



PROGRAM FOR
HUMANITARIAN AID

PHA is “Being Family”

As I have mentioned in the previous articles – often we think that there is nothing worse than being a true orphan. I also was sharing my observations of how hard it is becoming a young adult for the orphans, because having a family (a unit that an orphan couldn't possess) that supports you is a huge thing in life – when you're studying, getting married, having kids – we always have our relatives somewhere next to us and that is a huge blessing. That's real unconditional support and love no matter what kind of decisions we're making as kids, teenagers and young adults. PHA's moto is 'Being family' – easy to say and understand but so challenging. My heart aches because not only true orphans do not have families; there are also the kids, who are 'orphans' with living parents. I want to share some words from a letter of a kid that stays in one of the PHA family homes.

“One morning I was asked: why I decided to live with you (Belokonnie family)? – I never say that everybody except me is at fault for my bad mood and bad things happening in my life. I can be only resentful towards all my relatives. I'm not used to feeling needed by somebody. I always think that nobody wants me. I was the happiest one when I started living with you because I felt that care and comfort and love. I understand that you're totally different people, not like the ones that surrounded me before.

From my early childhood by the age of 6 I forgot what mom's love looks like, I wasn't in contact with dad then. Mom's boyfriend appeared in our life then and everything changed. I remember him giving mom a choice when I was in the 2nd grade: for mom to choose whether she will be with me or with him. I was crying so hard when they gathered my clothes and sent me to mom's friend. My mom gave me to another family and I lived there for about 5 months, and I didn't know how, where, or what my mother was doing, she didn't call or visit me. Then one day she came and took me with her, I was on cloud nine, my mom came back and I didn't even want to ask why she left me.

I stayed with her and her boyfriend for 2 weeks. But then they packed my stuff and we went outside. Of course, I was asking where we are going and why they needed my clothes. Mom

said that they packed them because I won't wear them anymore. I trusted them and we left. They said they'll go check at the school about my documents and whether I can go back to study there. I realized they wouldn't come back. I was yelling because they left me and crying for a long time. After this, I started stuttering. Later it went away.

I lived with grandma despite the freezing cold in the house. She stayed with me and didn't send me to the orphanage. She had put me in school and I was studying ok thanks to her. She worked 3 jobs to cover my additional classes in English and for me to have clothes to wear. Lots of money was spent on the school. Sometimes we were starving. I remember we were eating the leftover honey and nuts.

I didn't care about any of that then, the main thing was that I was at home and not in the orphanage. No matter how angry she got or fights we had I love her the most. Then I had to go to the orphanage. At that time grandma couldn't have taken me, she was arranging her personal life, only sometimes she would bring me products. After mom's second time leaving me I taught myself to be strong and grew up on my own”.

What is this about in your understanding? Betrayal, refusal, treason? What is this in the understanding of a little kid and could it ever be healed?

**-Tanya Ilmeyerova,
PHA Ukrainain Ministry Partner: Kiev**



FAMILY TIME

by Andrey Belokonniy

The melody we want to hear

Recently I enjoyed reading the story about a person who receiving a parcel and opening it finds an old data storage device – vinyl.



This person goes out and buys a record player, and expensive speakers to revel in the music, chooses time, lights a fire, puts the vinyl on the player, sits down in a cozy chair... and hears the voice of a message with some kind of advertisement.

I'm trying to put myself in this situation and I understand that in this case I should have heard the words of Jesus Christ, written down by Apostle John, -

John 13:34-45: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

At some moment I started realizing that everything I have, food, clothes, appliances, everything that can be bought right now are tools for certain aims. Without having a vinyl – no record player and speakers are needed. We are willing to be successful and achieve excellence in everything because we want to be like our Creator. We are like the person with the vinyl wanting good environment and sound quality. But buying a record player with a good acoustic system wasn't his real aim, as we understand, the desire to feel the melody provoke certain feelings in that person. I think he was upset of not achieving the expected result. Today our community is regularly getting this 'vinyl', for example, a pretty old

problem – orphans and kids in a tough social position. We want this 'vinyl to play' we fix the environment to enjoy the melody, we buy everything for a better result... And when the vinyl starts spinning, we come to understand that this is not the music we wanted to hear.

By this everyone will know you're orphans... by this everyone will know you're in a hard social position... by this everyone will know you ran from the war conflict... by this everyone will know you're in prison... by this everyone will know you're deadly sick... by this everyone will know you're hungry and have no clothes... This list may be much longer, it's easy to see everybody from the list, these are noticeable life situations. The question is a bit different, by what will everyone know we're on the right path? By what will everyone know we're having good results? We know the answer – by loving one another, by fruitful love. But we have to wait for the fruits.

Thanks to God and PHA's efforts, today we do not have difficult problems with fixing the environment, making everything for 'the good sound of the expected music'. Maybe by the end, we will not hear the melody we want, but we always hear a call to love. Yes, we can be upset, - how could all this be happening, all the efforts and resettlement isn't this love yet? The fire in the fireplace, candles, record player with the good speakers... where is the music we want to enjoy?

God is saying love is fruits. I couldn't disagree, I'm sure that love fruits are the best sound for the life melody.

**-Andrey Belokonniy,
PHA Director of Ukrainian Operations**



DEAR PHA FAMILY,

There is no doubt that 2020 will be a year that not many of us will forget. As of today (March 24, 2020) COVID-19 has been reported in 164 of the 195 (UN recognized) countries in the world. Social distancing, shelter-in-place, closed schools, and virtual Church services are just a few things we consider the new normal.

We could talk about stock market declines, oil prices falling, or job losses, however, I would rather focus on what God is doing amidst the chaos. People are staying home and reconnecting with family and friends. Many people are looking for ways to help the less fortunate and many are focusing more on their relationship with God.

In the midst of what many call chaos, PHA continues to focus on the mission of connecting with, helping, and focusing on changing the lives of orphans and at-risk children in Ukraine. While COVID-19 has impacted Ukraine in many ways, it has not stopped our Ukrainian staff from serving. For the time being we can't go into boarding schools and orphanages. In addition, we are limited

to ten or fewer people at each Domik yet all three day-centers continue to operate and change lives daily.

These children and young adults depend upon PHA. Most of them don't have biological families to depend on, they don't have other support networks, their family is PHA or their family is you. When uncertainty and fear become normal in our day to day lives, it is easy to forget others apart from our family depend upon us.

PHA's work continues and our expenses continue as well and all of us at PHA depend upon you. We depend upon you for prayer and financial support. Please continue to pray for our ministry and if God has placed it on your heart, please consider making a donation. We want to continue to change lives in Ukraine and we need your help.

Thank you for being a part of our family.

-Kent Dale, Chairman of the Board, PHA

DOMIK KAMENSKOYE

by Ilya and Zina Parkhomuk



The meaning of Violetta name – is 'violet'.

The girl with the name Violetta is happy and joyful. She is decisive and independent from childhood. Violetta is perky and it's hard for her mom to keep up with her. For one reason, there are 9 kids from different men in Viola's family! She is the oldest sister.

Now she is studying in the orphanage with 3 younger sisters and 2 brothers. The kids come to Domik on weekends and we often spend time together. Recently our whole family came to visit kids in the orphanage and while Ilya was playing basketball with the kids, we sat down to talk with Viola. I was asking her about her mood, family, mother, future dreams and plans.

This year Viola and one of her brothers will leave the orphanage as graduates. It's hard for her to start the communication and to understand what she's feeling, but

nevertheless, we had a conversation. Being upset with the educational institution, annoying teachers, classmates, and meaningless lessons – that's what I expected to hear... but I was talking to her on the other topic.

I tried to turn her mind to the side of being grateful, hardworking, glad of every day, but she opened up to me saying she doesn't understand if God truly exists..., that she is so tired living in a family where she lacks attention, clothes and sometimes even food... because of the brothers and sisters and that in the future she doesn't want kids and family. It's hard to say that I understand her, as I haven't been in such a situation, but my desire was to cheer her up!

Our experience of work with troubled teenagers and at-risk kids isn't huge, but in our hearts, there is a huge feeling of compassion and responsibility for the time spent with them. We're friends with her and her brothers and sisters, I give her advice on women's issues, sometimes selecting clothes, haircuts, that sort of thing. Ilya's spend's time with the guys to give father's manly advice, share experience, even teaching how to hammer nails! When teenagers are trusting us with their hearts, we trust them with our time, our care and love. That's what our relations are built on, this is how we show them God!

-Ilya and Zina Parkhomuk, PHA Ukrainain Ministry Partners: Kamenskoye

POLTAVA THOUGHTS

by Fedor and Nastya Chernichkiny

Peace! Love! Mercy and all huge God's blessings to everybody reading!!!

It has been 4.5 years since we first entered the orphanage and had a first connection with orphan kids!

Right now there are two guys (Oleg, 15 and Slavik, 18) that live with us, I look at them and turn back to the ones that were with us and ask myself one question: 'Did I do everything right?'

All the resources that we spend (you finances and prayers, us prayers and time), what is left in the hearts of the kids that were and are with us? What kind of love do I and my family present them?

My (human) love or the one that God showed giving Jesus Christ for the cross for us? And if we split or I die what they will recall about me and my family? That we were a good people or thanks that we've seen Christ. I really want them all to see Jesus, but not



a person, to see His love, not mine, for us (our family) to be God's light on this earth!

Pray about us, we love you. With Christ's love, Chernichkiny family (Donetsk-Poltava)

-Fedor and Nastya Chernichkiny

PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partners: Poltava

FROM THE DOMIK KITCHEN

by Marina Belokonnaya

Chrysanthemum cookies: in the meat grinder!

When I was studying at school my mom met an old lady in the hospital, she didn't have kids and our family became friends with her. I remember staying for a night with her on the weekends. It was fun. She really liked baking cakes (maybe it's she who motivated me cooking something tasty). I spied her cooking from her book. I remember our first recipe was 'Chrysanthemum' cookies and I will share it with you today.

Ingredients:

1 cup – sugar

200 gr – butter (melted)

2 tbsp. starch

1 tsp baking soda (sprinkle with lemon juice)

2 tbsp – sour cream

3 cups – flour

Vanilla

Make the dough out of the ingredients and put it in the fridge for 1 hour. Here is the most interesting part ☺ Put the dough in the meat grinder and make the flower forms, put cookies on the baking sheet and bake 180 C.

Make tea and call your family to join the table. Enjoy!

-Marina Belokonnaya,

PHA Ukrainian Ministry Partner: Zaporizhia



GROWTH

PHA is blessed to announce growth in the American side of the PHA Family!

Wes Hawthorne began working full time with us this March as our first Development Officer! Wes is assisting with fundraising, social media, camp programs and much more.

He is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. Through a partnership with the Aggies For Christ and PHA, he spent 6 months in Ukraine living and working with our Ukrainian ministry partners.

Born and raised in Memphis, Texas he currently resides in College Station, Texas. During his studies of political science, Wes specialized in studying the politics, government, and history of the countries of the former Soviet Union. In his free time, he enjoys reading, hunting, fishing, playing tennis and is an avid archer.

Please join us in welcoming Wes to the PHA Family and praying over his transition into this new role.



Program for Humanitarian Aid (PHA)

Name: _____

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I WANT TO JOIN THE PHA FAMILY:

____ Prayerfully

____ Financially through a one-time donation

____ I would like to be contacted with more information about PHA

☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$500 Other: _____

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____ I know someone who would like to hear about this ministry

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



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APRIL 2020

- COVID-19 Ministry Impact
- From the Field Ministry Updates & Prayer Requests
- Growth to PHA Staff
- Recipe:
Chrysanthemum
Cookies: in the
Meat Grinder!

