

EVERY CHILD NEEDS LOVE,  
SECURITY AND ACCEPTANCE



AUTUMN 2019

11 For when the ear heard me, then it blessed me; And when the eye saw me, it gave witness unto me:  
12 Because I delivered to poor that cried, The fatherless also, that had none to help him. Job 29:11-12 ASV.



Every child deserves their parents' love, protection and care. Family is the most favorable form for children's physical, intellectual, and emotional development. About 2000 children in Transnistria are devoid of the most indispensable thing - a family.

The program has several focus areas:

**SEARCHING FOR POTENTIAL FOSTER FAMILIES**

We search for potential families as we visit churches belonging to different denominations. We do presentations telling people about children and their desire to be in a family.

**TRAINING FAMILIES**

The Foster Family School trains potential families, which involves teaching about various aspects of children's makeup and offering psychological, legal, and medical assistance.

**GUIDING FAMILIES**

The Foster Family Club. The fund personnel offer psychological and legal advice, financial and material assistance. They arrange training sessions and have friendly talks with parents and children. They meet regularly for mutual support and exchange of experience.

We search, find, and motivate married couples to be a foster family for orphans who need custody and care. We look for couples who could help children with their physical, social, and emotional upbringing. In other words we look for moms and dads.

# FOSTER CARE PROGRAM GOOD REASONS FOR CHILDREN'S BAD BEHAVIOUR

In November, Marek Vnuk visited us. He is a trainer, a trauma teacher certified by a German-speaking Society of Psychotraumatologists, an instructor in adventure pedagogy and a founder of trauma pedagogy in Ukraine. He held a seminar for foster parents, "Good Reasons for Children's Bad Behavior."

must be acted out now. They start to behave «badly» as we adults call it. Of course, the idea of "bad" is different for everyone, and the category "bad behavior" or "bad actions" only extends to what goes against the system of values in a given family.

"We have excellent foster families in the program and they have very good children, but sometimes they, just like all other children, undergo strange changes. They suddenly decide that hysterics, whims, and screaming - things that are not quite characteristic of them

However, there is an unassailable truth: every act of a child, whether bad or good, has its own initial motive. That was the subject of Marek Vnuk's training", the coordinator of the program "Foster family" Tatiana Voikova noted.



## THE ZINKOVICH FAMILY HAS 3 MORE CHILDREN

Olesia and Vitali have been married for 18 years. He is a private entrepreneur and she is a housewife. Olesia and Vitali have two sons of their own (Ruvim and Mark). They have always dreamed of helping abandoned children without parental care.

At the residential school in Popenki they met Christina and Vlad who are a brother and a sister. The family liked the children right away and after a number of long and frequent visits to the school they took the children into their family. This is how they have become now. Christina and Vlad quickly got used to the new family and became friends with Ruvim and Mark. They went to a new school where they made many friends among their classmates.



Vitali and Olesia are absolutely happy that they have such a good and big family. So they decided to open the doors of their house to some new children.

After a long search the Zinkovich family took into their care three children: two brothers and a sister. Angelina is 8, Daniel is 5, Maksim is 3. The children were taken out of a dysfunctional family and were in a residential school for about a year. Their biological mother and father cohabited in Bender. The man was too jealous and after another fight because of jealousy he killed the mother of his children right in front of Angelina. At that time she was 7 years old. The father went



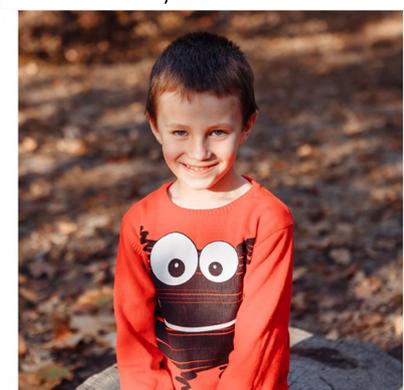
A foster father Ghenady Sapegin told us that immediately after the seminar he and wife Elena immediately began to apply the acquired knowledge. "At home, my children and me had a long discussion about what gives us joy, and we played «good and bad news»! The next day we practiced «walking on the sunny side». When we return from this kind of events, we always tell the children what it was about (not everything, of course). They like to listen very much and be actively involved in the conversation. It is an occasion to discuss a lot and share something important. After this seminar long we had a long discussion about safety issues on the street and problems among peers at school. We love sessions like this. Unfortunately, we cannot always attend them. We thank the fund for organizing this event and Marek for an interesting

and useful conversation, " - said Ghenady. Marek says, "a seminar for foster parents is a chance for me to meet with my acquaintances, friends, and other like-minded people. As always this time we could see parents' love and care for their foster children. As for strengthening the psychological stability of children, it was interesting to hear about practical application of resilience and exercise principles. I thank very much the organizers for the opportunity to serve children!"



to prison and Daniel and his sister Angelina were placed in the children's home in Bender. Their smaller brother Maksim was placed in the children's home in Tiraspol.

The children are currently adjusting to their new family. The foster parents are delighted by them and hope they can make them happy.



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Teenagers leave the orphanage at the age of 16 to 18. Soon they realize what independent and adult life is. **On leaving the institution they have no job or a place to live, and that is how their new life begins.**

**Forced labor, sexual slavery, and a life in the street lead to crime, prostitution, and addictions. Sadly, that is the fate of many of these youngsters.**

**WE HAVE A CHANCE TO HELP THEM** change their future and channel their energy to positive things. We can give them a home and help them make their own sound decisions.

Our program is geared to help teenagers and young people to acquire basic life skills, that are necessary for a successful transition from the orphanage to an independent and productive life. The program covers 25 young people.

all over Transnistria can come for help. In recent years we have seen a lot of young mothers and pregnant women who contacted us for help, advice, support and even accommodations. Most of them are girls who leavers of remedial schools as well as psychologically neglected ones. In the post-Soviet countries there is the acute problem of secondary orphanhood among residential school leavers, as well as the problem of willing child abandonment and forced child removal by guardianship authorities. This happens because young people from the risk group are unable to care for their children or they abuse them. This leads to a subsequent placement in the residential system and a continuation of the vicious circle of orphan ill-being. The School of Motherhood operates under the auspices of the Center for Social Adaptation of Youth at Risk (Independent Life Program). At the moment the center for temporary residence "Step to Life" is housing four moms with children, as well as two students who are residential school leavers.

## INDEPENDENT LIFE PROGRAM THE FINAL FORUM THEATER

The project "Theater, which unites us in solving our problems," so loved by our beneficiaries, has come to an end. On October 5 the final show of social sketches took place. It took place in the form of a forum theater. It means that every viewer can stop the actors and suggest their own solution to the broached problem.



We implemented this project together with the Charity "Caritas" (Chisinau). It was funded by the Fund Eastern Europe and the European Union and Sweden, as part of the project "Building bridges, overcoming obstacles."



The actors on our part were leavers of residential institutions in Transnistria, young people from the risk group. Playing roles allowed children to learn about their rights and learn to defend them, openly express their opinions and take an active civil position. The participants of the social theater independently chose topics that concerned them, acted them out and showed to the audience. Such interactive training enables teens to pass the information they receive on to their peers and others.



The project also offered individual legal assistance by a lawyer who helped them to solve their problems connected with legal issues (getting on the waiting list for housing, paperwork management, residential registration, debts on utility payments, welfare and benefits, and so forth).

### WHAT WORRIES YOUNG PEOPLE?

In the final show the young people decided to touch on such keen topics as smoking spice and psychological bullying among teenagers. According to the actors all the problems shown in the plays were either experienced by them personally or by their friends. "It is a common thing in residential schools to see harassment among peers and sometimes even physical abuse", noted Mariana.

Caroline said that the same technique as in the sketch "Be able to say No!" was used to make her try cigarettes. "I have not been offered but now I know exactly how dangerous it is and that a single puff can kill you," said Caroline. After each sketch the lawyer of our fund Galina Mikhailov reminded both the actors and the viewers of ensuing legal penalties. The young people were grateful for the project "Theater which unites us in solving our problems". "We were

## THE SCHOOL OF MOTHERHOOD



"Heart4orphans" launched the **SCHOOL OF MOTHERHOOD** program. It aims at preventing early pregnancy, child abandonment, placement of children in residential schools, and teaching parental and marital skills. The sponsors of this program are the charity "Orphans promise."



A team of specialists from our fund (a psychologist, a social teacher, and a lawyer) provide individual assistance in a risk situation. If necessary girls are provided with temporary accommodations. The School of Motherhood is a place where girls from



### LENA HAS HAD A BABY

We want to share a happy news! Our Lena has had a daughter! She named her Milena.

"The girl was born in due time and without pathologies. She is a pretty baby. She looks a lot like her Mom and she is a very quiet baby. Lena takes good care of her daughter and is very happy to be her mother," says a coordinator of the program on socializing risk group youth "Independent Life" Larisa Juk.

Social teachers help Elena to care for her new baby. They advise her in paperwork management and purchase of groceries that are healthy for mother and child. They show her how to do water procedures, swaddle and hold the baby, etc.

We remind that Lena is currently in the Temporary Residence Center "Step to Life" as she lost her room in the college dormitory. That automatically made Lena a participant of the program "School of Motherhood," which started in "Heart4orphans" in June.

able to show our creative and acting abilities. We learned to express emotions, and shake off inhibitions, and interact with partners verbally and non-verbally. And we also learned a lot about our rights in society, fighting injustice in legal ways, and what you can count on in this or that situation and a lot more. It is a pity that it is over. We would be happy to continue attending such sessions", Anton noted. **If you want to support this project, you can make a donation on [www.heart4orphans.org/donate](http://www.heart4orphans.org/donate)**

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## A PROGRAM FOR ASSISTING RISK PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL

At the end of the summer before the school year began, we purchased stationery for schoolchildren from low-income families as well as schoolbags, notebooks, pens and more. Moms and dads made lists of things that were necessary to buy on finances provided by the Charity "ChildAid" (England).



Fedorenko Anna goes to the first grade in September. She says she really wants to learn how to write and read, learn a lot of spoems and fairy tales that she will then tell her younger sister.

## PREPARATION FOR WINTER

The social workers of the Fund "Heart4orphans" help families in a difficult situation to prepare for cold weather. Many children and adults



The program assists families in a predicament who face the threat of having their children taken away and placed in the orphanage. The objective of the program is to **get the family out of its material, moral, and psychological crisis, and keep the children in the family.**

At the time being efforts are made in **11 areas of Transnistria** to get out of a crisis **25 families**, which is **110 people** and **78 of them are minor children.**

Three families joined the program just in the summer 2019. The greatest assistance was given to the Kostuchenko family (a new refrigerator, an electric stove, 3 children placed in the kindergarten), the Yermolin family (repairing the children's room and the plumbing), and the Papushoi family (running water and a washing machine).

This program is funded by a charity foundation ChildAid (England).

## THE TRIGUBOV FAMILY

Anastasia and her husband Dmitri have been together for 5 years now. They have two beautiful kids (Anna and Dima). In April 2019 Anastasia did not feel. She was examined and the doctors diagnosed her with the last stage of cirrhosis of the liver. Although Anastasia lived in a family with a drinking mom, she had no craving for alcohol and led a healthy lifestyle. Paradoxically, the disease was progressing as rapidly as in a someone drinking huge amounts of alcohol a day. Anastasia recalls that the last months before the disease, she had experienced a severe stress because of the loan she and her husband had taken out from the bank to repair their old house. Her husband went to Russia to earn money. Having worked there for some time he fell victim to some frauds.



He was not paid for the work he had done. Anastasia was very worried about the situation. She may have started having health problems amid those circumstances. The social workers from the fund "Heart4orphans" met the family when Anastasia was no longer able to get about on her own and was bed-ridden. After 4 months of hospital treatment the doctors decided they were unable to help her and they sent the woman home to die.

The grim atmosphere was looming in the family. The children needed their mother's attention and care and Anastasia was no longer strong enough for it. She is very worried about her children and what will happen to them if she dies. She has received God in her heart and is eager to know Him more. Some believers began to pray for her and literally in a week she felt much better. It was a pleasant surprise for us to visit the family and see Anastasia in the kitchen cooking lunch for the family. Now she gets around on her own and even takes the children to the kindergarten. Her children are still small and do not understand how serious the situation is.

At the moment the husband is with the family. He has a job and is paying back the loan little by little.



The Charity "ChildAid" (England) provided finances to buy the family a washing machine and some winter clothes and shoes for the children. Groceries and medicines are bought when necessary. At the moment Anastasia's diet must include

meat and fruit to raise her hemoglobin level. So we emphasize the proper diet for the family.

Social and psychological work is done in the family. Personal problems are identified at every stage of the psychological rehabilitation. Because of her disease Anastasia's eye-sight is deteriorating. In the next few days it is planned to get her diagnosed and buy her glasses.

The whole family are very grateful for the assistance provided in these difficult times. It is very helpful.

You can help the family too by making a donation on the fund's official site [www.heart4orphans.org/donate](http://www.heart4orphans.org/donate)

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## NEEDS OF THE CHARITY FUND "HEART4ORPHANS"

At present the charity fund "Heart4orphans" runs a program to socialize the risk group youth. There is the center for temporary residence "A Step to Life" intended for girls who leave the orphanage and face all kinds of problems. The fund has social teachers, a psychologist, and a lawyer to help girls get out of a crisis. At the time being the center is housing seven girls. Five of them have children. The charity fund "Heart4orphans" is looking for means to extend and repair the residential areas for girls from the risk group. Also, the fund is in constant need of support to pay the bills, buy stationeries and detergents, and so forth.



We ask you to pray for the search for funds to repair the premises on the basis of our foundation for an apartment where a foster family can live and raise 4 children from a boarding school. It is necessary to conduct light, water, heating, purchase furniture and equip the kitchen. WE NEED 8 000 DOLLARS.

We also need to repair another apartment for 8 orphans - girls. All renovated living quarters are already occupied. It is necessary to conduct light, water, heating, purchase furniture and equip the kitchen. WE NEED 10 000 DOLLARS.



*In the beauty of the season,  
In the joy of Christmas Day,  
May you find a special meaning  
That brings happiness your way.  
In the peaceful joys of Christmas,  
In the stars that shine above,  
In the wonder of the season,  
In the gift of God's great love...*

Merry  
Christmas