



Hi everyone and Happy New Year!

This microproject is a call for help in an emergency. A few weeks ago, our minivan got into a car accident and we are trying to fundraise for its repair and, more importantly, to be able to afford the proper insurance. Here is the story.

Every year between the New

Year and Orthodox Christmas Eve (in January) we bring gifts to kids from our Family Project, which now includes over 30 families of people with drug dependency. This year was no exception. Father Frost (the Russian Santa) and Snowflake (his granddaughter) were busy delivering presents to the children, using our van as their Sledge, and at the evenings the van also went to regular outreach sites. On Wednesday, January 5, a heavy snowstorm suddenly hit the city: flights were canceled, and the traffic was tough. By that time the van had already delivered the presents, and the driver planned a short trip to the warehouse to collect condoms for the night outreach shift with sex workers. While he was descending a small snowy hill, he could not control the brakes very well, and the van crashed into another car. The van was going low, so the driver got off lightly, and is safe, but our minivan was badly damaged - it has a broken radiator, headlights, fans, and damage to its vehicle body.

As some of our supporters would remember, we couldn't afford the minivan for a long time and when we finally got it 5 years ago with the support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria, we were extremely happy and proud and relieved that we don't have to do a foot outreach in Moscow's minus 20 winter. Over the last 5 years, our minivan has become a central symbol of ARF activities and has become famous in the city – reaching not only to regular outreach sites every night, but also the city events, festivals and other places where our help and access to counseling, testing and materials was much needed. We managed to carry out our intensive daily social work in the most remote areas of Moscow, delivering support and materials to the most vulnerable and poor people who simply do not have access to any help due to stigma, poverty and stigmatization. We conducted outreach in clubs and at festivals, delivered presents to children, drove people to medical facilities; we managed to provide support to everyone who needed it so much. With its help we managed to establish outreach with new groups, such as street sex workers and Moscow gay/chemsex community. It has been key to supporting and extending our service.

Our services did not stop after the accident, we still provide outreach services on foot almost every day but it is quite difficult to keep doing this for several hours in the cold winter weather.

We have a great community of supporters and now we really need your help. This year we have seen very limited financial support and have been cutting many of our services due to ceasing donor's support. We stopped our regular chemsex outreach and had to cut our mental health service. We did not have and still do not have funds for Comprehensive and Collision Insurance (CASCO) and have to

pay for the repair of the van ourselves. The van is more than 5 years old and its repair and maintenance and insurance cost will rise every year.

We are trying to raise funds to fix our van, and ideally, to pay for the insurance and insure a new small car that will be used for outreach with street sex workers.

We also want to thank everyone who have already subscribed to our regular donations! Thanks to you our Foundation is still standing on its feet. We really appreciate the regular donations, they help to better plan our activities. By helping us, you give us hope that we will continue its activities as soon as possible, and all those who need us so much will soon see our van again!

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