



General report 2019

Serhiy and Natasha Bolchuk, Agape rehabilitation center, Lutsk, Volyn region, Ukraine (106)

Greetings!

We are very grateful to you for your material support and prayers which are very important for us. Thanks to your support we keep working with children and adults with special needs. May God bless you and your families!



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2019 year was filled with many different events. We are thankful to God for the possibility to hold retreats for kids and adults who have medical condition. When the children and their parents go there they understand that they are not alone with their problems, but there is God, who loves them and takes care of them through the church. In spring, we held a family retreat for married couples where either a husband or a wife has a medical condition. Those families need support very much as they are often tired both physically and spiritually. We prepared a great retreat program and thanks to it the couples had a great rest and interesting discussions. They were inspired by the God's Word and had enough time for conversations that they often lack.



During the retreat each family had a volunteer, who was taking care of them. A great surprise was a romantic dinner where the couples had a special time with each other. A lot of people were pleasantly impressed by our volunteers' kindness and willingness to help. The couples were sincerely grateful for the support they got. This retreat was a big blessing both for the families and volunteers.



Summer time was full of different retreats, but in spring, we started our "Creativity" and "Joy" clubs. Different children and teenagers with a medical condition are parts of those clubs. We usually start our club program with different games and joyful songs. Then we have a Bible class where the children learn more about God and ask different questions. We also hold art and cooking classes where our volunteers help the children and teenagers to make different hand-made things and cook while the parents have a possibility to discuss different questions they are interested in. Every meeting is special and filled with pleasant surprises.



This is a short testimony of a mother of a boy with medical condition: "My name is Halyna and I am 42. I used to live in Molodogvardiysk, Lugansk region. I am married for the second time and have two children: Nastya (my daughter from the first marriage) who is 21 and Maksym (my son from the second marriage), who is 8. Maxym was born prematurely. After his birth the doctors diagnosed him with many health issues. They told me my son would never walk and speak. At present he has some issues and is diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy, but despite of all diagnoses, he walks and speaks. When the war in the East of our country began, we moved to live in Lutsk. This is where Maksym started to attend "Creativity" club. During the club meetings, I talk a lot with other parents about various difficulties, and study the Word of God. Through the team of that club, God shows His love that every mom of a special child needs. I am grateful to God for my son and the "Creativity" club, which helps teenagers and children with disabilities."



God keeps blessing our work in "Agape" rehabilitation center. For a long time, we dreamed of a recreation area on the territory of "Agape", as some of patients do not have a possibility to be outside, and even more to go for a walk in park. Thanks to God, we managed to make paths, sow grass and plant the first trees. And this is only the beginning, because the plans are to grow a small park with beautiful plantations of trees, bushes and flowers. Since the time when "Agape" started to work we were able to help approximately 700 people from all over Ukraine. It is wonderful to see how their lives changed. We saw the sparkle which appeared in their eyes, a smile on their faces and hope in their hearts. Others went through rehabilitation, learned how to live independently, regained lost skills and returned home on their own legs. At present we have a big need to expand the "Agape" Rehabilitation complex as for now our center has enough room only for 24 patients. Therefore, we dream of building homes for disabled people who have lost relatives, a small gym with a rehabilitation pool, and additional rehabilitation rooms.



Another mother of a disabled child Svitlana also shares her story:"My name is Svitlana. I have a son. His name is Andriy and he is 13. When the boy was little I got divorced with his father and started to raise him by myself. I had to work hard to provide for our family and came back home late. We lived on the 6th floor. One winter evening when I was at work Andriy opened the window and sat on the windowsill (he had never done this before). I was coming back home and when Andriy heard me opening the door he fell out of the window. When I was running downstairs I was praying and asking God for my son to be alive. The Lord answered my prayers. My son is alive now, but he is diagnosed with tetraplegia. Andriy uses a wheelchair. He had been going through rehabilitation in "Agape" for 4 months. During that time, he has learned to sit by himself, eat with the help of a retainer which holds either a spoon or a fork, type on a tablet. He does all those things despite the fact that he is paralyzed from the chest down. Earlier he used to be afraid that others would not accept him because of his disability, but in the "Agape" center he became sociable. We are grateful to "Agape" for love and support we got there.. Thank you for giving us hope for better future!"



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please, join me in the prayer for my health condition as I have some heart issues;
- I ask you to pray for the repentance of children and teenagers with disabilities, their relatives, as well as patients and their relatives;
- Please, pray for God to bless those who work in "Agape" rehabilitation center;
- Join us in the prayers for the material support of "Agape";
- I also ask you to pray for the expansion of the "Agape" complex.



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