

We asked Alex Faiman to let us have a report on the B'nai B'rith humanitarian activities in Ukraine

Written by B'nai B'rith Europe

In the West, we talk of our quality of life. In the Ukraine, including both Kiev and Lviv, we have to talk about survival. The situation for the poor is indeed heartbreaking.

We concentrate on two items – food and medicine and we have to cope with day-to-day problems.

The system in the Ukraine is very bureaucratic and of course we have to obey all the rules. The authorities request a full list, every day of the people receiving any benefit from our programme.

We operate only in Kiev and Lviv because these are the only two cities where we have B'nai B'rith Lodgers with dedicated teams of volunteers doing outstanding work to keep up with all the necessary administration of the programmes.

Kiev

Since March 2001 we have been providing hot three course meals, six days a week. By now the number of people we assist with food dropped from 160 to 112 due to natural process of passing away. This help is essential as our recipients totally rely to sustain themselves on our food programme. Their meagre pensions after paying for household bills etc does not leave room for feeding themselves. They cannot rely on state subsidies/benefits, which exist in the West.

Medicine We run a weekly surgery with a professional doctor prescribing medication which we purchase wholesale and provide free to our recipients as the prices of medication are absolutely beyond their financial means.

Lviv

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