



EVERY CHILD NEEDS LOVE,
SECURITY AND ACCEPTANCE

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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.

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

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

THE FIRST A's



I explain him 1 or 2 examples, and the rest he does himself. I teach him responsibility, and explain why it is important to study. I ask him not to run around during breaks at school, but rather to review his vocabulary in Moldovan or English before the lesson. He practices it, and it is bearing fruit. We used to learn two lines in a week, and now he learns poetry quickly by himself without my help," Olga said.

Tatiana Voikova, the coordinator of the program «Foster Family», says, "if Bogdan had not become part of such a good family with such a caring mother, then bad news could have been in store for him." "When a child already has some trauma caused by their parents, and then they end up in an orphanage, they get bitter and hate the whole world, his condition, and their behavior only worsens. This is what orphanages practice: difficult children are sent for treatment to a psychiatric hospital, then they deprived of competence, and then they are placed in a neuropsychiatric ward," Tatiana said.

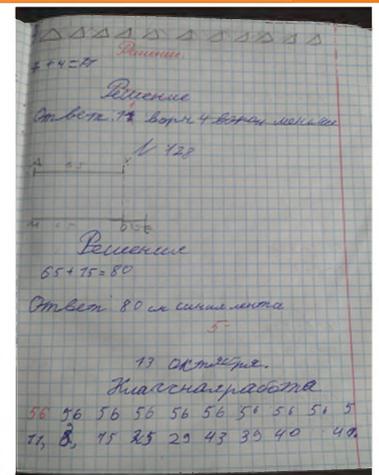
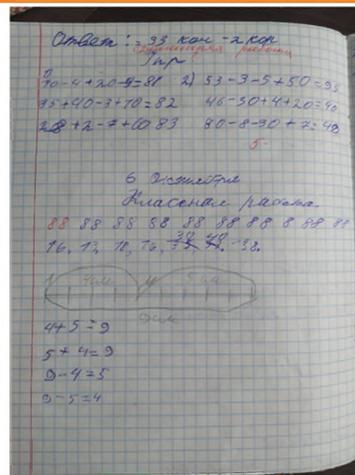
Bogdan is a very active child. He likes to run, jump, and scream like most boys. Olga and Andrei are very glad that Bogdan is their son. "This child brings us a lot of joy: he is sociable, animated, and he has a very interesting mind. He willingly helps around the house a lot and tries very hard to be obedient," Olga said.

Bogdan Miloradov has great news. This school year he is already a second-grader. He already has several A's in mathematics, which last year would have been simply unimaginable.

Bogdan is a foster child of Olga and Andrei. Before the boy joined the family, he was often ill as he had some nervous system disorders and loss of coordination. He started walking very late - at 2 years 3 months. He often fell and got hurt. His development was significantly behind that of his peers.

Olga at once got serious about medical treatment for Bogdan. He took regular therapy courses, massages, and classes with a speech therapist. The first year of school was very difficult for him. But, as the saying goes, patience and work will do the trick.

"I pulled myself together and showed great love and patience as we did homework together. He says, «Mom I don't understand».



SCHOOL OF FOSTER PARENTS

We are recruiting people for the School of Foster Parents.

Education at the school for foster parents is an opportunity for candidates to evaluate their strength, make a well-balanced decision, and prepare themselves and their family for possible problems and difficulties, and learn to solve them together.

The courses will be read by experienced social teachers, a professional psychologist. Also, actual foster parents and guardians will share their experience.

The coordinator of the Foster Family program says: "Experience shows that holding preparatory classes before a family takes in a child has a positive effect on the future of the family. The number of unsuccessful attempts to form a foster family decreases. There are fewer problems and complications integrating a child into a new family. Our program helps foster parents learn to better understand the reasons for the child's behavior, as

well as become aware of their own readiness to create a foster family.

Lives of orphanage leavers are little better than lives of street children. Leavers of children's institutions, even the best ones, are rarely able to find their place in life: get a good education and profession, and create a happy family. They not only lack basic domestic skills, but also do not know how to take responsibility or establish strong relationships with other people. They did not see the "family model," so they cannot create their own family. Having grown up without parental care, children often place their own children in children's institutions, that they themselves left, thus creating entire dynasties in orphanages.

LET US STOP THIS TOGETHER!

You can support our program «Foster Family» by making a donation. Your aid will provide vital support to orphans in emotional, medical and educational matters. It will also give us a better opportunity to educate new families to become foster parents. Your financial support will ensure that a foster child will live in a loving and caring family.



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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 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).

CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The right to education of children from poor families in Transnistria are violated in the pandemic. Out of the 35 families that our program is helping, 13 do not have gadgets or Internet access. 25 schoolchildren cannot study or complete do homework.

We have to resort to the old method: go once a week to the teacher and get notebooks with new homework and then give it back completed. That however contradicts the quarantine measures.

Mothers are very worried about their children that they may miss out on a lot from the school curriculum. Unfortunately, they do not have an opportunity to buy a phone or tablet.

A PROGRAM FOR ASSISTING RISK FOOTWEAR FOR KIDS

Thanks to the assistance of organization «ChildAid», this year it has been possible to purchase winter shoes for children from families at risk.

"Since children grow up quickly, most of them cannot wear last year shoes. We purchased the right size shoes expecting them to last till next year," said Elizaveta Vidrashko, a social worker of the charity «Heart4orphans».

For several days we drove around and delighted children from different regions of the republic.

Vika from the Tarasenko family received as a gift: a jacket, a scarf, and boots. She is very glad that now she may not be afraid of bad weather. Her feet will always be warm and dry.

The Kutafin family have 6 children. Mother Larisa has seasonal work, Sergei's father is disabled. There is barely enough money for food. "If the younger ones can still wear what is passed down to them from the older ones, the older ones have nothing to wear at all. So, for example, Ivan's son this year was likely to spend the winter in his light sneakers, which are already smaller than his actual size. Vitya was barely able to wear them," said Larisa.

All the parents and children are very grateful for the help provided.

At the moment we are helping 40 families at risk, where about 120 children are raised. Most of them live in extreme poverty.



"Children are not to blame because their parents have come up against economic and social difficulties. Most of our foster families live in villages, that are remote from towns, and it is difficult to find work there. Even if jobs are available, the pay is miserable. Some of the families are single mothers with many children, and welfare is barely enough to buy food," said Elizaveta Vidrashko, a social worker of the Fund «Heart4orphans».





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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.

INDEPENDENT LIFE PROGRAM

THE SOCIAL THEATER

We have resumed social theater classes. This is the favorite activity of our beneficiaries. The youngsters are happy to participate in activities, even if they have to get over their shyness. This time we brought up the topic of emotions. They considered what emotions there are at all, how to control them, how to get a release, how to relax, how to switch to positive thinking, how to improve your mood, etc.," said Larisa Juk, the coordinator of the program for the socialization of youth at risk.

"It was particularly interesting to have an activity when we wrote what fears a person might have and whether these fears bring harm or benefit. It was amazing to

know that there could be benefit from some fears," said Kistina, a project participant.

Let us remind you that we have been practicing Social Theater since 2018 as part of the program to socialize leavers of residential institutions and youth at risk.

Role-playing is used in the project to let children learn what rights they have and how they can defend them. They also learn to openly express their opinions and take an active civil position. Social Theater forms an ability in young people at risk to adapt to a difficult life situation. It teaches them to model their behavior through special exercises and stage images as well as teaches them to make use of their creative features.



THE SCHOOL OF MOTHERHOOD: picnic for moms and their children

While the weather was good, we and the School of Motherhood participants as well as their children went to the wood for picnics. This is a great time to chat in an informal setting.

"We give girls a lot of important and helpful information in seminars and trainings that relates to childcare, family, career guidance, financing, and much more. However, it is extremely important to just relax, be out in nature by the river, enjoy talking to each other, laugh, and play," said Larisa Juk, the coordinator of the School of Motherhood program.

Let us remind you that the program "School of Motherhood" is funded by the charity "Orphan's promise."

Trip to Stroyentsi



In November we traveled to the north of Transnistria to see a historical place with waterfalls and "alpine" landscapes, a unique mill and rock vineyards. Thousands of tourists come here every year. We wanted our project participants to see that beauty with their own eyes.

After an exciting walk we went to a cafe, where we had a great lunch. Many of the young people had never been to a cafe, and many had never had grilled meat. We had a little celebration for them.

"When we were in quarantine for several months, we did not go outside that long. And finally we went out and had some fresh air, and saw the most beautiful places in this area. We could not even imagine that we had such unique places in the republic," Viorika said.

