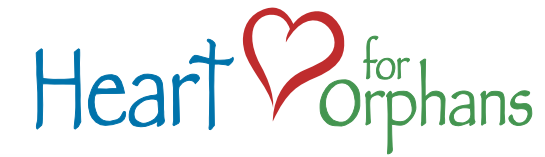


WEATHERING THE STORM

Over the course of the year, COVID has worked its way through each of our Transition Homes and has affected our outreach programs. It continues to affect our travel, our fundraisers, and our training. **But, through it all, one thing remains the same--God is in control!** Our trust and hope remain strong in the Lord. Step by step, He is providing us with the wisdom and discernment we need to navigate changes and create new plans! Our mission of transforming the lives of orphans through the love of God and family has not changed. We are thankful for each of you, our faithful partners, in this work!

We are weathering the storm together—with God at the helm!



Providing loving, nurturing, Christ-centered homes and programs for orphaned children.
SPRING 2021 | ISSUE 20

BEHOLD I MAKE ALL THINGS *New*

Recently the Heart for Orphans team, along with eight hairdressers, drove three hours over ice-caked dirt roads to the Guliopole orphanage. There, 143 excited children eagerly awaited this special day. It was the day they were going to get a complete makeover: hair cut and styled, complete with photos.

Most orphan children receive a basic utilitarian haircut as needed, but rarely if ever do they get the opportunity to pick a stylish new look. But the kids from Guliopole got to shine that day – with photos to remember!

“We prayed about what we could do to encourage these children. They have been isolated due to COVID. Then the Lord just gave me the idea,” Said Antonina, Heart for Orphans’ Transition House mother in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. When Antonina shared her idea with the hairdressers, they got excited and wanted to participate.

The orphanage director and staff were so thrilled to see the joy on the faces of the children. They asked our team if they could please come again. The children chimed in also, “Oh yes, please, please! Will you come again?” When we share our gifts and talents many are blessed!



VIRTUAL FAMILY 5K

REGISTER AT:
run4orphans.givesmart.com

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY VIRTUAL RACE FOR ORPHANS

- Participants will run, walk, bike or scoot any 5K route of your choice from June 5-27.
- All proceeds will go to H4O outreach programs
- Fee is \$25/person or \$60/family



Our Transition Home program provides orphans a loving family environment where they can heal from the trauma of their past

DONATE AT HEARTFORORPHANS.COM

FALL VISION TRIP

NAME: A WILLING HEART DATES: OCT 18–30, 2021

USA ✈️ UKRAINE

COST: \$1,500 + AIRFARE

For more information contact Mandy at:
mandy@heartfororphans.com | 757-220-3457

CHRISTMAS IN JULY?

HELP US PROVIDE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING NEW ITEMS:

- Children’s coats & jackets
- Pkgs of underwear
- Teen’s coats & jackets
- Pkgs of socks (black)
- Tee shirts & sweaters,
- Tylenol, Children’s Tylenol
- Men’s jeans (small & medium)
- Nyquil / Dayquil
- Woman’s jeans (petites, small & medium)

Mail or drop off items to:
 3917 Midlands Road, Bldg. 1,
 Williamsburg, VA 23188

For more information contact Mandy at:
mandy@heartfororphans.com | 757-220-3457

A NEW BEGINNING!

Sixteen of our kids have given their lives to Christ since May of 2020! These orphaned children made the decision to become water baptized and that decision is not taken lightly. It is something to be CELEBRATED!

Before baptism, kids participate in a Bible study course on the meaning of baptism. They study for months! Through their study, they learn what it means to be water baptized and that it is a way to visually preach the gospel. Standing in the water symbolizes Jesus dying on the cross; immersing in the water symbolizes Jesus being buried in the tomb; and

being raised from the water symbolizes Jesus rising from the dead.

Our kids may never experience an earthly adoption, but they may all experience a spiritual one. By choosing to be baptized, they are answering God's call! They are choosing to give up their old habits and die to self. It is a new beginning!

Will you celebrate these beginnings with us?



MEET OUR BOARD CHAIR



Steve deMik wears two hats for Heart for Orphans. He has served as Treasurer since 2013, but he also serves Chairman of the Board. Steve de Mik is a CPA and has spent 27 years in financial administration, both in the public and private sector. He is currently Director of Operations for Hampton Roads Sanitation District. Previously he was Chief Financial Officer. Steve holds an MBA from the College of Williams and Mary and a BS in accounting and Business administration from Southwest Baptist University.

Steve is also passionate about orphan ministry. After a mission trip to an orphanage in Ukraine, he couldn't forget the kids there. He often remembers a tiny boy who was hearing and visually impaired, and spent all day lying in his crib. It broke his heart and forever changed him! Steve went on to lead several short-term mission trips to Ukraine with his church. He and his wife Angie have two adult children and reside in Chesapeake.

THE RESCUE

My name is Natasha and I am 19 years old. I was born into a large family in a little village in Ukraine. We had eight children in our family, but sadly I didn't grow up with my sisters and brothers. In fact, our family fell apart because my parents were alcoholics.

Two of my brothers died before they reached one year. Two of my sisters were adopted and I never saw them again. When I was little, my older sisters were removed from the family and sent to the orphanage. Finally, when I was seven years old it happened to me. I was also sent to the orphanage. I was so scared! I cried and was afraid that everyone would forget about me. Fortunately, I was only there for five years.

I found out that my older sister, Yulia, had lived there also, but a Christian family took her home and raised her. Now she was grown and married. We began to call each other and she came to visit me.

Once I called her to get our mother's phone number. Autumn break was coming up and I wanted to go home and see my mother. I missed her so much! Yulia did not have the heart to tell me that my mother was still drinking heavily. So instead she invited me to come to her house. I was so excited that I cried! I couldn't wait!

The week with Yulia and her husband Kolya was unforgettable, and it flew by. I was so sad when it was time to leave. I didn't want to go back. On the drive back to the orphanage I got a huge surprise – Yulia and Kolya asked if I wanted to stay with them forever! I immediately shouted YES! I cried and hugged them, and I said to Kolya, "Thank you! I promise to always obey you!"



Kolya and Yulia are house parents of Hope House. Initially, Hope House was an orphan transition home only for aged-out teens. When Natasha came to live with them in 2012 they began to take younger children also. Hope House is now a Foster Support Home, with children of all ages. Heart for Orphans currently supports two Foster Support Homes.

When I came to live with them I did not know anything at all about Christ. I thought it was strange to dress up, go to church, sing songs and read the Bible. I just didn't understand. Over time I began to look forward to it. I loved Sunday school and enjoyed the Christian summer camps.

One summer there was a missionary speaking at camp. He asked, "Are you interested in what the Lord is preparing you for?" I felt like he was speaking directly to me. I had no peace, and I knew I needed to be reconciled with Christ. I repented and asked the Lord into my heart. Over the next year I studied the scriptures in preparation for baptism. On July 5, 2020 I was baptized in water. I am now a new creation in Christ! I am so excited to see God's plan for my future. I want to serve him in everything I do!

-Natasha

WELCOME, MANDY!



Please join us in welcoming Mandy Craft to the Heart for Orphans team! Mandy is a great fit as Administrator, bringing over 20 years of experience in office administration and bookkeeping. She has a passion for detail and a love for supporting the ministry staff both locally and overseas. She is excited to be a part of God's work in helping orphans around the world!

Mandy lives in Williamsburg, VA and enjoys spending time with her husband

Ross and two children John and Sarah. In her spare time, you can find her working alongside her husband, handling the books for their business, Williamsburg Carpet & Upholstery Care.

We are blessed that God brought us a new Administrator. It has allowed Barbara Stewart to transition into her new role as Director of Training!

Welcome, Mandy!