

ANTHONY'S DREAM

At 8 years old, I was living on the streets. My parents had died. I was surrounded by the other “street kids” but I still felt alone—often bullied by the bigger boys. I never felt safe and constantly prayed to God for help.

Every day, for five years, I went to church to pray. Sometimes the church would give me food—especially if I did odd jobs. One day I went with some other kids. I kneeled and prayed to God for help just like I always did and, on my way out, I was hit by a car. The other kids just left me on the street bleeding with an injured knee. I wondered what I’d done wrong. I thought God was punishing me. Still, I went back the very next day to pray.

I started visiting a local garage. I was interested in learning about cars and I needed money. The owner was kind. He began to teach me. After a while he told me he had some good news for me. He’d called some Christian friends named Vova and Vika and asked them if they would take me to live with them and send me to school. I thought he was lying! Nobody would want to do that for me! So, when Vova and Vika showed up at the garage for the first time, I ran away and hid. The garage owner found me and asked them to come back. So, on their second try, I hesitantly agreed to go with them--but I was still skeptical.

It was on my first day at school that I realized God had answered my prayers! I was so happy!

Now, I am confident that I can live out my dream of being an aerospace engineer! I love to build things and I know that God has given me a gift. Vika and Vova always give me jobs at home like building a shelter for the goats, a play area for the kids, and even building a house for doves made of iron!

My prayer now is that I can lead the kids at school to the Lord. I want them to take it seriously. I want them to know the God that I know!

-Anthony

Heart for Orphans partners with Vova and Vika, house parents in “Hope of the Desert” a Transition Home for orphaned teens in Kenya.



UPDATE

TRANSITION & FOSTER SUPPORT HOMES



EASTERN EUROPE

“Steve and I just returned from Slovakia, Romania, and western Ukraine where our Heart for Orphans family homes have been evacuated. It was so good to see everyone, hear their concerns, pray for solutions and just encourage them!

Each family group is anxious to return home. Although they have been well cared for in their host country, they cannot welcome local orphans into their homes due to language, legal and residency status. They cannot do the work they are called to do. And yet since the war, the orphan problem in Ukraine has only grown!

Please pray with us as we try to discern the next steps. God is in control and we want to trust Him and be obedient to His plan...while doing everything in our power to keep the kids in our care safe!”

-Nancy Hathaway
Founder/Director

KENYA

“My husband Ryan and I feel so blessed to have been able to visit with our ‘Hope of the Desert’ family in Kenya. We couldn’t have imagined the impact Vika (one of our past Heart for Orphans graduates) and her husband Vova are making there! They have truly entrenched themselves in the culture of the Turkana region and there is so much opportunity for Heart for Orphans to come alongside them!

There is something very special about each of the children! Listening to their stories, hearing their dreams for the future, and seeing how hard they worked left me in awe. It is an honor to be able to help through the generosity of our donors and supporters! Providing these sweet kids with a loving family, teaching them about Jesus, and sending them to school is what God called us to do!”

-Amber Linnekin
Director of Donor Relations

A STORY FROM HOUSE MOTHER NATASHA

We are immensely grateful to God for the care that He shows us through Heart for Orphans! Every day in prayer we thank God for each person involved. Maybe we don't say thank you enough, but we want you to know that we really appreciate and value you!

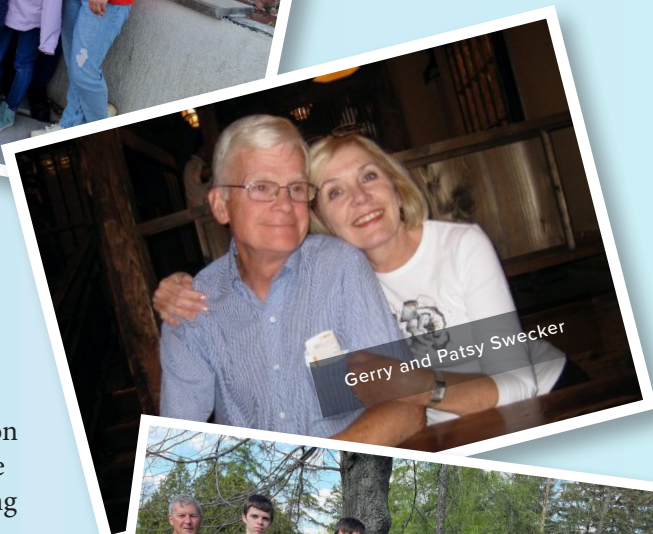
I want to share a story about what our kids are learning. We recently bought wallets for each child in our care, and periodically we give them some spending money. They each get different amounts depending on whether they have done anything to earn extra money. Each child likes to save for different things.

My classmate Lena's husband served in the army. He recently was killed in the war. Lena was left alone with three children. I shared her story with our children. I told them

that we were friends at school. I was very pleased that the children offered to make a care package for my friend and her kids. The most interesting thing is that all of the kids ran to get their money to give me, so that I could buy something for my friend. Everyone gave more than half of the amount they had saved! I am very pleased that the children showed compassion. They wanted to help someone they didn't even know. Now they pray for Lena's family and other families whose dads were killed. It has made them think twice about whether they really need something, or whether they should give the money to someone who needs it more.

This has been a good lesson for our children about the value of money, how to manage it, etc. It is good lesson for us parents too!

-Natasha
House Mother - Anastasia's House



GERRY'S HOUSE OF HOPE

In 2013 Gerry and Patsy Swecker came on a Heart for Orphans Vision Trip to Ukraine. Gerry debated whether it was wiser to come on a Vision Trip, or to just donate the money. In the end he said going there was the best decision. It changed their life! After meeting the children and seeing the great need, Gerry and Patsy returned home and poured their hearts into fundraising, including opening their beautiful home for Heart for Orphans' Annual Fundraiser. Their passion for the ministry opened the door for so many to learn about our work with orphaned children.

On Jan 25, 2023, Gerry went home to be with Jesus. His kindness, gentle spirit and generosity will always be remembered. We want to honor Gerry's dedication by naming our Foster Support home in Rivne, Ukraine "Gerry's House of Hope".



Well done, good and faithful servant.

20TH ANNIVERSARY

2003 - 2023

THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks go out to all of our guests, volunteers, sponsors and table hosts! On Saturday, March 4th, we had an amazing night celebrating our 20th anniversary. Together, we raised over 40% of our annual budget, which means even more children in need now have a brighter future!



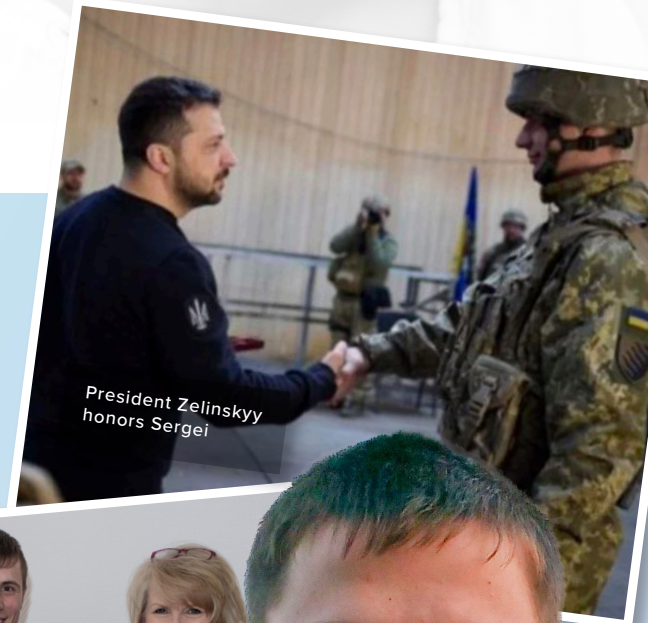
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SERGEI RECEIVES AN AWARD FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of our graduates has been honored by Ukrainian President Zelinsky for outstanding courage!

Sergei, formerly from Mel's House in Zaporizhzhia, is in the army. He has been part of an elite fighting team known for their courage and professionalism. The President awarded Sergei and his unit for defense of the city of Zaporizhzhia; for liberation of the city of Kherson and protection of the Bakhmut region.

Many of you will remember the Heart for Orphans notecards a few years back. Sergei was the artist who designed the front of the notecards. Please pray for him, his unit, and the many young soldiers who are fighting for freedom of their country.



President Zelinsky honors Sergei



Nancy Hathaway with Sergei