

## The War Through Anya's Eyes

Anya is a pretty girl with a twinkle in her eye, but these days her eyes are filled with panic and fear. Anya lived in Grace House in Makiyivka, but as of late she has been living in a trade school dorm in war-torn Donetsk. The windows have been blown out and it is cold. The clothes she has are not enough to keep her warm, and at night she hides underground in a shelter listening to explosions overhead, frightened for her life.

Anya's one meal a day consists of watery soup or hot cereal because the orphanages and trade schools have not been given the funds needed to operate. Orphans, like Anya have not received their stipend for months. To make matters worse, her teacher was killed and in the end, the school closed.

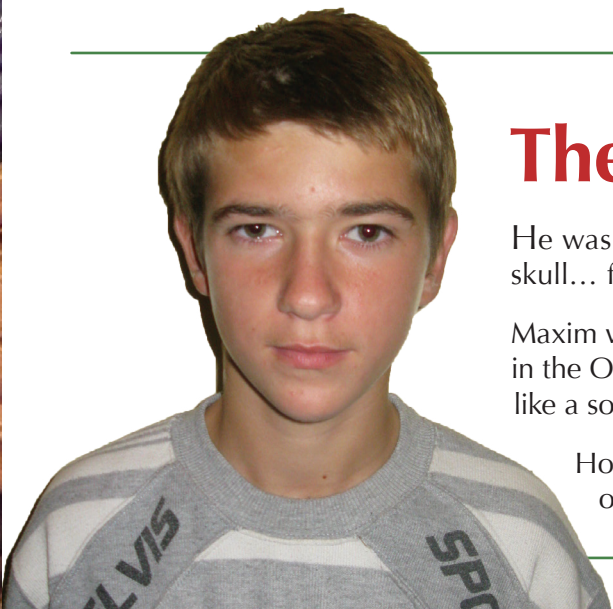
Anya and her Grace House family were evacuated last spring due to the fighting. They spent the summer in Kiev and Odessa. But when school resumed in September, the group had to move back east to Slovansk where most of the kids were enrolled. But Anya's trade school would not allow her to relocate to Slovansk. She learned that war or no war; she was expected to be in class at her trade school in Donetsk! So she left the group and went back to the trade school dorm. *"The situation is horrible! I am very scared for my life!"* she said. Then classes were cancelled and the kids were told to leave. *"Where am I going to go?"*



she said. *"I have no money and no place to go. I'm hungry and I don't have warm clothes. Doesn't anyone care about me?"* She prayed that God would protect her and keep her alive for another day.

Heart for Orphans called to check on her, and she began to cry and share her desperation. Through our church contacts in Ukraine, we were able to get her safely past the checkpoints and out of the city. What a miracle! She was given a hot meal, warm clothes, and a bus ticket to Mercy House in Odessa where she will be loved.

Through your generosity, Heart for Orphans is able to provide for kids like Anya. Please pray for her protection. There are many other orphans in harms way. Please continue to help us, so we can help them! And pray for peace in Ukraine!



## The Love of Family: Maxim's Story

He wasn't supposed to survive. He was brutally beaten by his own father. His skull... fractured in two places, but somehow he defied the odds.

Maxim who is now 15 years old has finally found peace and love at Mercy House in the Odessa region of Ukraine. Housemother Lina has taken him under her wing, like a son.

However, the road to get here wasn't easy for Maxim. He was only 3 years old when his father took his anger out on him.

# Donor Spotlight

## Keith Paquette

Keith Paquette, is an avid racecar enthusiast and a loyal Heart for Orphans supporter. So much so he is using his love of racing as a platform to bring about awareness and raise funds for the ministry. In an interview with Heart for Orphans, Keith reflected on his past and the sport he loves.

His interest in racing was piqued 27 years ago when he started working on a race team. One year later he was building his own car, and later raced in the Super Street Division at the Saluda Raceway. He fondly recalled racing the half-mile track saying, *“these were 15-second laps at speeds of 110 miles per hour on the straightaway, and 40 miles per hour in the corners.”*

Keith spent the next few years racing at the Langley Speedway in the limited stock division and Enduro races. But racing is an expensive, time-consuming hobby, so Keith eventually gave it up. *“It was hard giving up a hobby I enjoyed. I couldn’t even go to the track or watch it on TV”*, he said.

But he never lost his enthusiasm for the world of racing. He stayed connected through friends such as Tracy Hildebrand whose son Chris is the driver of a well-maintained Legend’s car. Keith now follows Chris’s career.

About three years ago, Keith’s wife Linda introduced him to Heart for Orphans. After thoroughly researching the organization, Keith decided that Heart for Orphans was worth supporting.

Keith said what touched him the most was the story about Steve and Nancy Hathaway’s adoption. He said the statement Steve made *“if it is God’s will for us to adopt, He will make it clear, and provide the money”* was truly a leap of faith. Keith was impressed that Steve and Nancy not only adopted one, but three



beautiful older orphan girls... something not normally done. Keith thought this was truly a God thing.

Keith and Linda became monthly donors, but they wanted to do more. He wanted to get the word out. He also wanted to help his friend Tracy. But how was he going to do both?

From his racing days he knew race fans are dedicated to their teams and support the sponsors who support the team. So he decided it would be a “win-win” situation to help not only Tracy, but Heart for Orphans by becoming a racecar sponsor.

Keith spent \$600 to place a Heart for Orphans logo on the car Chris drives. Every time Chris drives his car at Langley Speedway and wins (he has won six races this year!), between 3,000 - 7,000 people will hear about Heart for Orphans. Traditionally, sponsors of the winning car are announced over the loud speakers.

Another car is now carrying the Heart for Orphans logo! It is a Grand stock car owned by Dylan Hinson and driven by his son Brandon. They have won the last four races of the season.

Keith’s theory... all it takes is one person to get other people talking. Keith’s goal is to get a minimum of 10 people to donate \$50 a month. *“This is just my approach to helping Heart for Orphans raise more money.”*

**Way to go, Keith!**

If you are interested in learning how you can help make a difference in the lives of God’s children through Heart for Orphans, please contact our office at 757-220-3457 or visit our website [www.heartfororphans.com](http://www.heartfororphans.com).



**The Love of Family:** Maxim's Story — Continued from Front

He threw him to the floor in a fit of rage causing severe fractures to his skull. The toddler was immediately taken to the hospital where he underwent brain surgery. Doctors fought for his life, not sure if he was going to survive. But God had other plans for this child!

Maxim spent several lonely months in the hospital, for he had no family. His mother had died and his father was incarcerated. When Maxim was well enough to leave the hospital he was placed in an orphanage where he remained for the next 8 years of his life. During that time his father committed suicide. Maxim now had no living relative. He was a true orphan.

Living in the orphanage was brutal for this sickly child. The older children threatened his life ... physically and mentally. *"There were death threats against this boy because of his medical condition."*, said the director of the orphanage, *"One strong blow to Maxim's head could end his life."* Orphanages can be violent places where children fight for their food and fight for their place in this world.

Heart for Orphans recently partnered with Lina and Mercy House. Lina is a doctor, and she has a passion for education. She stresses a relationship with Christ, and the importance of education with orphans in Mercy House, and the local orphanages where she ministers.



A few years ago when Lina was at the orphanage preparing documents for graduating orphans, Maxim approached her and gently said he was praying to God for a family to rescue him from this place. His eyes... windows to the soul... revealed his deep pain. The orphanage director told Lina that no one wanted to adopt him because he was an older orphan with a medical condition. As the director was telling her this, Maxim asked Lina if she would take him. Tears quickly filled her eyes, as she knew then that she was his only hope.

Maxim now lives at Mercy House and is taken to the doctor every six months for treatment. As his skull grows, he will have to undergo surgery to replace the metal plates. He is a happy young man who has asked the Lord into his heart. Not only has he become an active member of his church, but a great son for Lina.

## THEY TRAINED, THEY RAN, THEY CROSSED THE FINISH LINE!

Steve Hathaway, Don Ferguson and Lee Hilt (Team H4O) trained for months to participate in this year's Marine Corps Marathon. The trio, whose friendship goes back to their Marine Corps days, has been running together for the past eight years. Their purpose in wanting to run in this year's Marathon was to raise money for Heart for Orphans. And that they did! Team H4O successfully completed the race and raised more than \$1,400. All of us at Heart for Orphans — staff and teens — sincerely thank the men for their tremendous effort and everyone who donated.



Steve completed the 26.2-mile race in 4 hours 52 minutes, which is an 11-minute mile. Don came in 20 minutes before Steve and Lee trailed the two. Steve is a Heart for Orphans Board Member and husband to Heart for Orphans founder Nancy Hathaway.

**Thank you Team H4O!**

# Meet Roma...



Roma Frye joined the Heart for Orphans team in October of 2013 as the Event & Fundraising Coordinator. She has over 15 years of experience in event planning and writing. She has a degree in Journalism, and a background in television, radio and newspaper reporting. Roma has also served as Community Ambassador in Abilene, Texas; Publications

Editor for Sister Cities International; and Director of Community Relations for a large hospital.

Roma was first introduced to Heart for Orphans in 2006 when Nancy Hathaway spoke at an event that Roma produced. She was so impressed with Nancy's passion for orphans, but there was something else that touched her heart. Roma is Ukrainian-American and speaks Ukrainian fluently. Her mother, aunt and grandmother fled Ukraine during WWII. Roma's father was taken from Ukraine as a prisoner of war. After the war, they met and married in a refugee camp in Austria. Her family relocated to Brazil, and then Canada before finally settling in Texas where Roma grew up. Although the family left Ukraine, Ukraine has never left their hearts.

Roma and her husband, Mike have two grown daughters, Talia and Larissa, and attend St. Olaf's Catholic Church. Roma is delighted to combine her passion for Ukraine and orphans, with her writing and organizational skills.



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# Project Warmth 2014

**Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to all who donated toward Project Warmth. We could not have done this without you!**



We were truly blessed with the variety of clothing items that were both carried in or shipped to us. Each of you answered our prayers. Now, we can only imagine the excitement on the other end when the orphan teens receive the packages. As the giving season comes into full bloom, please know that your gift of clothing will truly make a difference in the life of an orphan teen.

Whether you shopped or culled through your closets, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We have the best of friends!

LIKE H4O on Facebook!

