



EVERY CHILD NEEDS LOVE,
SECURITY AND ACCEPTANCE

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
- TRAINING FAMILIES
- GUIDING FAMILIES

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 orphans with their physical, social, and emotional upbringing. In other words we look for moms and dads.

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM SUMMER CAMP

This summer we really want to host our traditional foster camp.

This is a wonderful time when foster parents can escape from routine and everyday problems, spend more happy moments with their children, which prevents burn-out, and as a result, the return of children to boarding schools, and this is a huge tragedy for a child.

In addition to recreational activities – a swimming pool, fun team games, theatrical performances, singing and spending time in nature, parents and children listen to a series of seminars to strengthen relationships. Including the search for solutions to improve relations between parents and adolescents, to increase the psychological competence of parents in the development of emotional intelligence, prevention of emotional burnout in families. Children attend art therapy classes with a psychologist, in which through drawing with fingers, sculpting, working with metaphorical cards, they learn about their inner world and learn to regulate emotions.

Foster families summer camp is a meeting place for people with big hearts gather. Parents and children see each other from new perspectives, and social workers and psychologists collect material for further work.

A week is not a short time for large-scale changes, but we are sure that it is the camp that helps families to open up and gives an impetus to their further development.

We very much hope to have your support in organizing such a truly important event. The cost of a voucher for one child is USD 50. The same amount per parent.

You can make your contribution to the holding of this unique camp!

IF YOU WANT TO SUPPORT PLEASE GO TO
<https://heart4orphans.org/donate/>



HOW I SPENT THIS WINTER

Tania Nitsulenko, foster daughter:

The winter is coming to an end. It has been great. This year we have had a lot of snow. We made a snowman and a snow fortress. We celebrated Christmas and Mother gave everyone a gift. We also went sledding. We recited poetry in church and we got gifts for it. I recite poetry in church and I sing on the choir. I help my mother and I learn from her to cook and knit. I also play with my younger brothers and sisters and I help them with their homework. I have an A in Mathematics and other subjects as well.



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A FOSTER FAMILY IN URGENT NEED OF ACCOMMODATION

Sergei and Elena Speyan have been together since their student years. They have been married for 26 years. They have four adult children, who are 24 years old, 22 years old, 21 years old, 16 years old, and two young grandchildren. Now three of the children have their own families and live separately. The youngest son lives with his parents and is in the tenth grade. They are all very close-knit.

Sergei and Elena are people with big and open hearts. Ten years ago they had an idea of extending their love to several more children, and become foster parents. They were very serious about this decision: they graduated from the Foster Parents School, and for three years they have been permanent volunteers of the Fund.

Recently, they have been mentors to four children from a dysfunctional Lebeda family (Kristine 16 years old, Viorica 12 years old, Lisa 3 years old, Ivan 9 months old). Their mother is stripped of her parental rights and to avoid sending the children to different residential schools, they were assigned to our temporary residence center. Elena came to the center every day, she cooked food with the girls, and babysitted little Ivan while the girls were at school. The children really like Sergei and Elena. Little Lisa even calls them mom and dad now.

A few months later, Elena and Sergei decided to take all the four children into their care. The child protection service, unfortunately, refused them due to their housing



conditions. The family lives in an apartment of 19.5 sq.m. This is extremely little by the law. Each family member must have 12 sq.m. So Sergei and Elena need to expand the living space to at least 80 sq.m. Their own children grew up in a humble flat but in great love. This however cuts no ice with the child service.

Sergei and Elena are dreaming of

two-story house, with bedrooms upstairs, and a large dining-room and a play area for children downstairs. They would make a playground for children out in the yard, and in the garden they would plant many fruit trees.

Our Fund is ready to provide them with a 3-room social flat, but it needs repair and furniture, totaling \$19,000.

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The Temporary Residence Centre

In recent years, young mothers or pregnant women have often come to us for help, advice, support, and even for accommodation. Most of them are girls who are leavers of remedial schools, as well as ones lacking social skills.

The problem of secondary orphanhood is acute. It is prevalent among leavers of residential schools in the post-Soviet countries. Another acute problem is that of child-disowning or forced child-removal by the child protection service. This is due to the inability of young people at risk to take care of their children, or child abuse. This entails a subsequent placement of the child in the residential school system and a continuation of the vicious circle of orphan disadvantages.

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 why we opened the Temporary Residence Center «A Step to Life». Now it provides accommodation to six moms with children (from 3 months to 12 years old) and 3 girls who leavers of a residential school. Social teachers of the Fund are working with each of the moms. They are teaching them to take care of the babies, (feeding, washing) as well as helping them with their budget management, planning and making purchases, performing household chores, cooking, cleaning, looking after themselves, etc.

The number of requests for assistance and temporary residence

is constantly growing. Therefore we want to expand the Center «A Step to Life».

Now, thanks to the aid of the Charity «Orphan's Promise», we are finishing one residential flat. The flat can be used either by 8 at-risk girls or several single mothers with children.

In order to accommodate those in need we need some furniture and equipment. We urgently need for that two thousand US dollars.

The Temporary Residence Center has three more unfinished flats. One of them has two bedrooms (\$15,000), and the other two have one bedroom (\$10 000 for each). Only the walls and the roof have been built. We are looking for kind-hearted people who will help us financially with building and equipping these flats. A total of \$35,000 is needed.

We often get thank-you messages for the timely support from girls and women at risk. We have been able to keep 12 children and their mothers from orphanage or residential school.

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SCHOOL OF MOTHERHOOD

Program 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.

We serve 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".



MOTHER OF THREE



The childcare benefit could not cover all the needs: paying rent, buying baby food, and clothes, and groceries, and other basic necessities for children. At that time there were two young children in the family: the boy Eldar (3 years old) and the girl Adeline (1 year old).

Victoria also has an older daughter Stacy (6 years old), but she has been living in an orphanage for several years due to her difficult health condition. Shortly after her birth the girl was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. The doctors and the guardians insisted that Victoria place the child in the baby's home, since she would not be able to care for such a child on her own without support and certain technical knowledge.

Without her husband's support Victoria was one on one with her financial difficulties. She often left her children with other people while she was looking for an opportunity to earn money. However, sometimes the children found themselves unsafe, since some of the friends used alcohol.

After some warnings and several random visits, the child protection service found the children with drunken strangers. So the child protection service had the children placed in orphanages for a year. Victoria would be stripped of her parental rights if she did not change.

Victoria was very sorry and wanted to return her children. At that time, she did not even have a temporary accommodation or a steady job. She had to prove to the child care service that she was making enough money and cared enough for her children.

Victoria realized she was not able to cope with all that and so she contacted our Fund.

The Fund workers did a lot of work. Appeals and pleas were made and negotiations were held with administrations of residential schools and orphanages, and packages of documents were collected. Victoria was also involved in all this. They made joint visits to her children in the orphanages. Our social teachers had individual conversations with Victoria on family, child - raising children and others. Victoria underwent a consultation course. Assistance was also provided in finding part-time work as well as steady work. Financial aid was also allocated. Victoria tried very hard.

She wanted to change her life.

Her husband got a suspended sentence and he was released, and they began to live together again. He had problems with some papers, and the Fund's lawyer helped to solve them. Now he is registered with a job center. However, there have been no proposals yet due to quarantine.

So, after 8 months Victoria got a right to return her children to the family. Now the whole family is together!

Of course, there is still a lot of work to be done, and it is very difficult for a young couple to cope with three children.

Now the family is in bad need of changing their place of residence. At the moment, they are renting a dorm room. The room is in good condition, although it is very small for two adults and three children. The kitchen is to be shared with the other residents and its condition is terrible. There is mold on the walls, and it is very bad for health.

About a year ago, a young mother of three children Victoria came to the Fund to talk about a very difficult life situation. She had huge financial difficulties and housing problems. Also, her husband got involved with a bad company and was booked with the police.



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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 **29 families**, which is **130 people** and **90 of them are minor children.**

A PROGRAM FOR ASSISTING RISK

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We greeted the children from the at-risk families on Christmas and New Year. We presented them with tasty gifts, toys, and also sang for them some festive songs about Christ's birth. The children in turn too were prepared for a meeting with us and recited some poetry for us.

In total we gave out Christmas gifts to 100 children aged 6 months to 18 years old in the towns and villages of Transnistria.



NADIA POPOVA

was born in the village of Kitskany. Her biological mother abandoned her when she was only two months old. A woman from Nadia's village got official guardianship over the girl. At that time she had two children of her own: a son and a daughter.

The family was doing well, but Nadia at 14 began to steal and run away from home. At 16 she moved in with a man, and at 18 she moved in with a man, and at 18 she gave birth to her daughter Angelina. Her relationship with her boy-friend did not go well and the family broke up.



In August 2020 we at "Heart4orphans" got a call from the maternity ward manager. She told us that a young mother, who had just given birth to a child, wanted to disown him. A social worker and a psychologist instantly responded and went to the maternity ward.

As she was consulting the psychologist and the social worker, Nadia admitted that she was concerned. Because of the financial problems she would not be able independently to raise the second child. We had a

discussion which had its effect on Nadia's decision. We told her about the value of motherhood and a complete family. It was obvious that she wanted to be with the child, but the fear that she would have to raise the children alone stopped her. We assured her that we would support her in this difficult situation. Nadia agreed to partner with us.

Nadia is good with children. She has a strong spirit, however, she still very much needs guidance and support. After she was released from the maternity ward, she got legal assistance in filing for her residence permit and a single monthly allowance for the baby. Now Nadia has her own budget, though it is small. At present Nadia and her children live in a rented apartment.

Nadia is being taught the psychology of creating the right family model as well as motherhood skills and children-raising skills, and she is getting counsel on her low self-esteem.