

Heart for Orphans (H4O) ministers to the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of teen orphans in Ukraine by providing a refuge and permanent hope in small, Christ-centered, family-style homes.

Spring 2013 • Issue 9

God saved me from death... three times!

When Volodya's sister died, and his father was imprisoned, life went downhill fast. His mother took up with a new stepfather who beat him, and Volodya wanted to die. So much so, that he tried to hang himself. But the rope broke. It was the first miracle.

He was sent to an orphanage, and then to a trade school. But he skipped class and was eventually expelled. So he started drinking, fighting and smoking hashish. One day Volodya and friends went swimming and he tried to flip off of the high-diving board. Instead he twisted his back and landed on his stomach. His friends thought surely he was dead. He knew clearly that only God could've saved him. The second miracle!

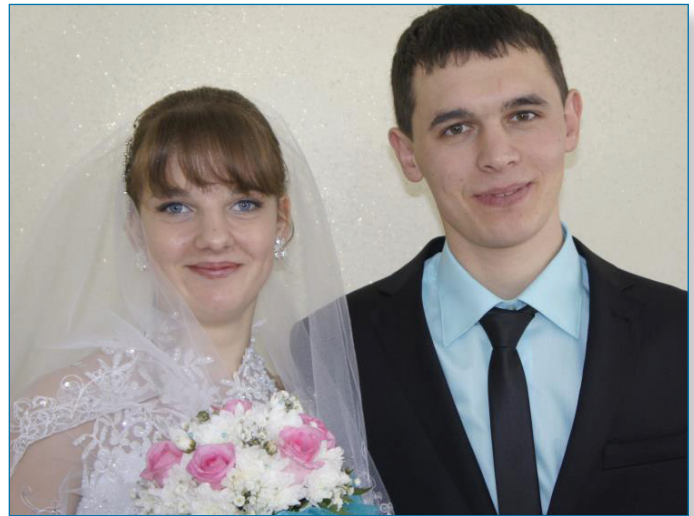
When his father was released from prison, Volodya went to live with him. God saved him again when his father, in a rage, attempted to slit his throat. Once again, he survived! The third miracle!

Volodya knew that God had a purpose for his life. He found his way to Elisha's House where he asked Christ into his heart and was baptized. His whole life has changed! He began to work at our carpentry workshop and discovered that he has a talent with wood. He can make beautiful things! And he met his future wife, Katya there...

Katya grew up in an orphanage and dreamt of being part of a family. But the staff told her, "There is nothing good in your future. You will live on the streets and end up in prison" When

she graduated, she hoped to be admitted to a prestigious dance academy. But it was not possible due to her poor orphanage education. She was sent to a trade school near Ruth's House, and began to attend our bible studies. For the very first time in her life, she felt loved.

Last December, Katya and Volodya married. They live close to our homes and Volodya continues to work in the woodworking shop. Katya was so afraid if she married she would lose the new family she had come to love so dearly. Housemother Tonia assured her that, although she is now a grown married woman, she will always be part of the family!



"Now I am happy! I have parents and a family! I am loved, and I love! Praise to God forever!" – Katya

Meet Viktor and Timothy



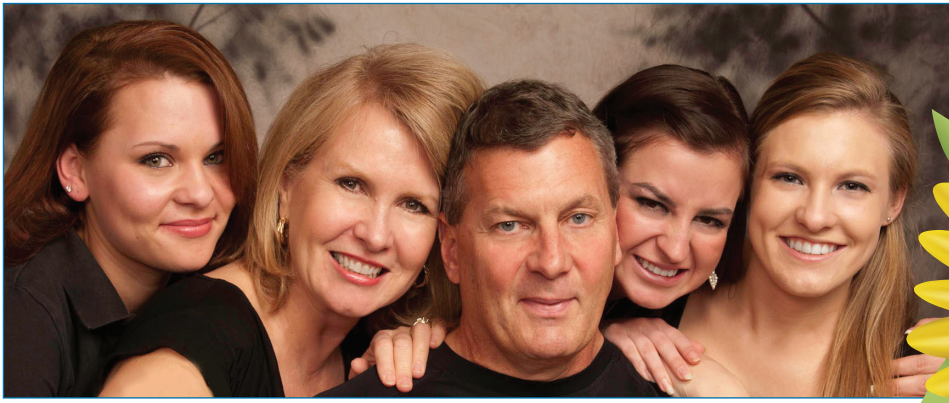
When Timothy was two years old, his mother dropped him off at an orphanage and never returned. He grew up feeling abandoned and rejected, with no idea what he had done to be left alone. The orphanage years were lonely. He began to withdraw. When it came time to graduate, he had no idea where to go. He had never thought about his future before, and he was afraid.

Viktor lived with his mother and attended the village school. But when he was 11 he was kicked out of school for stealing money to buy food. He was hungry and his mother couldn't

provide it for him. So she took him to the orphanage where she knew he would be fed. Although he had food he felt abandoned, and without any direction. When it came time to graduate, he had no idea where to go.

Timothy and Viktor were two of the original boys that moved into Mel's House when we opened in 2008. They were 17 and 16, and had just started at the local trade school. Both were suspicious of religion. They couldn't believe that God was real, and that He loved them. After all, no one seemed to care here on earth! But eventually their hearts softened because of our loving house parents. Soon they met the Living Christ and gave their lives to Him!

After three years in Mel's House, the boys went off to Bible College where they both felt a call to missions. Nowadays Timothy and Viktor are part of a team serving in a mountainous Central Asian country, many miles from home. They are sharing Christ with young people who are just like they were – lonely and afraid! Behold, I make all things new!

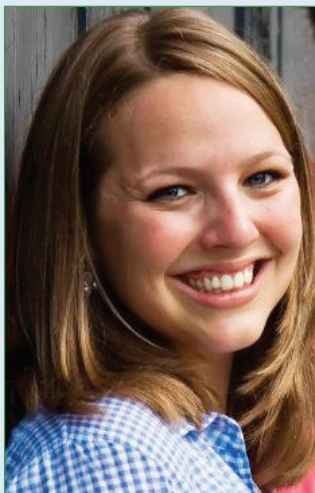


Dear friends,

It's hard to believe that it has been ten years of ministry! After adopting our three beautiful daughters in 2001 & 2002, Steve and I had a passion to help kids growing up in orphanages who had no one. Our early days were filled with prayer for specific kids... and watching as God's plan began to unfold for them! So many were adopted!! We also sent humanitarian aid, advocated for certain kids and shared with many families information about adoption. We began to bring groups of orphans to the US and watched in awe as God moved on the hearts of so many to adopt them. Amazing!

All the while our hearts burned for the kids who would never be adopted. We nurtured a dream of homes for orphaned teens who had aged-out of the system. Homes where kids who had never known family, could be loved, valued and taught how to live with Christ at the center of their lives. In 2008, that dream became a reality when we opened our first home. Fast-forward to the present, there are now six homes for orphaned teens, ... and two more are in development! We've seen so many orphans come through our homes and change their lives – forever! God's ways are not ours. His plan was way beyond what we thought! Now we're seeing many of our graduates work in full-time ministry around the world! What an amazing miracle!!

Nancy Hathaway



MEET LINDSAY...

Chances are if you've called our office you've spoken to the ever-cheerful Lindsay. Lindsay is a Bridgewater College graduate with a degree in Communication Studies. She joined the Heart for Orphans team in June 2012 as the Administrative Assistant, but she became aware of the ministry when the "Old Russian Shoemaker" musical came to Williamsburg in 2005. Her family hosted some of the actors, and Lindsay got to know the orphans in the cast. She knew most of them would never be adopted and it broke her heart.

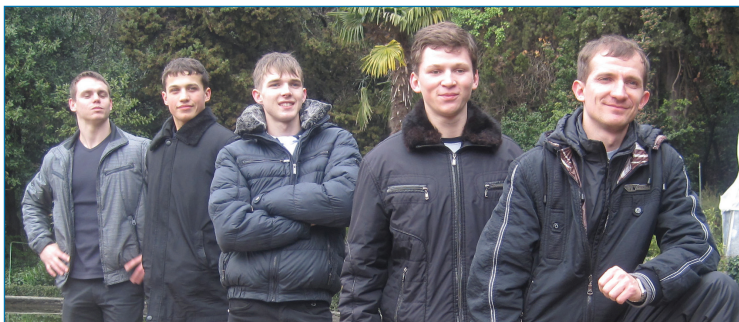
When she volunteered for a Heart for Orphans event and heard the awful stories and saw the unfavorable statistics of the "aged out" teens, she knew that Heart for Orphans wasn't just a great ministry, but it was meeting a vital need.

What's New?

New Homes for Orphaned Teens . . .

UPDATE! Elisha's House —

Plans are underway to build a new house centrally located in Berdyansk. House father, Andrey, and the boys have been camped out in a classroom, patiently waiting for a house to call home. Now they're so excited as the land is purchased, and construction is expected to get underway this summer. The carpentry workshop will also be relocated alongside the home. Our house parents and kids will work alongside seasoned contractors to make this home a reality. **A big thank you to all who have donated and prayed for this project!!**



Home for Handicapped Orphans! —



H4O, in partnership with missionary Alys West from New Mission Systems International, is developing a new home for handicapped teens in the Kherson area. Handicapped youth have a very bleak future in Ukraine. This home would enable these kids to experience the love of family, and learn to walk with Christ. **Sponsors are needed! Contact us for more information!**

New Girls Home in Donetsk area! —

H4O, in partnership with Christian Missionary Society: Center-SOS, will be opening a new home for girls in Makeievka this fall. This will be the first girl's home in this area. This has been made possible by the generous



sponsorship of Grace Bible Church in Virginia Beach, VA who has been praying faithfully for this home for several years! **A big thank you to Grace Bible Church!**

SUMMER VISION TRIP!

September 12-21, 2013

Come see for yourself!
Join us on a trip that just may
change your life!

For more information,
call **Lindsay at 757-220-3457**
Or email: **lindsay@heartfororphans.com**

NEW!!! Matching Fund for Missionaries!



Several graduates from our homes have felt a calling to become missionaries in foreign countries, and also right at home in Ukraine. As orphans, they are in a unique position to share Christ with other orphans and hurting youth. As Ukrainians, they are able to minister in many countries in the former Soviet Union, and around the world, that others cannot go!

The challenge for these young people is raising support within their own poor country. Heart for Orphans has set up a matching fund to assist them. We will match what they raise, dollar-for-dollar, up to a cap.



Ira, graduate of Esther's House, is now a missionary in Middle Asia.

Would you consider monthly contributions to this matching fund? Your dollars will be funding young missionaries who are preaching the gospel all over the world! Call us for more information!

Where are they now?

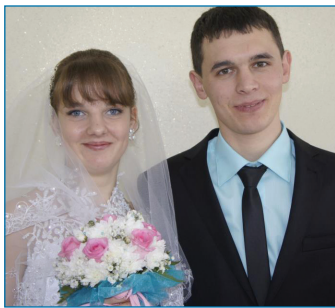
Orphans who have graduated from the Heart for Orphans Homes....



Oksana M (*Esther's House*) married Morris P on 12/12/12 in Israel. They live in southern India and work as evangelists.



Natasha K (*Esther's House*) married Sergey R on 11/17/12. She finished her business degree and he works as a plumber. They are expecting a baby in September.



Volodya M (*Mel's House*) & **Katya K** (*Ruth's House*) married on 12/8/12. He works in our Carpentry workshop in Berdyansk.



Nadia Y (*Esther's House*) Graduated from Bible College. She is now a missionary in the Crimea to the Tartar people.



Artem B (*Mel's House*) & **Anya P** will be married 4/20/13. Artem works as a builder. They will live in Berdyansk.

Vika O (*Ruth's House*) graduates from Bible College in April and leaves in May for Kenya where she will be a missionary. She will be part of a team working with handicapped and HIV orphans.



Vadim G (*Elisha's House*) graduates from Bible College in April and will leave for northern India in May. He will be part of a team working with children who have been rescued from sexual slavery.

2012 Benefit Dinner

Thank you all so much!



Special thanks to...

Robert & Hope Beck, Ted Cornell, Lynette Nice, Gayla Johnson, Vance Stallings, Bill Warrick, Fred Michaux, Gary Bruce, Kim Kiely, Archie Black, Elaine Stedelbauer, Iryna Wiggam, Sheryl Buckner, Carla Largente, Kathryn Largente, Sue Frye, Barbara Stewart, Kim Spencer, Kate Stedelbauer, Yana Rahn, Erin Bruce, Christa Diakun, Robyn Hansen, Howard Nilsen, Woody Perry, Steve deMik, and Steve Hathaway.



... 75% of all revenue directly on program expenses?

... Only 19% on administrative expenses?

... Only 11% on fundraising?

