

Coats for Kids 2017-18



Aden's Hats

"There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?" John 6:9

When we were in America last year I was asked to tell a congregation about Coats for Kids. After service a boy came to me and asked if there were winter hats in Bulgaria. I said yes. He then asked if I knew where to buy them and I said yes. He further asked if he sent me money would I go buy them for the kids. Smiling and crying at the same time, I said yes.

Aden was true to his word and sent money for winter hats. Instead of birthday presents he requested his friends and family give money to put hats on kids in Bulgaria this winter. This one lad shared what he had to help take care of many. It has been a blessing to give out over 300 hats for Aden.



Eforie, Romania

"The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all." Proverbs 22:2

I've written about Eforie before. Eforie, where castaways are cast even further away: out of sight and out of mind.

But when I tell you that in this tiny container village at the city landfill live some of the sweetest, most loving children I have ever met, I truly mean it. Hugs. Smiles. Conversation. And not just when we bring coats and socks - no, they're like this all the time.

So you just have to ask yourself: are they really the poor among us?



Sheker's Boots



Sheker is a precious girl who lives in the Children's Home in Romania. She and some of her sisters came to our house to spend time with our family. We met them at the mall in Varna where all the girls proceeded to spend Christmas money. Sheker bought a pair of boots that ended up being too big for her. I felt strongly we should buy them from her so she could get a pair that fit and we could give this pair to someone in need.

Today we met that someone. Her story is tragic - she was born into the lap of luxury and used to have huge bags full of Italian leather boots, but after her parents died and she turned to alcohol she lost everything. The woman we met did not look like she had ever been rich... but then again, maybe she's richer now than she was before because she is open to her need for Christ. Pray for Petya.

They have very little. No indoor toilet. No accessible bath or shower. No washing machine. No kitchen. Barely any clothes.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us," Ephesians 2:4

But God. God makes the difference.

God sees past these temporal things on which we place monetary value. He sees to the very heart of man. And in an area of great opulence where these people are cast aside, the true riches He sees are in a place of great poverty where the Holy Spirit fills a shipping container and lavishes an abundance of "the exceeding riches of his grace" on a thankful people.

They may never swim in a safe of gold coins but they sure are immersed in love, mercy, and grace. They are rich.

I'm incredibly thankful to get to help people... but in the end I also ask myself: Did I help them? Or did they help me? That's the beauty of the Body of Christ - rich and poor, he made us all. We are one.

On Behalf of All the Kids,
Carrie M. Leach
The Leach Family

