



Staff members of the Miss Stone Center wearing protective gear to prevent the spread of COVID-19

“Tough times never last, but tough people do.” ~ Robert Schuller

We have some tough people working for the Miss Stone Center in Strumica. The center was started in 2000 and has been providing shut-ins and other people in need with “meals on wheels” non-stop since 2001. Not rain, not snow, not political unrest, not even a viral pandemic has been able to stop them! They have not missed one day. However, providing services has become more difficult since the outbreak of COVID-19. Staff now wear masks, gloves, hair nets, goggles and full-body protective gowns when working with clients. Shallow trays with disinfectant for shoes have been placed in front of the center doors and hand sanitizer has become a way of life. The staff also had to switch from using

reusable food containers to disposable ones to decrease the possibility of transmission.

In the beginning of the pandemic, international transport of goods was disrupted, which caused the prices of food and protective gear to increase and created an unexpected burden on the center. Thankfully, shipping lines have been restored and prices have largely returned to pre-pandemic levels. Even so, constantly purchasing the disposable items has caused a strain on the center’s budget.

In April, I sent out a call for help, and many people graciously responded. Altogether, ten individuals and one church donated \$2,295!

On behalf of the Miss Stone Center and the clients we serve, I want to express a heartfelt thank you. These donations will go a long way in making sure we can maintain services during this pandemic.

Martin Konev, the coordinator for projects under the Diakonia Macedonia Miss Stone Center, reports that the other projects associated with the center are also still in effect. They continue to provide hot soup and bread to the homeless and food insecure in Radovich and the nurse and physical therapist continue to provide at home care to their clients. To date, they have not had anyone become infected with the COVID-19 virus, not any of the employees nor clients. They hope that the added security measures will keep all of them safe.



Practicing social distancing while handing out hot soup and bread in Radovich.

Martin adds, "Throughout the crisis, our clients have expressed their gratitude and trust in everything we do for them. Some of them end up with sincere tears in which they tell us that there is a great fear in them that we will leave them too, that they will be left alone and not even be infected with the virus, that they will starve to death and there will be no one to find them."

I am thankful we have such dedicated and faithful workers and also thankful for generous donors helping us get through these difficult times.

Jennifer Moore



Staff members continue to provide physical therapy and basic medical care despite the pandemic.

It not too late to give

If you would like to contribute to the ongoing needs of the Miss Stone Center simply go to the UMC [Advance website](#) for # 00220A and designate your gift to:
"Miss Stone Center"



The Miss Stone Center in Strumica. The building on the left is where all the meals are prepared.



Click [here](#) to donate



Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church
IN MISSION TOGETHER