

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.

NEEDS OF THE FUND

The **HEART4ORPHANS** will be *17 years old* this 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.

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'22 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.

THERE IS A NEW ADDITION TO THE ZINCHENKO FAMILY



In the summer of 2022, the fund's social worker visited the Zinchenko foster family, and foster mother Maria said that the child protection service offered her and her husband Serghei to take in another foster child, a boy Alex. The Zinchenko family have raised three children of their own and 9 adopted children. They decided to continue their mission and take into their family another child. They began to visit the boy, and it turned out that he has a sister, Karina, who is in another residential school, a remedial one. The couple decided to pray for the girl so that they could take her into the family.



During the summer holidays, Serghei and Maria several times went to visit the boy Alex at camp. They were also collecting information about his sister. As soon as permission was received from the child protection service to visit the girl, they were able to visit the two children at the same time. The children wanted to join the family as soon as possible, but things were moving along slowly, since the foster parents had to collect all the documents and go through a medical examination.

The couple prepared a room for the brother and sister. On December 3, Karina and Alex finally joined the family. There was so much joy and happiness! The children were met by the older foster children, who got some dolls for Karina, and a large Lego for Alex. Thank God, two more children have found a new family!!!

Now the children are adjusting. Karina is very animated, a born leader. She is not used to her brother, since they lived in different institutions and did not see each other after separation from the biological family. She wants to be first in everything and tell others what to do. She has already had a fight with her brother. The foster parents Zinchenko are experienced people. They talked to Karina about the rules in the family, and the girl said that it would not happen again. The family are praying and believe they can cope, because they have not seen this before.





Alex is 8 years old, and in the 1st grade. According to his mother, the boy is very capable, but a little lazy. It is difficult to make him do homework as you have to give him a lot of arguments about the importance of learning. It is difficult to send Alex to the shower and have him clean up after himself. The parents keep teaching and setting examples, explaining, and most importantly showing love and care.

Karina is 6 and she goes to kindergarten. She has no particular desire to learn to read and write. The girl is very loving, every evening she hugs and kisses her mother and does not want to share her with anyone.

Both Karina and Alex love to make little surprises for Mom and Dad.



FOSTER PARENTS CLUB. Christmas meeting

In early January, an event was held as part of our Foster Parents Club. The club is for foster families that our fund guides.



At the moment, we offer social, psychological and legal guidance to 23 foster families who are raising 49 foster children.



“Meetings of the Club are rarely held now – 1 or 2 times a year due to the latest events in the world. We used to meet 4 times a year. Parents love these events very much: they can talk on topics of mutual interest, share their experience of raising foster children with each other, and just relax,” says Tatiana Voikova, coordinator of the Foster Families Service.

During the meeting, we also hold a mini training for parents on live topics. This year we talked about emotional health.

“We believe that today this topic is very relevant to everyone, including foster parents, since many of them have raised more than one foster child and led them into adulthood. The relevance of the topic was confirmed during our visits to families where foster parents (especially mothers) were exhausted, but did not realize it. Based on this, a decision was made to conduct a training for foster parents, specifically to prevent emotional burnout,” said psychologist Elena Kushevaya.



The parents greatly appreciated the topic and took part with pleasure: they shared their stories, experiences, emotions, and successes.

“I sincerely thank the fund and the team for the meeting. The meeting was very lively and interesting. I would even say the topic is very relevant for today. We think about everything and everyone and very often forget about ourselves. The subject of the meeting was expounded in a very intelligible and instructive way. Thanks to the staff for a great job. Thank you,” said foster mother Valentina.

“My husband and I really enjoyed the meeting for foster parents. The organization of the event was top-notch! The topic on the agenda was relevant to foster parents. It is about emotional burnout of foster parents. We all experience stress. It can be negative emotions: price increases, salary delays, problems in the team. Or positive ones: the birth of a child, a romantic dinner, some kind of good news. It is important for all of us to notice the stages of emotional burnout in ourselves in time and prevent irreversible consequences when it will be very difficult to help a parent. We once again realized that it is important to make time to rest and sleep. We are very grateful to the Heart4orphans Fund for the opportunity to be at this meeting and learn new things and talk to foster parents like ourselves,” said foster mother Aliona.



Couple Zinkovich, foster parents for 5 children.

“Many thanks to the management and employees of the fund for the warm and cozy atmosphere. I want to express my gratitude to the psychologist for the chosen topic. The topic was easy to understand. Now I know about all the stages of burnout and how to replenish the resources in raising our foster children. Thank you for such clear information. We also played various games. After all, it feels so wonderful to go back to your childhood,” said foster mother Maria.

We would like to note that the Foster Family Project is financed by the Charity "Orphan's Promise".





Youth Social Adaptation Service

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.

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.



Christmas with friends and mentors

As part of the project “Wings for the Youth of Pridnestrovie”, right before the Christmas and New Year holidays, we organized a special culinary training for boys and girls. It was held in a festive atmosphere: there was a lot of music, competitions, and joy. Many guys who came to this meeting were pleasantly surprised because the training was not in the usual, but in a festive format. The children prepared the traditional New Year salad "Olivier" and participated in fun contests. We prepared for them a special meal and some treats. At the end of the meeting, all beneficiaries received New Year's souvenirs. The meeting was exciting and celebratory.



Ksenia shared that she really liked that evening. It was cozy and friendly. I liked the contests because they were fun. I thanked the organizers for lifting the New Year's mood in us.



Daria. I liked the pastime that was convivial and merry. We all somehow got closer than usual. I liked to be taken away from the daily bustle, worries, and concerns. Just like it was in childhood. It was nice that they spent time and resources for us. All the social workers, the psychologist, and the coordinator had prepared and were with us, though they all have a family. But they made time for us. Thanks a lot. They put me in a holiday mood, at least, for a little while. It is not so important what exactly we were doing. It is the spirit of the event. Thank you very much for a piece of childhood, that you brought us back there at least for a while.



Liuba. I want to express my deep gratitude to the team for organizing such a holiday. As I walked into the room, it immediately felt like holiday. I was impressed by how the room was decorated: not only New Year ornaments and a Christmas tree, but our photos from trainings and consultations were on the walls. It was a very cozy New Year atmosphere. I particularly remember the time after the contests, when everyone sat around the table that was nicely set.

Iliia. Dear guys, as well as people who work in the wonderful Fund "Heart4orphans". I sincerely wish you all a Happy New Year. With all my heart, I wish that the new year of 2023 will bring each of you a lot of joy and fun. May the New Year bring you good health. I wish you peace, happiness, prosperity, and good luck in your endeavors. Be happy. Happy New Year!

CHRISTINA PAVLIN. Slowly but surely and only forward!



We would like to share with you the story of Christina, a participant of the "Wings for the Youth of Pridnestrovie" project.

A young girl left a residential school and received a certificate. Like many others at her age, she dreamed of getting a profession, finding a job, having a decent salary, providing herself with everything necessary for life. Unfortunately, she came up against some difficulties that she had to cope with on her own. She did not have a lot of educational institutions to choose from. She got a government scholarship to go to a construction college. She graduated from it and received a diploma, but because of her health she could not continue to work in this profession. Christina has always dreamed of becoming a chef, cooking delicious meals, and doing what she loves. The girl did not have an opportunity to pay for the expensive education on her own. But she did not give up and she tried to earn extra money in part time jobs.



Christina heard from her friends about the project "Wings for the youth of Transnistria", which gave new opportunities to the younger generation in the field of vocational training and employment. Christina decided to use the chance that was available to her. She became a participant in the project, talked about her dreams, attended training sessions, consulted specialists on issues of socialization and integration. Thanks to that project, it was possible to pay for her training to become a chef. Christina was happy to attend the classes. She was commended for her diligence and discipline. She was very much looking forward to an internship at some factory at the end of her training. Of course, there were some difficulties, but the team of project specialists always supported her and gave her necessary recommendations, and helped to overcome her difficulties. Her practicum was a success! Christina received her diploma, was employed in her profession and began to make her own money!

So, step by step her life began to change for the better! Dreams Came True! The next steps were: to raise her professionalism, keep her job, and increase her income.

Now Christina is working hard. She proved to be a good worker, and her employer decided to give her a pay raise. This is also a small step forward!

Thanks to this project, Christina was able to receive support from social housing, which is very important at such an economically difficult time. "I am very glad that I was able to get into the project and change my life! Such projects help young people not to give up. They provide necessary and diverse support, help youth find their place in the labor market, and give them an opportunity to fulfill themselves! I am very grateful to all the organizers of the project, and I would like more young people to be able to have such a happy chance!", says Christina.





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



CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE

The other day, the service for assistance to families at risk organized a festive meeting for mothers in difficult situations and their children.

"We planned this event in such a way that it would be interesting and informative for both mothers and their children. Our goal was to create conditions for emotional relief and communication, acquaintance and finding common interests," said Luisa Startsun, coordinator of the Service.

For mothers, an art therapy session "My Dream" was held in order to help them increase their self-esteem and also plan and visualizing the future.



During that time, the children were busy making New Year cookies and decorating. While the cookies were baking in the oven, they were all watching a cartoon about Christmas.

At the end of the event, everyone was invited to have a special meal.

Almost every year we try to invite our beneficiaries to such events. Many of them live in villages, and they rarely visit the city. For them a trip somewhere far from home is a whole event, and such meetings are a real holiday," said the coordinator of the service, which aims to directly help families in difficult situations Elizabeth Vidrashko.



SUCCESS IN THE DUMINICA FAMILY

In December 2021, a woman named Nina Duminika, a mother of five minor children, asked us at the Heart4orphans Charitable Foundation for help. The family belongs to the Roma ethnic group. At that time, the family had great financial difficulties.





Nina and Vitaly have been together for 17 years, they love each other but they are very poor. A few years ago, the family decided to move from the very small village of Novo-Andriyashevka to Tiraspol.

Both spouses do not have a secondary education. Vitaly completed 9 grades (incomplete secondary school education) and Nina only learned to read and write a little. The woman shared her childhood memories: "I was born in a dysfunctional family. Three older brothers had already been taken away from my parents, because of poverty, and they had been placed in an orphanage. Mother carefully concealed the fact of my birth. They didn't want to send me to school, because they were afraid that I would be away too. This was the reason why I never went to school."

In Roma families, this kind of situation with education of children, unfortunately, is common. Vitaly had to leave to work a job elsewhere, as it was extremely difficult to find employment due to the pandemic. The family had a lot of debts, and they had no money even to buy essentials for their children. Abroad, he was deceived: after working for three months he was not paid. Because of that he could not send money to his family even to buy food.



In desperation, the woman contacted us because they literally had nothing to eat. Thanks to the financial support of the charity "ChildAid" from England, we were able to help them with food, detergents, and clothes for children. We also provided legal assistance to help them draw up some documents and send the children to kindergarten.

Nina also got support and encouragement from us, as at the time of the appeal she was in severe depression. The woman was very happy to get help. For her, the support of the fund turned out to be the only hope in a difficult hour.



Almost two years ago, the family bought an inexpensive house. The previous owner ran up large utility bills. During that period, the family managed to pay off the debts and take over the house.

The house has only one room for two adults and five children. There is a small kitchen, but no toilet or bathroom. It was Vitaly and Nina's dream to add on a few more rooms for their children, install plumbing, and equip the toilet and the shower room. They already had a house extension plan. It remains now to save up the money for it. Of course, they also plan to plant some vegetables and herbs in the small area in front of the house so that the children can have fresh salads. Despite the fact that the house is very old, it is very clean and tidy inside. The children are neat and healthy. It is obvious that the family is in this situation because of poverty, and not because of negligence.



Early in the summer of 2022, Vitaly came home for a short time. During his visit, the family managed to build a small room where a bath and a toilet were installed. This was very important to the



family, because before they had to wash in a basin, and the toilet was outside. Soon Vitaly had to go back, as the money quickly ran out.

Thanks to the efforts of social workers, the younger children were placed in kindergarten. Nina had more free time for housekeeping, and she was very happy about it.

In August, the family needed to get their children ready for school, but with prices growing in 2022, this proved to be a very difficult task for them. Thanks to the sponsorship of an English charity, all the children were provided with the necessary school supplies. Assistance with medicine was also provided, when needed.

Before the Christmas holidays, Vitaly came home again. The family was reunited and everyone was very happy.

The family has huge plans for this year. They plan to add on two more rooms to the house: one for the girls, and the other for the boys. By now, building materials have already been bought, and the family is waiting for better weather to start construction work.

We are very happy that we can see some positive changes in this family's life. The family is slowly moving out of the crisis and towards its goals as they are working together. We see how in a little more than one year the situation in the family has changed dramatically. In our experience with families at risk, we can say that this is quite a progress. Anyway, we are going to keep in touch with Nina and provide social and psychological support if necessary.

The family sincerely thanks the foundation for the help it has provided, for finding people at a difficult time for them. Thanks to sponsors from England who support families like them. Nina and her children began to attend church. She says that the staff of the fund was sent to her by God himself.





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



NEW YEAR WITH YOUR FAMILY

In this culture, we have a tradition of celebrating the New Year with the family. Since most of the girls living in our Center are orphans, we did our best to create an atmosphere of a family holiday. Preparations for the holiday began in advance: cleaning, putting together a menu and buying groceries. It is difficult to imagine a traditional New Year dinner without the salad "Olivier" (the Russian Salad), "Coat Herring", "Meat in Aspic". It was doubly nice that all the girls were involved in preparations. The children were very curious and kept peeping into the kitchen all evening to see what the adults were doing for so long.

On New Year's Eve, our Temporary Residence Center was unusually crowded. All the girls living there and their children were in. Also, Yuliana, the head of the Center, and her five children came over. Nadezhda, a social worker, and the coordinator Louise came too. As was expected, the guests did not come empty-handed: delicious treats, good mood,

contests with gifts and prizes. The program for entertainment consisted of a lottery, quests, quizzes. It was a big surprise for the girls. The next day they shared their impressions with each other and with us. Anna Kozachenko said, "It was my first time celebrating the New Year like this. I was very touched that we were preparing for it together. I especially liked the contest. I was able to win many different prizes." Valentina Chebanu did not hide her emotions and expressed them in one phrase: "Everything was super, I would like more..."

And the next day, we had a special program for our youngest residents. The organizer was Olga, a social worker. Dressed up as a chicken, she amused the kids, dancing with them and singing funny songs. At the end of the program, the children were given some delicious gifts.



It is so good that there are holidays when you can gather around the same table people with different lives as one big and friendly family.



A 16-YEAR-OLD ORPHAN OLGA HAD A SON – VICTOR



"I will never give him to anyone"

Olga was born to a large and dysfunctional family in Dubossary. Her mother was stripped of her parental rights to 5 children. So Olga as a very small girl ended up in an orphanage. There she met the father of her future child, who was her classmate. Their relationship was short-lived. Olga left for Dubossary and went to a technical school. A month later she realized that she was pregnant. Olga was worried about that and hid her pregnancy for a long time. For some time she stayed with her mother. The latter however continued to lead an immoral lifestyle, and Olga realized that it was not a safe place to be. When she was no longer able to hide

her pregnancy, the girl came to the residential school administration for help. The director of the institution sent her to us. We were ready to take Olga in at the Temporary Residence Center and provide her with necessary assistance, but for a long time she was hesitant about taking this step. We were seriously worried about this young girl, who, in fact, was still a child, and so we maintained daily telephone contact with her.



In early October, Olga finally decided to move in, after the child protection service authorities became seriously concerned about her. We resolved various issues with the administration of the technical school, and assisted her in getting an academic leave, which Olga had been denied. This way she was able to retain all her social benefits. We helped her budget her small allowances so that she could get everything she needed for her upcoming birth. The social workers helped her register with a doctor and do all the necessary tests. Olga was given money for treatment for anemia.

Elena, the fund's psychologist, provided psychological support to the future mother. She answered some of her troubling questions, discussed her fears and doubts, and helped her to cope with them. Olga was given a room, where we organized a space for the future mother and her baby. We equipped it with a table for changing the baby and a bed. On that day, Olga said: "I never had my own room and my own bed. Thank you very much!" A minister from one of the local churches gave her a stroller.

All December we were waiting. We tried to be with Olga even on short walks. Our concern was not groundless. The boy was born underweight two weeks ahead of schedule. At the beginning of this year, the birth of Victor was the most striking event. The staff of the Center, greatly agitated, were waiting for the newborn to be released outside the maternity ward. That time seemed to us infinitely long. Now we are in a position to observe her as she shows interest and tenderness looking at her baby. Both day and night, we help Olga to cope with her duties as a mother.



Like all newborns, little Victor suffered from intestinal colic and cried at night. We selected the right medicine for the child and he became noticeably calmer. After a short time, the baby felt unwell. The social workers figured out that Olia did not have enough milk for breastfeeding. Together we decided to switch the child to baby formula. To date, the baby has significantly gained weight, and his mother and all of us are much relieved!



We understand that Olia, being raised in an orphanage, had no role model for a relationship between mother and child. Therefore we have a long task of developing motherhood skills in her. Olga says, "If it weren't for the help of the fund "Childhood For Children", I have no idea where my child and me would be. And I am not sure at all if I could have had him. I will never give him to anyone."





SOCIAL ENTERPRISE “SEWING STUDIO”

Since 2018, the charity "Heart4orphans" in Tiraspol has had a social sewing studio. It employs girls and women from the most vulnerable community segments: widows, multiple mothers, leavers of residential schools, and single mothers.

During this time, we have been able to support more than 100 women and girls at risk. We have managed to help many of them get out of very difficult situations related to unemployment.

6 women now have permanent jobs in the sewing studio.

In 2022, we received a certificate of a participant in the grant support of the European Union, co-financed by Sweden as part of the project "Civil Society Promotes Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development of the Country".

Thanks to this project, we are expanding our social sewing studio, and we will be able to provide work or part-time jobs to 10 more women.

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR



On last December, our Social Sewing Studio took part in the Christmas Fair. We exhibited our products made from recycled textile (second-hand things and leftover materials). The fund “Eastern Europe” and “The Platform For the Development of Social Entrepreneurship In the Republic of Moldova” awarded us with a Diploma for merits in the field of social entrepreneurship.



“Currently we are trying to produce unique goods from old belts. People bring us a lot of old things. Clothes that cannot be restored are recycled. We remove buttons, zips, and so on. A lot of textile belts have been amassed. We decided to come up with something interesting to make from them. This is how the idea of making hair ornaments for girls came up,” said Nadezhda, the manager of the Social Sewing Studio.

We are in favor of informed choice and consumption.



NEW EQUIPMENT

In January, the Social Sewing Studio received some new equipment. This week it is going to be installed and tested.

Brand new sewing machines, an overlocker, a professional iron with a steam generator, professional table lamps, comfortable chairs for seamstresses - all these are being put in place to make work comfortable.

“Working on brand new sewing machines is very pleasant. Work goes smoothly and quickly. More items get repaired than before,” says Emma, an employee of the sewing studio.

