



OPEN WIDE, PLEASE

DENTAL CLINIC

Little Nastia sat nervously waiting her turn to be seen at the recent Heart for Orphans Dental Clinic. Like most kids there, she was terrified of dentists. Preventative dental care is a luxury few can afford, so most only go when their problems are severe.

As a result, many kids like Nastia have to endure hours of dental work. This time around, the reward for all the tears, sweaty palms, and hours of sitting stoically was a gift bag with a beanie baby, new toothbrush & toothpaste, stickers... and a beautiful smile!



*A big **thank you** to the volunteers, dentists, Mercy Trucks, and Pastor Anatoly for helping children in need!*

One hundred thirty-nine patients from four orphanages and foster families, including teens and staff from our transition homes, were treated to free dental care. The weeklong clinic, held in Kirovograd, was sponsored by Heart for Orphans in partnership with Stepan and Oksana Terletsky of YWAM Mercy Trucks Ministry. Not only did Pastor Anatoly Nechetalo graciously open his church, but ladies from the congregation fed the group lunch each day. One woman even provided haircuts to all the children! Nine dentists from all over Ukraine, one American dentist, and volunteers from the local church sacrificed their time for needy children.



American dentist Dr. Ware examines a young patient as volunteer assistants look on.

Dentist Greg Ware from Watkinsville, GA, said, "I was encouraged to see the level of commitment and faith in serving by all involved from the staff of Heart for Orphans to the Ukrainian volunteer dentists."



DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

DARA BUCZYNSKY

For many, donating to charity is a once-a-year event. But for Dara and Paul Buczynsky, giving is a way of life. “Paul and I focus our giving to organizations that fulfill the biblical mandate, and those that reach out to *the least of these*.” Dara is passionate about helping orphans. So much so that she opened a store, Epiphany Boutique in Athens, GA, as a way of raising money for charities close to her heart. “I used to fundraise by speaking at churches, but it was hit or miss. Then a friend suggested I open a clothing store to raise money. You love God, you love orphans and you love clothes!” It was a perfect fit. Dara said, “I pay my employees, pay the taxes, buy new clothes for the store, and the rest goes to charity.”

Twenty years ago Dara and Paul, a physician, spent a year in Kharkiv, Ukraine as medical missionaries. Orphans found a place in Dara’s heart when she and Paul adopted their oldest daughter, Natalie. Dara can’t forget the moment “that dark haired angel with huge brown eyes and chicken pox scabs was put into my arms. It was love at first sight.”

After returning home to Athens, they welcomed two more children into the family, Leah and Cole. Meantime, Paul opened Mercy Health Center, an inner city volunteer-based Christian medical facility.

In 2008 Dara returned to Ukraine to volunteer at an orphanage. She became attached to four teenaged girls. She could not stop wondering—What did their futures hold? Nor could she stop thinking about her Natalie—What if they had not adopted her? What would her future have been? Dara learned that after 9th grade, these girls would be escorted to the orphanage gate with their belongings and released. Statistics show that 70% of all orphans will enter a life of crime or prostitution. How could these children survive? Dara struggled with this harsh reality and resolved to do something. She traveled to Ukraine several more times and worked with different organizations, but each time the fit was not right. Dara prayed for God to show her the organization that did the most good for His glory.

Shortly thereafter, Dara met Nancy Hathaway (Founder/Director) and was drawn to the Heart for Orphans ministry. She traveled on a vision trip to Ukraine with Heart For Orphans and said, “I loved Nancy’s thoughtful approach of not throwing money at a cause and hoping for the best. Every decision Nancy made, had at its end the orphaned kids.”

Dara knew God had directed her to the organization she had been searching for. Dara’s love for the orphaned children of Ukraine and her thoughtful approach to giving back through her store has come full circle.

Dara Buczynsky currently serves as Chairperson of the Heart for Orphans Board of Directors.



CONNECT WITH US:



PING-PONG, ANYONE?

Sasha is a big guy with a strong presence. He's quick to tell you that when he was in the orphanage he was a ping-pong champion. He was regarded as the best player in the whole region, and he was even sent to Russia to compete! Sasha has an amazing ability to put together complex jigsaw puzzles in record time. He is also gifted in soccer and basketball, participating in several competitions and winning many awards. Who knows how far he would have gone had life given him different circumstances?

Sasha was one of three brothers. When he was four his mother drowned his father in the river. The boys were sent to live with their grandmother. Shortly thereafter his mother was shot and killed by her boyfriend, and his world fell apart. The brothers were separated; he and his older brother were sent to different orphanages, while a local family adopted his younger brother.

Sasha grew up in an orphanage by himself and learned to fight. His intimidating presence earned him his own room. After



graduating he was sent to trade school to learn construction. One of his friends invited him to visit Mel's House, a Heart for Orphans Transition Home. He went, but didn't stay. Sasha had grown up lying and stealing. Even though he wanted to change, he couldn't, so he thought it best to leave.

Soon afterwards Sasha was drafted into the army and was sent to fight in Donetsk. Sadly he was badly injured. Both of his knees were broken. It was during this time that another soldier told him about God. They talked and prayed together often. That was the turning point for Sasha. He was so grateful to



survive and knew God had a reason for saving him.

Sasha returned to Mel's House a changed person. He no longer swears, lies, or steals. "I'm very thankful that my life has changed. People trust me now. I take care of the pigs and the house," he says. In March he was baptized, and in April he married Kristina. "God led me right to my future wife!"

He said, "I pray God continues this important ministry. I want to thank everyone who helps orphans and doesn't forget we exist and need help!"

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FINALLY!

After months of searching for a reliable van, house father Vova gives a thumbs up to the 2011 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter that was purchased for Mel's and Ruth's Houses. In Ukraine, the Mercedes van is more of a reliable workhorse than the luxury brand that it is here in the U.S. House mother Tonya said, "I wept for joy when I saw the vehicle... no one expected it to be so beautiful, with room for the whole family. We are all very grateful to you and Heart for Orphans for the blessing."

Thanks to everyone who gave towards the van!





2017 VISION TRIP JOIN US ON A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

October 25 - November 5, 2017



For more information, email
barbara@heartfororphans.com

Heart for Orphans opened our newest Transition Home, Michael's House, in Kirovograd this past winter! Housefather Andrei, his wife Tanya and two children welcomed Igor, Sasha, Dennis, and Vasili into the home. They are pictured with Heart for Orphans' founders Nancy and Steve Hathaway.

VIKTOR MIHAELOVITCH



People call him Viktor Mihaelovitch, even though he's only 21. It's a sign of respect. Viktor loves to dress nicely, often in a suit and tie. He always has a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone he meets, usually complimenting those around him. But Viktor's sweet spirit and kindheartedness hides the painful truth he has experienced in his short life.

Viktor grew up in a small village with his mother and grandmother. His mother was already a serious alcoholic when she got pregnant, giving him the telltale signs of fetal alcohol syndrome. Grandmother begged her to stop drinking, but she never did. Viktor loved his grandmother and was devastated when she died. He was six years old. Around this time, his mother started giving him vodka, and he too became an alcoholic. Viktor met his dad once, but he also drank and died of cirrhosis. Mama eventually died of cirrhosis as well. Viktor was 16 and his heart was broken. He cried for days. Now he was truly alone in the world!

Viktor was shuttled from relatives, to hospitals, to a shelter and eventually ended up at an orphanage. It was a sad time in his life. One day at the orphanage, he met Vova and Tonya and

they invited him to visit Mel's House, a Heart For Orphans Transition Home where they serve as house parents. He went for a short visit and never left. Last summer Viktor went to the pastor. He broke down and cried and asked the Lord to come into his heart and change him. He was able to quit drinking right away! Viktor said, "I cannot explain how happy I am, and how thankful I am for everything Tonya and Vova have done! I love it here. I enjoy helping with chores, but most of all I love having and being part of a family."

When asked what the best thing was about living there, he said, "Jesus Christ!" and then added, "God bless the sponsors that make this house possible. I pray God will give them back one hundred times what they give, on earth and in heaven!"