

# Into Moldova

Open Gate International is a dedicated organization, established to empower survivors of human trafficking and other exploitive industries through the provision of accredited training, development of life skills, and job placement assistance. Furthermore, Open Kitchen strives to raise public awareness on the critical need of investing in the rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors, recognizing the vital role it plays in their well-being and society as a whole.

# Who are we?

Deidre, the visionary founder of Open Gate International, embarked on a journey of discovery and empathy in 2016. Her travels took her to various countries where she had the privilege of hearing the heart-wrenching stories of survivors of human trafficking and other exploitative industries. Through these conversations and by engaging with non-profit organizations and government officials, Deidre gained an understanding of the profound emotional, social, and economic devastation wrought upon individuals, communities, and entire countries.

Determined to make a meaningful impact, Deidre and her team delved deeper. They reached out to various organizations that were already engaged in rescue, rehabilitation, and other forms of support. What they discovered was a crucial gap in the support system: job training and workforce integration.



Meet the Team →

02/13



## Deidre Pujols

CEO + Founder

Open Kitchen was founded by Deidre Pujols in 2016. She had visited several countries and during her travels, learned of the devastating emotional, social and economic impact wrought by human trafficking and other exploitive industries. These experiences deeply affected Deidre and she was determined to get involved and make an impact.



## Chef Cinthia Worsey

Executive Chef

Chef Cinthia graduated from Le Cordon Bleu California School of Culinary Arts and has worked in renowned restaurants such as L'Orangerie in West Hollywood. As Open Kitchen's Global Executive Chef, she runs the culinary program in Orange County, creates meals for fundraising events, oversees the global programs in different parts of the world and develops all the menus and manuals that are used in the kitchen.



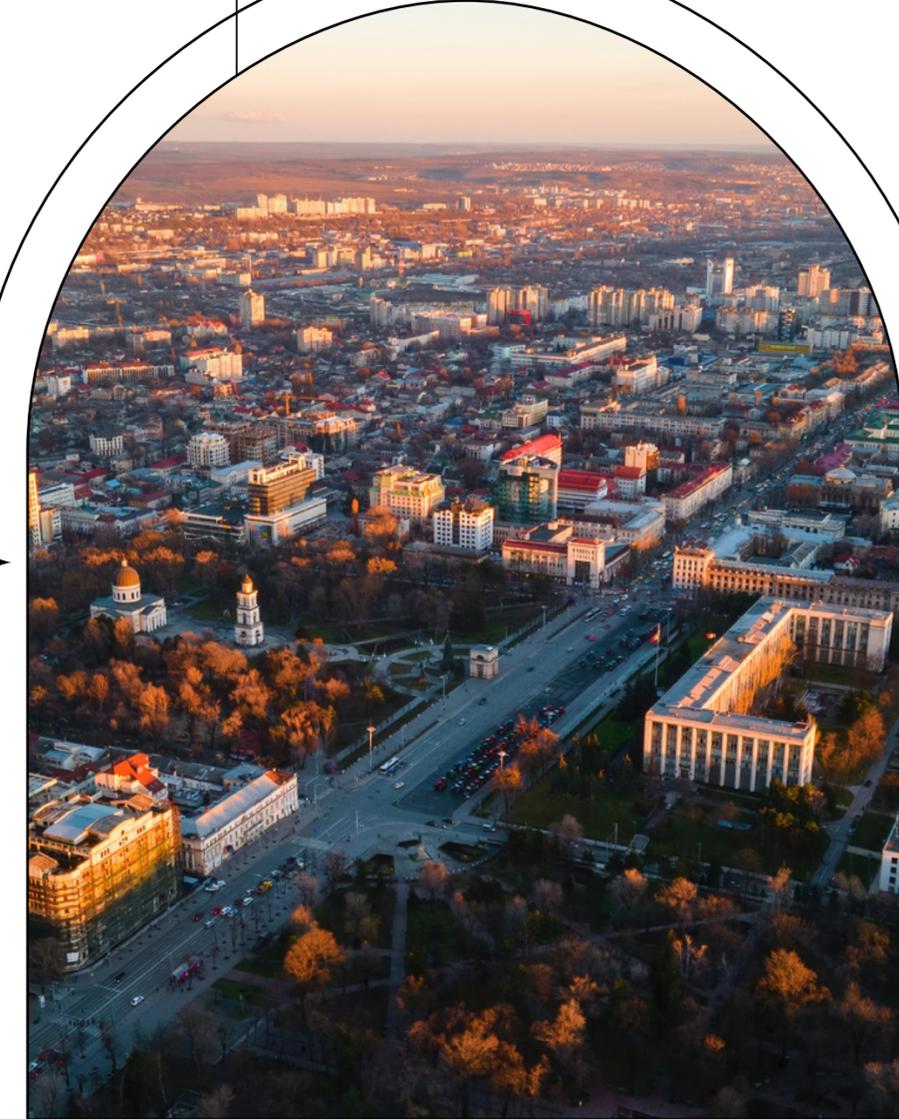
## Leoni K Webster

Director of International Child Welfare

Leonie has 25 years of child welfare experience working with multiple child welfare agencies in the United States, Latin America and Europe. A TBRI® Certified Practitioner, she is an international child welfare advisor specializing in child/parent attachment, residential care change management and policy reform.

# The Moldova Crisis

Moldova is considered to be a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. The majority of trafficking victims are women and children who are subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Many Moldovan citizens, particularly women and girls, are trafficked to other countries in Europe, particularly Russia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates, for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Additionally, Moldovan men, women, and children are also subjected to forced labor within the country and in Russia. Poverty, lack of employment opportunities, and weak law enforcement are factors that contribute to the high incidence of human trafficking in Moldova. Preventative action is required.



# What is Preventative Action?

Preventive action refers to measures taken to prevent a problem or issue from occurring, rather than addressing it after it has already occurred. In the context of human trafficking, preventive action can include a range of different measures that are taken to reduce the risk of trafficking and protect individuals from being trafficked.

# Why is this important?

In today's world, where human trafficking is a growing problem, children who have experienced abuse and poverty are particularly vulnerable. OGICW aims to provide support to child welfare professionals and foster families who may be uninformed, overwhelmed, and underfunded in order to ensure the safety and stability of the children in their care.

In countries like Moldova, where war and extreme poverty have created instability, OGICW offers vital support and training to foster families to help them care for and protect adopted children and their families. Preserving families is crucial in protecting children from falling prey to traffickers



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34%

34% of the countries population is currently living under the poverty line making them one of the poorest countries in Europe.

40,000

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that between 2000 and 2018, more than 40,000 Moldovan citizens were identified as potential victims of human trafficking.

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According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Moldova is among the top 10 countries in Europe for the highest number of human trafficking victims per capita.



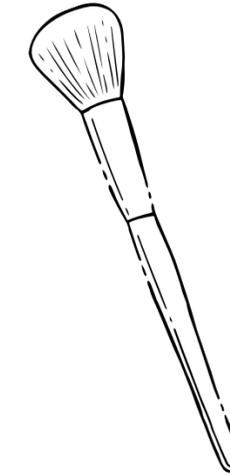
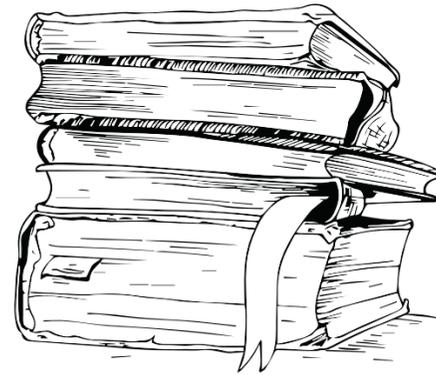
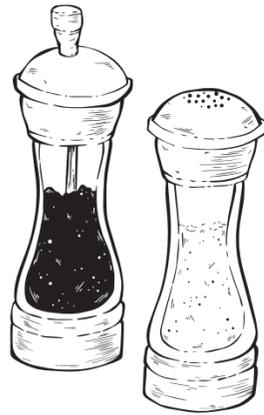
# What are we doing about it?

Children from war-torn regions around the world who have faced abuse and poverty are among the most vulnerable and are in dire need of care from foster families and child welfare professionals. However, when these caregivers have also experienced trauma, they require additional support and guidance to effectively care for the children in their charge.

OGI is dedicated to providing essential education and training to equip these caregivers with the tools they need to protect children from the dangers of human trafficking, which preys on the young and vulnerable. With OGI's help, these caregivers can provide stability and safety to the children they care for, and help prevent them from falling prey to traffickers.

Our Programs [—————>](#)

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# Open Kitchen

This program aims to aid individuals from socially vulnerable backgrounds, such as those who have experienced domestic violence, come from disadvantaged families, or have a history of addiction, to become more economically self-sufficient and improve their overall quality of life.

# Open Education

Beneficiaries and goals remain constant. Some individuals may only have the time for shorter vocational training, while others aspire for more and would gladly pursue higher education if given the opportunity.

# Open Beauty

Beauty courses are tailored for similar groups of people with a common goal. There is a wide range of options available, such as hairdressing, massage, etc.

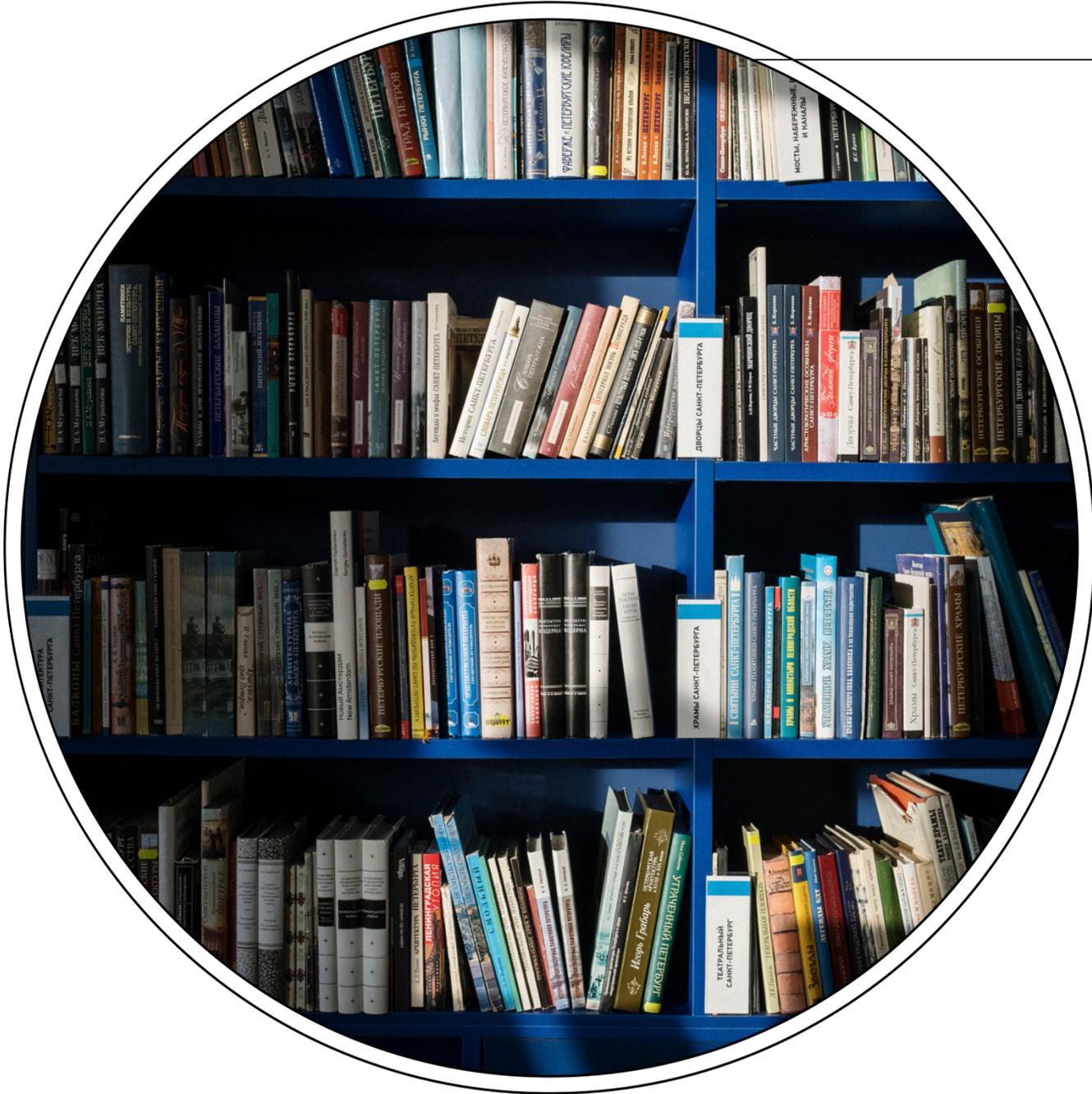


This program is specifically designed to assist individuals from socially vulnerable groups such as women who have escaped domestic violence, children from poor families, single parent families, and families with multiple children, young people from the government's child protection department, minor single mothers, and former drug addicts who have completed rehabilitation.

The primary goal of the program is to empower participants to become more economically independent and improve their overall quality of life. The course is intended for 10 participants per program and includes 25 lessons, each lasting 5-6 hours, held 3 times per week. Along with professional culinary training, the program also includes 16 lessons on life skills such as teamwork, conflict resolution, positive attitude, discipline, and continuing education.

The final lesson focuses on how to choose a safe job and avoid falling victim to modern-day slavery and human trafficking. This lesson is particularly important as many of the program's beneficiaries come from difficult backgrounds and may lack work experience or self-esteem. The program aims to empower them by showing that they are capable of learning and achieving their goals

Cost of course: \$790 per person



Beneficiaries and goals remain constant. Some individuals may only have the time for shorter vocational training, while others aspire for more and would gladly pursue higher education if given the opportunity.

The program offers both vocational training and university/college education, with costs varying from 550 USD per year per person to 3150 USD per year per person. The scholarship requires a longer-term commitment and financial support as the duration of studies can range from 3 to 7 years.

Through this program, we aim to play a significant role in preventing Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking in Moldova, a country where poverty and low levels of education make citizens vulnerable to traffickers. At OGI, we believe that education can change one's mentality, giving them more perspectives and self-belief, which can help them make informed decisions, such as staying home with their children and families or obtaining good profession when they decide to work abroad.

Cost of course: \$500 - \$3150 per person



Beauty courses are tailored for similar groups of people with a common goal. There is a wide range of options available, such as hairdressing, massage, eye lashes extensions, manicure/pedicures and make up.

Each course has different duration ranging from 5 days to 2 months.  
Cost of the courses is 475 USD per person.

Cost of course: \$475 per person



# How can you get involved?

Donating or sponsoring people for one of OGI's programs is an important way to support vulnerable individuals and families and help prevent human trafficking. It allows for the provision of vital education and training to caregivers, as well as resources and support for those at risk of falling victim to traffickers.

Sponsor an Open Kitchen student for \$790

Sponsor an Open Education student for \$3,150

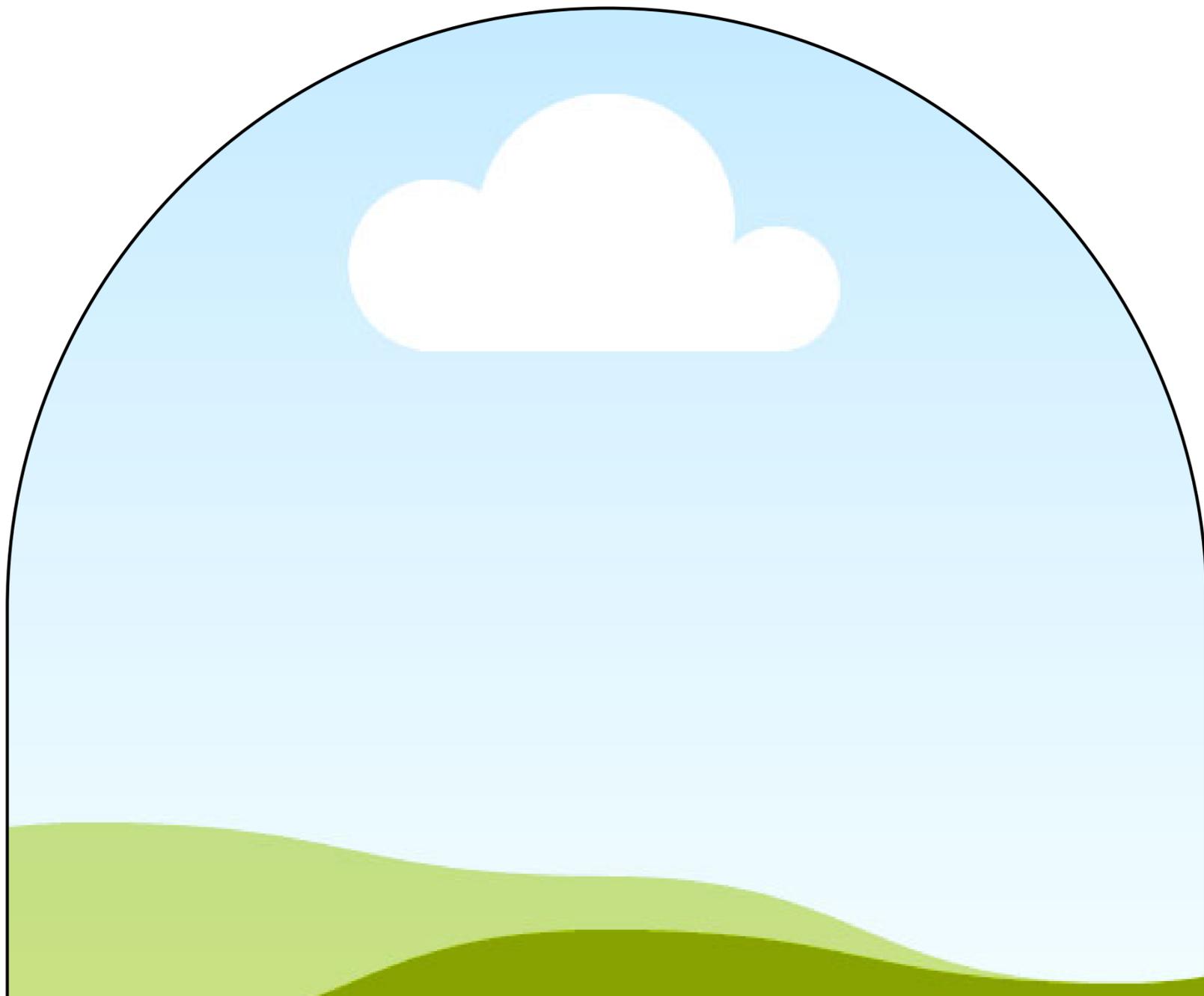
Sponsor an Open Beauty student for \$475



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# Contacts

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