



**Program For Humanitarian Aid (PHA)**  
 Helping the poor, sick, hungry, and vulnerable in Ukraine

## 2014 Summer Mission Trip

*2014 has been an uncertain, yet exciting time for PHA.*

*God continues to bless this ministry and the people it serves.*



At the beginning of summer 2014, the war continued to rage in the Eastern part of Ukraine. *Orphans Of Ukraine Rescue and Restore Mission*, (O.U.R.2 MISSION) a ministry of **Program for Humanitarian Aid** (PHA), found itself forced out of the Donetsk region. The work that began at the Karlovka orphanage had to be put on hold due to the fighting in the village and the evacuation of the children from that facility.

This unexpected turn of events left us with a difficult choice. Do we pack our bags and go home? Do we turn our backs on the work God has so clearly called us to? Or do we look at our options to relocate?

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Chris and Christy Hill set out on a 7-week ministry and exploration trip to Ukraine. While they were there, they had several objectives, but the main objective was to find a place to relocate the transition program for older orphans.

July 26<sup>th</sup>, Denise Baggett arrived in Ukraine to join Chris and Christy for two weeks. Chris, Christy, and Denise traveled to Zaporizhia, where they were greeted by Andrey (our ministry partner) and his family. Back in the spring, this family left their home in Donetsk to escape the war and moved to Zaporizhia.

Andrey introduced us to several people currently serving older orphans, including a teacher at Orphanage #3. She told us of a great need there. She said that out of the 180 children housed at this orphanage, only 12 of them are “true orphans”. The other 168 of them are considered “social orphans”. A “social orphan” is a child that has been taken out of a home that has been deemed “unsafe” or “unsuitable” by the government’s social services system. For the children that are labeled as “social orphans”, the government does not pay for them to be at the orphanage on the weekends. The teacher explained that at the end of the school day on Friday these kids must be sent “home”. Monday morning, these kids are outside the orphanage gate waiting to be let back in. They are hungry, dirty, and have not eaten the entire weekend. Also, many of them show signs of abuse they received at home or on the streets. She told us something needs to be done to help them. This is when and where we began to see that Zaporizhia was where the transition program was needed the most.

### The Year in Review:

2014 Summer Mission Trip

Humanitarian Aid

Orphanage #3 Work in  
Zaporizhia, Ukraine

Valnyansk Orphanage

Domik

Thank You



### Orphanage #3 Work in Zaporizhia, Ukraine



## Humanitarian Aid

Refugee . . . the word seems an odd way to describe a person who is living only a few hours from their home, but in Ukraine the word refugee has become a common way to describe the 640,000 displaced people who have fled the war in the eastern part of the country.

As the war continues, more needs arise, and PHA continues to help. Warm clothes, food, and medicine are being distributed weekly to those in need. On a visit to one of the dormitories that serves as temporary housing for those displaced from their homes, one can see the faces that tell the stories of hardship and loss—loss of homes, loss of jobs, loss of loved ones, loss of dignity and pride.

Ukraine was a poor county before the war. An average annual salary of \$3,600 is a small amount of money on which to pay for a place to live and provide for a family. Now, with the Hryvnia falling daily, that salary has essentially been cut in half in less than a year's time.

Help is needed around every corner, and every bit helps. The help PHA is providing makes a difference. This help does not make up for the loss suffered, but it does help with the pain of it.

The transition program begins in the orphanage, face to face with the children there. Andrey goes to Orphanage #3 several days a week to spend time with the children. Through this time, relationships are built and strengthened. Games are played, crafts are made, and teas and cookies are served.

The time spent there may not seem like much, but this time is truly the most crucial part of the transition program because it is how the kids get to know Andrey and his family, how they find out more about what all the transition program offers, and how they learn more about God.

Through the time spent at the orphanages, many needs of the children are addressed. Educational, psychological, spiritual, relational needs are enhanced, and independent life skills are taught. Connections to a network of local Christians for ongoing and future support are built, and a sense of community is established.

We are truly blessed to have Andrey and his family as a part of this ministry.

*"How they learn more about God"*

## Valnyansk Orphanage

Valnyansk is a small town a few miles East of Zaporizhia. A checkpoint manned by the Ukrainian army separates the two towns. There is an orphanage in Valnyansk that houses around 180 children, similar to the number housed in Orphanage #3, but under different conditions. The facility is much older, and you can see haunting stories in the eyes of the children there.



The orphanage has a new director who is trying to make this orphanage a better place for the children. The old director, who has been gone almost a year now, was very corrupt and dishonest. There were several "paid staff" members who did not actually work there. Sexual and physical abuse was prevalent, and tragically, one girl committed suicide by jumping from the 3rd story to avoid such abuse.

Each child has only one pair of socks, and if they are washing them then they have to go barefoot until their socks are clean and dry. The orphanage is not very warm inside, and one can only imagine how cold their bare feet are on the tile floors.

As more visits are made and more ministering is done, God provides more opportunities to serve. The children at the Valnyansk Orphanage are the latest example of a need that God is providing us the opportunity to help with.



*Domik translates to "home-like" or "nice home".*

## Domik

"Domik", our Day Center in Zaporizhia, Ukraine, is open and ready to serve the orphans of #3 and the Vanyansk Orphanage!

Domik translates to "home-like" or "nice home".

Chris and Christy Hill made another trip to Zaporizhia, Ukraine, in December to host the opening of Domik. The grand opening on December 12<sup>th</sup> served as a time of fun and fellowship that made the older orphans aware of the resources Domik offers. There were over 50 people in attendance including 11 children, 3 teachers, and the Director of Orphanage #3; 14 children and 4 teachers from Valnyansk; approximately 10 volunteers; and a special guest, DJ Sasha, a graduate from the Karlovka Orphanage.

Domik offers children the chance to have warm meals, hot showers, and a place to be safe and loved. The older orphans who come to Domik are provided with meals, a wholesome place to hang out with friends, hands-on daily life skills, legal help, other needed resources, spiritual guidance and fellowship, a learning center with tutoring, and a place of safety and refuge.

After a night of skits, games, food, and fun, Domik is open and ready to serve!



## Thank You for Helping to Make Hope Real

With God all things are possible. Without God, hope is lost. Through the God-loving spirit of our supporters and prayer warriors, hope is made real for older orphans in Ukraine.

Thank you to all of the churches, individuals, families, Sunday School Classes, and organizations who pray for, support and give us the opportunity to share this ministry.

## Christmas at Orphanage #3 and the Refugee Center

Thanks to the kind hearts of many of our supporters, every child at Orphanage #3 and the refugee center in Zaporizhia, Ukraine, received a Christmas gift. Christmas-themed bags filled with socks, pencils, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and candy were delivered to every classroom in the orphanage. The sweet smiles and thank you's of the children as they opened their bags were a blessing to see and hear!



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