



**Program for Humanitarian Aid is
"Being Family"**

March Tip Report: "Once a Teacher Always a Student"

Our 2016 March Mission Trip was a first of its kind for PHA. We want to address the lack of a quality education from which orphans in Ukraine generally suffer. This lack limits them in many ways and can be a lifelong hindrance. Impacting the education of these children is a way to expand the reach of how PHA's Transition Program works to improve orphan's futures.



This March, a team of teachers and administrators from Texas traveled to Ukraine to help improve education in the orphanages, share teaching strategies, develop relationships with Ukrainian teachers, and, through this, improve the futures of the orphans.

Throughout the Spring Break 2016 mission trip, PHA oversaw a group of American teachers as they worked one on one with Ukrainian teachers at two orphanages through a 2 day seminar at each orphanage called "Once a Teacher, Always a Student." Teaching strategies and educational systems were shared across cultures, and the results were a blessing to all who were there.



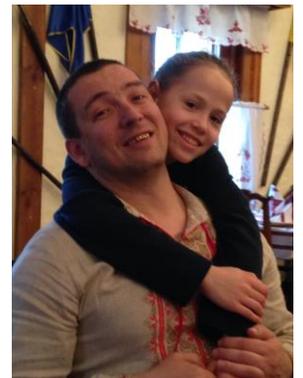
The days spent in the teaching seminars were a huge success and very well received by both the teachers as well as the orphanage directors.

Thank you to Glenda Moore, Sue Hobson, and James Russell for giving of your time, your knowledge, and your hearts to serve over your Spring Break in Ukraine!

"If it is serving then serve, if it is teaching then teach . . ." -Romans 12:7

Our PHA Family: Expanding into New Regions

In our last newsletter, we mentioned that we were looking to expand the transition Program into new cities. Well, the work in Poltava is off and running. Fedá, his wife Nastia, and the local church are doing a wonderful job of building relationships and planting the seeds of Christ with orphans. Almost every weekend, children from a local orphanage and children from a group home are coming to church and spending time in Fedá's home—sometimes for the entire weekend! We are blessed to have positive working relationships with the directors of these institutions and cannot wait to see what God does through this work. PHA has begun to make a Domik, Day Center facility in a room at the church. This will include a kitchen and open area that can be used for bible lessons, meals, crafts, and, of course, ping-pong. This will both benefit our work and be a great resource for the church to use. Please continue to keep this expansion in your prayers!



Story of a Child: by Tanya Ilmeyer

Only when I got married I understood to the full extend what contribution makes healthy and caring FAMILY into child's future. After moving out to live on our own most of us know or at least have the slight vision of how to cook, clean up, buy things, plan the budget, etc. Growing up in the family all these things become clear and at the certain age you know for sure what steps you should take to succeed in the list mentioned above. After some explanation or even without it, having a real example in front of you, appear skills and habits.

I was taught to wash dishes in a certain order: first washing residues away, then washing with a sponge and soft-soap cups, cutlery, plates, pans and cooking pots, after that washing everything with water. Though other people do it in other ways I'm still sure the most effective and practical order is mine. This is one of the things kids are being taught at Domik and some of them are already teaching the others.

One of the best helpers in cooking and cleaning both at Domik and Family House is Yegor. Being involved in the orphan ministry this may be rude to say, but he is one of my favorites. It's hard to express what it feels like when you find a little brother that asks you for advice and texts back to your 'goodnight' that he loves you and is waiting for you to come.



It took quite a long time to build close relations with Yegor. He was sent to the orphanage at the age of 7, alongside with his 4 (maybe 5 siblings, he is not sure), their father died and mother was deprived of parental rights for misusing alcohol. For many years he was known as one of the worst behaving kids (sometimes he still is 😊). This year he graduates and as we all know the statistics and prognosis for the graduating orphans is mostly sad but I hope he totally understands he has people around to support him, give advice, and make everything possible for him to succeed as: *'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world'*

(James 1:27)

-Tatiana Ilmeyer

Family Time: by Andrey Belokonny

'...he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance' 2 Peter 3:9

Andrey was upset and seemed thoughtful couple months before his graduation last year. Soon it turned out that orphan-girl Kristina is pregnant by Andrey. At that moment being 17 and Kristina 14 they've both decided to keep the child. It was fussy around this couple alongside this there were different feelings in my heart and mind; I thought that all my discussions with Andrey, all my advices contradict common sense, Ukrainian laws or the Scripture. I knew what he felt, as at the age of 18 I married the seventeen-year-old girl who gave a birth to my daughter.



So, Andrey didn't enter any educational institution, saying that he has to work earning money for the family, he and Kristina moved to the southern part of Zaporizhzhya region where in one village lives Andrey's mother and in the other one (100 kms away) Kristina's. Both women are deprived of parental rights, they do not own the houses they live in, one of them has no electricity and water.

There were no talks about Andrey when he left, it was easier to believe that everything is okay and their family is happy.

"we don't even have milk to feed our baby"

Almost after a year I got a message from the unknown number: *'Andrey, please, send us some money, we don't even have milk to feed our baby'*. I dialed the number and it turned out to be my dear graduate Andrey who tried to convince me that everything is okay and they just have minor problems exceeding budget, when they get social payment for their son, whose name is Pasha, they will even send this money back to me.

For our country it's not a rare situation in the young families. I answered that I'll wait for Pasha to grow up and give it back as I help him now.

Next week I got another text: *'Could you please lend us once again, we've been to the church, they helped us with the food but gave nothing for the baby. Please, I know you're giving not from your pocket'*.



At some point my anger was stronger than mercy and love. Lots of 'whys' appeared in my head: why would you lead your family to such a sad state? Why wouldn't you ask me for advice and help much earlier? Why do you think somebody should solve your problems? And the most important – why are you sure that if it's not from your pocket, you can take it whenever and whatever possible sum? All the 'whys' were put away and after a call I found out that Andrey and Kristina left Pasha at the hospital and for several days already they spend their nights at the train station.

We decided to discuss what to do next in Zaporizhzhya and since then our family, PHA, Christians from the 'New Hope' organization, orphanage and detention center's directors, social services, pre-orphanage center started to have a new life, all of the mentioned above in some way or another agreed to participate in this young people's lives.



After a while at our Family House, I was asking how many things were in Andrey's pockets he felt was his property. 'Even if you think something was yours, it was never so'. It was a long talk about life, opportunities, merits, acquisitions; about roaring lion and loving Father who is always waiting for you and his biggest joy is to know that you're alive and when you're with him, he says: *'My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours'* (Luke 15:31)

Kristina is now at the detention center, Pasha is waiting to be sent to Zaporizhzhya pre-orphanage from Melitopol and Andrey is the first one to live in the apartment PHA started to rent for the orphanage graduates, the ones, who have decided to try coming back to the Father's house.

'My Father's house has many rooms' (John 14:2)

'All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them' (John 17:10)

'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up' (Galatians 6:9)

-Andrey Belokoniy

Shoe Drive

173 bags. 4325 pairs of shoes. 4238 pounds. \$1,445.20 for the PHA Family of kids! Thank you to all of the churches, individuals and businesses who collected shoes. Blessings come in many forms. Some just smell a little worse than others!!!



Summer Bible Camp!!!

Summer is coming! And you know what that means....

Summer Bible Camp!!!PHA will be hosting 2 different camps this June. The first one is our yearly overnight camp. Last summer's camp was a wonderful experience and we are expecting this year's camp to be even better with almost



twice the number of campers! The PHA Family of kids needs you to help send them to camp this summer. The cost of our overnight camp is \$60 per camper and our goal is 100 kids.



After overnight camp we will be providing a day camp for a group of kids from the Valnyansk orphanage. We are so excited to have a mission trip team from Texas join us this June to teach, play, and share Christ's love.

From the Domik Kitchen: by Marina Belokonnaya



Farmer Cheese Bake (a dessert):

Here is one more cheese recipe we cook with the kids.

Farmer cheese – 500 grams (2 1/4 cup, buy "quark" if you can find it, otherwise small curd cottage cheese will work. If using cottage cheese, blend it in a blender or food processor until smooth)

Sugar – 100 grams (1 scant cup)

Eggs – 3

Separate the whites from the yolks. Whisk yolks with sugar. Add the mixture to the farmer cheese. Whisk whites into bold foam in the separate bowl. In three stages, add the whites to the cheese mixture. Grease a 8 x 8 baking dish with

butter and powder it with flour. Put the mixture in the baking dish and bake it 45 minutes at 350 F. Let it cool down and sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving. Enjoy your meal!



**Program for Humanitarian Aid is
"Being Family"**

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PROGRAM FOR HUMANITARIAN AID (PHA)

Name: _____

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I WANT TO JOIN THE PHA FAMILY:

_____ **Prayerfully**

_____ **Financially through a one-time donation**

\$50 \$100 \$500 Other: _____

_____ **I would like to be contacted with more information about PHA**

_____ **Financially through monthly recurring donations**

\$50 \$100 \$500 Other: _____

_____ **I know someone who would like to hear about this ministry**

Donations can also be made through the PHA website: www.programforhumanitarianaid.org