

JEWISH EMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Affiliated with
"HIAS" of America
#4971

Kishineff, March 22, 1922,

Mr. M. Meyerson
Vice-President
of the
Hias of America
New York

Dear Mr. Meyerson:

I beg to apply to you on following matter and to bespeak your earliest attention to it:

When the great flow of refugees from Ucrainia rushed into Bessarabia, both our Central and Urbane Committees took charge of the unfortunate ones. Especially the children were in a quite savageous state and I as a member of said Committees made all in my power to place latter in a proper institution, where they would be provided with food, clothes and instructed accordingly.

All the local Jewish institutions and organizations refused to admit these children, exposing the reason that this was not of its competence and that there was no funds reserved for such expenses.

Only two institutions agreed with me on this subject and declared themselves ready to admit the above: it was re the "Asylum for the Jewish orphan-girls" and the "Day Asylum for Jewish orphan children."

Besides I wish to state, that while the "first of the indicated institutions admitted only 4 children, the second ~~and~~ one received 60 children of refugees.

I take the liberty to acquaint you with the story of the foundation of the above Asylum.

Same was founded at the time of the Pogrom of 1903, by a group of Jewish ladies of the best local society, and on the first day of its opening thirty children, whose parents were killed in the massacre, were therein admitted and it is functioning up to date under the Presidency of Mrs. Olga Koenigshatz, our well-known social worker.

Actually the above institution has in its charge 100 children who are provided with food (breakfast, dinner and supper) clothes, boots, trained after the Froebel system, learn to write and read in Jewish, drawing, singing, elementary mathematics, etc... Children of the age of 2-10 years are admitted therein and as they reach the age of 12 years, they are sent to the Professional School of Kishineff and the Asylum supplies them with books, gives same a daily dinner in order to maintain the connection between the children and their former home.

The children of refugees who were admitted benefitted of everything I stated above, besides, some were submitted to a very severe medical treatment, as they almost all were afflicted with favus and this treatment is a very expensive one - was on account of the Asylum also.

As the expenses supported by above, became a heavy burden for the Asylum's budget, appropriated for 100 children, but in no case for 160 - (60 children of refugees) to take care of.

The President Mrs. Koenigshatz addressed herself to our Committees and received from everywhere a negative answer for the reason I had the honor to mention hereof and the Asylum is now in a very critical position and if its expenses will not be covered - same has but to close.

Still therein remain 19 children of refugees and more than 50 ones aspire to be admitted into it, the rest of the children the Asylum had in charge - left, carrying away the clothes and boots they were supplied with.

Considering your sensibility and the part you have always taken in the unfortunate ones, I beg to ask you to help the Asylum, an social institution which want is very great now and always. Perhaps you will find it possible to supply the Asylum with a certain sum of about 300-400 dollars, same would be sufficient to refund at least partly the above mentioned expenses and unable said to admit for the future the refugees children who we will direct them.

I rely on you and your kind assistance in this matter, and remain, dear Sir

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) S. GHELMAN