



## Program for Humanitarian Aid is "Being Family"

### Spring Break Trip Report:



PHA's Spring Break teachers trip is always one of the most insightful trips of the year. It's an opportunity to spend a full day inside three different orphanages. Spending time with the teachers and staff. Getting to see what a day in their lives looks like. And most importantly, spending time building each other's skills which will benefit the kids we all love.

This year's trip started with the Valyansk orphanage near Zaporizhia where we conducted a half day teaching seminar with three educators

from America sharing strategies for teaching and dealing with some of the most relevant educational issues in Ukrainian orphanages. Seeing the similarities in issues that all teachers encounter creates a bond as we work to improve the education of our students in Ukrainian orphanages as well as in Texas.

The next two days were filled with teaching seminars and strategy sharing with orphanages in Svitanok and Poltava. Both were an opportunity to serve the staff, to serve our kids, and to strengthen relationships that our wonderful staff in Ukraine are building every day. We also got to see several classes in progress and enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the orphanage staff.

We are already looking for team members for the teacher's trip again next March so if you are an educator or know someone who might be a great fit start praying about it today!

-Chris and Christy Hill

### Story of a Child: by Tanya Ilmeyer

How many things we have in our life that we take for granted? We all know that having adequate and healthy family is a huge blessing. Parents that can totally be responsible for the kids, working and doing things that we consider to be a norm. But what happens if something goes wrong? What if child loses parents or they cannot be called normal adults? These factors unfortunately shows us the sad statistics of the children graduating orphanage.

Some children can be supported by adults from different charity organizations, churches, teachers etc. But this doesn't happen in all stories and could that replace parents' care? No, though this may change their lives to some extent.



We just had the seminar for the teachers in the orphanages we work with. One of the institutions made a sale of the works that were made by the kids and teachers. We all fell in love with the embroidery and found out that part of the pieces we've chosen was made by one of the graduates that just got a room in a family dormitory which is in a very poor condition and needs lots of repairs. She was totally happy to sell her embroidery that she was making for several months even at night and earn some money. But all these had happened because when she was at the orphanage her embroidery teacher took care of her and 2 of her sisters. Before they graduated the teacher was doing her best for the girls to receive at least rooms at the dormitories from the government.

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*"I wish you could see the sparkle in their eyes when we come together and talk about our students on both sides of the planet. They hear our stories, our struggles, our heart ache and we hear their stories too."*

- Glenda Moore

Assistant Principal Mesa Verde Elementary

This is a huge support. I personally know some graduates that had to repair the apartment after graduation, their parents died and before that they were alcoholics. Others had to go back to their villages they were sent from by the social workers and repeat the lives of their parents. Some sold their property and didn't get money for that. And the fact is that they will never be able to earn money to buy a house, apartment or even room at the dormitory. Usually they do not save part of their stipend money and after that their salaries aren't that big to be able to do that. I can count on one hand kids that I know who bought some kind of property after graduation or made repairs at their parents' house. That is one of the problems we face and that's why they need our support and advice on how to deal with finances and property.

-Tanya Ilmeyer

### **Family Time: by Andrey Belokonny**

Kids from the orphanage often ask me for money. Most often to pay for their mobile phone minutes. For some I did it once and they never asked again. Some I wanted to encourage for their good work at Domik. There are kids that know I was helping this way and ask me for some money. In this case I usually ask them to explain to me the reason why I have to do this. There is almost nobody who can explain why they need it and usually they say: "Okay. No, then". Not long ago I practiced a good thing.

*"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18)*

I decided to start working when an orphan graduate, who graduated from the building trade school and entered a college asked me to pay for his minutes. I asked does he know the minimum wage? Thanks to the internet and simple math, he found out that the minimum wage per hour in Ukraine is 20 Hryvnia (less than \$1). We agreed that I send him 60 Hryvnia and he has to work for me for 3 hours. He thought that he'll have to clean up Domik and was amazed when I told him the plans for the next day. I offered him to shovel the snow. I had to spend a lot of time explaining to him that a man his age should not be ashamed of the physical work. He is 19 years old. He didn't want to shovel the snow. He was telling there is a lot of different things except this. Then I asked him why is he doing nothing now if there is a lot of work everywhere? Why is he asking for money instead of earning it at any of the existing type of work? There was no answer. I preach Christ and I often say that he was born in the same body, he knows the difficulties we face and he can help us.

Our first working day started at 8 am in the yard of Svitanok Orphanage. My 19 year old student asked me to stay close and not to leave him. I've taken 2 shovels: one for him and one for me. I stood next to him and started to shovel the snow. The 9th former from school joined us. My boy-student, whom I decided to help to become a man, told me it's his first time to hold the shovel. First shift lasted for 30 mins, first callous appeared. The same day I arranged work for the next day shoveling a parking lot (for 2 cars) agreeing with the beauty salon owner that we'll do that for free.



The next day after the breakfast at our house my student-debtor (he has a debt of 2,5 hours), one more student that lives with us and I took the shovels and went to the salon. This shift lasted for an hour. Somebody had more callous. When there was no snow on the parking lot the salon owner gave 100 Hryvnia. Boys shared this money equally. My debtor told that he has to work for the time but not for the money. I told him he's doing that but that was the owner's personal decision, so may that be a stimulus and reward for the work. This day boys had a good appetite. I was telling that if not being lazy and ashamed of the physical work, it's not hard to find some work. My

telephone rang and the person said that he's the owner of the shop next to the salon. He offered money for shoveling his parking lot. I told him if we'll be able to do that we'll come tomorrow. My student-debtor didn't have another option, he had to agree.

The next day after the breakfast we went to the shop's parking lot. Today another student that lives with us joined us. Boys were standing near the shop while I was talking to the owner so that they'll be able to hear. I was telling that his

parking lot is twice bigger than the salon's and that would be good if he pays twice more than the salon owner. He didn't object. This time I was almost watching the boys without taking a shovel into my hands, sometimes I was even walking away and sitting for some time in my car. Boys worked for 1,5 hours (for one of them that was the rest of his debt), the parking lot was clean, some callous torn. The shop owner went out and gave each of them 100 Hryvnia. Boys were a bit amazed with the salary, it was more they expected.

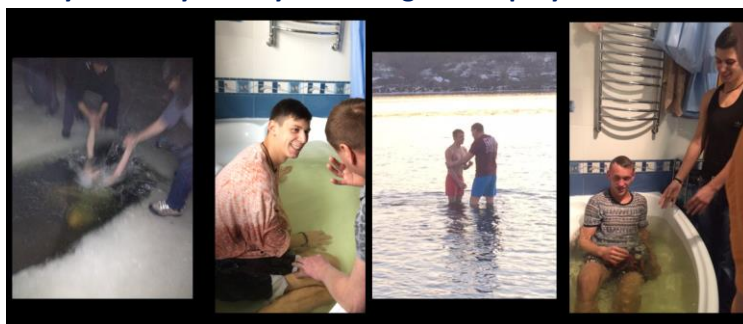
Of course, I didn't see that their eyes were burning and they were willing to continue that business. We spent the rest of the day together and I didn't hear from them that they're planning (as I offered them) to walk on the main streets offering the shops and cafes shoveling services. Though I think I didn't spend this time with teenagers is for nothing. I hope that my theory and practice of earning fair money was a good lesson for the young men. Not only for those who worked with the shovel, but for their friends as well. Now both I and they understand that if we talk about the opportunity of earning money, it's not abstract but that's what was checked personally.

-Andrey Belokoniy

### **Prayer List:**

**Many of you ask for specific things to pray over for PHA's ministry. Thank you for your willingness to pray for:**

- The upcoming Summer Bible Camp Trip.
- Andrey, Marina, Tanya, Vanya, Fedya, Nastia and Svetlana, our PHA Staff in Ukraine as they serve daily in the lives of the orphan and at-risk children there.
- This year's orphanage gradates as they prepare to leave the orphanage.
- The PHA Family members who are our new Brother's and Sisters in Christ!



### **From the Domik Kitchen: by Marina Belokonnaya**

Lemon cupcakes with caramel

Ingredients

3.5 oz of warm butter

3.5 oz flour

3.5 oz sugar

2 eggs

1 teaspoon baking powder

Lemon juice and zest

For caramel:

1/2 cup sugar

1 big lemon zest

1/2 lemon juice

Warm up the oven for 375 degrees. Grind sugar and butter, whip up with blender. Add eggs one by one. Continue to whip. Add flour, backing powder, lemon zest, juice, and fold the mix with a spoon. Cupcake forms smudge with butter and put in dough for 2/3 of the form. Bake for 15-18 mins.

For caramel: put sugar, lemon juice and zest on hot pan, warm it until it becomes as a liquid. Pour caramel on hot cupcakes.

Enjoy!





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

**P.O. Box 93794  
Southlake, TX 76092  
(979) 220- 5691**



**PROGRAM FOR HUMANITARIAN AID (PHA)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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](http://www.programforhumanitarianaid.org)***