

The Situation

Russian hospitals and clinics reluctantly accept sick elderly people. Many of them are needy pensioners who have no family members and no funds to pay for medications or treatments.

The Hospice Department of Dalzavod Hospital in Vladivostok opened in 1997 to provide medical care to indigent aged people, needy pensioners, and the poor who are suffering from terminal illnesses.

The Hospice Department is located in a building built in 1960. Its total capacity is 45 beds. Occasionally, it accepts additional patients, crowding them into small rooms or even placing them in beds in the hallways.



The expenses of local clinics and hospitals are not covered by taxes and low-income patients certainly cannot cover the operating costs. As a result, such facilities are chronically understaffed and poorly equipped. The Dalzavod Hospital cannot

provide adequate nutrition to patients and asks them to bring food from home. Those without funds or family members usually receive only oatmeal, broth, and bread at the facility. Servings of fruit are rare.



Our Response

Lily Silina, the director of our charitable program, CARITAS, worked with Dalzavod Hospital to develop a Hospice Relief Program. This volunteer program began in 2000, immediately improving medical care for the patients and providing help to the overworked staff.

Now, we have volunteers who regularly visit the patients, helping to feed them, supporting them spiritually, reading the Holy Bible, and praying with them.

About 70% of the patients are bedridden and almost all are very lonely. They love to share their life stories with visitors. And they especially enjoy the visits from the Sisters, who bring musical instruments and play for them.

In addition to offering personal, one-on-one time with the patients, we also provide vitamins, protein-rich foods, juices, canned and fresh fruit, eggs, milk, and meat whenever possible.

Knowing that the staff is poorly paid, we have also provided workers with food packs, footwear, and clothing.

In addition, we have purchased and installed pneumatic orthopedic mattresses to help alleviate and avoid bedsores. We have provided special anti-infection cleansing appliances, a water distillation apparatus, a bactericidal lamp, a gurney, crutches, walkers, and medications. We have also replaced broken chairs and bedside tables with new ones. Until we installed a new hot water heater, the patients were bathed in cold water.

All pieces of equipment are permanently and stamped with the CARITAS logo. This not only discourages theft, but also reminds everyone that the equipment came from CARITAS donations.



How you can help

Without our benefactors' prayerful and financial support, we could do nothing. Thus, we continue to seek help from supporters who wish to assist the elderly in the hospice facility.



The expenses for food, medications, and equipment are ongoing. Our volunteers continue to visit the patients, and they always keep an eye out for any special needs that arise.

To learn more about this program, you may contact our mission office in Modesto, California. You may also visit our website for stories and photos of our hospice program and other efforts to help the elderly and needy in eastern Russia.

Your prayers and financial assistance will help us keep going. Please know that we are deeply grateful!

Thank you! God bless you!

How to contact us

Our mission society office in California accepts donations by check, money order, or credit card. We can also arrange for automatic bank withdrawals.

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We often post unusual or special needs on our website and invite supporters to assist in covering those needs. Please check our site from time to time to see what's new.

www.vladmission.org



Mary Mother of God Mission Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your gifts are tax-deductible.

We never give, loan, sell, or share our donor list with any other organization.

HOSPICE CARE PROGRAM



*Mary Mother of God
Mission Society*

Reviving the Roman Catholic Church
in Eastern Russia