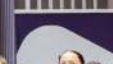
CELEBRĂM BUNĂTATEA

CAMPANIA DE PAȘTI
MASA BUCURIEI 2025

WWW.MASABUCURIEI.MD



DIACONIA
Cu dragoste
cu bunătate



WE CHANGE DESTINIES

“Near the Neighbour” Mobile Social Canteen

Here at the canteen, I have seen so much kindness

In front of the Mobile Social Canteen’s minibus, 150 elderly people wait for their portion of hot meal. A long line, where hurried footsteps, gentle voices, and a few smiles hidden beneath headscarves or old hats mingle together.

Here we meet Mrs Galina, a 75-year-old woman who has been coming to the canteen almost daily for the past year and a half to take her hot meal. She holds a plastic container carefully in her hands, almost as if afraid to drop it.



I really enjoy coming to the canteen... the people are amazing, and the cooks put so much heart into the food. I have lived a long life, yet I could never cook as they do

Until the age of 45, she worked at the factory, the very place where she also met her husband. Together, they raised two daughters, each now with their own beautiful families, of which Mrs Galina speaks with pride. Life then brought her a difficult challenge – cancer.

"I was born twice", she says. She overcame it, but she does not want to talk about that period. **"It's over. What matters is that I am here and I enjoy every day"**. After the illness, she could no longer return to work and accepted her new reality: **"I am happy that my whole family is healthy"**.

Now, her days are divided between her home, garden, a few animals, and the flowers she tends with love.



Every age has its own charm. I find my peace in growing flowers...



she says, lowering her gaze as if embarrassed that she no longer has the strength for other things.

The hot meal she receives at the canteen is more than just food; it is an opportunity to be among people, to share stories, memories, and joys:



Nowadays, it is a rare quality to be kind and to inspire others with your kindness. Here at the canteen, I have seen so much kindness.

I look at her, and realise that strength is not always about youth or possibilities. Sometimes, strength looks like a 75-year-old woman who has beaten cancer and still finds beauty in every day.

For 12 years, the Mobile Social Canteen "Near the Neighbour" has been providing a hot meal every day to 150 elderly and vulnerable people in Chisinau. The majority of the canteen's beneficiaries are old people who, due to poverty, cannot afford one of the most basic necessities – food.

ANASTASIS Educational Centre

Anastasis - a safe space for healing

When she arrived in the municipality of Balti in August 2022, Esenia carried with her only a backpack, her mother's hand, and a fear that was difficult to put into words. She had fled the war in the Kharkiv region of Ukraine, leaving behind her home, friends, school, and the sense of safety that, for a child, means everything.

The rupture from everything familiar and the trauma of leaving home caused Esenia to withdraw into herself. Living in a refugee dormitory, she spoke very little, and rarely left the room. The world around her had become an unsafe place, and silence was the only form of protection she knew.

Everything began to change on a summer day when, at the encouragement of a neighbor, Esenia and her mother decided to take part in an activity organised by the Anastasis Community Centre.

During the activity, Esenia stayed close to her mother, shy and watchful, but for the first time in a long while, something had changed inside her.

The next day, the surprise came from Esenia herself: she asked her mother to take her back to the Centre.

During the following visits, Esenia began to gain courage. The moment she decided to stay at the Centre without her mother was an important step that helped her come out of her shell and gave her the chance to explore the world around her.



The Anastasis specialists noticed her fragility and worked patiently with her, offering individual support tailored to her pace and emotional needs.

Her integration into the group happened gradually. The games, cooking activities, time spent outdoors, and even computer games became bridges through which Esenia began to connect with other children. At the same time, she benefited from educational support, homework assistance, and help with distance learning.

With each day spent at Anastasis, Esenia began to change. Her shyness slowly melted away, replaced by curiosity, initiative, and a desire to be part of the group.

”

At first, I was afraid to talk to other children. Here, I felt that no one was rushing me and that I could just be myself. The Anastasis Centre is the place where I learned to make friends and to believe in myself

For Esenia's mother, her daughter's positive change was a great joy. From a withdrawn child, Esenia became more open, more self-confident, and emotionally balanced.

”

The psychological support and care we found at Anastasis Centre helped my daughter enormously. Even without the war, Esenia would have needed such a centre. A place to help her overcome her shyness and grow beautifully.

Last year, Esenia enrolled in a school in the municipality of Balti. Today, Esenia continues to come to the Centre with joy. She takes part in the cooking club, training sessions, and thematic events, and is actively involved in volunteering activities.

Esenia's story is living proof that the Anastasis Community Centre is not just a place where activities take place, but a safe space for healing. With deep empathy, professionalism, and continuous support, Anastasis offers children affected by war the chance to regain their confidence, sense of safety, and hope for a better future.

🔍 “In Mother’s Arms” Maternal Centre

Everyone fought alongside me for Andrei’s life

Andrei’s life began with a fight for survival. From birth, the little boy was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and malnutrition, and the list of health issues was long and overwhelming. His mother, who had a recognised disability, was unable to provide the care he needed.

For the child’s safety, her parental rights were revoked, and responsibility for Andrei was transferred to his grandmother, Mrs Viorica.

Overwhelmed by the responsibility but determined to fight for her grandson’s life, Mrs Viorica brought Andrei to the “In Mother’s Arms” Maternal Centre.



”

When we arrived here, I was full of fear. I didn't know if Andrei would survive, or if I could help him get through everything that awaited him

- At the Centre, the child received specialised care: nutrition adapted to his needs, dietary supplements, and constant supervision. Because of his malnutrition, Andrei could not undergo surgery, so the first months were crucial – he had to reach the appropriate weight in order to withstand the operation. In February, after much care and dedicated effort, Andrei was finally ready for the life-saving cardiovascular surgery. The recovery was long and difficult, but the constant support of the team and the dedication of his grandmother worked wonders.



”

Here I felt that I was not alone. I received help, advice, and encouragement. Everyone fought alongside me for Andrei's life

- In June, Andrei left the Maternal Centre and returned home with his grandmother. Today, he is closely monitored by doctors, and the family continues to receive support from the Centre: food, hygiene products, and everything necessary to ensure a decent and safe living.

Over its 14 years of activity, the “In Mother’s Arms” Maternal Centre has helped more than 210 mothers keep their children close and rebuild their lives with dignity. Established in 2011, the Centre’s mission is to prevent child abandonment and to ensure every child’s right to grow up in a family. Here, women in vulnerable situations - minor mothers, orphans, or victims of violence - find the courage to move forward together with their child.

🔍 “Towards Independence” Social Apartment

Sometimes, life does not begin with beautiful stories, but with hardships that force you to grow up too soon



Aliona is an 18-year-old young woman who came to the “Towards Independence” Social Apartment carrying worries and fears, yet with the belief that she could succeed.

” *My childhood did not have the same sense of peace that I saw other children in the village had. They were playing, while I was going to work.*

Instead of safety, she knew the worry of tomorrow. Instead of support, she learned early on to fend for herself. At a very young age, she became familiar with hard work, and with the money she earned, she bought clothes for school and, with a painful maturity, tried to look after her younger sisters as well.

Yet, she held on to a quiet hope that things could change.

” *I have always believed in miracles, in stories where a superhero comes to save you.*

Faith saved her. Supported by the village social worker, she arrived at the Social Apartment, where, for the first time, she discovered what the safety and care of a home truly meant.

Through hard work and perseverance, she succeeded in obtaining two vocational qualifications and in building confidence in her own abilities. After graduating, she found a job at a pizzeria in the capital. She chose to remain in the second phase of the project, determined to build her independence steadily and without haste. She learned to save money, plan for the future, and look forward to tomorrow with confidence.

Now, at only 18 years old, Aliona carries a maturity shaped not by age, but by circumstances and experience. She takes on responsibilities that should have come much later, caring for her younger sisters and always returning to her grandmother - the person who stood by her when she had no one else.

With her first paycheck, she did not buy handbags, shoes, or lipstick. Instead, she chose to buy her grandmother a brand-new refrigerator.

” *My grandmother has never had a new refrigerator, and I know they needed one.*

However, her biggest dream remains unchanged: to bring her sisters close to her and offer them what she had too little of - stability, peace, and the chance for a better beginning.



Youth and Volunteering Programme

We may not change the world, but we can change someone's day

There are people who rush through life. And there are people who stop. They stop beside someone else's need. Gabriela is among those who choose to stay.

At just 21, when many are still searching for their path, Gabriela Ștefîrță has chosen to be close to people. A student at the "Nicolae Testemițanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, she is learning not only how to heal, but also how to bring comfort.

Since 2019, Gabriela has felt that she wanted more - more involvement, more connection with people. She tried, she explored, but nothing seemed to fit her perfectly. Until one day, when her mother told her about Diaconia.

Of all the projects, one remained closest to her heart: the "Near the Neighbour" Mobile Social Canteen. There, Gabriela does not only offer a warm meal, but also something far more valuable - attention, patience, and a touch of light for people who often have no one left.



Not all days are easy. There are moments of fatigue, dissatisfaction, and tension. For a young person, such situations can be discouraging. For her, they have become lessons in empathy and in learning not to judge.

” *I have learned to see beyond words. People do not just ask for bread. They ask for attention, respect, or simply to be heard.*

And sometimes, kindness returns in the most unexpected ways.

One day, when she was overwhelmed with sadness, an elderly woman approached her and offered her a small bouquet of two-leaf squill. At first glance, nothing spectacular, but for Gabriela, this gesture was deeply meaningful. It was proof that kindness finds its way back.



Today, volunteering is no longer just an activity for her. It is part of who she is.

” *I have become addicted to doing good. It is not an exaggeration, but a reality I live with. We may not change the world, but we can change someone's day. And that matters.*

In a world where rushing has become the norm, Gabriela reminds us that sometimes the most important thing is to stop and simply be there for someone.

Give with Diaconia

Why be partners in good deeds?

Every good deed, whether it is a donation, an hour of volunteering, or a simple act of support, makes a real impact on those in need. **Diaconia is not just an organisation, but a community of people who choose to help together.**

Why join Diaconia?

- 1 Because the good deed does not wait.** Every day is a new chance to make a difference in someone's life.
- 2 Because you have the freedom to choose where to get involved.** You can support the mothers in the "In Mother's Arms" Maternal Centre or children at the Community Centres or simply spread the word that any act of generosity is valuable.
- 3 Because change starts with you.** Together with generous people, teams and families, we manage to offer quick and effective support where it is needed most.



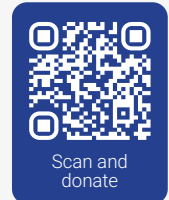
Through our campaigns and projects, the support of those who choose to help with Diaconia becomes:

- A warm meal for a lonely old person.
- A safer future for a mother and her child.
- A pair of warm boots for a child going to school in winter.
- A chance for a young girl from the “Towards Independence” Social Apartment to become independent.



Opportunities to get involved

- Redirect 2% of your income tax to Diaconia
- Become a Patreon and support our projects in the long term
- Be a volunteer in our social campaigns and activities
- Donate online to provide direct help to those in need



Thanks

We deeply appreciate all the volunteers, partners, donors and journalists thanks to whom we have been able to continue implementing projects with impact for communities and beneficiaries in 2025. By showing care and solidarity, we are laying the foundations for a responsible society where every person is supported and valued.



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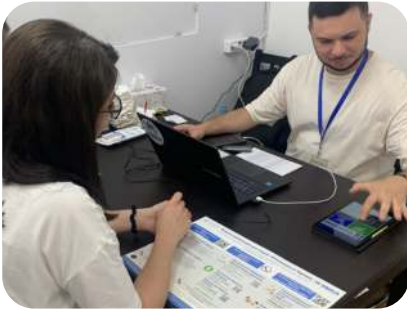
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Out of love for the neighbour



✓ Cuprins

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