

2019 VISION TRIP
**JOIN US ON A TRIP
OF A LIFETIME!**

NOVEMBER 2-12

Poland

Ukraine



We just returned from a Vision Trip to Ukraine where we visited our orphanage and teen outreaches and our Transition Homes. Spending time with these precious kids always reminds us of why God has called us to minister in Ukraine! Please join us on our next Vision Trip!

For more information, email barbara@heartfororphans.com



Providing loving, nurturing, Christ-centered homes for orphaned children.
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A STORY OF RECONCILIATION

A letter from Esther & Valera, Heart for Orphans' Orphan Outreach volunteers



We are so excited to share with you the unfolding story of our friend Vova, one of the orphanage graduates whom we love so much!

About a week ago, when we asked Vova about his parents, he became very upset and started shouting about how his mother had abandoned him at birth and his father died. Valera's response—"Let's go find out the truth about them. It's not fair to judge your birth mother until you know the whole story."

First they visited the foster family where Vova had lived in his childhood. His memories of that family were not positive, so it was a huge step for him to visit them. They gave him a warm welcome, his childhood photos, and a

clue to where his mother might live. Then Vova and Valera went to the village and found Vova's grandmother, older sister and brother, nieces and nephews, and ... his biological mother. Vova told me that when he first saw her, he didn't feel any of that anger or bitterness toward her... just peace, love, and forgiveness. He told her that he loves her and forgives her for abandoning him at birth. His biological siblings and grandmother were overwhelmingly excited to meet him for the first time!!!!

As he found out, he was born prematurely (7 months). The doctors told his parents that it would take some expensive surgeries to save his life, surgeries that they could not pay for. But if they signed a statement releasing their parental rights, he would receive all the medical treatment for free. For whatever reasons, whether due to their alcohol problems or under pressure or with pure motives, we don't know—



they signed their newborn away. They hadn't even given him a name.

Our Vova, now 20 years old, is literally beaming and almost leaping for joy today. He thought he was alone and abandoned—and now he has an older brother who will look out for him! Because of what God has done in His life, he was able to forgive his mother and just love her!

It's stories like this that show God's hand at work. Continue to pray for Vova's new family and for their relationships.

~ Esther and Valera

DID YOU KNOW?

We minister to over 200 children in eleven orphanages each month (in Ukraine and Belarus), through our Orphan Outreach program.



THE PREACHER

We call Sergey “The Preacher” because when he speaks his voice is strong, his eyes light up and his hands wave emphatically. And Sergey is passionate about the Lord! So no one was surprised when, after living at Mel’s House for a few years, he decided to go to Seminary—a lofty goal for a young man with only a substandard orphanage education!

Sergey spent his whole life in the orphanage. He doesn’t really know why his mother placed him there. The reason she gave him? She had a lot of things to do and couldn’t deal with children. “It was not easy to be in the orphanage for 14 years. It was very hard!” But he’s quick to point out that there was one teacher who was always interested in him and treated him kindly.

After Sergey graduated he went to a trade school that was near Heart for Orphans’ transition home Mel’s House. He visited and eventually moved in.

Sergey was so touched that the house parents loved the kids unconditionally. He’d never seen that before, but he knew he wanted what they had. He asked the Lord into his life because he, too, wanted to have that kind of love for people. He has never been the same since!

Sergey prayed about his future and God showed him a picture of himself sitting in a classroom. He knew the Lord was leading him to enroll in seminary. The coursework was very difficult. Children in the orphanage schools receive a poor education because they aren’t expected to amount to much anyway. But Sergey worked hard, studied and prayed for understanding. And he beat the odds. At long last he graduated from seminary in May 2019. When asked what was next, Sergey replied, “I believe with all my heart that God wants me serving orphans!”

*Congratulations Sergey!
We are so proud of you!*



MASHA

Masha and her three older sisters were abandoned by their father at a very young age. Eventually her mother brought a new boyfriend into the home—a man who was cruel and abusive to Masha and her sisters. When her mother later moved to Moscow to find work, she left her young daughters in the care of the boyfriend. Masha was afraid of him and tried to stay away from home as much as possible.

When she was 11, a Heart for Orphans Transition Home, Ruth’s House, opened in her village. She and her sisters were intrigued by this house for teenaged orphans, and especially intrigued by the house parents, who treated them all with an abundance of

love and kindness—something that she’d never seen before! They were so different from the families she knew! Masha began to visit more often, and eventually made Ruth’s house her home. For the first time in her life Masha felt loved! She asked Christ to come into her life and everything began to change for her.

Over the years, Masha grew in maturity and took on more responsibilities. She became a big sister and mentor to the younger girls. Now she’s on staff with Heart for Orphans at Mel’s House. She supervises the cooking and oversees the housekeeping. And she continues to mentor the younger girls and lead them to the One that changed her life!

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 250 aged-out teens have lived in our 10 Transition Homes. Over one third have come to Christ!

NEW HOME

Welcome to our newest Transition Home—Hope House, which is located in Rivne, Ukraine. House parents Yulia and Kolya were once orphans themselves. After they aged out of the orphanage, they were fortunate enough to live in a family-style Transition Home. It changed their lives! In the Transition Home they learned life skills and how to live in a family. Most importantly, they met Christ and He changed them! Now, ten years later they have 13 children—Three biological and ten who once were orphaned but now call Hope House their home.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our Teen Outreach program reaches over 50 orphans in trade schools each week.

TRAUMA AWARENESS TRAINING

All the children and teens we work with at Heart for Orphans are traumatized to some degree. Most of our kids were abandoned by their parents, and many were neglected or abused during their young lives. We are excited to offer more rigorous, on-going training to our staff so they can be better equipped to help our young people heal from the

trauma of their past. This past February our staff and volunteers participated in Trauma Awareness Training, and we will continue to offer on-going training throughout the year. At Heart for Orphans we are dedicated to excellence in orphan care and trauma informed caregiving is a crucial piece!

