

The Hanna Project
&
Wheels for the World

Bulgaria 2018

Our desire in writing this report is to convey to *The Hanna Project* and to *Wheels for the World* our sincerest appreciation for their generosity and assistance with the work of Free Will Baptist International Missions in Bulgaria (FWBIM-Bulgaria).

Background

FWBIM-Bulgaria began eleven years ago with the aim to transform Bulgarian society with the gospel of Jesus Christ through the planting of indigenous churches in cities and towns throughout Bulgaria who have little or no healthy gospel witness. Since the inception of this church planting work we have strived to combine spiritual and physical healing in our communities. Within the first year of our church planting efforts in the town of Svishtov we began to work alongside a local community program which helped children with disabilities; i.e. Down's Syndrome, Autism, etc. While working with the Center for Children with Disabilities in Svishtov we became aware that the greatest need for the program was wheelchairs for children. Many of the children were forced to use adult wheelchairs augmented by pillows or blankets or wooden wheelchairs pieced together by local craftsmen.

Wheelchairs for children are difficult to find and, if found, are well out of reach financially for parents

whose salary averages less than \$20 per day. We had a desire to help but didn't know where we could find wheelchairs for the children. However, throughout the years, with the help of The Hanna Project, our local church continued to work with the Center for Children with Disabilities by renovating a park for their use, creating a playground for children with special needs and by building a green house to be used in their therapeutic program. Yet, our

desire for appropriate wheelchairs for the children persisted. In 2016 our partners in The Hanna Project approached us with the wonderful news that our dream of wheelchairs for the children may be within reach.



Arrival and Distribution

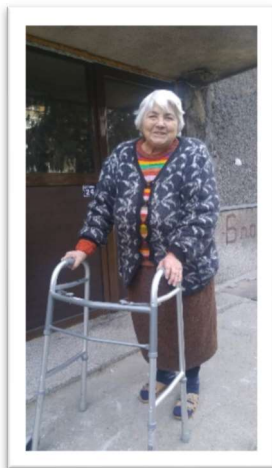
At the end of January 2018, we received word that a container from Wheels for the World and shipped by The Hanna Project had arrived in Bulgaria. On Tuesday, January 30, 2018 the container was released by customs in Svishtov, Bulgaria. With the help of church members, workers from the Center for

Children with Disabilities and city hall workers sent by the mayor of Svishtov, we had the container unloaded in less than two hours. Previously, we had met with various social agencies throughout Svishtov and the surrounding county to organize the distribution of the aid, so we were able to immediately begin distributing it to those in need.¹ The majority of the aid went to the Program for Children with Disabilities, the Svishtov Retirement Home, the Home for Adults with Dementia in the town of Ovche Mogili and the local hospital in Svishtov. Additionally, we were able to help individuals in need of a wheelchair or walker whom we know through our church contacts.



Ongoing Results

While the wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, etc. have all been distributed, the long-term results of this aid are just now beginning to gain steam. On one level, the lives of the adults, children and hospital workers who benefit from the mobility offered by a wheelchair or walker is invaluable. Yet, on another level, this donation has made possible even longer-term results; eternal results. The donation brought about by Wheels for the World and The Hanna Project has given us even deeper inroads into social programs throughout Svishtov that care for those in need. It has also strengthened our ties to the hospital and with various individuals who see that our faith is not only words, but action. Several who have had reservations about working with a Protestant Church are now more inclined to do so, and those who have benefited directly from this aid know that it is because of our faith in Jesus Christ that we give. We give because He first gave to us.



We want to thank you for your generosity and hard work that has made this possible. There are many in this life who have benefited from what you do but will never have the opportunity to thank you directly. However, it is our hope that on the day that God renews all things, when these wheelchairs and crutches are no longer needed, that there will be many who come to you with words of thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Timothy Awtrey

FWBIM-Bulgaria

¹ A breakdown of each agency or individual who received aid is listed at the end of this document.

Donations from БПЦ „Нов живот“ Свищов for:

Organization/Person	Date	Wheelchairs	Walker	Crutches	Cane	Other
Retirement Home Svishtov	2/2/18	11	10	10	13	
Center for Adults with Disabilities	2/2/18	4	5	2	2	
Home for Adults with Dementia - Ofche Mogili	2/2/18	7	3	3	5	
Psychiatric Ward – Belene	2/7/18	2	4	4	4	
Medical Center “Norma”	2/7/18	1	2	2	2	
Doctor Popov	2/7/18	1	1	1	1	
Doctor Moneva	2/2/18	1	1	1	2	
Doctor Gancheva	2/7/18	0	5	5	1	
Renie	2/7/18	0	1	0	1	
Ivanka	2/8/18	0	1	0	0	
Svishtov Hospital	2/8/18	19	8	8	2	20 Children’s blankets
Emergency Ward – Svishtov	2/7/18	4	4	4	2	4 Children’s blankets
Emergency Ward – Pleven	2/9/18	2	0	0	0	
Baba Danche	2/2/18	0	1	0	0	
New Life Church	2/2/18	4	5	10	12	4 Children’s blankets

