

## **Narrative report of the "Open Hearts" Travel to Turkey. Antalya, Kemer (21-28.09.2017)**

Members of the organization "Open Hearts" spent an unforgettable week of rest and recuperation in Turkey. Antalya, Kemer. To organize this holiday we chose this country due to the adaptability and convenience of its infrastructure for people traveling on wheelchairs. The participants of this trip consisted of 12 people with special needs and 8 people of our friends- volunteers.

Dear Rotarians and all who have joined the fundraising in Lviv for our trip to Turkey!

We sincerely thank you for the financial support you provided to us. We are very grateful to you, we had a great trip where we could see the spectacular nature, enjoy the warm sea and sun, swim on a boat, go to a disco, and even do diving!. For some participants it was our first trip to the sea, which, of course, they will remember for life! Every day in Kemer was bright and memorable! We are thankful to the hotel staff for the warm welcome and good reception. We hope to come back there the next year! Dear friends - volunteers thank you for your kind hearts and strong arms, whose support we always feel! We love you! See you on the next trip!

We would like to say thank you all the sponsors of the trip:

Rotary Club Switzerland

(Lviv)

Andrew Pashule

Oleg Antochiv

Mykhailo Muzhylivsky

Tatyana Kava

Marta Tsimbalista

"Mest Group"

and those who wished not to call their names ...

Some volunteers agreed to share their impressions about the trip. Here their feedbacks.

Nadia Vladarska:

*Turkey. Antalya Kemer*

The airport in Antalya was difficult to be there. It happened (as it is not a shame to admit) because of the tactlessness and rudeness of Russian tourists. Then we are trying to check in and here is another misfortune - the tour operator forgot or considered to be unnecessary to inform the hotel about special needs of our group. It is a pity. We just accepted it, sometimes in the literal sense. But at that point negative impressions were over. The next day the situation has improved partly due to resettlement into more spacious rooms, or due to the breathtaking view out of the windows, the roaring sea and the cozy swimming pool. From day to day the staff of the hotel takes cares about our group with much more attention. More and more 'volunteers' appear, hearts are being opened. The owner of the hotel loved us very much. The last day He presented souvenirs to us and invited all of us to come back to their hotel the following year - nice :)

Having fun: boat rides, diving, disco, karaoke, shopping... It is nice to watch over how some participants become more independent, self-confident. Andrew was the greatest discovery for me. Just recently, he was afraid of taking an extra step, and here he had been dancing all the evening - the hotel staff called him "disco man". And what a happy he was running with a cocktail!!! Happy as he had ordered it in the bar on his own. On the last day he even swam himself! :).

Normal conditions and good roads work miracles - everyone can feel like a fully-fledged person.

It is really funny to go shopping with Julia and Anichka. The only thing they do is collecting gifts :)

In the air there was always the atmosphere of true joy, laughter, jokes and friendship. "Oh let's paint Andrew." "It's not necessary, we've already surprised

everyone here ..." And indeed we surprised them all, in a good sense of cause. I am dreaming the time when kindness and joy will stop surprising people and become an ordinary thing to everyone. My separate respect to Lviv airport. We were very promptly and positively serviced. "Open hearts", I am looking forward to our next meeting!"

And Martha Boretzka:

"Friends, you have made the rest busy funny ridiculously memorable. You are just funny birds. Now we have our own Ukrainian Osman and Mamud. (It is new nicknames of Ostap and Maksym) You are convinced that clap can also be done by legs :), saving sleeves do wonders - without it nobody can swim to the buoys. Well, and what about shower?! It must have been remembered by everyone. Hardening with cold water was successful. Each of your smiles, jokes, mutual help, made the unforgettable summer in the fall. Thank you all, my dear »:)

In addition to enjoying the bright sun and swimming in the warm sea, participants and volunteers were able to watch the various shows, which took place every evening in the hotel where we lived. It was: acrobatic show of artists from Ghana, unique and provocative dancing Turkish dancers, karaoke-style evening where everyone can discover their talents, which we never knew before.

We are sincerely grateful to the tour operator "Join Up" and personally to the Lviv representative of the travel company Ms. Ilona Hentosh for organizing safe, beautiful, comfortable and unforgettable trip and rest, which everyone would like to return to.