

My Life Has Changed! Marina's Story

Marina was eight years old when social workers came to her house and took her and her five sisters away. They were all placed in an orphanage because their mother didn't have the means to care for them and their father was nowhere to be found. *"It was hard living in the orphanage,"* Marina said. *"There was no understanding, support or even friendship."* Those years were difficult.

Two years ago, Marina came to Ruth's House. She was 16 years old and had just graduated from the orphanage. Marina came because her older sister, Oksana had lived there and she saw how dramatically she had changed! She also saw how happy her sister was to be part of a family. Marina so desperately wanted a family to care for her, too!

(Marina's story is continued on Page 3)

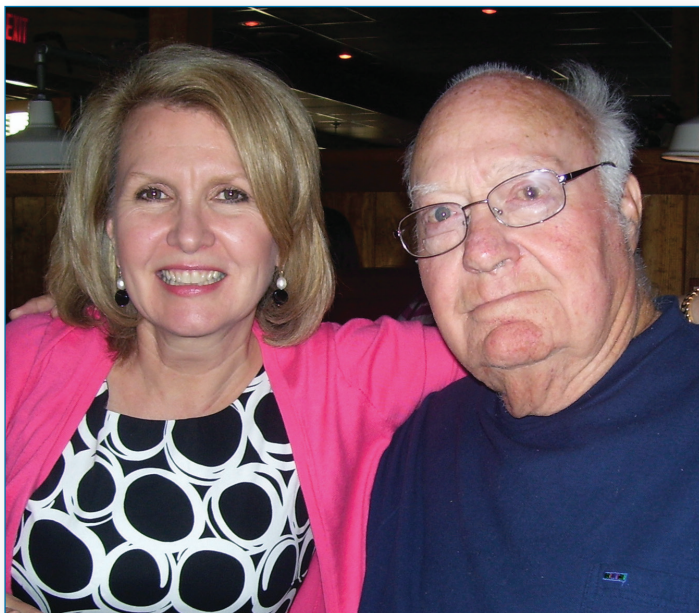
Mel Rosche – A Legacy of Love

Long time friend, mentor, and Heart for Orphans supporter, Mel Rosche, walked through Heavens gates March 16th. He was 94.

Mel led an amazing life! He grew up on a farm in the Midwest. During the Depression, seeking adventure he traveled the country by hopping trains. When WWII broke out, he became a fighter pilot and was shot down twice. He spent nine months in a German POW camp and was eventually freed by the Russians. After the war, he earned a degree in Aeronautical Engineering from University of Illinois, and worked for NASA in its formative years. Mel was part of the team that put a man on the moon! After retirement he spent the next 10 years as area director of Young Life, and with his beloved wife Ruth, mentored hundreds of teenagers through the '70s and '80s. In his later years while living in a retirement home, he continued to mentor, volunteer and give.

Mel was instrumental in the formation of Heart for Orphans and passionate about creating Christian homes for aged-out orphans. He prayed faithfully for the homes and the kids living there. ***He encouraged... advised... mentored... promoted ... and gave!***

Because of Mel and his compassion for orphans, we have housed, loved and shared Christ with over 120 orphans in Ukraine. Two of Heart for Orphans first homes are named after Mel and his wife Ruth. What an incredible legacy! Well-done, good and faithful servant! You will be missed!



Donor Spotlight

Susie Northrop

Susie Northrop has invested in Heart for Orphans over the past twelve years through her time, talent and treasure. She has travelled to Ukraine twice to see the ministry. We welcome Susie to the Donor Spotlight page and to her new role as member of the Board of Directors. Susie and husband Mike attend Williamsburg Community Chapel.

How did you hear about Heart for Orphans?

I first heard about Heart for Orphans when Nancy Hathaway gave a talk at our church about the dim future 16-year-old orphans face when they age out of the orphanage. Nancy was so passionate about these kids. She and husband Steve had just adopted three girls, ages 9, 9 and 13, from an orphanage in Berdyansk, Ukraine, and knew first hand the problem. All I wanted was to hear more and learn what I could do to help these kids!

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

Nancy talked about her dream to establish Christ-centered homes for aged-out orphan teens. She wanted these kids to be a part of a loving family with caring house parents. Ten years ago there was a Vision Trip to Ukraine and I signed up to go. It was not an easy trip, but I could see that God had a plan and He was directing our decisions. When I returned home I knew then that I wanted to be part of this work. Through perseverance, dedication, financial help from so many, and lots of prayer, Heart for Orphans was born.

How has the Vision Trip impacted you?

Two years ago I joined Nancy and five others on a return trip to see what had changed. We visited five transition homes in four cities.



We talked with each of the house parents and all the teens and I can honestly say, I was blown away with how God had changed lives and softened hearts! I could tell these teens had accepted Jesus into their hearts. They now knew what it is like to live in a truly loving family environment. These youth had learned to cook, manage money, raise and care for animals and take care of a garden. Several of the teens went on to be missionaries in other countries; others married and started families. When I returned home, from this trip I was even more encouraged and ready to raise funds and awareness for Heart for Orphans.

What surprised you most about the teen orphans?

What surprised me most on my second trip after eight years was to see happy faces and animated discussions in the homes. I loved seeing the loving relationships between house parents and the teens! We sat in on Bible studies and heard life changing stories. I could tell God is truly at work changing hearts and lives.

What word of advice would you give others considering supporting Heart for Orphans?

I encourage anyone who has a heart for orphans to think about how they can share their time, talent, and treasure in changing lives. It is heart warming to see how being part of a loving family can be such a positive influence!



2015 MISSION TRIP!

Join us on a trip that may change your life!

Sept. 1-12, 2015

For more information,
email lindsay@heartfororphans.com

My Life Has Changed! *Marina's Story* — Continued from front page

At Ruth's House, house parents Vova and Tonia did just that! They showered her with love, patience, and understanding. They instilled in Marina a sense of right and wrong, and taught her about God's unconditional love for her. *"When I came here I saw what real family is, and how good it is when you have a daddy and mother to care for you. I can get advice from parents Vova and Tonia, and even from other kids that live here."*

Marina admits she has changed a lot, especially in the way she communicates with others... *"I am not as rude, or rough and tough as I was when I first got here."* She still feels that she has much to learn. *"I want to continue to change and become more like God so that my relatives can see the transformation in my life, too."*

Marina has been attending trade school and will graduate this year. However, she doesn't want to stop there. She wants to attend medical college and become a nurse. Her dream is to become a missionary in Italy. Marina

wants to get married and have a family like her two older sisters, and just like Tonia and Vova who have been like the parents she never had.

Marina is so appreciative of what she has today! *"I'm grateful to have opportunity to live in such great conditions... it's easier to follow God here than in a dorm or orphanage. I'm grateful to Vova and Tonia, for being such wonderful and kind house parents."* She also sends thanks to everyone who prays for them and supports Heart for Orphans. *"I am so thankful for your help!"*



Changing Lives... One Child at a Time

Heart for Orphans is known for Transition Homes for teen orphans, but did you know we also have Outreach Programs? One example is in Kirovograd, a city in central Ukraine. *"We visit four orphanages on a regular basis and minister to these kids,"* said Andrey, Heart for Orphans Outreach Coordinator. *"Because of the help we receive from Heart for Orphans, we are able to go and reach out to kids in orphanages... and they are so happy and grateful."*

Andrey's orphanage outreach has grown tremendously. Andrey, his wife, and a team from his church minister to over 200 kids in four orphanages. *"These kids express themselves differently, but most of them just need love and attention. We give them the attention they so desperately need by being there for them,"* Andrey said. He loves playing the guitar and uses music to inspire them. He encourages the kids, and helps them realize God can change their life.

All eyes are on Andrey when he shares his dramatic story about how his life changed. The kids are intrigued to learn that he had been wild and rebellious, and eventually ended up in prison. It was in 1999 that he began searching for the meaning and purpose of his life. He asked Christ into his heart, and since then nothing has been the same. In the past 16 years, he has shared his love of God with many orphans. He now realizes this is his purpose.

Many will remember Andrey, as the housefather at Elisha's House in Berdyansk. He nurtured and mentored six boys, as well as taught them carpentry skills. They flourished under his guidance, and eventually grew up. Some married and started a family. Others found jobs and moved on. Still others attend Bible College in Kiev. They all still keep in close contact with Andrey.

Andrey's life has changed also. Last year he married Tanya, a former resident of Ruth's House, and they moved to central Ukraine. They recently gave birth to a son, Micah. Andrey's goal is to be a housefather again and he looks forward to opening a Heart for Orphans Transition Home in Kirovograd. He knows from experience that small transition homes are where kids learn to live as a family and to know God personally.

Andrey is an example of the amazing staff Heart for Orphans has in Ukraine. *"When I have the opportunity to help others, especially orphans, I want to help. I see the huge need. I want to see lives changed, and to give hope to orphans."*



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

*Saturday, October 10th
Hands Touching Hearts Across the Water
Fundraising Dinner*



Join us and learn about the work Heart for Orphans is doing worldwide. Enjoy oysters on the grill, wine, music and the opportunity to bid on exciting auction items.

If you would like to attend and/or be a Table Host, please email Roma Frye at roma@heartfororphans.com



Meet Michael!

Michael Nesterenko joined the Heart for Orphans family last August as Ukraine Field Coordinator. Michael, or Misha as we know him, was born in Kamyanets-Podilsky, Ukraine, and is fluent in Ukrainian, Russian and English.

His staff responsibilities include management of our Transition Homes, as well as providing oversight of the Outreach and Teen Mentor Programs.

Although Michael works in the U.S. office, he communicates daily with our house parents and partners in Ukraine.

Michael is highly educated and a man of many talents. While living in Ukraine, he studied to be an electrician and power-engineering specialist in a technical college. He later earned a degree in physics and computer science from the Kamyanets-Podilsky National Pedagogical University, followed by a Bachelor of Theology from the Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Since receiving his Theology degree, Michael has worked full time in Christian ministry. He is passionate about helping orphans! Michael and his wife, Alisa, have worked in orphanages, summer camps and in a transition home, Mercy House, founded by his mother-in-law.

Michael, Alisa and their two children currently live in Williamsburg, Virginia, but their hearts have never left their native Ukraine. We welcome Michael and his beautiful family, and hope they come to love their adopted country.

Get involved in a teen orphans life with our Mentor Program!

Your monthly gift of \$105 (\$135 for single mom) will help a teen learn to live on their own with the support of a mature, Christian Mentor. Your donation will pay for needs associated with everyday living, whether it's purchasing formula or diapers or teaching young teens how to manage money. You can sponsor a young woman, young man or a teen mom.

For more information contact us at info@heartfororphans.com.

Change a life forever!

