



Children in orphanages and poor families in Romania and Moldova with their knitted gifts

Operation Cover Up

warmth for the children of the frozen north

Operation Cover Up is hoping to extend their country-wide coverage to include knitters from Franklin. Hundreds of knitters of all ages from all over New Zealand contribute to filling 40ft containers with knitted blankets, garments and other urgently needed goods to send overseas. Last year almost 100,000 articles were sent to orphanages, schools and very poor families in the Ukraine, Moldova and Romania. Operation Cover Up was started in 2002 by Liz Clarke of Taupo, when she learnt of the needs in the freezing cold Moldovan orphanages. "The greatest need is for knitted blankets – this is a top priority," says Director Robert Imlach from Mission Without Borders. "I was in Romania last winter and it was minus 7 most of the time, with snow all around. These children in state orphanages have pretty much next to nothing and urgently need warm wool garments and blankets. They receive their blankets with joy. Not only is there suddenly a wonderful splash of bright colour, the children know they would not be cold again at night"

Operation Cover Up has its own warehouses and staff in each country, who deliver directly to the people in need. Each year coordinators in New Zealand arrange for knitting to be gathered up for their transport in September shipping, just in time for an icy northern winter.

Robert: "I would like to say a great big thank you to all our knitters and to invite other knitters in Franklin and across the country to join them. Our knitters are a great blessing to the children in Romania, Moldova and the Ukraine. They understand quite clearly that it is your love that you send to them with those wonderful blankets. They are so happy to know that someone, somewhere, cares for them. To an abandoned child, love is their greatest need – while warming their bodies, the blankets are also giving them healing for their damaged lives."

Contacts: The Knitting Grannies, Joan Loader 09 238 9989; Operation Cover Up, Liz Clarke 07 378 9171 or Robert Imlach at Mission Without Borders 09 826 0381 rmlach@mwb.org

