

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.

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## AROUND THE FAMILY TABLE

by Diane Lynn Elliot

Stepping into the courtyard at Ruth's House, a Heart for Orphans Transition home in Ukraine, I knew this place was special. We were greeted warmly by the house mom, Tonia, holding her small baby. Even though we didn't speak the same language, she immediately made us feel at home. Then, one by one, more than 20 children and teens came to greet us. It was slightly overwhelming in a wonderful family-reunion kind of way.

A few hours later, after touring Mel's House and the farm, we entered that same courtyard which had been amazingly transformed with long tables

carefully set for dinner. Two of the teens were ladling soup into bowls, as others brought drinks, enticing salads, chicken, and other dishes. Before long everyone was called to the table and the house father, Vova, standing at the head of the table prayed over the bountiful meal.

During dinner, I looked around the enormous table, and watched as everyone ate, talked, and laughed. I realized then this was the heartbeat of Mel's and Ruth's Houses. While we all came from different places, with different struggles and dreams, at that table we were all welcomed as family.



Most of the teens come to Mel's and Ruth's Houses after aging-out of government run orphanages. With brokenness and tragedy in their pasts, teens find themselves with few, if any options. Thankfully the Heart for Orphans Transition Homes, parented by amazing house parents, fill the gap for the teens who come to live there. It is here that they not only find shelter, sustenance, and educational opportunities, they also find something they have been missing, a family.

After months or even years of being mentored, accepted, and loved, these young adults are better prepared to take on the world. It is with a parental sense of pride that Tonia and Vova watch as these young adults, whom they have come to love, move forward with their lives. They have given them what they so desperately need, a home, a family, and now a future. 🇺🇸

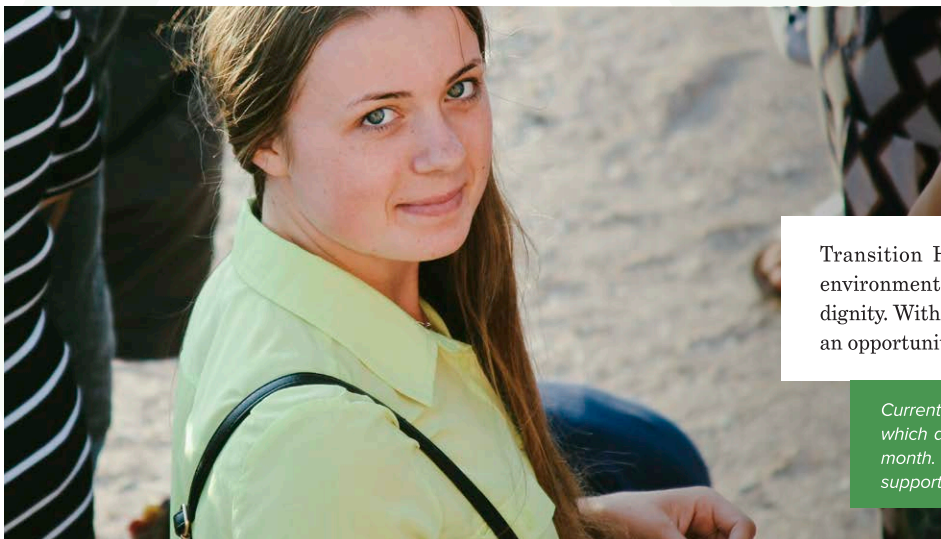
*Diane Lynn Elliot is the author of "The Global Orphan Crisis – Be the Solution, Change Your World," a photographer and a board member with Heart for Orphans.*

# SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS

Sponsorship is the very center of who we are at Heart for Orphans. Donors who partner with us as sponsors bring needed resources to provide homes to orphaned teens, love to children in orphanages, and support to the infrastructure of our critical mission.

Currently we have a significant need for monthly sponsors willing to help us grow our program and outreach. The orphan crisis is enormous but with your help, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Will you consider becoming a monthly sponsor?

HERE ARE THREE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS



## TRANSITION HOME SPONSORS

**\$50 or \$100/month**

Transition Homes provide 16 – 22 year olds a healthy family environment where they can learn to live with love, respect, and dignity. With supportive and mature house parents, teens are given an opportunity to grow, learn skills, and prepare for the future.

*Currently we are looking for sponsors for Mel's and Ruth's Houses, which are home to 15 - 20 teens and cost \$2,000 per house per month. We invite you to work with your small group or church to support a portion, or an entire house.*

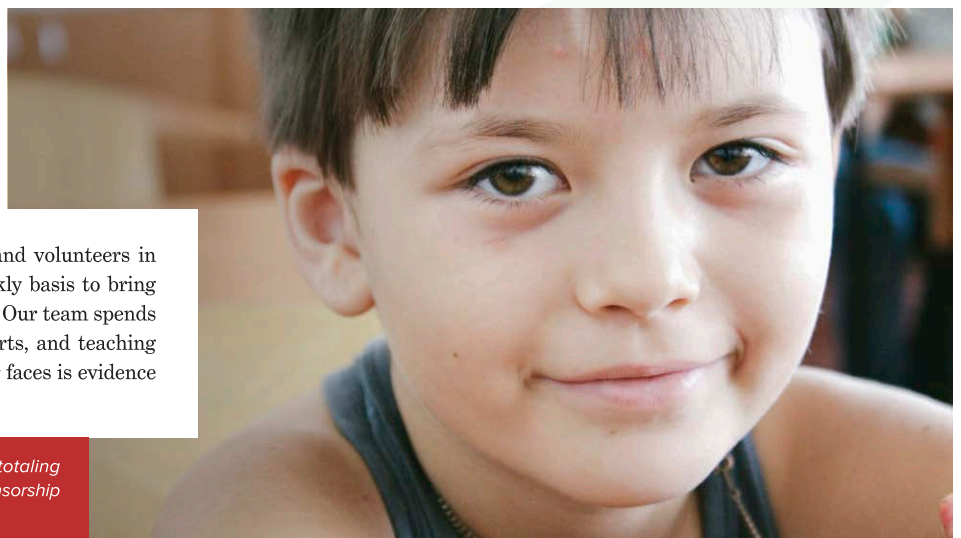
## ORPHAN OUTREACH

### SPONSORS

**\$50 or \$100/month**

The Orphan Outreach Program is a group of staff and volunteers in Ukraine who visit government orphanages on a weekly basis to bring help, healing, and hope to the children who live there. Our team spends time with children (ages 5 - 16) singing, playing sports, and teaching them about a God who loves them. The smile on their faces is evidence we are touching hearts, one hug at a time.

*Currently we are looking for sponsors to cover costs totaling \$1,000 a month for our Orphan Outreach Program. As sponsorship increases we will continue to grow our program!*





## ADVOCATE SPONSORS

**\$25, \$50, \$75 or \$100/month**

Advocate Sponsors support Heart for Orphans “Where Needed Most.” In addition to our operations and ongoing expenses in the U.S., we also support several Heart for Orphans missionaries in other countries. These young adults are Transition Home graduates who have gone on to become missionaries and carry out our vision around the world. What we do at Heart for Orphans is changing hearts, and Advocate Sponsors play an important role in helping us grow our mission!

For more information please contact Lindsay at [lindsay@heartfororphans.com](mailto:lindsay@heartfororphans.com) or **757 220 3457**



COMING

## FULL CIRCLE

by Roma Frye

Leonid has seen a lot in his 20 years...from losing his mother at the age of three, to the loneliness of being an orphaned child, to witnessing the ravages of war. But what would stop many of us in our tracks, hasn't stopped this young man...today Leonid is reaching out and helping Ukrainian refugees as they pour into his city.

“It is hard for me to watch these displaced people as they remind me of my life just a few years ago when I was alone and frightened,” said Leonid. He has been busy this past year helping refugees by distributing food, water, and clothing. The call to help came through the church, and Leonid was one of the first to volunteer. He works long hours unloading trucks, which arrive from Western Ukraine, Romania, and Italy.

Leonid came to Mel's House, a Heart for Orphans Transition Home, several years ago after meeting a group of Christians who shared God with him. “These people were different,” said Leonid, “but in a good way. They love God and were not afraid to talk about Him.” After this, it didn't take long for Leonid to make a decision to live with our family, said house father Vova, “It was a perfect fit.” Leonid started going to church and singing in the choir. He even goes to the orphanage from which he came, in order to spend time with the kids. He wants these kids to feel loved and not forgotten.

According to house father Vova, Leonid has come a long way. The feelings of acceptance and family have made Leonid a happy young man who is always making people laugh and feel good about

themselves. “He is never in a bad mood, he is unique that way,” Vova went on to say, “I am happy that Leonid is giving back in such a big way. Helping refugees shows his heart is in the right place.”

Leonid's story is, sadly, all too common, but he has found hope and a purpose in life. He could have become an angry and bitter young man, but instead his heart is full of love and compassion. His early struggles and determination to overcome have given him the desire to help those who are alone and frightened. Leonid's life has come full circle. He is truly becoming the man God wants him to be. 🏡

*Roma Frye, a Ukrainian-American, is a member of the Heart for Orphans staff.*

the  
**GIVE UP A CUP**  
 CHALLENGE

WILL YOU GIVE UP A CUP OF THIS:

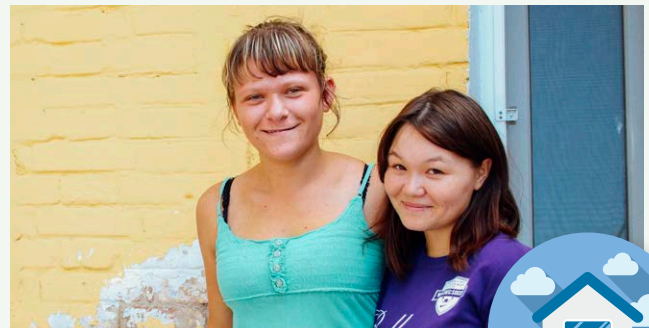


TO GIVE TEENS A HOME?

at  
**\$2.50**  
 per cup

**4 CUPS**  
  
 provide the  
 living costs for

**1 TEEN**  
 for  
**2 DAYS**



in a Heart for Orphans transition home



If we can give up

  
**10,000 CUPS**  
 (THAT'S \$25,000!)

we can support

**1 HOME**  
 for  
**1 YEAR**

That's 13 teens, who can  
 be given a home, a  
 family, and a future!

**WILL YOU  
 GIVE UP A CUP?**

Visit [WWW.GIVEUPACUP.ORG](http://WWW.GIVEUPACUP.ORG)

and donate today to give orphaned kids hope for tomorrow!

*minimum donation \$10, all donations tax-deductible*



**MEET  
 VALERIE**

Please join us in welcoming Valerie Britton to the Heart for Orphans family. Valerie came on board in December 2015 as the Ukraine Field Coordinator working closely with house parents, orphan outreach coordinators, and staff in Ukraine and beyond. "I love working with

this amazing team," said Valerie. "They truly are devoted and vested in helping orphan kids."

The newest member of the team hails from Moscow where she worked as an interpreter for missionaries in Russia. She moved to the United States in 2001 to pursue a Masters in Practical Theology from Regent University, which she earned in 2004. Valerie and her husband, Brian, are the pastors of the Dwelling Place Church. They have one daughter, Anastasia, and live in Williamsburg.