

## Great News from Our Newest Home: *Ruth's House Dedication*

March 5th was a blustery day outside Berdyank, Ukraine, but it didn't dampen the energy inside a small home as fifty of us celebrated God's provision — Ruth's House was officially opened!

We had come together from all over Ukraine and the USA to pray and dedicate our new home to the glory of God. The guests of honor were the residents themselves – the six girls who would call Ruth's House, home.

Joined by the boys from neighboring Mel's House, we listened to one incredible story after another from the kids – how God led them to our homes and how their lives had changed dramatically!



**Dinara** met Christ while still in an orphanage in the Crimea. The other kids severely beat and tormented her for being a Christian. When it was time to leave, she prayed that God would direct her to believers. Amazingly, she was sent to the trade school in the tiny village where Mel's House is located – almost 300 miles away. She

was surprised to learn that there was a Christian home for orphans in this little village! As she put it, *"I'm so happy to live with people who are not hypocrites but genuinely love each other"*.



Residents and guests gather for the dedication of Ruth's House.

It was through the generous support of our sponsors that this day was even possible. The opening of Ruth's House reflects our vision of American churches sponsoring a group home. A home where orphaned teens, who would otherwise face a life of drugs, crime and prostitution, would learn that God loves them, and that He might raise them up to change their nation.

## Update: *Mel's House*

As part of the festivities surrounding the opening of Ruth's House, we heard stories from some of our boys at Mel's house of how thankful they were for God's provision:



**Dima** shared about how all he ever wanted was a family. He knew there was a God deep inside, but didn't know anything about Him until he came to our house. Now he knows his Savior and has a family that loves him unconditionally!



**Illya** told about visiting his brother Kolya who lived in Mel's House. Something was different. His brother had changed. People at Mel's House were kind to each other and there was a peaceful feeling.

So he stayed and he met Christ for himself. His life has changed! Now he hopes one day to be a housefather in a Heart for Orphan home.

**Igor** proudly walked in looking sharp in a suit and tie. When his friends laughed and teased him, he never lost his composure. He told us that God had dramatically changed him, and now he feels called to go into the ministry. The whole room applauded!



What a privilege it is to be part of so many changed lives. To see how God loves these children who have nothing and to witness the plans He has for them. Through them, we are impacting Ukraine!

## A Sad Wake-Up Call . . .

Karol Saner recently traveled on behalf of her church to see the group homes in Ukraine with Nancy Hathaway. Karol said, *"When our church learned about Heart for Orphans group homes, we decided to pray about sponsoring a home. I want to share this story..."*

In 2005, I spent time in an orphanage in the eastern part of Ukraine. I was accompanied by Kate, 16, who was adopted from that orphanage. She was there to translate for me, and say goodbye to her friends who were about to graduate. *"When summer comes they will be put out of the orphanage and scatter...I will never see them again,"* Kate told me. I became fast friends with these girls. One day, several of the girls confided they wanted to ask me questions, and they pulled me into an empty room while their eyes darted around to make sure no one saw them. Kate whispered, *"My friends want to know how long it takes to get a baby?"* and *"Where does the baby come out?"* and *"How will we know if we have a baby inside?"* Each question shocked me more than the last...not because of the nature of the question, but because these girls were about to be turned out into the world without answers to questions they needed to know. *"Our caretakers tell us we will never have*

*a baby because we sit on cold floors...is that true?"* I promised to tell them the truth. When the word got out that "babushka Karol" was answering "the questions" the room filled with wide-eyed girls.

Back home several months later I was awakened in the middle of the night by the phone. I recognized the voice as my friend, who was in Ukraine adopting. In the background I could hear wailing. *"Sorry to wake you, but the girls are about to be sent away and they are frightened. They don't know where they're going and I don't know what to tell them! They wanted to speak to Babushka Karol".* I had such a sick, helpless feeling knowing there was nothing I could do. I prayed and cried with the girls and tried to comfort them as best I could. The girls left that day, each sent to different trade schools. Through the years I was able to keep in touch with only a few. It has been so sad to see those sweet, innocent girls become hardened and sad.

I will never forget the faces of those girls and the fear in their voices the night they called me. Our church's desire has been to sponsor a home, and help the kids we love live like a family. We pray that "our kids" will meet Christ and learn to walk with Him.



## Ira's Story of Hope

Hello, my name is Ira. I live in Esther's House. I am getting ready to go on the mission field. I'd like to tell you my story and how God is moving in my life.

I was the youngest child in a large happy family, and I was loved by all, especially my father. My life was good. But the enemy does not sleep. When I was 8, things fell apart. My mother began to see another man, and eventually divorced my father. The new man moved into our house, and before long he sent us kids to live in an orphanage.



Then my beloved father was killed. My life fell apart! I hated my new stepfather and blamed him for destroying our family. I became depressed. Some Christians came

to our orphanage and began to tell us about Christ. They told us that the Heavenly Father loves us so much! But, most importantly, they showed us by example. Their love toward us, and kindness filled my heart with a hope that life was not over. I understood that the Lord is real, and only with Him can a person really be happy in this world.

After graduating from the orphanage, I began to live in Esther's House where my faith grew. The housemother and girls became like a family to me! Soon, I accepted Christ into my heart and was baptized. My life has changed so much! Now, I'm in Bible College and preparing to become a missionary. I leave in a few months for a country in central Asia that has been closed to the gospel. I pray that He will use me for His Kingdom and that His plans for my life would be fulfilled.

Please join us in rejoicing for Ira and God's direction in her life!

***Please consider sponsoring Ira.***



# YOU CAN SPONSOR!

**A teen in one of our homes**

**\$50/month**

Several of our teens do not receive government stipends or have any means of support.

**Will you help them?**

**An entire orphanage Bible program**

**\$400/month**

You can ensure that 200-300 kids in one orphanage will hear the gospel in a fun way weekly throughout the year.

Orphans in age-appropriate classes are loved, and taught to worship, memorize scripture and pray by loving staff. Right now 28 orphanages want the Bible program, but **we need sponsorship** to make it happen!



**Ira and Oksana**

**\$500/month each**

Two teens from Heart for Orphans homes will be graduating from Bible college and leaving for the mission field in Africa and Central Asia this summer. **Please help them spread the Good News.**



**A new group home for orphaned teens!**



Please help us open more Christian homes for teens who have aged-out of the orphanage! Right now we have kids and house parents waiting and praying for a home! **Contact us for more information.**



Dear Friends,

May 2011

*When I look back at how the Lord has blessed our ministry, I am truly stunned! What began as a vision of a Christian home for teens who had age-out of the orphanages, has grown to six homes! Several other possible homes are in the works. It's not just the number of houses, it's seeing the change in kids who live in our houses! God is touching them and their lives are changing. What is even more amazing is that our kids are having a huge impact on their communities! Local people are intrigued by their honesty, hard-work and generosity. So intrigued that they want to know more. God is changing the landscape of a nation, and using orphans!*

*All of this would not be possible without you - our sponsors! Thank you all! Let me tell you about a miracle regarding one of our sponsors, Grace Place Church: They decided to take a step of faith and commit to raising 100% of the money needed for one Heart for Orphans home, expecting it would take 6-8 weeks. In less than one week, they raised 150% of the money needed! Not only that, but their church brought in the highest monthly giving in the history of the church! Isn't that like God? Always above and beyond what we can imagine!*

*Thank you for your generosity and your love for orphans!*  
Blessings,  
Nancy

## Meet the Staff!

Heart for Orphans thought it was time to introduce our USA staff and volunteers to you! The team has been hard at work the past few years keeping up with a growing ministry. We occupy a beautiful office suite (thanks to a generous donor!) in Williamsburg, Virginia. Stop by and see us sometime!



*Meet NANCY HATHAWAY* – As Director, Nancy is the faithful leader of the group. She provides vision, direction, and above all a passion to help the “least of these”.



*Meet ELAINE STEDELBAUER* – Elaine is the creative one on our team and designs our newsletters, e-blasts, and just about everything.



*Meet SHERRI THRIFT* – Sherri handles the marketing and fundraising, and also assists in mission trip planning, database management and anything else the organization needs.



*Meet SHERYL BUCKNER* – Sheryl is our faithful bookkeeper. She’s become quite adept at handling international finance.



*Meet BEVERLY BRUCE* – Beverly provides administrative help, hospitality and much needed prayer support!



*Meet IRYNA WIGGAM* – Iryna is fluent in Russian, Ukrainian and English and translates for us. She also has a tender heart for orphans from her native Ukraine.



—  Refuge for teens through God's love —

**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

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

*We would like to thank you for your continued support of our ministry. Without you we couldn't continue God's work in Ukraine!*

