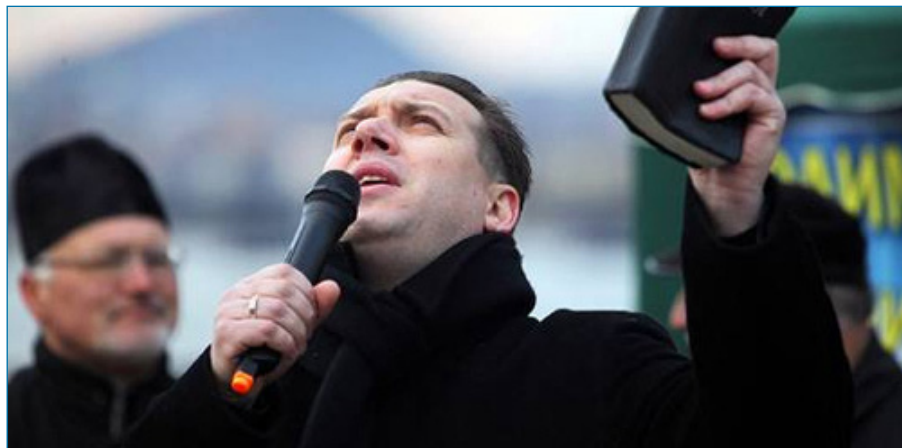


## Crisis in Ukraine What Will Their Future Hold?

Steve and I just returned from Ukraine where we spent time with our kids, house parents, in-country partners and staff. Everyone is safe and out of harms way. However, the feeling throughout the country is one of fear, and uncertainty. Fear that the Russians will march in and take over and no one will help. Ukrainians do not want war, but they are also prepared to defend their country! As I write this, Russian troops have taken over government buildings in five cities on the border, and the Ukrainian military has mobilized a defense.



*Public prayer gatherings are taking place all over Ukraine for unity and peace. A local pastor in the city of Donetsk shares God's Word on the corner of a major intersection as a crowd of Christians gather to pray. Photo by Charles Braddix/IMB.*



As frightening as this may sound, I am encouraged because people all over the country are praying... praying for peace and God's protection. From small villages to large cities, ministers of the Evangelical, Catholic and Orthodox churches are joining together to lead downtown prayer rallies and cry out to God. Churches are packed and people who have never been to church in their entire lives are coming for prayer!

Our kids, house parents, and staff are praying as well. Praying that God will intercede, stave off war, and bless their country. I am encouraged by their strength and resolve! Their focus is on the Lord and they all feel they are exactly where God has placed them. They have no interest in leaving, but know they have a big job in front of them, that will only get bigger if things take a turn for the worse.

If things go bad the church will be forced to work "underground" but as one of our Ukrainian partners said, "The church here knows how to work underground. We did it for almost a hundred years!"

Inflation is spiraling and costs are increasing daily. The government is cutting back. More orphans will be on the streets, more children will be left without care, and more youth will struggle to make sense of a world gone crazy. A greater burden will be placed on our ministry and on our homes. Ultimately, this drives an increased need for additional house parents and staff to minister to these hurting kids as well as an increase in financial resources. Please pray for God's blessings. At this moment, I am thankful we serve a God who knows our needs, and will provide!

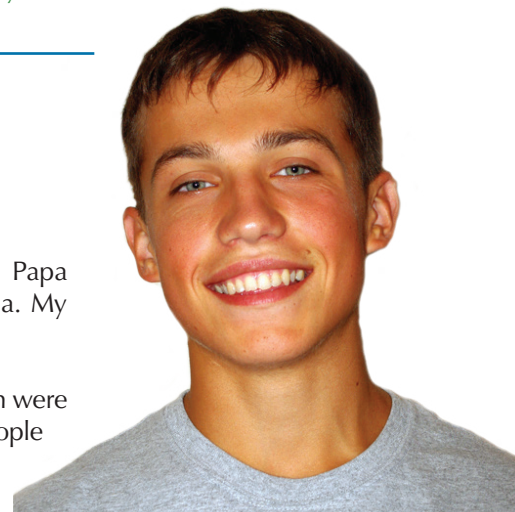
- Nancy Hathaway

## My Life is Not a Mistake

### Andrey's Story

My name is Andrey and I am 20. When I was three years old, my parents divorced. Papa left with my sister and a few years later, Mama was institutionalized with schizophrenia. My younger brother and I were separated and placed in orphanages.

For ten lonely years, I lived in an orphanage. Although the teachers, staff and other children were kind to me, I felt empty, lost, and a sense of despair. In the orphanage, there are many people around you but nobody cares or shares your pain or joy. *Continued on Page 3*



# Donor Spotlight

## Patsy Swecker

Last September, Patsy Swecker and a group of fellow Christians traveled to Ukraine for what became a life-changing experience. She discovered, the orphan teens in Ukraine are more than orphans, they are individuals, each blessed with unique talents and gifts and a deep yearning for the love of family. She now carries in her heart the desire to share her love with these orphans who have been abandoned, but not forgotten. Patsy and her husband Gerry live in Charles City and attend Williamsburg Community Chapel.

### 1. What led you to get involved with and support Heart for Orphans?

The Holy Spirit placed on my heart the desire to become involved in Heart for Orphans after my conversation with Elisabeth Hathaway. When I shared Elisabeth's story with my husband, Gerry, he quickly embraced my desire to support Heart for Orphans and we began to pray about how we could impact the ministry. Our first step was to make a donation, but we wanted to do more.

### 2. What was the most inspiring and/or unexpected thing you discovered about Heart for Orphans?

I was blessed to grow up in a loving home with two parents who shared God's love with me. So it was hard for me to imagine a life without a family and parents who encouraged me to make good decisions based on faith in Jesus Christ. I was thrilled to discover Heart for Orphans is accomplishing this through the homes they provide teens who have aged-out of orphanages. These family-style homes are changing the lives of these young adults by giving them the opportunity to know Jesus and learn skills that will enable them to lead productive lives. They are being given hope!



### 3. How has the Summer Vision Trip impacted you?

I returned from the trip a changed person. There were so many orphans, house parents, and missionaries that touched my heart on the trip. Each one of them had their own story. From the two year old who ran up to me, raised her arms and said "Mama", to our interpreter who grew up in one of the Heart for Orphans homes and is now making a difference in another country as a missionary. Then there is the handsome young orphan living in a handicap orphanage that smiles and is intellectually bright, but faces no future because he has no legs.



### 4. What surprised you most about the teen orphans?

Most of the teen orphans in Ukraine face a bleak future of crime, addiction, or prostitution. They are viewed as second-class citizens, a stigma they carry throughout their lives. But the good news I can share is the teens I met in the Heart for Orphans transition homes are turning their lives around as they accept Christ and put Him in control.

### 5. What words of advice or encouragement would you give others considering getting involved with Heart for Orphans?

I am reminded of a quote from Henry Drummond that reflects my feelings about this trip... "You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have really lived, are the moments when you have done things in a spirit of love." Living in the United States, it is hard to imagine that we can make a difference in the lives of orphans who live so far away. This is a misconception! I saw firsthand lives that have been transformed through the Heart for Orphans ministry. Gerry and I began with a donation which enables the ministry to reach out to teen orphans in Ukraine and create a refuge for them, but the confirmation came when we actually experienced time with the orphans whose lives have been changed. Yes, we can and are making a difference.

*If you are interested in learning more about Heart for Orphans and making a difference in the lives of God's children, please contact our office at 757-220-3457.*

## 2014 VISION TRIP!

*Join us on a trip that  
may change your life!*

**Sept. 10 - 20, 2014**

For more information,  
email [lindsay@heartfororphans.com](mailto:lindsay@heartfororphans.com)

**My Life is Not a Mistake: Andrey's Story** *Continued from Front*

Everyone has his own worries and problems. My only joy came when my mother visited. I would count the hours until she arrived!

The rest of my family was a mystery. So when I graduated from the orphanage at 15, I decided to look for them. I wanted to understand my childhood. When I found my father, grandmother and sister, they were very cold. They knew I lived in the orphanage, but they chose not to visit me. They preferred to think I didn't exist! I was devastated! I felt like a man who was hanging off a cliff without any support. Only God's love helped me through this pain with dignity.

A Christian friend invited me to a home where people like me lived. The most incredible revelation was these people loved each other, and they respected and supported one another. They were not relatives, just people off the street, who lived like a family, and loved God and each other. **They were the family I never had!** Later, I found out these homes were started by Heart for Orphans and Agape in order to help teens find God, guide them in this difficult life, and show them they are not alone anymore. I currently live in one of these homes (Elisha's House), and I am very grateful to Heart for Orphans for creating homes for hopeless and homeless youth. It was in this home I met Christ. It was here I learned to forgive my family. Now I pray for my family to turn to God.



*Andrey and friends*

Today, I belong to a local church, I sing in the choir and take part in evangelization. I have a job as a mechanic, and hope to enter technical college this year. I pray God will help me in this pursuit. I would also like to become a missionary. I know my life is not a mistake! It is a life full of happiness and love. Thank you God, my brothers and sisters, and the people of Heart for Orphans for all I have now!



*Hands Touching Hearts Across the Water*, a fundraising benefit for Heart for Orphans, was held Saturday, April 26th, at the lovely waterfront home of Patsy & Gerry Swecker.

Steve Flanary, catered the sit down dinner and the Limelight Jazz Quartet provided the music. Heart for Orphans Director and founder, Nancy Hathaway, spoke about the organization.

Helping Patsy organize this first-time event was Penny Sain, Angela Luina, and Susie Northrop. The team hopes this event on the James River will be the start of something new and exciting. Thank you to all who gave so generously!

**To learn more about who we are and what we do check out our **NEW** website:**

**www.heartfororphans.com**



**Please Welcome...**

**Steve de Mik** of Virginia Beach is the newest member of the Heart for Orphans Board of Director's joining in the spring of 2013. He is a certified public accountant, and serves as the Heart for Orphans treasurer. Steve became passionate about transition homes for orphans when he joined his church Grace Bible's Ukraine Missions effort. He

has led several mission teams to Ukraine to minister to orphans, and spearheaded the opening of Heart for Orphans sixth home, Grace House, in Makiyivka, located within the Donetsk region.

Steve currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer for the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, which serves nearly one-quarter of Virginia's population. He received a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration from Southwest Baptist University and an MBA from The College of William and Mary. Steve and his wife Angie have two children Garrett and Ashley.

## Where are they now?

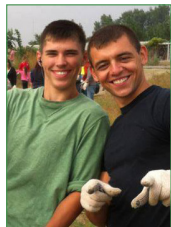
*Orphans and house parents from the Heart for Orphans Homes!*

Natasha R. (ESTHER'S HOUSE) is now attending Bible College in Ternopil.



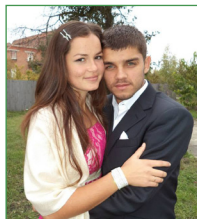
Viktor (MEL'S HOUSE) has moved to Moscow and found a job.

Artem C., Vadim G., and Dima S. (ELISHA'S HOUSE) have moved to Kyiv and found jobs.



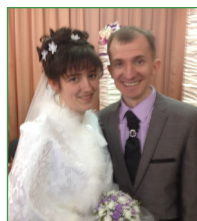
Houseparents Vitali and Tanya P. (JOSHUA'S HOUSE) gave birth to a son, Issac, on 1/30/14

Viktoria (RUTH'S HOUSE) and Volodymyr Y., missionaries in Kenya, are expecting a baby in September.



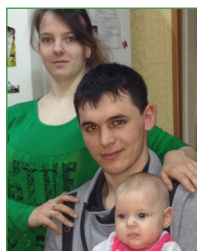
Artem (MEL'S HOUSE) and Katya gave birth to their first child, a son.

Housefather Andrei A. (ELISHA'S HOUSE) and Tanya L. (RUTH'S HOUSE) were married 4/5/14



Illya (MEL'S HOUSE) and Anya (RUTH'S HOUSE) are expecting a second baby in May.

Volodymyr (MEL'S HOUSE) and Katya M. (RUTH'S HOUSE) gave birth to a daughter, Veronika, born 12/5/13



## Our heartfelt thanks....



On February 28th, Grove Park Baptist WMU of Clinton, NC, and the Eastern Baptist Association hosted a Spaghetti Fundraiser for Heart for Orphans. More than 1,100 lunch and dinner meals were served raising more than \$6,300 for our organization.

The 2013 Ukraine Missions team, which was comprised of the following churches, organized the fundraiser: FBC Clinton, Grove Park, Ingold, Rose Hill, Turkey and Warsaw. The team traveled to Ukraine in the fall of 2013 to minister to orphan children with special needs, and to teach the boys from Mel's House how to grow their chicken and pig business. This source of income has allowed two Heart for Orphans homes (Ruth & Mel's Houses) to begin the process of becoming self-supporting.

From our heart to yours, thank you 2013 Ukraine Missions team for organizing this event. We couldn't do what we do without people like you!



## Elisha's House Update

Due to the political climate in Ukraine, the building of Elisha's House is on a temporary hold. Many of you donated toward this project, and the funds are safe, and set aside for construction which we hope will be sooner than later.

In the meantime, housefather Andrei and our boys were blessed to find a temporary home in a spacious downtown apartment. Please continue to pray for them!

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**Shop til you drop at AmazonSmile!**

Make a difference and help Heart for Orphans! Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases when you shop at AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)).