

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.

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## Carpentry Workshop Expanding at Elisha's House

### Life skills for teen orphans at newest home

One of the biggest challenges facing an orphan who graduates from the orphanage is finding a job. Life is tough in the former Soviet Union, and many professional people with excellent credentials are struggling to find jobs. For an orphan the challenge is two-fold. Typically, their education is poor. And often the orphan stigma follows them throughout their life.

That's why Heart For Orphans is so excited to open a carpentry workshop! Many will remember last year we purchased professional woodworking equipment in Berdyansk. Several of our boys, and housefather Andrei, had the opportunity to work alongside a local carpenter and learn the trade. The boys became more proficient, producing doors, windows, beds, tables, cabinets and other furnishings. At first the products were simply things that they themselves needed. Later they produced items for our other group homes. Recently, they began to make a profit as they sold items to the community!

Pastor and housefather Andrei said, *"I want them to feel proud each night that they put in a good day's work. My dream is that one day they will marry and have families, and they will be able to provide for them. I am teaching*

*them how to support themselves and not be dependent on others."*

Please help us make this dream a reality! Our carpentry equipment is currently in a rented facility and needs to be moved. We have located a property with a house and a workshop, and room to grow. Our vision is for a vocational training facility that will not only teach the boys, but will produce products for sale. The house provides a place for young men to live while they are learning. As they learn, each one is expected to teach the younger boys. The whole project will cost \$40,800.

*Will you help us?*



Housefather Andrei (right) with teen resident.



## God Changes Lives!

### — Meet Natasha



Natasha didn't grow up in an orphanage. Like many orphans living in the former Soviet Union, she has a living mother. She grew up in a neighbor's apartment, because her mother in a drunken rage would abuse her and kick her out. Even though the neighbor took her in, it was far from an idyllic situation. The neighbor also drank. Natasha had no one. She cried out to God to help her. She asked Him to help her find a safe place to live. She dreamed of place where she could be loved, and cherished, and just live in peace.

Natasha met Christ through the ministry of our partners, Agape, and she began to attend Bible study at Esther's House. Eventually, housemother Nadyezhda Ivanovna invited her to come live in Esther's House.

Recently I spoke with Natasha. She pulled me aside and asked me to thank everyone who gives to this ministry, and prays. *"I don't know where I would be if I didn't live at Esther's House. My life has changed completely!"* Donations will enable us help more girls like Natasha!



## Donor Spotlight — Faith Olson

*Faith Olson is Director of Global and Local Engagement at Williamsburg Community Chapel, Williamsburg, VA. She's been involved with missions for 28 years and has made 11 trips to Ukraine.*

### How has your involvement with Heart for Orphans (H4O) made a difference in your life?

I had the experience of joining Nancy and several others on a trip to Ukraine in the spring of 2010. The chance to see, experience, and meet the kids and the houseparents was definitely inspirational. As one providing leadership to our global outreach ministry at the Chapel, I came away with a new sense of urgency and a personal commitment to get more involved, and to inspire others to do the same.

### What have you enjoyed most about that trip?

Getting to know some of the kids and houseparents. The two couples and older single woman I had a chance to get to know were incredible. Their joy, commitment, and love for the kids they cared for were so evident. Plus they were fun!

### What was the most inspiring and/or unexpected thing you discovered about H4O?

The strong and vital connection between US-based H4O and the Ukrainian ministry of Agape. This close connection means there are mature, committed Ukrainian believers on the ground, connected to and involved with the H4O group homes on a regular basis.

This also led to the high priority that each home be directly connected to a local and vibrant church. We believe the local church is God's idea for on-going

training, discipleship, and community that enables each of us to become fully committed followers of Christ. This is very significant for the H4O homes and is a strong witness to the towns where they are located — offering more opportunities for relationship and evangelism.

### What do you consider to be the most important work H4O does for orphans?

They meet them where they are, demonstrate the Gospel through their deeds and their love, and give them the opportunity to gain life-skills and positive family experience which equips them to live useful and independent lives. In the process, the kids meet Jesus, through both the declaration and demonstration of God's Word.

### What word of advice or encouragement would you give others considering getting involved with H4O?

**Do it!!!** It's pretty clear that God considers caring for orphans to be very important. I think I would ask the question: *"Why wouldn't you get involved? Is there anything better that you can do with your resources (time, talent,*

*treasure) than invest in the next generation, in Jesus' name and for His glory and purpose in their lives – and the thousands of lives they will touch over a life time?"*

**What a privilege!!**



*Faith visiting with teen resident, Andrei, from Joshua's House.*



## A New Van for Two Houses

**Thank you, Oksana Gipp and Orphan's Link!...**

Your donation, as well as gifts from many other generous supporters, allowed us to buy a van for Mel and Ruth's House! Our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generosity!!

*Three teen residents unload donations from new van.*

**Join our prayer team!**

**Email us:**

**[info@heartfororphans.com](mailto:info@heartfororphans.com)**

## News from the Mission Field

### Letters from Our Graduates . . .

Oksana and Ira graduated from Esthers's House in Kherson, Ukraine in 2009. They both attended University and then Bible college. Oksana is currently serving as a missionary in India, and Ira is a missionary in central Asia.

Hi dear Nancy!

How are You? What's new?

We are living in a hostel for children. They have elementary school in this building and kids from high school go every day to the school which is near. 128 kids live here. We teach them Bible lessons and English every day. One lesson for elementary school and one lesson for high school every day!

Children are really open to the Word of God. They like our lessons! They speak "telugu". Its one of the languages in India. Every evening we play games with them, sing and pray. We enjoy spending time here! Its really awesome!

I love you and miss you very much!

Oksana



Dear Nancy,

Thank you so much to you and Heart for Orphans for your prayer and financial support. I thank God that through your support I can be here. I am also very happy to be here!

I continue to visit two orphanages and to teach the kids Russian using Christian songs and Bible stories. Every Wednesday

I host a Bible study for kids at home. Every Thursday we travel to a suburb outside of the city where I live.

Every Friday until mid-March we will be working on a project helping the homeless. We get them together at an inexpensive café, feed them a hot meal and whenever possible hand out warm clothes and shoes to them. We are also offering medical help to those who need it. Every Friday we have about 30 people who come for help.

I have made quite a close few female friends with whom I am comfortable sharing the gospel and inviting them to church and other Christian events. Our team leader started a youth ministry at church we are helping him.

We received gifts from the Samaritan's purse and we are planning to distribute them in orphanages, baby orphanages, and tuberculosis hospital.

We are praying and working on two more projects. We are hoping to put together a youth conference in the mountains and also offer several children's summer camps.

Please pray for us as we are preparing these projects.

Thank you and be blessed,

Ira



*Were you adopted from Ukraine?*

*Did you adopt a child from Ukraine?*

*Or would you simply enjoy bicycling with a mission?*

**Come** – be part of the UKRAINE WITHOUT ORPHANS team and bicycle throughout western Ukraine! Share your story in churches. Encourage Ukrainian believers to consider adoption!

## Bike Ukraine 2012!

### PROMOTE ADOPTION AWARENESS IN UKRAINE

**WHO:** Anyone, all ages, in good shape who enjoys bicycling and sharing Christ! Young people adopted from Ukraine are particularly encouraged to come!

**WHEN:** August 2-16, 2012

**WHERE:** Western Ukraine (Chernovtsi, Khmel'nitsk and Vinnitsa regions)

**HOW MUCH:** Airfare + \$0 (In-country expenses provided!)

**WHY:** To promote adoption among Ukrainian Christians

**For more information contact [info@heartfororphans.com](mailto:info@heartfororphans.com)**

# Open Our Eyes ...to a Future

## H4O Annual Benefit Dinner Success!



On a Tuesday evening in November, 320 people packed into an elegant ballroom at the famous Williamsburg Lodge in Colonial Williamsburg. After a five star dinner with first class service (underwritten by a generous sponsor), one could hear a pin drop as the crowd watched the video of Natasha, Dima, Illya and Natasha - four orphaned teens in Ukraine whose lives had changed. Four kids who grew up in orphanages and had no hope of ever amounting to anything.... just four more statistics. Kids whose stories would break your heart. But instead,

they told stories of how their lives had changed. They told stories of how their hearts were filled with love and compassion... how they were excited for the future... how they now knew that God loved them and was blessing them! The change was evident to all who knew them!

After the video, the highlight of the evening was a "live" visit (via skype) with the girls from Esther's House! Considering it was about 4:00 a.m. in the Ukraine, the young ladies were bright and cheerful, and they shared how truly thankful they were!

**Many of our guests left the ballroom that night with tears in their eyes. Not tears of sadness, but tears of joy!** Encouraged that their prayers and their donations were bearing fruit!

Special thanks to everyone who gave so much to make the evening special: Bobby Beck; Ted Cornell; Roma Frye; Alex Fedorchuk; Travis Simone; Tim Quiram; Robyn Hansen; Sheryl Buckner; Howard Nilson; Gary & Beverly Bruce; Woody Perry; Sherri Thrift; Elaine Stedelbauer; Brent Knowles; Mel Rosche; Carla Largente; Gayla Johnson; Steve Hooge; Craig Walters; Iryna Wiggam and many others!

I hope you too will feel encouraged that your prayers and donations are bearing fruit! IT'S WORKING!!

*Thank you for partnering with us!*



## Please, Will You Help Us?

*Will you help us minister to teen orphans, and give them the family they desperately want?*

### Our Vision for 2012

**3** future Christian Group Homes being planned  
*plus* our **6** current homes = **9** homes!

**Nine** homes would change the lives of  
as many as **135** teen orphans!

Please will you help us:

**WE NEED MORE MONTHLY SUPPORT TO CONTINUE!**

Secure monthly donations can be set up through  
our website [heartfororphans.com](http://heartfororphans.com).

***Make a difference in the lives of God's children!***