

Name:

Chris Flowers

Local Name:

Chris, Cris, Cristian



Country:
Moldova
Sector:
Community &
Organizational
Development (COD)



Country Information

What is the country population?

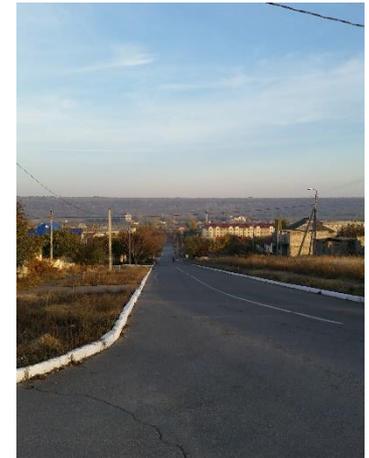
About 3 million



What is the climate and geography like?

Moldova is full of gentle rolling hills and rich fields. There are a few small forests but mainly the country is grassland/fields.

The weather is similar to states in the north of the USA.



What is the population of your site?

Between 8-10,000

Describe your living arrangements.

I know live in a very nice apartment on the 3rd floor of an old Soviet apartment block. It has modern conveniences like a washing machine, hot water, high speed internet, and a stove.



Culture

What do people wear?

People dress in similar clothes to what we have in America. They tend to own less clothes but the clothes they own always look very nice.

What is the food like?

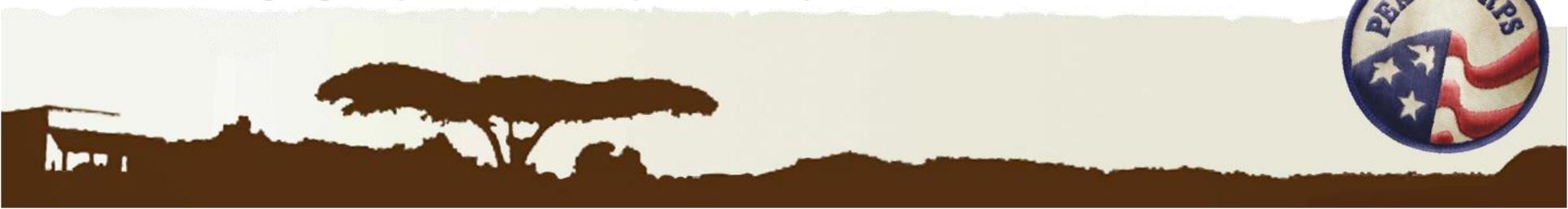
The food is very fresh and natural. Many Moldovan grow and raise all their own food.

What is the main religion?

Orthodox Christian

What holidays do people celebrate?

The Orthodox calendar has the Christian holidays Americans are familiar with like Christmas and Easter. Plus there are saint days, village/city days, independence day, language day, Women's day, and many more.



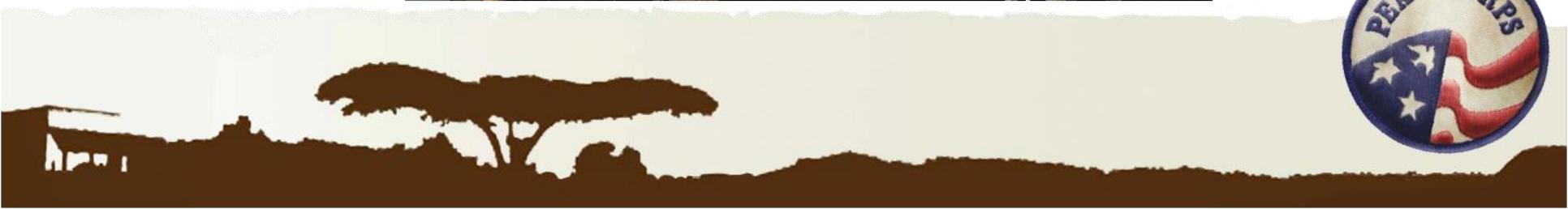
Culture

Are there any interesting customs or traditions?

On your birthday, you throw a party and bring food for your friends and family.

How does transportation work?

There are minibuses (rutiera) and larger buses that can get you just about anywhere in Moldova.



Work

What is your primary project?

I help expand the capabilities of a day care for children with special education needs.

What are your secondary projects?

I work with 2 projects that develop business skills (Diamond Challenge) or a volunteering culture (Wave Week Moldova) in young Moldovans. I also do some work with our library system.

What has been your biggest success?

The day care center will be starting a project soon to purchase exercise equipment to be used to provide physical therapy to our children.

What has been your biggest setback? Sometimes things just take a long time to get all of the approvals needed to keep moving. I've been working on a project with the library system since September that we hope will finally get the approvals we need to start a test run as soon as next month.



Fun Facts

What is your favorite moment in your service so far?

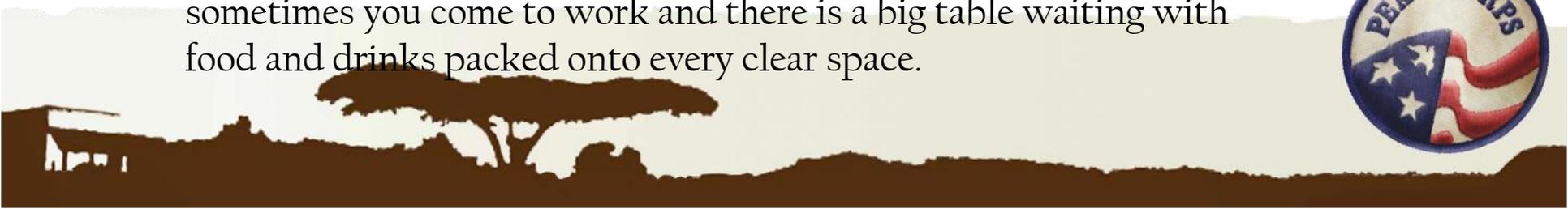
There came a day when I noticed that the children from the day care center thought of me as a part of the center. I'd see them on the street and they'd ask me if I was going to the center that day. It made very happy to see they thought of me as part of their daily lives.

What is the strangest thing that has happened to you as a Volunteer?

People are very friendly here. I met a policeman in our city who refused to stop shaking my hand until I agreed to get in his car and go see his house with his friend.

What is your favorite part of being a Peace Corps Volunteer?

Moldovans love to celebrate. The word for table is "masă" but a "masă" can also be a big meal to celebrate a holiday or birthday. There seems to be something to celebrate every other week. My fellow Peace Corps Volunteers talk about surprise "masăs" because sometimes you come to work and there is a big table waiting with food and drinks packed onto every clear space.



Fun Facts



What is your favorite word or phrase in the local language?

Poftă bună – Good appetite or Bon Appétit

What are things that you've found that are done better in your host country than America?

Moldovans are very connected to their food. They know where things come from and prefer fresh and local items to things transported from a factory or from far away.

What aspects of your host country do you wish you could bring back to America?

The traditional music and dancing is amazing here and seems to be popular amongst people of all ages. I wish everyone had the opportunity to see it performed in person.

