

# The Parachute

Heart  for orphans  
Summer 2008  
Issue #2

"God sets the lonely in families" Psalm 68:6

## Who was Ruth?



Our first group home is named in memory of Ruth Rosche.

Ruth was the late wife of Board Member, Mel Rosche. Mel and Ruth were the original directors of Young Life in Williamsburg back in the 1970's.

Ruth was known as Mrs. Hospitality to the many teens who visited their home and came to know Christ.

"She had a love for young people", said Mel. "She would say 'I love orphans and want them to enjoy this home.'"



Houseparents Katya & Lyosha

## Introducing Ruth's House: A Home of Hope for Teenage Girls



Ruth's House - Berdyansk, Ukraine

After five years of prayer, a dream has become a reality! Girls who graduate from the Berdyansk orphanage will finally have a place to call home.

Thanks to your prayers and generous gifts, Heart For Orphans is buying a home in Ukraine. Ten to twelve teens will live in a safe, wholesome environment with Christian house parents. They will learn basic life skills, while working or attending school. Our hope is that, in a Christian home where a healthy marriage and family life are modeled, our teens will meet Christ. Some for the first time!

Teens in Ukraine face a bleak future after leaving the orphanage. Most are sent to a trade school after ninth grade, at age 15 or 16. Growing up in an institution or in a dysfunctional family means few, if any, are prepared for the life they'll face. Drugs, alcohol, and crime are a daily reality. For these teens, Ruth's House will be a refuge and the beginning of a new way of life.

So thank you, Heart For Orphans supporters! Your love and generosity will make a huge difference in the lives of those who call Ruth's House home.



## Sharing Stories and a Bright Future: Berdyansk Reunion

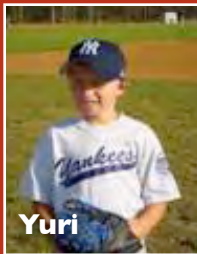


*In June, Heart for Orphans hosted the first Family and Friends reunion for children adopted from the Berdyansk orphanage.*

*Fourteen families with twenty-six children ranging in age from 3 to 19, shared a fun-filled weekend in Williamsburg, including a day at Busch Gardens, picnics, and soccer games. But, more than a reunion, it was a celebration of God's work in creating families!*

### Adoption News

**Evan, Victor** and **Yuri** were raised in different orphanages but became



**Yuri**

brothers when they were adopted a year ago.

**Yuri**, eight, has a natural talent for soccer and baseball and delights in having the proper equipment to do his best.



**Victor**

**Victor**, nicknamed Veecha, is six. He likes to play practical jokes and to make and give gifts.



**Evan**

**Evan**, four, is affectionate and outgoing and has become the center of attention in his preschool class.

In the brief interludes between laughing, telling stories, and dancing to Russian pop music, children talked about the experience of being adopted into a Christian family.

Those new to the United States describe the transition into to a structured, caring environment. Alex, 16, who was adopted four months ago, said "It's like another world in a family. Sometimes I can't understand what needs to be done, like, different chores." Kristina, 15 and adopted six years ago, agreed, "People weren't watching us in the orphanage. In a family there are different rules."

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*I watch other kids come here and get used to a family, and I see them open up with God's help. It's a new idea to hear God's Word say 'you have a purpose.'*

*-Elisabeth, 19*

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Others mention learning about God through new experiences with church, prayer and the Bible. Sophia, 15, said "My birth parents didn't believe in God. We went to church, but didn't talk about it, or understand it much. Now my mom talks with me and I understand a lot more." Irina, age 13, added "we pray every night, and go to church every Sunday."

Living in a Christian family has given a few a new perspective on life. "Ukraine is lonely and gray. I watch other kids come here and get used to a family, and I see them open up with God's help. It's a new idea to hear God's Word say 'you have a purpose,'" said Elisabeth, age 19.

Elliot, age 17, wholeheartedly agrees: "I visited America before I was adopted, and everyone told me 'God has plans for you'. I read my Bible and prayed for a family, and believed God could do it – and He did!" He is excited to share that message with other adopted children. "I have faith they'll know God too. God can do crazy stuff!"



## You Can Make a Difference In Ukraine!

Relying on God's power and guidance, Heart for Orphans is working to provide a brighter future for orphans in Ukraine. We need your prayers and support to make a difference in the lives of these children. Would you help?

### •Pray for Ruth's House, and the girls who will reside there.

Pray that their hearts will be open to hearing the Lord, and inviting Him into their lives!

### •Donate funds for Ruth's House furnishings and renovations.

God graciously provided 100% of the money needed to buy the house in less than 48 hours! But we still have start-up costs of approximately \$20,000.

### •Pray for our team in Berdyansk!

Pray for Katya, Lyosha, Tanya, Oksana, Dima, Ernie and Anna and the others working to minister to teens in Berdyansk.

### •Provide monthly support

Would you, or your church, be willing to give regularly? Our total monthly cost (including utilities, food, salaries, transportation, etc) is \$2,500.

## Yes, I would like to be part of the Heart for Orphans team!

\_\_\_ I will pray for the girls and the staff of Ruth's House, and other projects.

\_\_\_ I'd like to help financially with a one-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I'd like to send monthly support of \$\_\_\_\_\_

- \$50/month provides for one teen in Ruth's House
- \$350/month provides for an Agape Partnership teacher

Name\_\_\_\_\_

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Williamsburg, VA 23188-6295

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## A License for Opportunity

Last December, Heart for Orphans brought children from two orphanages in the Kherson region of Ukraine to Virginia as part of the "Old Russian Shoemaker" Tour.

We asked Natalia Andriets, chaperone and orphanage director, what we could do to help. She described a dream to provide driver training to the older kids in her orphanage.

Thanks to your generous support, Heart For Orphans is making Natalia's dream a reality!

Starting in September, thirty kids will participate in a two-year Driver's Training program that will enable them to get a commercial driver's license!

*"It's very difficult for young people to find jobs in our country. But if they know how to drive a car, there are many opportunities available."*

*-Natalia Andriets  
orphanage director*



*Reconnecting & Making New Friends  
Berdyansk Reunion '08*

## Agape Partnership: Bringing God's Word to Ukrainian Orphanages



Heart for Orphans is thrilled to announce a new partnership with AGAPE – a Ukrainian ministry that has developed a curriculum for teaching the Bible in orphanages.

Agape currently has a full-time teacher in 35 orphanages and 10 Trade Schools. Each teacher is a believer and learns how to lovingly share Christ with orphaned children. Using age-appropriate materials, they teach the Bible and disciple the children in prayer.

Heart For Orphans is committed to expanding the program into at least five more orphanages this year. Our hope is that, with your help, we can eventually get the Agape program into every orphanage and trade school in Ukraine.

***“What impresses me the most is that the teachers emphasize how God’s word applies in the life of the child. Many children are hearing for the very first time that Jesus loves them and cares about their problems! You can see their faces light up as they pray and give their worries to the Lord.”***

***-Heart for Orphans President Nancy Hathaway***



*Heart for Orphans is a not-for-profit organization whose members are passionate about supporting Ukrainian orphans to adulthood and encouraging their faith in Christ.*