

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.



*In the beauty of the season,
In the joy of Christmas Day,
May you find a special meaning
That brings happiness your way.*

With love from team HEART4ORPANS

NEEDS OF THE FUND

The **HEART4ORPHANS** will be **17 years old** next spring. Over the years, thanks to our partners, we have been able **to help thousands of adults and children**. Many orphans have found families, many residential school leavers have received social, legal, and psychological support. Many children from at risk families did not end up in orphanages.

All this cannot be measured in concrete numbers. Warmth, love, care, joy, hope, kindness, happy children's smiles are the very thing we all need. That's what our fund exists for.

4.5 years ago, an important event happened. We moved into our own building. Before that, we huddled in small rented premises. We purchased a complex of buildings, one of which was designated as an office and a temporary residence center for girls and women at risk, one as a training facility to hold events for our participants, several buildings as a garage, a warehouse, and a boiler room.

We intended the rest of the premises to be used as social housing: two flats for families with foster children, and two flats for boys at risk.

SOLAR PANELS

Because of the war in Ukraine – in November we faced a big problem – the power supply was cut off in our republic. The heating system in our Center for mothers with children is powered by electricity, and the cooking equipment is also powered by electricity. It was a disaster for us. We realized that we urgently need alternative energy sources. We are looking for funds to purchase solar panels.

LANDSCAPING

We have a lot of children living in our complex. They are children from foster families and children of women who find themselves in a predicament. During construction, the previous owners cut down all the trees. We would like to green up our premises in order to have some shade and more oxygen for children in the yard. Since all of our sidewalks are tiled, we came up with the idea of planting ivy on one side of the complex, and potted plants on the other.

GATES

If theater begins with a hanger, then a residential complex begins with a gate. The gate, that protects the resident young mothers and their children as well as vulnerable resident youth from unwanted passers-by, already needs a replacement. It is rusty and does not open or close well, and it does not look good.

WE THANK ALL OUR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS WHO HELP US IN OUR ACTIVITIES!





FOSTER CARE SOCIAL SERVICE

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.



DREAMS COME TRUE CHANGE

The girl's mother Galina grew up in a large family. When she was 10 years old, her mother died. After some time, her father died as well. On reaching adulthood, Galina went to Russia to work. While there she had her daughter Kristina from her cohabitant. After they moved back to Transnistria Viorica was born from another man. Galina led an immoral lifestyle, but at the same time she tried to be an affectionate mother and took the girls to church.

Viorica has memories of herself since the age of four. She remembers that she walked on the street alone and ate whatever she found.

When Galina got a cohabitant, Viorica was 9 years old. The life of the girl and the family as a whole grew only worse. Vladimir was drinking and was often mean to Galina and the girls. One day Kristina stood up for her mother, and her stepfather grabbed her by throat. Soon Galina got pregnant and had another daughter Elizabeth. Vladimir was nice to Lisa, as it was his own daughter.

After a while, Vania was born, but Galina fell ill with pleurisy and then tuberculosis. She was taken to the hospital. The four children remained with the stepfather, who was drinking most of the time. He hardly looked after the children, and they were left to their own devices. Soon the children were taken to the hospital and were supposed to be placed in residential schools.



It was a difficult time for the family, when the leadership of the Charity "HEART4ORPHANS" along with the child protective services decided to place the children in the Center for Temporary Residence. They were to stay there as long as their mother was undergoing medical treatment. They stayed in the Center four months.

During that time, the mother took no interest in her children's lives. She was only concerned about her personal life and even in the hospital she had a liaison with a new man.

She spent the child welfare to her own ends.

In this regard, the Fund's social teachers filed for stripping Galina of her parental rights. Our Temporary Residence Center, thanks to the financial assistance of "Orphan's Promise", was able to help Viorica her sisters and brother.



Elena Speyan, a volunteer of the Fund, helped the children in the Center. She cooked food with the girls and babysat little Vania while the girls were at school. A few months later, Elena and her husband Sergei decided to take all the four children into their care.

Sergei and Elena have four of their own adult children. They are a very caring family. They try to make the children feel at home in their family. However, they have a very small house and the child protection service did not allow them to take the children in. The head of the Charity "HEART4ORPHANS" has provided the family with free accommodation in a social apartment owned by the Fund. The family plans to take in two more children from the residential school.

Viorica has moved to a new school. She had worries whether she would cope with the curriculum. She tried hard, and the first academic year ended successfully for her. After a while, the foster mother said, "I went to a teacher-parent meeting, Viorica was complemented by her senior teacher. Being familiar with the curriculum of the school and knowing that Viorica had not attended school at all for some time, I was pleasantly surprised by her success."



This year, the girl is finishing the 7th grade. In the third term she got four C's, and in the fourth term the girl made some improvement and got only two C's. She likes school and learning, but if someone is unfair, then she reacts acutely. For example, a teacher, in her opinion, digresses from the topic and chats for half the lesson. Then she rushes the students through the new topic, and 10 minutes before the end of the lesson she gives them a quiz. Of course, not all students get good grades.

In her new foster family, Viorica is emotionally open: she hangs on her father's neck, and feels at ease talking to everyone. She likes Elena and Serghei's. She says, "I feel so good and so comfortable. Finally I am free from the children, because my foster mother is fully responsible for Lisa and Vania."

Viorica is very much into studying. She literally "came to life" in her foster family.

Having lived in the family for a year and a half, Viorica decided to call her foster parents mom and dad. Before then, she called them Aunt Lena and Uncle Seroja. The foster parents are happy, and words fail to say how happy Viorica herself is. She keeps repeating all day long "mom", "dad".

Viorica used to dream of having something to eat and wear for herself and her brothers. Now she dreams of learning how to make a bag of beads – a regular dream of a happy simple 13-year-old girl. It's so little and so big at the same time!





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 25-30 young people in year.

Youth Social Adaptation Service

Heart4orphans has launched the project Wings for Youth of Transnistria.

The goal is social and economic integration, maintaining peace and security for vulnerable youth on both sides of the Dniester River". This project was approved and registered by the Coordination Council for technical and humanitarian assistance in Transnistria.



Our dream has come true.

WE HAVE A LARGE KITCHEN FOR CLASSES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



As part of our work on social adaptation of vulnerable youth and graduates of residential schools, we hold culinary master classes. This is aimed at teaching young people elementary culinary skills. The reason is: they leave residential institutions, and they do not know how to cook at all. They mostly buy ready-made or instant food. We also aim to develop a culture of healthy eating among them, which improves the younger generation's health and reduces the risk of developing a dependent lifestyle among them.

Previously, we could only do this kind of work using ready-made products, since we did not have a kitchen at the Center geared for that.

Thanks to the support of our American friends, we have been able to purchase some kitchen furniture and appliances. So, at culinary trainings, the young people were able to learn to cook new dishes: pilaf, stuffed peppers, lasagna, pancakes, soup, cake, and much more.





Service for families 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. We help to get out of a crisis 35 families from 11 areas of Transnistria, which is about 200 people and more 120 of them are minor children. This program is funded by a charity foundation ChildAid (England).

FAMILIES AT RISK SERVICE

ESCAPE TO A DREAM



Sharapova Galina is a mother of many children. She found herself in a very difficult predicament, and she contacted us for help. A year ago, this woman and her husband and their four children lived in Moldova (the village of Gradinitza). The family had a large place with two cows, pigs, chickens, ducks. Galina is a very hardworking and domestic woman. Thanks to her hard work, the family did not want for anything.

However, Galina's husband had no job and did not even try to get one. In the recent few years he got very aggressive and became physically, sexually, and emotionally abusive.

Galina was constantly humiliated while she managed the whole family by herself. She endured her tyrannical husband, as she realized she had nowhere else to go.

This spring, Alexander got very drunk and became violent with Galina. The humiliated woman ran away from home with her children. For three days she stayed with her neighbors. Later, Moldovan social services learned about the situation in this family. So, Galina and her children were placed in a temporary residence center in the village of Kaushani. Psychologists worked on rehabilitating the woman, and lawyers helped her to get a divorce. Galina's older brother, who lives abroad, volunteered to help his sister. He bought an inexpensive but sturdy flat in Bendery (Transnistria), so the family could move away and start a new life.



Having moved to Bendery, the woman faced some domestic problems. There was no furniture in the flat, and the woman and her children slept on mattresses on the floor. They were in bad need of basic furniture. We gave the family a wardrobe, chest of drawers, and some carpets. Her neighbors helped Galina too, and now her children have beds to sleep in.

Also, thanks to our cooperation with ChildAid (England), we helped the family with groceries and winter clothes for Galina and her children.

Galina is a seamstress, but she has no work experience. As a little girl, she used to sew clothes for dolls, and she dreamed of sewing for people. We offered her a job in the Social Sewing Studio. Galina was very happy, and on the second day she started her work. The first few days she was learning the skill, and work moved slowly. After a while, though, the technologist commended Galina highly and was pleased with the results.



In early December, Galina was offered a job at a sewing shop not far from her home. Now she does not have to travel to work in Tiraspol, and they promise her a decent pay.

The lawyer at the Fund also advised the woman on some legal issues. At the moment the woman is not getting any support from the government because she is not a Transnistrian citizen. In a month she should have her residence permit, and then she can apply for welfare, as she has a large family.

At the moment, all her children are in school and kindergarten. Galina learned from a Fund worker that there is a church not far from her house, and she gladly began to attend it. She says that after a working day, all of her family wants to go to the evening service. The children watch Christian cartoons, and Galina goes to Bible lessons.

Life has changed dramatically for this family. Galina is still adjusting to the new city, new circumstances, and new people. We realize that a fairly long time is needed to fully rehabilitate victims of domestic violence.

Our psychologist and Galina have planned to work on overcoming her crisis. It will involve individual and group sessions and art therapy.

Galina sincerely thanks everyone who cares about her family and can and lends a helping hand, support her and inspire some faith and hope that everything will be fine.



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.

SCHOOL OF MOTHERHOOD

ORPHAN EMMA IMPLEMENTED HER STARTUP



This is the story of a young woman with a beautiful name Emilia. However, she introduces herself to everyone as Emma.

Emma was born in Ukraine. She remembers her childhood from the age of 5. She had a real family: Dad, Mom, and Grandma. She says, "One day Mom and Dad decided to leave Ukraine. But I didn't have any papers. So they hid me in a bag with things and took me to Transnistria. My parents wanted to stay here." Emma and her parents stayed with her grandmother in the town of Slobodzeyia. Then her sister Lena was born.

Emma does not remember all the details, but she noticed that her mother began drinking alcohol. Then her father became addicted, too.

After a while, her father left for Ukraine. Her mother got a cohabitant, and they also drank together. There was no food at home, and Emma and Lena were fed by their neighbors.

Then guardianship authorities took Emma and Lena to an orphanage.

Once in the orphanage, she was immediately sent to school. However, she was very much behind on curriculum, because she had not attended school until she was 9. For that reason, she was neglected by her classmates. The girl really dreamed of having parents and a family.

Several times Emma and her sister were promised they would be taken into a family, but that would not happen. When their would-be foster parents came to see them, the girls no longer took those meetings seriously. After the disappointments the girls had experienced before, they expected that those people would also change their minds about taking them in. However, everything turned out well, and the girls found a new family.



The first place they arrived after completing all the paperwork was a church. They really liked that place, and then they went home. Emma and Lena decided right away to call their guardians Mom and Dad. They were placed in a comprehensive school, and new uniforms, briefcases and other accessories were bought for them. A different life started for Emma.

This family was monitored by our FOSTER FAMILY Service. Emma says, "I will not hide it, I was a very difficult child. I wanted to be independent early on."

Before she was 18, she lived in the dormitory of the medical college where she was a student. She met a guy on the internet. Her parents were against her talking to him. As adults, they saw that he could not be trusted. But Emma decided not to speak with her parents, but to continue her relationship with that guy. Emma became pregnant and they got married.



She dropped out of her technical school and began coming to the Fund to learn sewing in the Fund's newly opened project "Social Sewing Studio". Soon the couple had a daughter, Adelia. At the time, the Fund enlisted Emma in the "School of Motherhood" program. Since then we keep working with her.



Unfortunately, Emma's family life did not work out. Her husband began to drink and leave the family for other women. They are not currently living together.

After Emma was left alone with a little child and no money or support from her husband, we reminded her of the knowledge and skills in sewing that she had acquired. So, she came to work at the Social Studio and received her pay and improve her life.



Emma has been provided with social, psychological, and legal support. She knows that in any difficult situation she can come to us for help. Now Emma is participating in another project of our Fund and is taking the first steps to launch a startup for making tracksuits for children and women. She dreams of opening her own small sewing workshop.



In December, for the first time, she took part in an exhibition in Chisinau. Unfortunately, she did not sell anything, but she gained a lot of experience and worked on her mistakes.

Things are tough for this young mother, but we are very glad that Emma is with her child, and she is learning to overcome obstacles. She has a job and the Fund staff will always help and advise her.

Emma thanks her foster parents for helping her learn about the church and God. Emma says, "I want to emphasize that for many years the Fund has helped me through various projects, been part of my life, and guided me. For all this I am very grateful to the Fund, its employees and, of course, all its sponsors."

We continue to support this young mother and thank "Orphan's Promise" and all those who care for their help in this matter.