

EVERY CHILD NEEDS LOVE,
SECURITY AND ACCEPTANCE



WINTER-2020

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.



FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

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.

A BIG CAR FOR A BIG FAMILY

We told you in the autumn issue about the Zinkovich family who took into their care three new children. Now they have all in all seven children along with the two of their own.

All the children go to school or kindergarten or some club or other. They parents try to encourage all the hobbies of their children and give them a versatile development. Besides, the family like to spend time together out in the open or drive up to town to go to a park or the theatre.

Now they have a five-seat car, and trips for the whole family are impossible (children get sick and it is not safe). The family really needs a big car but they do not have enough

money for it. A car that the family needs so much costs \$5000. They have already saved up \$2000 and they still need another \$3000.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP THIS FAMILY, you can do it using our official website in the "Donate" section heart4orphans.org/donate/ marked "Zinkovich family."



MOVIES

FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

During the winter holidays we invited children from foster families to the movies and we watched a cartoon. Many of them live in towns and villages without a theater (Slobodzeya, Krasnoye, Pervomaysk, Nezavertailovka, etc.). So such an event is rare and particularly joyful.

"Parents are happy to send their children with us to the movies as they come in a great mood. They excitedly tell the story of the cartoon and share their emotions. This is very important for the relationship between parents and children. Therefore we would like to go to the movies more often with children as well as hold interesting seminars and developing master classes for them featuring professional teachers and psychologists. But so far we do not have enough funds for this," - said the coordinator of the program "Foster Family" Tatiana Voikova.



At the moment the social teachers involved in the Program "Foster Family" at the Fund "Heart4orphans" are counseling 19 families which are raising 45 children. They give advice to foster parents, and help them resolve difficult situations with their foster children, and act as mediators between a foster family and authorities and public organizations. The Fund holds seminars for foster parents from time to time when they can learn new modern information about raising children, talk to each other, share their experience, as well as get away from the daily routine.



SUMMER CAMP

The Fund "Heart4orphans" requests you provide financial assistance to organize the annual summer camp for twenty Transnistrian foster families who have taken children from residential institutions into their homes. This involves 30 parents, 60 children, as well as a team of volunteers and ten specialists - 100 people in total.

This event is unique not only for our republic, but also for many ex-Soviet countries. Such camps are extremely rare, although their importance cannot be overstated.

During their recreational time parents get closer and exchange their family experience. Adults can get away from their routine and household problems and spend more happy moments with their children. This prevents burn-out and as a result a return of children to their residential institutions which is a huge tragedy for the child.

We organize summer camp for foster families for the seventh year running and see great results. This is a special and wonderful time for families because during the week both parents and children listen to useful seminars about relationships in the family, spend time together, participate in exciting activities, master classes, sports, and games.

The social teachers of the Fund and invited psychologists work during the week to strengthen the family, find solutions for better relationships between parents and adolescents, raise parents' psychological competence in developing emotional intelligence, and prevent emotional burn-out in families.

During their time at camp families can also show their talents through theatrical staging, singing, and drawings. Teenagers attend art-therapeutic classes with a psychologist, where they engage in finger-drawing, clay-fashioning, work with metaphorical cards so they may understand their own inner world and learn to control their emotions.

Sports instructors do various activities to propagate a healthy lifestyle. Teenagers and their parents particularly like the quest in the wood and the career guidance game, when they can go through simulated life trials.

Summer camp for foster families is a meeting place for people with big hearts. Parents and children see each other from new perspectives, and social workers and psychologists collect material for further work. A week is a short time for large-scale changes, but we are sure that it is this camp that helps families to open up, and gives impetus to their further development.

We very much hope to have your support in organizing such a truly important event. The cost per person is \$60. The cost of entire camp for 100 people is \$6,000.

YOU CAN MAKE YOUR DESIRED CONTRIBUTION TO THIS UNIQUE CAMP!

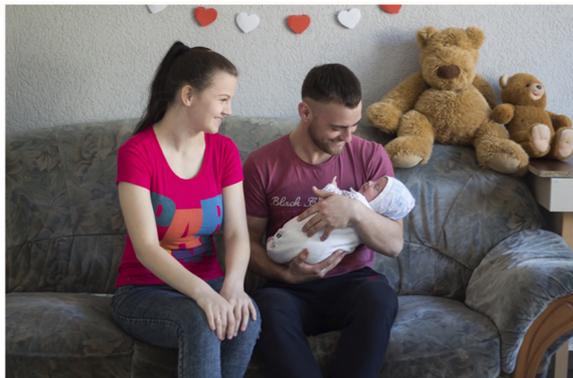


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"SCHOOL OF MOTHERHOOD" aims to prevent children from ending up in boarding schools and improve parental and marital skills among girls and women in a situation of risk. In recent years, we have often been contacted by young moms or pregnant women for help, advice, support and even accommodation. Most of them are girls - graduates of remedial schools, as well as pedagogically neglected ones.

In the post-Soviet expanse the problem of secondary orphans among residential school graduates is acute, and so is the problem of willing abandonment and or forced removal by guardianship authorities. This is due to the inability of young people at risk to care for their children or their practice of child abuse. This leads to a subsequent placement in the residential school system and a continuation of the closed cycle of orphan disadvantage.

"School of Motherhood" serves to prevent early pregnancy and child abandonment as well as teaches parental-marital skills and offers individual counsel by a team of specialists (a psychologist, a social teacher, a lawyer) in a risk situation including temporary accommodation in an emergency. We also want to involve local church members, especially women, as volunteers in serving girls and women at risk.

The project is funded by Charity "Orphan's promise"



SCHOOL OF MOTHERHOOD

WHAT IS A MOTHER?

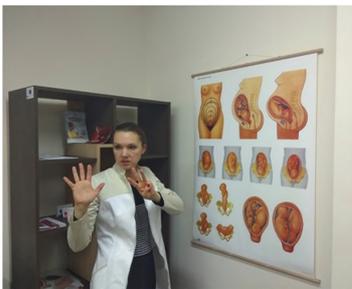
While implementing the project "School of Motherhood" our social teachers hold many interesting seminars for girls and boys. They are dedicated to family values (types of family relations, functions of men and women in marriage), maternity and paternity (parental love and its manifestations, a healthy lifestyle of future mothers and fathers, preparation for child delivery, the psychoemotional condition of a young mother and father, prevention of postpartum depression), etc.

Also we have invited Alla



Afanasenko to join the staff. She is an acting doctor (neonatologist, pediatrician) and a psychologist who counsels girls and young men individually as well as holds general meetings.

For example, in one of the "School of Motherhood" classes we spoke to young people on an important topic for all mothers – breastfeeding and its significance for mothers and children. We discussed the physiology of lactation, the advantages of breast milk, and the child applying technique, breast milk expression, breast massage and a lot more.



"The beneficial effects of breastfeeding are not limited to good nutrition and a strengthening of the immune system. When a baby is upset or not feeling well breastfeeding calms him down, which is also a very important advantage. Studies have shown that breastfeeding relieves pain and calms the child," - said Alla Afanasenko.

"Girls with babies shared their experience during the class, and the others were also active asking questions and learning something new for the future," - said the social teacher Veronica Durich.



In addition to seminars we provide emergency assistance to young moms and girls in solving difficult life situations. This can also cover temporary material difficulties when a person's pay is delayed, and there is no money to buy food for children or pay the bills or buy medicine. Each request of this kind is considered and visits are made to the person's place, and the situation is analysed to make a decision regarding assistance to a young family and their children.

Alina Arjint contacted the Fund for help. She is an orphan and single mother of a young daughter. It was cold and Alina did not have the means to buy the baby some warm winter clothes and food. Thanks to the project "School of Motherhood" we were able to buy the girl a set of winter clothes: a jacket, boots, sweaters, pants, as well as some groceries.



The Fund is often contacted by various government agencies and organizations to help girls. So we got a request from the Center for Social and Educational Work to assist an orphan Stacy Timush and her young child.



The latter found themselves in a very difficult situation. There was no one to help or financially support them. Stacy's daughter had suffered from a cold for a long time and did not go to kindergarten. Because of that the girl was not able to work. We bought Stacy and her girl the necessary groceries and medicine. At the insistence of the social workers Stacy took her child to the doctor for a reexamination and it was very timely. After the examination they were put in the hospital because the child was in a semi-critical condition. Beside the drug treatment additional procedures were carried out daily. The Fund staff visited Stacy and brought her whatever she needed: groceries, medicines, diapers. After their daughter recovered, they were sent home. The child was able to go back to kindergarten, and the mother – back to work again.



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SCHOOL OF MOTHERHOOD



A LITTLE MOM OF THREE YOUNG CHILDREN

Victoria Getmanskaya is 24 years old. At her young age she is a mother of three children. Victoria's husband is in prison. The oldest daughter Stacy is 7 years old and she has a congenital disability. Her middle son Eldar is 3.5 years old and her younger daughter 1 year old.

Victoria was raised by her grandmother. Her mother left for Turkey to work a job and she stayed there for good. Victoria was

a difficult teenager. At 16 she became pregnant and she gave birth to her first child at 17. Her daughter was born with a disability and heart defect. Because of the inappropriate care for the child the baby girl was taken to an orphanage. There the child had a leg surgery thanks to which she can now walk and also run despite her diagnosis. The doctors also had to do a number of surgical interventions on the heart. Stacy got a pacemaker and it needs to be replaced soon as the girl is growing. Three years later Victoria gave birth to a second child and the following year a third one. Grandmother does not keep in touch with her anymore. Back in the summer she came to us for help for the first time. She only needed material assistance: baby food, clothes, and medicines. She refused other kinds of help assuring us she would handle the rest by herself.

Victoria had no steady source of income or housing of her own. So she was on put on the record for socially vulnerable families. According to Victoria, in order to work part-time jobs she sometimes



left her young children with different friends.

She could even leave them for a few days. One day she did not come back at the appointed time, and her friend who was baby-sitting took the children to the dormitory where Victoria was living. The janitor called the police and the guardianship authorities and children were taken to an orphanage.

To date all the three children are in

different residential institutions in Tiraspol and Bender.

Victoria is very repentant and wants to take her children back but there are many obstacles to it. She needs special training, as she does not know how to take care of children properly. She does not have a steady job which means a source of income to support her children. She has no housing - neither temporary nor permanent. And she also needs to prove to the guardianship authorities her viability as a mother.

Victoria realized she could not handle it by herself. It was this kind of help that Victoria contacted the Fund.

The Fund staff wrote the necessary appeals and applications, and made visits to orphanages and residential schools. They held individual talks with Victoria about family and children, and helped her find a job, and provided material assistance. Victoria is trying very hard. She wants to turn her life around, is very concerned about her children's well-being. Victoria is now having an internship. She hopes to be hired and have the means to support her children. Official permission to visit



her children is already obtained and they first met in December.

The oldest daughter just had her birthday in December. She was really waiting for her Mom. Victoria's teachers and mentors helped her prepare some gifts. They bought some balloons and sweets for Stacy and also her classmates. They agreed with the school teachers to have a small holiday. Stacy was glowing as she was passing out the treats and the balloons to all her friends. But most of all she was certainly glad to see her Mom! She literally hung on Victoria, hugged her, and kept saying: "My mommy, my mommy." Victoria cried quietly, hugged and kissed her daughter. Stacy was very happy! She was spun, and danced, and hugged her mother a lot of times!

At present a plan is being worked out to return Victoria her children. The Fund is ready to provide temporary free accommodation, material assistance and moral support. Children's eyes that wait and dream of returning home to Mom are very dear!

We pray that the Lord helps Victoria correct all the mistakes she has made before, and keeps her on the right path, and helps her children return to the family.



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A PROGRAM FOR ASSISTING RISK

A TEA PARTY



Children from families at risk had a master class on handicrafts, a tea party and a cartoon to watch. "This kind of event for children is held for the first time, and we immediately realized that such a format is very appealing to children. They were satisfied. The children were able to change the setting and go up to town (many of them live in villages and they rarely come to Tiraspol), as well as spend time with other children, and play, and learn something new", - said the coordinator of the program Eugene Baltenko.

During the master class the children made postcards for their sponsor friends who finance the program. And this program provides their families with financial and material assistance. The children watched the cartoon. "It is about a regular 11-year-old schoolgirl, and just like each of us her behavior is determined by five basic emotions: joy, sadness, fear, anger and squeamishness. The cartoon is makes it very clear and simple what is goes on in our head. It is actually very wise. No joy – no sadness, and so you cannot function well. A person needs both positive and negative emotions and we should not contain or mask them. Positive alone will not take you far. However, it has its secret which are not obvious", - said the social worker Elizabeth Vidrashko.



It assists families in a difficult situation where there is a threat of children being taken to orphanages and residential schools. The purpose of this program is to bring the family out of a material, moral, psychological and spiritual crisis and to keep the child in the family.

The program has been operating for 2.5 years. Over this time 25 families have been assisted so their children were not removed placed in residential institutions. Families have also been brought out of material, moral, psychological and spiritual crises. Families have been assisted in buying food, clothing, household items, diapers, firewood, and a lot more.

Currently we are working with 25 families in 11 locations (mostly villages) to get them out of a crisis. These are 110 people and 78 of them are minor children. 36 children from 11 families have remained with their parents, 7 of them have been returned to families from social institutions.

All this thanks to the funding of the Charity "ChildAid" (England).



THE MAKOVEYS

Uliana lived in Tiraspol with her alcoholic mother. After Uliana completed 9 grades at school she got a job as a waitress at a bar. After some time she met Alexander and she lived with him and soon she gave birth to two children: Vania and Nikita. They lived in need. The man did not work but he found a job for Uliana as a maid at a hotel in Dubai. It all looked safe: Alexander showed Uliana the website of the employer that promised insurance and security. After a lot of thinking and persuasion Uliana agreed. When she arrived in Dubai Uliana was 25 years old. Her papers were immediately taken away allegedly for registration. She was not taken to the hotel where she was supposed to work, but to a rented apartment. She was told her job would not be a hotel maid. It turned out that her partner with whom she had two children fraudulently sold her into slavery. He and his new girl-friend had already received a certain amount of money for it.

Uliana was in a foreign country without her documents or money and she prayed that God would help her return home.

One day she met a man who bought her out and took her as his wife. Two other children, Fatma and Masood, were born in that family. After a while her husband got abusive with her and Uliana filed for a divorce. The court saw traces of beatings and therefore decided to leave the children with their mother.

After a while Uliana told her husband that she needed to go back to Moldova with her children to arrange for her oldest son to go to school. Thus she took her children out of Dubai and never came back.

At the moment Uliana and her 4 children live in a village in her relatives' house. The kids are well-taken-care of and they go to the kindergarten and to school.

Uliana's oldest son has serious heart valve problems, and her daughter has a chronic asthma. A huge part of her welfare is spent on drugs for asthmatics, and her son needs on-going monitoring by a cardiologist and a systematic preventive treatment.

It is almost impossible to find employment in the village. However Uliana takes up any work including work on the field.

Since October 2019 the Fund "Heart4orphans" has been supporting the family by providing groceries and medicines.

Uliana is a very caring and loving mother. Her love for her children makes itself felt as soon as you walk into the house.

At the moment Uliana's husband from Dubai has reported his children as missing and he wants them back. To avoid that she needs help caring for her children in her own country where she was born and she lives now. A woman with 4 children has no one else to hope for. So any help for her will matter.

You can HELP her by making a donation on our website:

heart4orphans.org/donate/ marked "the Makovey family".

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» CONTINUATION

A LARGE FAMILY NEEDS A HOUSE



Tamara Fedorenko is raising five of her own children (a 4-year-old, a 6-year-old, a 16-year-old, and an 18-year-old, and a 20-year old) and a 1-year-old granddaughter from her oldest daughter. All the children are from different husbands, and she could not get along with any one of them. Tamara is a milkmaid at the farm and has a meager pay. There are no other jobs in the village. Her middle sons make some extra money doing jobs for the neighbors. The family live in a house that is in an emergency condition. When it rains the roof leaks and the water runs down the walls. None of the rooms is fit for living, so the family is running the risk of getting booked with the Child Protection Service and having their children taken away. In spite of her difficult situation Tamara leads a healthy lifestyle and does her best to care for her children.

She also keeps a cow a goat and some chicken. The fund workers are looking for a more fitting accommodation for this large family. Buying a house in the village costs \$2,500. The charity fund "Heart4orphans" is providing aid to the family donating them groceries, medicine, detergents, stationeries, clothes, and others.

You can help her by making a donation on the Fund's official site: heart4orphans.org/donate/ marked "the Fedorenko family"



NEEDS OF THE FUND

The Charity "Heart4orphans" has been operating for 13 years. In recent years we have often been approached by young moms and pregnant women for help, advice, support and even accommodation. Most of them are girls who are graduates of remedial schools as well as pedagogically neglected ones.

There is an acute problem of secondary orphans among residential school graduates in the post-Soviet expanse as well as the problem of willing abandonment of children or forced removal by guardianship authorities. This is due to the inability of young people at risk to care for their children, or their practice of child abuse. That leads to a subsequent placement in the residential school system and a continuation of the closed cycle of orphan disadvantage.

That is we have opened the Temporary Residence Center "A Step to Life" where we have now four moms with children (5 years and 2.5 years, 1 year, 4 months). One orphan girl is pregnant. The Fund's social teachers work with each of the moms. They teach them to take care of their babies: feeding, bathing, budgeting, shopping, cooking, cleaning, as well as personal hygiene.

Please, help us pay our bills in the amount of 2,000 \$.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO ECONOMIZE ON HEATING IN A PLACE WHERE YOUNG CHILDREN LIVE.

