

# The Parachute

"God sets the lonely in families"  
Psalm 68:6

Heart  for Orphans

—  Refuge for teens through God's love —

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.

Fall 2011 • Issue 6



## How God Works! – Meet Illya

When Illya first came to Mel's House it was to simply visit his brother, Kolya. After visiting, he was so intrigued with the change in his brother, and the love in the house, that he decided to stay for awhile. There was something different here. People treated each other with respect. They lived like a family. There was peace here.

Illya is a tall, good-looking boy with a sweet, gentle disposition. He is a natural leader in a quiet but commanding way. Coming from a family of 10 children, all with different fathers, Illya and his sibling were all separated and grew up in different orphanages. Illya was sent to a rough orphanage for troubled kids.

As he joined in the Bible studies and shared in family life at Mel's House he began to ask questions. *What is the purpose of life? Is there really a God? Does He really love me, an orphan? How can I trust Him when so many people in my life have let me down?*

He eventually decided to trust and gave his heart to Christ. Life began to change. His natural leadership skills began to surface. He began to assume responsibilities and the boys at Mel's House started to look up to him.

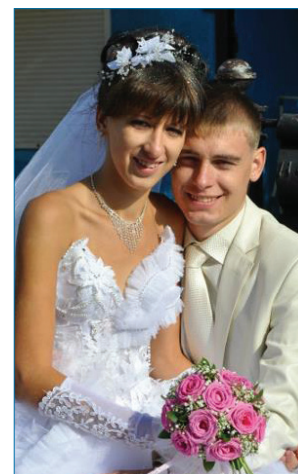
Anya, his ex-girlfriend who also grew up in orphanages, came by to see him. She was surprised at how much he had changed. She asked to stay at adjacent Ruth's House for awhile. Before long she too gave her heart to Christ and the hard edges began to soften. They both were baptized. They began to talk about a life together and they decided to get married.

On a beautiful Saturday in September, Illya and Anya were married in a simple but traditional Christian

ceremony in Berdyansk. As is the custom, the pastor proclaimed, **"A new family is born,"** after the wedding vows. The entire "family" was there – kids and house parents from our other homes; folks from both Agape (our partner ministry) and Heart for Orphans. There were tears of joy for the sweet couple, and excitement for the celebration of our first wedding! Everyone pitched in to cook, decorate, prepare, and even the bride and groom helped clean up afterwards!

Illya and Anya have a passion to help youth like themselves—orphans who feel lost, unloved, abandoned. They remember how lonely they felt and how God turned their sadness to joy. They want to share what they have learned about family. They want to become house parents in a home like the one that changed their lives. They are presently apprenticing at David's House and training to one day become house parents of their own house.

**God is good!**



*Illya & Anya –  
A new family is born!*



Heart for Orphans   
– our history

Steve and Nancy Hathaway  
adopt three daughters from  
Ukraine

The Hathaway's felt burdened to help orphans. Began to  
advocate for adoption, ship humanitarian aid, and  
pray for a home for orphan teens.

Heart For Orphans (H4O) established

2001 - 2002

2003





**DONOR SPOTLIGHT**  
**– Jay Schell**

*Jay lives in Yorktown, Virginia with his wife and children and works in business development for a federal government contractor. Jay has made three trips to Ukraine which has ignited a passion to help the “least of these”.*

**How did you first learn about Heart for Orphans?**

I signed up for a short-term mission trip through the Williamsburg Community Chapel. The trip took place in April 2010, and I was introduced to Heart for Orphans (H4O) during planning and execution of the trip: met families who adopted, met adopted children, learned about H4O, and saw specific programs in action.

**What led you to get involved with and support H4O?**

The short-term mission trip turned out to be a very impressive visit, well-orchestrated, and exceptional involvement by U.S. partners as well as host nation personnel — a definite team effort. Coupled with this great effort are the tremendous results in terms of adoptions here in our community along with the benefits witnessed in Ukraine — we attended two dedication ceremonies for new teen houses in Kherson and Berdyansk.

**What surprised you most about the teen orphans?**

It was hard not to notice the true sense of peace, hope, and contentment despite the tough hand life had dealt them. The teens were cheerful, welcoming, and interested in usual teenager things (computers, sports — soccer, in this case). Equally surprising were the young couples taking on responsibility as house parents. In meeting the girls at Esther’s House, they were tremendously upbeat and pleasant — it was a real uplifting experience to talk with them.

**What did travelling to Ukraine with H4O mean to you?**

Overall, the trip gave a first-hand view of work H4O is doing, particularly in the teen transition houses. It was truly impressive to see the commitment of all concerned — U.S. and Ukrainian personnel alike. I specifically recall one school teacher, so loving and dedicated to her young students. If I had been a student in her class, she would have been a teacher I would have a crush on.

**What do you wish you could tell others about the teen orphans in Ukraine?**

These teens are going through an absolutely critical time to succeed in life, and the alternatives are not at all good. Support for these programs is vital, as is encouragement for house parents.



*“Old Russian Shoemaker” choir members*



*Housefather with orphan teen residents in our first group home*

2004 H4O brings the “Old Russian Shoemaker” (Christmas play with Ukraine orphan choir) to Williamsburg

2005 H4O brings the “Old Russian Shoemaker” to Virginia and North Carolina. Cast includes orphan choir from Berdyansk, Ukraine (35 were adopted!!)

2007 H4O officially becomes a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

2008 Winter – H4O brings “Old Russian Shoemaker” to Williamsburg, VA. Cast includes orphans from Kherson region. (3 were adopted)

2008 Spring – H4O hosts “House Parent Training Seminar” in Ukraine

2009 Summer – Open first girls’ group home in Berdyansk

2009 Winter - Partners with Agape to open homes spread Bible program to more orphan trade schools

2009 Spring –

**In your opinion, what do you think is the most important work H4O does?**

Our team got to see the full gamut of H4O support: infant/young children care, orphanage and school support, and teen transition houses. It is honestly difficult to single out a particular activity, but I would characterize the most important thing H4O does as a concept. This concept is based on the old adage — don't just give the hungry a fish, but rather teach them how to fish — and the concept permeates all that H4O does. It equips the orphans physically and spiritually, with not only the aim of successful integration into society but also into the Kingdom of God.

**What would you tell someone who is thinking about supporting H4O and their work with orphans?**

**Do it!!**



*Esther's House girls with house-mother*

*Mel's House boys with houseparents*



**The next step...**

**Teaching Vocational Skills**

Jobs are scarce in Ukraine. Orphans have a harder time than most finding a job, because they lack marketable skills and family connections. Heart for Orphans recognizes that our kids need vocational help in order to become successful and productive adults.



*Housefather Andrei (right) with Mel's House teen resident*

In 2010, several of the boys at Mel's House had an opportunity to work in a local carpentry business and learn the trade. They began learning how to make windows, doors, beds, tables and other furniture. Housefather Andrei worked alongside them, carefully teaching them the skills they needed to be successful.

Then the business owner decided to sell. H4O bought his equipment and plans to renovate the garage at Mel's House to set up a carpentry workshop. This will allow more boys to participate and learn a skill that is in demand. Currently they are making items needed for their house and the other group homes. As their skills improve, they will offer their products and services to the community.

This is part of the bigger vision... to equip orphans to live on their own, be productive, impact their community and eventually impact their nation. **H4O wants orphans to have a hope and a future!**



*Two orphan residents pictured with housefather in front of Daniel's House*

and images and

Open Esther's House for teenage girls

Summer — H4O grows out of Nancy's house to office in Williamsburg, VA

Fall — Open Mel's House for teenage boys

Fall — Open Joshua's House for teenage boys

Summer — Open David's House for teenage boys

Fall — Open Ruth's House for teenage girls

Spring — Ira and Oksana (from Esther's House) graduate from missionary school

Summer — Open Daniel's House for teenage boys

Fall — first couple from our homes married!

2010

2011



Join Us!



[www.heartfororphans.com](http://www.heartfororphans.com)

# Heart for Orphans

Mission Trips to Ukraine  
Spring & Summer 2012

**Will You Help Us?  
We need monthly supporters!**

You can now set up monthly recurring and one-time secure donations through our website.

[www.heartfororphans.com](http://www.heartfororphans.com)

Visit Ukraine with us and be the hands and feet of Jesus to these children that He has not forgotten! Plans are being made for several trips in the spring and summer of 2012. To learn more, please call **757-220-3457** or email **info@heartfororphans.com**.



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

Donate now and make a difference in the lives of God's children!

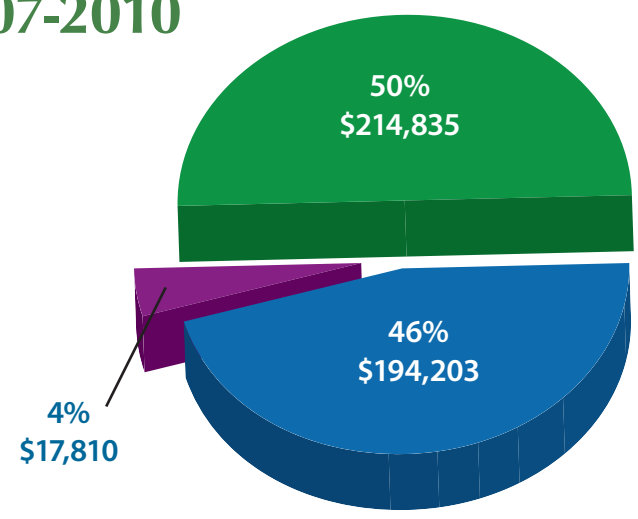


3917 Midlands Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23188 | 1.866.239.1324 | 757.220.3457

## OUR PROGRESS: 2007-2010

We currently provide homes for 50 teens. Our vision is to increase this to 250 within five years, with your help!

- 6 Homes**
- 3 new homes** planned
- 32 orphanages** with Agape Bible program
- 10 trade schools** with Agape Bible program
- 28 new orphanages** want the program
- 95 orphans** learned about about Christ and family through our homes
- 100+ orphans adopted** due to advocacy, Old Russian Shoemaker play, and adoption seminars



### Income 2007-2010

- Designated Group Homes
- Designated Other Ministry
- Undesignated

### Expenses 2007-2010

- Ukraine Program Services
- Management & General
- Fundraising
- Ukraine Group Homes & Other Fixed Assets

