



“Children are not only the future of Moldova but the future of our world. Developing relationship with you now when you are young is the best way to build on the future!”

said Brock Bierman to a local TV reporter

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# Counterpart Communities

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**W**inston-Salem is another springboard city for the North Carolina Republic of Moldova communities relationship. In 2000, Winston-Salem officially established sister-city relationship with town of Unghen, Moldova.

In 2003, North Carolina initiated a major humanitarian assistance shipment, which included 240 wheelchairs for disabled people from the Republic of Moldova.

**Motivated citizens of Winston-Salem gathered the donations to contribute in this wheelchairs project and matched funds for 30 wheelchairs valued at \$6,750 to needy disabled of their Sister City Unghen.**

On March 26, Unghen Town Mayoralty together with Counterpart International held a press conference marking the delivery of the wheelchairs as humanitarian assistance to Unghen Town under the Counterpart Communities Program. Counterpart's distribution partner within this project implementation in Unghen is the "Vitorul ynchepe azi" (The Future Begins Today) Civic Education Association.

WINSTON-SALEM  
UNGHEN

When this newsletter was in production, four Belts citizens were leaving for Lakeland on an exchange visit to Belts. In May, there will be another delegation - from Lakeland to Belts which will include six teachers, two doctor-audiologists and two surgeons. Lakeland's First Baptist Church will facilitate a trip of Lakeland's musicians group in July. Cultural exchange is an important part of Belts and Lakeland communities' development.

"Counterpart Communities Program is pleased to foster this city-to-city relationship through upcoming activities ... to continue its support of a people-to-people relationship," stated Ashley Grable.

Counterpart International's partners are "**Lariola Women's Union for Children's Rights Civic Organization**, and Belts'-based "**Lakeland Hearing Protection Center**. Both non-governmental organizations, most progressive, efficient, and reliable social service NGOs in Moldova, have already greatly contributed to the development of Lakeland Belts Counterpart Communities Project.

