

## **Two Years in Moldova**

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This program narrative chronicles the twenty seven months of my life in Peace Corps as an English teacher in the Republic of Moldova; the challenges as well as the opportunities experienced through those two years in a Moldovan classroom; and the unforgettable lessons I learned that benefited me both personally and professionally. Aside from learning a language and learning about a new culture, Peace Corps gave me the opportunity to become a more conscientious, reflective teacher. My approach changed from thinking about “how can I survive this lesson” to “how can I teach my students something during this lesson.” I also learned that the concept of “university” is not universal by any means. I also learned that when people are under pressure, they will make decisions that I would consider to be unethical. More importantly, I learned that if I want to work with people, I would be more effective if I try to understand their situation, rather than judging it.

Throughout my twenty-seven month stay in the Republic of Moldova, I braved the coldest winter in a century and the hottest summer in half a century. I helped raise pigs, chickens, and ducks. I used an outhouse, took bucket baths, and got sick. But I also made friends, learned a new language and found a somewhat new direction in my professional career.