



**Corvallis, Oregon –
International Relations
Committee**

As one of the service teams of Altrusa, the **International Relations Committee's Mission** is it . . .

Organizes our international projects and keeps our club informed about international events that are recognized by District and International.

Altrusa's purpose is to promote better communities through service by an International network of people with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

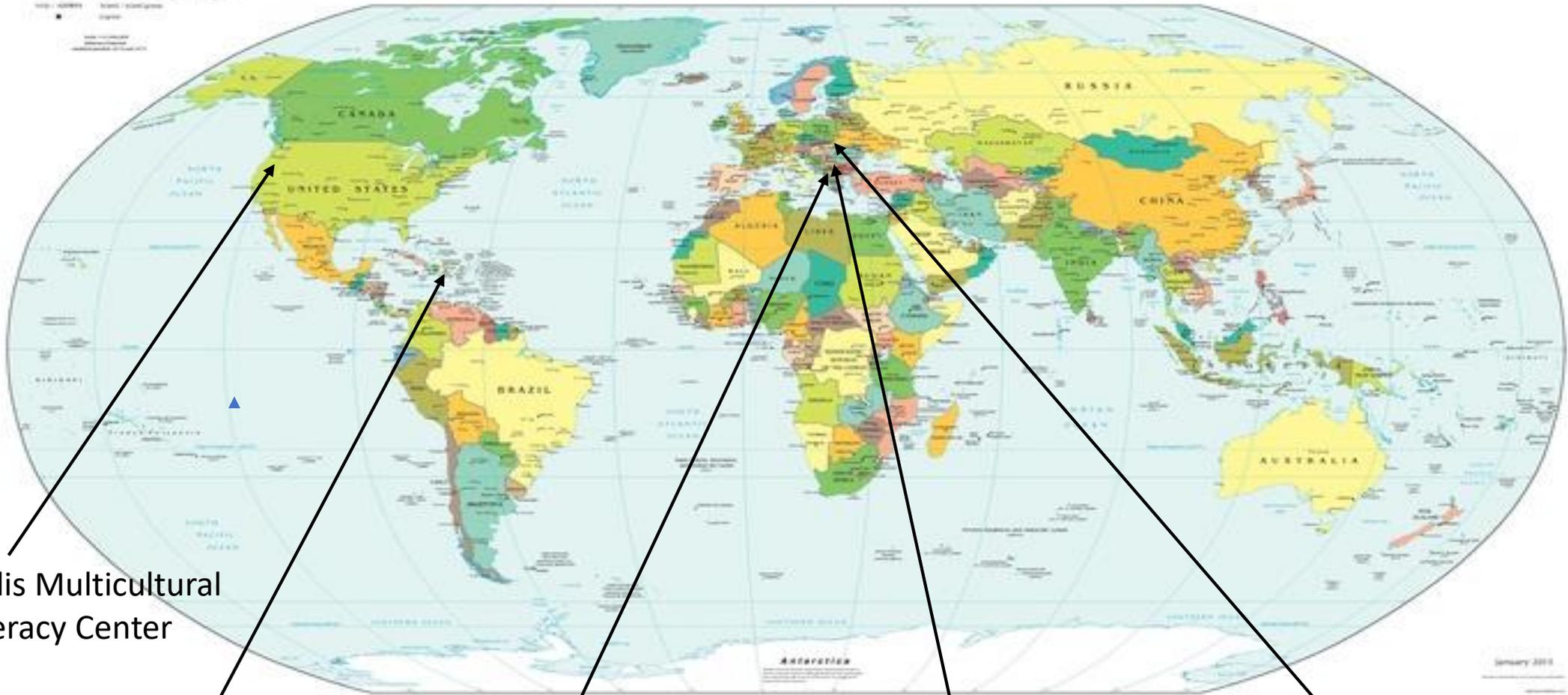
Our club has over the years supported projects around the **globe** with the emphasis on **literacy** and helping people become **self-sufficient**. Recently all the international projects Altrusa sponsors have local connections, to keep everyone in contact with what is happening with the funds.



What projects do we currently fund?

- Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center
- The TOUCH Project
- Kosovo Women's Network
- Haiti Health Initiative
- Albanian Alps Institute

Where are these international projects?



Corvallis Multicultural
Literacy Center

Haiti Health Initiative

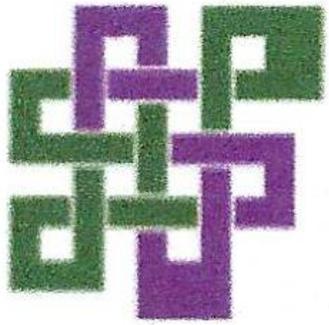
Albanian Alps
Institute

Kosovo Women's
Network

The TOUCH Project

January 2011

Altrusa International Relations Projects	Budget 2019-20
Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center	300
TOUCH Sponsor a Child	100
Kosovo Women's Network Intern	1250
Haiti Health Initiative	1250
Albanian Alps Institute Scholarship	600
TOTAL	\$3,500



CORVALLIS MULTICULTURAL LITERACY CENTER



Altrusa has supported for many years the important work at the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center from providing volunteers in the Conversation Partner Program, to purchasing bilingual dictionaries and children's books, and planting bulbs and sprucing up the landscaping.



It is a community-based learning center which:

- promotes mutual understanding between cultures,
- provides citizenship, educational and cultural resources and
- is a welcoming space that fosters relationship building and connections throughout the community.





This year our \$300 donation supported the U.S. Citizenship classes and the English classes for printing of new materials. This was because of the changes in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services update of the N-400 applications, and because of the increase in attendance in the English classes – a second classroom needed additional teacher resources and supplies. CMLC is unique because it is the only organization that offers free one to one tutoring and works with applicants on the N-400. These two programs helped 158 students in 2019.

The TOUCH Project

TOUCH = Take One Ukrainian Child's Hand



The Corvallis Sister Cities Association was founded in 1989, and Uzhhorod was chosen as Corvallis' first sister city. Initially it was a pen pal program with students, and in the 90's a medical assistance program began.

Over time
The TOUCH Project has grown to include five programs benefiting children in Uzhhorod who are orphaned, abandoned, neglected, discriminated against or dealing with various disabilities.

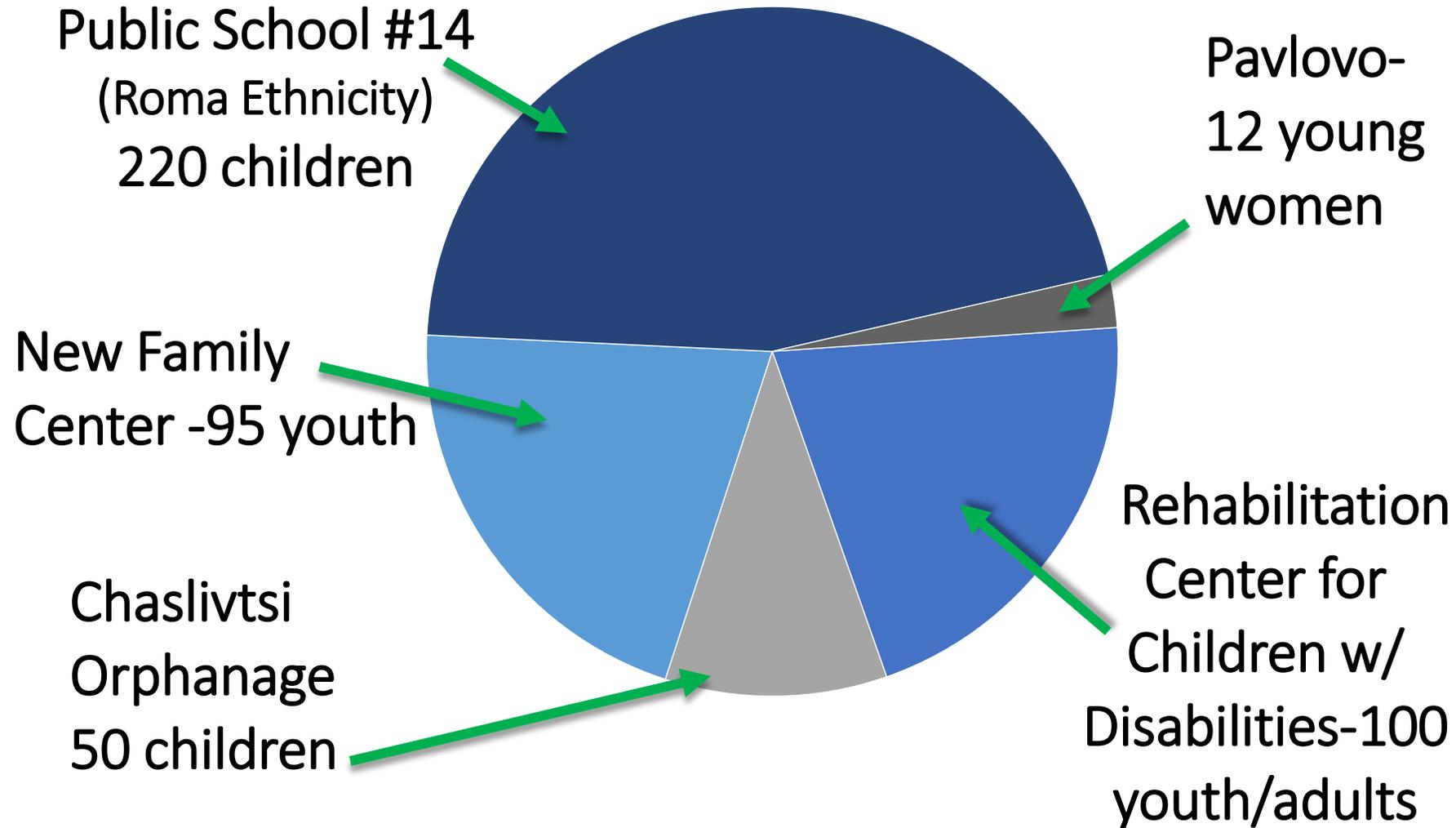


Today it serves over 400 students with sponsors for each child or for a specific program/school.

Ukraine



Where are the 400+ Children in The TOUCH Programs?



For many years Altrusa has supported an annual sponsorship of a child - \$75 per year. As additional needs have arisen, Altrusa sent funds to help build an elevator at the school, and to purchase iPads.



Judy Juntunen is our committee member contact.

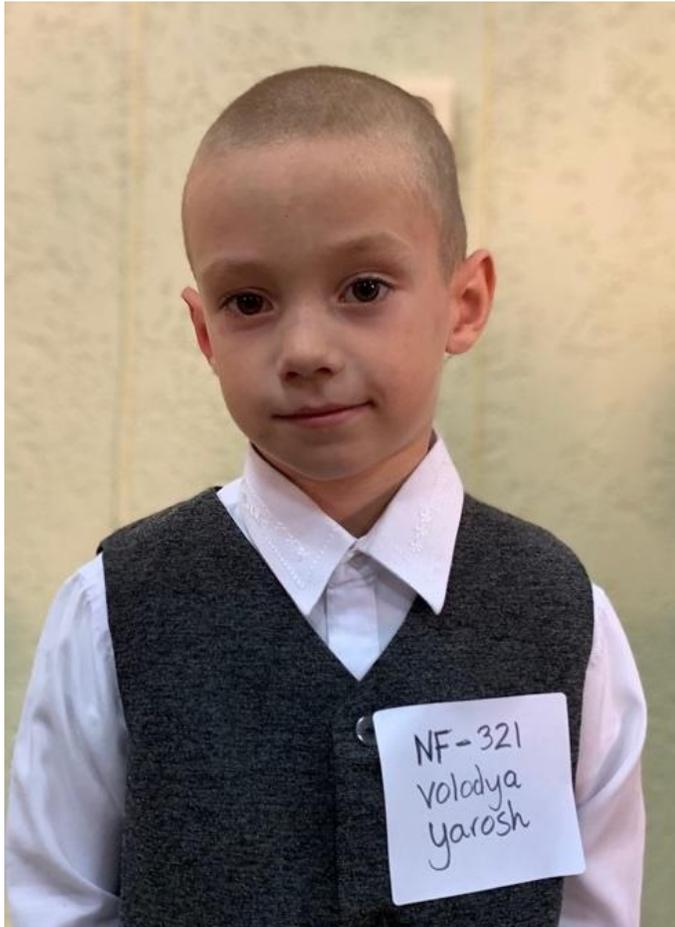


Altrusa sponsored a child from the **Rehabilitation Center for Children w/ Disabilities** - 100 youth/adults (ages 1-48)



Euvgen
Firko

In the fall Altrusa was given a new child to sponsor from **New Family Center - Youth Facility** for 95 youth (ages 1-23)



Volodya Yarosh
He is 7 years
old, born
December
2013. He lives
with his mom,
5 sisters and 2
brothers.





Kosovo Women's Network



In spring 2016, wanting to support education for Roma women, our committee made contact with the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) whose mission is **“serving, protecting and promoting the Rights of Women and Girls”**. The organization was founded after the Milošević War in 1999 where 13,517 mostly Kosovo men were murdered, and 68% of the women experienced rape and other gender violence.

We learned that in Kosovo, Europe's newest nation, the female unemployment rate was 56.9%, so we **supported an internship for young women**.

Two years ago KWN asked us to support a woman's legal internship as KWN had compiled a Strategic Plan for 2019-2022, with one of 5 the long-term goals of the program: **Women and girls live a LIFE FREE FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**.

KWN's research shows that access to justice for these crimes has been very weak, though recent amendments to the Criminal Code of Kosovo may support access to justice in the future.

The current Altrusa intern, Viona, has a law degree and is monitoring and recording all the domestic violence cases in Prishtina, to insure the women and girls receive proper care, legal assistance, and that the courts act. KWN appreciates her excellent work and is looking create a position to fund her permanently.



Helping employee women in Kosovo: Altrusa Interns



Leurina Mehmeti, 2016 - Public relations intern, learned about writing, and organizing rural women's access to quality Healthcare; currently in college.



Ardita Avdija, 2017 – Public Relations intern now about to graduate from the Dept. of Psychology at the U. of Prishtina in gender equality-related issues.



Nita Rudi, 2018 - Legal Assistant combatting gender discrimination and furthering Women's Labor Rights.



Viona Krasniqi, 2019 – Legal Intern, monitoring and recording all the domestic violence cases in Prishtina to Insure justice for all women.



Last July 2019, Nicole Farnsworth, Program Director/Lead Researcher from the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) came to Corvallis and spoke at the Old Mill Center. She told about the women our internship support has sponsored and how it has helped women, the domestic violence work of KWN, gender equality, and insights into having lived in Kosovo for the past 17 years. The Kosovo President gave her citizenship for her work helping the people of Kosovo.



Cathy Frischmann is our committee contact.



HAITI

HEALTH INITIATIVE



Founded in 2010, Haiti Health Initiative is focused on improving the overall health and wellbeing of rural Haitians, one village at a time.

For the past several years Altrusa has helped purchase medication for humanitarian aid trips to the remote village of Timo. Located in an off the grid mountainous region, access to Timo is limited to dirt paths. The Corvallis physician, Dr. Mark Rampton, has volunteered on several of these trips.



Initially we funded necessary medical supplies, and last April 749 patients were treated. The continued civil unrest across Haiti has meant cancellation of some health trips.



HELP US BUILD A NEW SCHOOL DESIGNED TO HOUSE 200+ STUDENTS



The new two-story floor plan will maximize available land & include:

- nine classrooms
- kitchen
- dry latrine
- potable spring water
- rainwater collection
- dining hall
- teacher/staff offices
- solar panels and dehydrator

This past fall Altrusa was asked to help build a new school in Timo. Currently 227 school children and 12 teachers from the village meet in a tin shack that has no windows, electricity, running water or restrooms. By Altrusa contributing for the first two-story building by early December, 2019 our donation was matched by the Rampton and Cropper families. Donations poured in and Inspired by such generosity, a couple offered to fund the second two-story building.



CURRENT SCHOOL FACILITY

Major Progress for the Primary School Building



Site work for the new Timo Primary School is complete, including retaining walls needed to level enough land in the mountainous area. Architects and engineers have also completed plans for the latrine system and are working with a Haitian engineer to finalize construction details. This will be a remarkable challenge, since all the materials—the bricks, rebar, cement and everything else—will have

to be carried by hand or by mule-drawn two-wheeled carts. It about 3 km distance across rough terrain from the trailhead to the site. It is at least an hour walk.





Large Haiti Map

Timo community leaders and school teachers have expressed profound gratitude for your gift, which will literally transform the lives of children in Timo for many generations to come.

Tammy Skubinna and Evelyne Hendrix are our contacts.

Flag of Haiti 🇸🇩





Albanian Alps Institute

An organization founded by Steve Cook, husband of our Altrusa member Terri Cook, of Corvallis. It's **Mission:** *Supporting improved quality of educational opportunities for the children and youth of the isolated Malsia e Madhe region of Northern Albania.*





After years of work in Northern Albania, Steve Cook, in 2001 consulted with Marash Rakaj (AAI Albanian Manager) on how to contribute to education in the impoverished villages of the Malesia e Madhe, especially Shkrel. The outcome was the AAI five programs. As a result Steve wrote, “. . . the students are now reading books, swinging on swing sets, using computers and dreaming of a future unimaginable to them or their parents before AAI. . . One of the biggest successes is that girls are now attending high school . . .”





This is a picture of my village, which is called Goraj.



Xhesika Bakaj wrote, “Albanian Alps Institute's scholarship is helping me by paying my school bills and my dormitory. I am and I would always be thankful to AAI for helping me with this scholarship.”

Xhesika Bakaj

AAI scholarship with Altrusa funds.



Republic of Albania



"My first semester went pretty well. The professors seems to be very good, the literature is good (to be honest is a little bit loaded). I have took 5 different classes: math, microeconomics, business management, English and marketing . Currently in this semester instead of business management, I am taking human resource management . I am staying in a dormitory that is run by nuns and its only for girls."



Thank you Altrusans!