

# The Parachute

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

Heart  for Orphans

—  Refuge for teens through God's love —

Heart for Orphans (H4O) ministers to the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of teen orphans in Ukraine by providing a refuge and permanent hope in small, Christ-centered, family-style homes.

Fall 2012 • Issue 8

## God Changes Lives! — Meet Artem

Artem had a reoccurring dream. He dreamt that he was sitting in the lap of his father and his father embraced him and told him he loved him. But he knew it was only a dream because his father had died many years before.

Artem had become an angry young man. His parents drank and didn't take care of him. He began to smoke at five, and by ten he was drinking, sniffing glue and using drugs. He would steal to get money for his habit. When he was thirteen he was placed in an orphanage, which only made him angrier. His problems got worse. In tenth grade he was hospitalized for alcohol poisoning and nearly died.

But God saved him! Around that time our partner ministry was

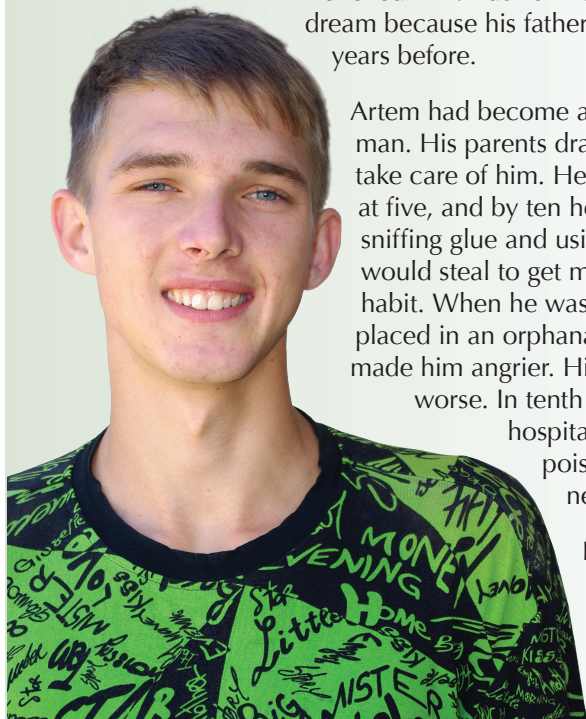
beginning Bible classes in that orphanage. Artem said, ***"I saw unusual love pour out of the hearts of the Bible teachers. There was no pretense or hypocrisy. They loved me for who I was. I would watch them and couldn't believe it. What guides these people? Extraordinary love would radiate from their eyes, their hearts. It was in their words and deeds."***

Eventually thirty people from the orphanage (orphans, teachers and staff) including Artem, made a decision for Christ!

Soon the new believers encountered persecution. They were not allowed to pray or talk to each other. Their bibles were taken away. They began to meet secretly in the woods to pray. Many of them couldn't endure the pressure, so they fell away. But Artem and a few others persevered. When he graduated he and the others were among the first boys to move into Mel's House, our first Christian home for boys in Berdyansk. There he grew close to the Lord and, for the first time, he experienced how a family lived. He soon realized that God had given him the desire of his heart: to live in a loving family.

Now Artem has graduated from Construction Trade School. He supervises the renovations at David's House and Ruth's House, and instructs the younger boys in tile work and carpentry. He is continuing his education and hopes one day to be an architect.

Recently, God revealed to Artem that his reoccurring dream was true – only it was God himself who was embracing him! He really did love him! Artem says this, ***"Dear friend, don't rely on your own strength! Seek God! He pulled me out of a ditch and gave me life! You will not regret it!"***



## Meet Vova and Tonia, House Parents Mel & Ruth's Houses It's not a job, it's a calling

Vova and Tonia are examples of the amazing House Parents we have! They believe that God has called them to this ministry and are passionate about the kids in their care. Parents of three small

children, they admit that they have the same love for each of the orphan teens in their home as their own children.

Vova grew up in a large family. When they fell on hard times, he and his siblings were placed



in an orphanage for a few years. He says the feeling of loneliness and abandonment and the memory of those days never left him. Tonia never lived in an orphanage, but lived a life of deprivation. Her father died and as a small child she had to care for her sick mother. She remembers going days without food, and feeling responsible for her mother's life. She cried out to God to keep them alive. He answered a young girl's prayer. Tonia now has a passion for sharing Christ's goodness with lonely young people.

Recently a group of orphanage directors and administrators came to visit Mel and Ruth's Houses. The kids prepared a beautiful meal for the guests and one-by-one, shared stories of how their lives had changed for the better. The adults, who knew many of the kids, could see this for themselves!

They were very impressed, and credit Tonia and Vova and their love for the kids. Now they recommend our homes to orphanage graduates, and many new kids are planning to come!





## Donor Spotlight — Becki Wenger

*Becki Wenger is a hospital emergency room nurse from Williamsburg, VA. She and her husband Mark have two grown daughters. They attend Williamsburg Community Chapel.*

### How did you hear about Heart for Orphans?

I first heard about Heart for Orphans when the “Old Russian Shoemaker” production came to town several years ago. One of my friends kept two of the orphans in her home, and I was deeply touched by their plight. She told of how they cried bitterly and clung to her when it was time to leave. I felt that I could help in some small way, and was privileged to sponsor one young orphaned mother, who had aged out of an orphanage. She needed help for herself and her young baby. Through this young mother, I got to know the organization in a personal way.

### Why do you give to Heart for Orphans?

Simply, it is in God’s plan for those who have been given much, to share with others. Giving to these children is a way to give back to God a portion of what He has given us. It is one way to keep connected with the needs of the world beyond our borders.

### What was the most inspiring and/or unexpected thing you discovered about Heart for Orphans?

It is possible to see such positive results from the money spent. You quickly become aware that your money is going directly to the field, and not to layers of bureaucracy. You know that lives are changed, and that these precious children are being nurtured in Christian homes, and are learning to know of the love of Christ.



*Becki and Vision Team visited Elisha’s House and met teen resident Stas.*

### How has the Summer Vision Trip impacted you?

Visiting Ukraine made the organization come alive for me. I saw the six homes up close, and got to meet all the children. The sense of family, and of love, was evident.

We heard some of the children’s testimonies,

of how their lives had been changed. It made me realize how important continued support and prayers are.

### What surprised you most about the homes, and the teen orphans who lived there?

The love and dedication of the house parents was obvious. Even in Esther’s House, where the mother was away in

Moscow during our visit, her guidance was present in the way we were welcomed into the home, and given a beautiful meal. The girls beamed with pride as they served us food they had learned to prepare. In general, the teens were all hopeful about the future. A common theme was “to thank the Americans for these beautiful places to stay”.

### Do you believe that your money is being spent wisely?

I feel strongly that our money is going to a great need — providing homes to these otherwise destitute young people. God’s love is being shared with them in a tangible way. This is a mission that will grow, as these young people mature, and begin families of their own. I can only believe that each child who has lived in one of these homes will strive to reach out to others who are less fortunate.

### What advice would you give others considering giving to Heart for Orphans?

God’s hand is at work in this organization. Sharing with these children and their parents is a way to stay connected with the important things in life. It is humbling to know that God can use our small gifts to His honor.

## project WARMTH

Winter Clothing Drive for Ukraine  
Teens in H4O Group Homes 

**Help provide warm clothes to orphans in need!  
For those of you in the Tidewater/Williamsburg area:**

Clothes need to be:

- new or excellent condition (no tears or stains)
- for 15-21 year olds
- sizes small or medium

### Our teens need:

- Jeans
- Winter boots
- Coats & jackets
- Sweaters
- Tennis shoes
- Gloves
- Packs of underwear
- Packs of new socks (boys prefer black)
- Packs of Pantyhose
- Long underwear
- Hats

Please bring the clothes to Heart for Orphans office no later than **Friday, Dec. 21, at 4:00 p.m.**

**Questions?** Contact Lindsay by email or phone: [lindsay@heartfororphans.com](mailto:lindsay@heartfororphans.com) or (757) 220-3457.

**Thank you for your generosity!**





## Did I hear mission trip?... Ukraine??!

That's right, a mission trip with Heart for Orphans to Ukraine!  
What an incredible opportunity and fulfilling experience!

Our team had the opportunity to help paint Mel's house, braid hair for the ladies at "Esther's House", visit all homes and orphanages. I truly experienced firsthand the bond that is formed in each home because of the love and support that is given by the house parents. Many enter with lack of belief and knowledge of the Lord but find salvation through daily devotions and bible study.

It fills my heart to see kids with so little and have such a GREAT appreciation for what they have. Their true peace comes from hope and love of Jesus Christ. It was my desire to put a smile on a sad face and return to US soil knowing I made a difference in the lives of those I met! I am thankful to have had this opportunity to serve. It is my goal to return to Ukraine, spend time with my friends and help make a difference to someone new.

If you have never had the opportunity to go, I ask, **"what you are waiting for?" Just make it happen!**

God Bless,  
Kimberly



*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*

Romans 8:28



Vision Team members from left to right: Nancy Hathaway, Kimberly Harrelson, graduates from Esther's House Ira and Oksana, Becki Wenger and Jay Schell.

{ Kimberly Harrelson recently came to Ukraine for the first time. She works in the hospitality industry and lives in Williamsburg, VA. }

Join us on a trip that may change your life!

## 2013 Heart For Orphan's Vision Trips

EASTER BREAK:  
March 28 - April 6

FALL:  
September 12 - 21

For more information  
contact [lindsay@heartfororphans.com](mailto:lindsay@heartfororphans.com)



## Thank you, Eastern Baptist Association!

A big thanks to the Eastern Baptist Association from Southeastern North Carolina who put together 88 shoeboxes filled with goodies for every child living in H4O homes. Folks from this network of 45 churches stuffed the boxes with school supplies, toiletries and candy for Christmas. Church members, as well as children from Harrell's Christian Academy, took time to write notes and send pictures to kids who might otherwise not have had a Christmas.

**Thanks and God bless each of you!!**







# NEWS OF OUR KIDS & HOUSE PARENTS ...



**Illya and Anya P.** (Mel & Ruth's House) – Had their first child, Elvira, a girl born 8/3/12. Now house parents at David's House.

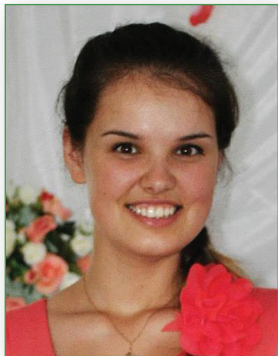


**Andrei and Alyona B.** (Former house parents, Mel & Ruth's House) – Had their first child, Manuel, a boy born 4/10/12. Working in orphan ministry in Zaporizhzhia.

**Oksana M.** (Esther's House) – Missionary in India. Engaged to be married to an Indian Evangelist. Wedding: 11/15/12 in Israel.



**Vadim G.** (Elisha's House) & **Vika** (Ruth's House) – Engaged. Wedding date to be determined. Vadim works in the Carpentry Workshop.



**Natasha K.** (Esther's House) – Engaged to be married to Sergey, a plumber from Kramatorsk. Wedding: 11/17/12. Will attend University as a part-time student.



**Vladimir M.** (Elisha's House) & **Katya K.** (Ruth's House) – Engaged. Wedding date to be determined.

**Ira G.** (Esther's House) – missionary in Central Asia.



**Timothy S.** (Mel's House) – Graduated from Bible College. Now missionary in Central Asia.

**Viktor M.** (Mel's House) – Graduated from Bible College. Now missionary in Central Asia.



## WILL YOU HELP US?

Will you partner with us to provide a home to teen orphans, and give them the family they desperately want?

**Did you know.... \$240/month per teen covers all costs for one orphan in our homes, every month?**

What's included in that number:

- Provides them their daily food
- Provides for the utilities, electricity, water, taxes
- Provides basic medical and toiletries
- Provides basic clothing and accessories
- Provides transportation, vehicles, gas as budget allows
- Provides for their household expenses
- Provides them with school and work supplies
- Provides for the salaries of the house parents
- Provides for the general administrative costs

**Any and all gifts are deeply appreciated & will be used to the fullest potential!**

Interested in sponsoring the purchase of a new home?

**Contact Nancy Hathaway - 757.220.3457**