

A time to
Heal



Heart  for
Orphans

2021 IMPACT REPORT



From *hurt* to *Healing*

There's no doubt that being a houseparent is tough. It means showing love towards orphaned children who have been hurt and may not show love in return. It means seeing brokenness and feeling a desperation to tell these children God sees their pain and wants to heal their broken hearts.

By God's grace, we are compelled to use the tools and resources He has entrusted us with to serve these houseparents and children – to invite them to walk a path that will change their lives and communities. **A path towards healing.**



Our Vision

A world where every orphan is loved and impacts the world for Christ



Our Mission

Transforming lives of orphans through the love of God and family

*...I have heard your prayers
and seen your tears; I will
heal you... – 2 KINGS 20:5*

Daddy's *Girl*



When I was a small child I lived a happy life in a small town in Ukraine. I was the youngest of four children and was loved by everyone, especially **Daddy. I was a Daddy's girl.**

But when I was eight, life changed drastically. Mama had an affair with another man. She came home less and less and my parents argued more and more. Finally they divorced and Daddy was forced to leave. Mama moved her boyfriend into our house. Immediately he began to insist that Mama send us kids to the orphanage. So she did. Even though we had living parents who loved us, we were now orphans.

I missed Daddy so much! He began to drink, and not long after that he was killed. My heart was broken. I loved him so much. I hated my stepfather and I blamed him for my father's death – it was his fault that my family was destroyed. If he hadn't come along my parents would still be together and I would still be living in my home.

My years in the orphanage were lonely and depressing. Even

though I did well in school and had lots of friends and good teachers, I felt lost. My future felt hopeless.

But then, we had Christian visitors at our orphanage. They told us about a God who loved us. A God who was a good Father, who would always take care of us. More than that, they showed us examples of Christianity in how they lived, their love for us and the joy in their lives. They filled my heart with hope that life was not over. I realized that God was real and not a fairy tale. I realized that only by living with Him in my life would I truly be happy.

When I graduated from the orphanage, God provided a home for me in Esther's House, a Heart for Orphans Transition Home. It was there that I grew in the Lord. I asked God to forgive my sins and I was baptized. It was there that **my broken heart began to heal.**

I am now a missionary in central Asia. I am 31 and I've lived here for over ten years. I have a master's degree in social work and I lead *Friends Club*, a program for youth in our city. I work with young people who are like I was – lost and without hope. I tell them that there is a Father who loves them and will never leave them. He wants to heal their broken hearts. **We have reached over 300 youth with the gospel.** Many of our young people go on to university in Russia, Turkey and Korea. We pray that they will share the goodness of our Lord wherever He sends them.

After all these years, Esther's House in Ukraine is still my home. My family there taught me how to love and how to forgive. Eventually I was able to forgive Mama and my stepfather. **God healed my heart.** Most importantly, I learned how to listen to our heavenly Father. He has directed me, protected me and provided for me every step along the way. I guess I'm still a Daddy's girl!

Iryna

Esther's House Resident,
2009-2012

OUR 2021 impact

We created new vital resources.

We knew our staff needed the very best resources in order to do their job with excellence. And so we created the following:

- ▶ A new position, Director of Training, who was trained as a **Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) practitioner.** TBRI® is widely considered the best therapeutic method to train caregivers working with children who have experienced trauma.
- ▶ A training program to equip staff with the TBRI® method. Our goal is to have all front-line childcare workers trained by 2023.
- ▶ One-on-one coaching to houseparents via Zoom on a weekly or as-needed basis. This has allowed houseparents to learn new strategies to facilitate healing.
- ▶ A video series, complete with curriculum, called **LifeSkills.** This series enables staff to teach teens life skills in an entertaining and thought-provoking way.

We expanded our impact.

In 2021, we celebrated the completion of some projects and the start of others:

- ▶ Completed construction on a new wing for girls at **Michael's House**, which can house six to eight new girls.
- ▶ Construction began on **Kind Shepherd House** in Belarus, with an expected completion in December 2021. Currently, Kind Shepherd House has only two bedrooms for ten people! The new house will be complete with seven bedrooms.

We supported our homes and programs.

We continue to operate our Christ-centered homes/ programs to orphaned teens in Ukraine, Belarus and Kenya:

- 3 Transition Homes** residential program for aged-out graduates from the orphanage
- 2 Foster Support Homes** residential program with a mix of foster children and aged-out teens
- 2 Teen Outreach Programs** walk-in centers for teens residing in trade school dorms
- ▶ **Orphanage Outreach Programs** – temporarily closed due to COVID-19

*...for I am the Lord who
heals you. – EXODUS 15:26*

In order to accomplish the mission God has set before us, we need YOUR help! For the second year in a row, we did not hold our fundraising dinner and auction due to COVID. This normally brings in upwards of \$100,000 toward our operating budget. **The orphans need your financial support!**

Will you help us reach our end-of-year goal of \$100,000 by December 31?

Join us in transforming orphan's lives – helping them heal, grow and become the amazing individuals that God created them to be!

x2 **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!**

A generous donor has offered a year-end match of \$20,000!

This is your opportunity to help MORE orphaned children! From now until December 31, all lapsed and increased-gift donors will be matched dollar for dollar.



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