

### **2018 Summer Mission Trip to Ukraine!**

Love serving? Love kids? Love travel? Love Growing God's Kingdom?



7 Day Summer Bible Camp for orphan and at-risk children in the PHA Orphan Transition Program.

Last Year's camp video: https://vimeo.com/226301789

#### **Approximate Cost:**

\$4500: Includes flights and all other costs associated with the trip such as a translator and their trip expenses, food, lodging, in country transportation, camp supplies and provides for 10 campers to attend camp!

## **Summer 2018 Mission Trip Timeline**

Trip Dates Approximately June 4<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>
Verbal Commitment – Before December 15<sup>th</sup> 2017
Initial Deposit to cover flight – Mid February
Purchase Tickets – Approximately February 15th
Total Trip Funds Due – May 20<sup>th</sup>

Application Packets are available online at www.programforhumanitarianaid.org under the Mission Trips Tab or via mail by request.

### Family Time: by Andrey Belokonniy

September 23, 2017 is the day of the village Robotyne. This is our Yegor's motherland. I don't know how many years this village exists, but this is the day when Yegor decided to see his mother again. For the last 6-8 months Yegor was calling his mom, as he was saying, to mock at her. He was telling that he is her classmate or an old village dweller or the bank worker. Then he was telling me and Marina how he was making fun of her. We were always telling him that this is his mother and none of us knows the exact reason why she acted so and maybe there was nobody to help her. Maybe she is in this position because she wasn't loved and supported.

You could tell that Yegor wanted to see his mother. This year he was meeting with one of his sisters that was adopted to the US. He was also meeting with the sisters that live in Ukraine and Russia (they all came to Zaporizhzhya). After these meetings he was coming home sad because, telling the truth, none of the sisters has a happy life. And even the one that came from America was drinking a lot of alcohol and arguing with Yegor and sisters. These meetings made him be more willing to see his mother. Not long ago Yegor started joking saying that for the holiday of his village he would go there and will be laying outside totally drunk. I've told him that this is a great idea and if he wants, I'll give him a ride to the village and give him money. The closer the holiday was the more discussions



Yegor had. Marina asked me if I was serious about going to the village with Yegor. I answered positively, I had an idea. I wanted to take him to the village to see his mother, to see her reaction. To offer him stay or go back with me. So, we did it. Yegor had even taken his older sister Yana with us.

The first relative that met Yegor with tears in her eyes was his aunt Natasha. Later I found out that social services had taken Yegor away when he was 3 years old and after that nobody from the village has seen him. She asked me to leave Yegor with her till 4 pm, as her daughter was coming. I told that Yegor has the right to decide what he wants to do.

Then we went to the house where Yegor's mother lives now. The house and the yard looked horrible (as usually in these situations). Mom went outside. She was smiling, hugging Yegor and calling him 'my son'. She offered to come in and have tea but said that first she needs to go to the store to buy tea. I told that I was in a hurry and had to leave. I left Yegor money more than for 2 bus tickets, asked him to be careful and keep his sister Yana safe. He said he would try to leave the village on the last bus today. I told him he could stay and be back whenever he wants to. When I came back home in the evening Yegor said that he would stay in the village for the night. Marina was anxious and I was happy with his decision. This was Saturday evening. Early Sunday morning Yegor called and said he is on his way to Zaporizhzhya. I was waiting for this result!

He came back home before the church meeting. Had a shower, changed clothes and went to the sermon. After the sermon he asked to go home to sleep instead going to Domik. On Sunday evening Yegor told that last night he was taking his mom from the club to home. She was telling him she wants to buy a good house so kids would come and stay with her but not with their aunt. He also told that he was the first one to go to bed and his aunt and sister were arguing at night and almost had a fight. But he wasn't laying drunk outside!

I could surely tell – this is a win! A win that he feels and sees the difference in life, he sees good and bad and is able to make a good decision. Guys, this is a win! I write this crying. Even though it is a small but it is our win, win over devil, that is stealing families and lives from kids. Yegor is not angry with his mother, even though he was joking he would be drunk he woke up early on Sunday to be in time for the sermon. I told Marina that out of our small wins God is making endless Heavenly Kingdom. Of course we are far from big real win, but I believe Yegor would have a blessed family and that he would probably be able to pull his mother out of the Satan's hands. He needs our family, he needs our God. He is becoming a man, God opens himself to him.

-Andrey Belokonniy

## Story of a Child: by Tanya Ilmeyeva

Many of you know that we've just came back from the USA. It was a good time full of meetings, emotions, travels and support. But it was also a time of being homesick and wanting to be back at Domik with the kids.

While we were traveling we found out that one of our graduates got into trouble (frequent thing for a teenager). But

this wasn't just missing lessons or misbehaving. He took a part in a group trying to protest people that gathered a meeting for the equality. This boy lives in the family house. I don't want to mention his name because I don't want to give estimation to a person, that should be an estimation of his attitude. And of course that may be too embarrassing after his realizing of what he has done.



The fact is that he wasn't just protesting, he was in the first line to fight with the policemen after they came to stop the protest. He had a pepper spray and was covering his face with balaclava (mask). After he was caught by the policemen he spent 5 hours in the police department. They let him go but they're still working on that question. He was in the news. Not the best way to become popular. Probably the best way of punishment was to kick him out of the house, especially because it wasn't his first time to fail. But what is the best way to teach a lesson? What would Jesus do?

The young man is still living in the Family house, is still a part of the family and trying to learn his lesson, trying not to get into bad companies and find good, real friends.

Almost everyday we face something that would make a normal person angry and upset. But as my dad once said: 'you would curse and be furious about what a murder or prostitute does until it's your own child'. Thanks to everybody in the PHA family for taking care of orphan kids.

-Tanya Ilmeyeva

### **Ukraine for Spring Break 2018:**

Through the Spring Break 2018 mission trip PHA will be overseeing a group of American teachers and administrators as they work one on one with Ukrainian teachers. We will be working with them in their classrooms, through strategy sharing, with their students, answering their questions and serving them and their needs.

During this week long trip we plan to serve in a variety of orphanage/ boarding schools. This will be a great opportunity to get an overview of the Ukrainian educational system and share our passion for learning! We have established relationships with the schools and they are asking for YOUR help!

2018 will be the third year of the "Ukraine for Spring Break" trip and we look forward to strengthening existing relationships as well as establishing new ones! Will you come? Will you help us make a difference?

Trip Dates Approximately March 10<sup>th</sup>-17th Questions? Contact: Chris and Christy Hill 254-541-7188

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## From the Domik Kitchen: by Marina Belokonnaya

Golubtsi (cabbage rolls)



Cabbage -1
Minced pork -2 pounds
Beef - 1 pound
Rice - 1 ½ cup
Onion -1
Tomato juice - 4 ¼ cups
Carrot- 1 shredded
Butter
Salt, pepper to taste

Cut out the head of the cabbage. Put it into a boiling salted water, be ready to take off leaves one by one when they're cooked and soft. Sometimes I take off leaves and boil them separately. Take the minced meat, add chopped onion (1). Cook rice until it's half-done, add it to the meat. Add salt, pepper and mix everything. Make a cabbage roll stuffed with meat. Fry them a bit with the butter, put into a pot. Fry the other onion and carrot, add some tomato juice so that it would simmer for a while. Pour it into a pot on the golubtsi so that they'll be covered and simmer till they're done. Enjoy your meal!

-Marina



# Program for Humanitarian Aid is "Being Family"

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