



A SISTER'S LOVE

Sasha with house parents Andrey and Tanya

God, you have always been there for me even when I wasn't following you. Thank you for giving me your hope, your love, and for believing in me. Now I pray for you to do the same for my brother Sasha. Please rescue him from his sinful lifestyle and fill him with your hope and love. Amen



Nadiia on the mission field in Kenya

Nadiia's life fell apart when her father was sent to prison. Her mother started to drink and she and her siblings were separated and placed into different orphanages. Her mother promised the children that she would come for them... but she never did.

Nadiia's heart grew cold and she began to smoke and drink. When she graduated from the orphanage Nadiia went to live in a Heart for Orphans Transition Home. It was here she heard the Gospel for the first time and her heart began to soften. She asked the Lord into her life and He changed her! Eventually Nadiia went to Bible College, and she became a missionary first in Kyrgyzstan, and now in Kenya. But she never forgot her little brother Sasha, whom she'd only seen twice in the years they were growing up in the orphanage. She prayed constantly for him to turn his life around.

Sasha doesn't understand why his mother never wanted him. He was just a child. For him, growing up in the orphanage was hard. He was a good boy until fifth grade. But then, the other kids made fun of him and, he changed. Sasha started down a path of destruction... stealing, drinking, doing drugs, and fighting.

Sasha formed a gang and continued down his destructive path until he landed in prison. He was sentenced to five years for organized crime, but miraculously after two and a half years

he was freed. Sasha knew he never wanted to go back, but he was not yet ready to change. He longed to become a "Godfather," a respected criminal leader.

Nadiia begged Sasha to change his destructive lifestyle and go stay with Andrey, a Heart for Orphans housefather, to learn more about Jesus. Finally, Sasha went and while he was there, his gang was arrested. Eventually Sasha was also arrested. He was facing 12 years in prison. He knew he had a decision to make. Sasha thought, "If they let me go, I will give my life to the Lord. If they keep me for 12 years, then I will know it was just a myth--there is no God." Amazingly, he served only two months and he was set free!

True to his word, Sasha dedicated his life to the Lord. Soon afterward he was baptized and now says he is a changed man because of the Lord. "I don't make trouble, I don't steal... I help people." Sasha is now a man filled with hope and love and wants to have a family. Sasha is very thankful to his sister for never giving up on him... his sister who continued to pray for him until Jesus turned his life around.



FRIENDS CLUB

Natasha knows what it is like to be abandoned and unwanted. She grew up in an orphanage. When Natasha was 17 and living in a trade school dorm she visited a Friends Club, a teen outreach center in her city. “I wanted to keep going back,” said Natasha. “The people were so kind and loving, and I made friends... friends that are still in my life today.” It was life-changing for Natasha. There she found love and acceptance. It was at Friends Club that she gave her life to the Lord.

Now at 28, married with two children of her own, Natasha and husband Sergey are the house parents of Anastasia’s House, a Heart for Orphans Transition Home for girls in eastern Ukraine. Although she had a very full life, Natasha never forgot the impact that Friends Club had on her. So in 2016 Natasha, Sergey, and a team of 15 volunteers opened a Friends Club in Kramatorsk.

The Friends Club center is a downtown storefront where as many as 50 orphaned teens gather for fellowship, games, music and laughter five nights a week. Soon a kitchen will be finished and not only will hot meals be available but cooking classes will be offered. (Most kids graduate from the orphanage with no idea how to cook.)

Thanks to Life Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, for sponsoring this wonderful program! Amber & Ryan Linnekin from Life Church visited recently. “I am extremely impressed at how they have rallied so many volunteers to mentor kids who have nothing,” said Amber. “It’s amazing what they are doing considering their (young) ages.” Ryan Linnekin said, “Life Church is intentional about building relationships with people within our community and across the borders. We’re excited to partner with Heart for Orphans on this project.”



ON THE MOVE

Exciting news! Mel’s House for boys and Ruth’s House for girls are relocating to Zaporizhia! For 10 years Heart for Orphans has operated two orphan Transition Homes in a small village outside of Berdyansk. Over 127 orphaned teens have lived in these homes and most of their lives have dramatically changed as a result. Dozens of these teens are actively working in ministry!

Two years ago it became clear that we needed to move our homes. The local trade school was closing. So we prayed, and looked... and waited on the Lord. Finally, in December we found a house in Zaporizhia that is just perfect for us! The house is large enough that we will, for the first time, be able to accommodate both girls and boys in different areas of the same house. “This will enable us to economize by operating only one house,” said Nancy Hathaway, Director of Heart for Orphans. “The house is large enough to have one private area for the girls, and one for the boys.”

Zaporizhia is a large industrial city in southeast Ukraine with dozens of orphanages and trade schools, and hundreds of aged-out orphans. Although house parents Vova and Tonia will miss their quaint village home,



they are very excited about the new ministry opportunities found in a big city. Please pray for an easy transition and for the kids whose lives will be touched by this ministry.

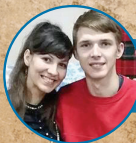


TRANSFORMED LIVES

TRANSFORMING LIVES



Illya & Anya • Orphan Ministry
Guliopole, Ukraine



Artem & Katya • Children's Ministry
Berdyansk, Ukraine



Kolya • Orphan Ministry
Guliopole, Ukraine



Dima • Orphan Ministry
Zaporizhia, Ukraine



Masha • Orphan Ministry
Berdyansk, Ukraine



Sergey • Seminary Student
Lviv, Ukraine

Poland

Ukraine



Viktor • Church Staff
Tokmak, Ukraine

Viktor • Orphan Ministry
Kyrgyzstan/Moscow



Timofey • Bible College in Kyiv
Future Missionary to Kyrgyzstan



Alex • Orphan Ministry
Poland



Andrei • Orphan Ministry
Zaporizhia, Ukraine

Kyrgyzstan



Ruslan • Youth Mentor
Poland



Natasha • House Parent
Kramatorsk, Ukraine

Ira • Children's Ministry
Kyrgyzstan



Tanya • House Parent
Kirovograd, Ukraine

Natasha • Missionary
Nepal



Nepal



Alexander • Orphan Ministry
Kherson, Ukraine

India

Oksana • Evangelist
India



Nadiia • Missionary
Kenya



Vika • Missionary
Kenya

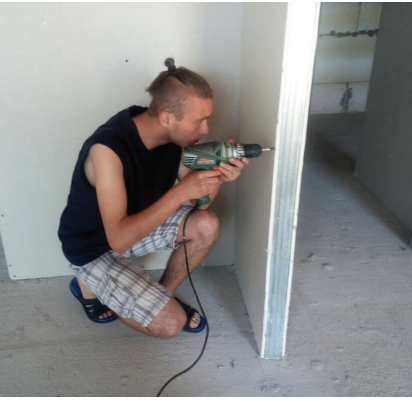


Kenya

"I get so excited when someone asks me if I like working at Heart for Orphans, because it gives me the opportunity to share what God is doing in the lives of our orphaned teens. Not only are they finding love and acceptance in our Transition Homes, they are also meeting the Counselor, Redeemer and Healer. Lives are being transformed. Many of our graduates are now on the mission field themselves or in ministry through their churches, introducing other orphaned kids to that same Counselor, Redeemer and Healer. Disciples making disciples—my resources can't be used more powerfully than that. How about yours?"

Barbara Stewart, Director of Administration

IT'S NOW A HOME



After months of hard work, housefather Andrey and the boys can stand back and look with pride at a job well done. For six months, the crew of six worked under the direction of a contractor as they completed the interior of Michael's House, our new Transition Home for boys.

In early 2017 Heart for Orphans purchased a townhome to accommodate up to eight young men. The townhome was an empty shell and the interior needed to be completed. The boys learned how to hang and tape dry wall, put in floor heaters, and paint. This hands-on experience not only taught the boys useful skills, but also empowered them with pride of ownership. We are so excited for the gang at Michael's House to finally have a house they can call a home.



For more information, email barbara@heartfororphans.com



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