

CHILD SPONSOR PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

A Family Reborn and Renewed

Here is a recent letter from the Pastor of one of our National Church partners in Rivne, Ukraine.



HART Ministry, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for such a wide-ranging influence you have on our lives and ministry.

I want to give special thanks for your Child Sponsor Project. I have to share the story of one family. The life of this family wasn't just changed. It was born again and renewed.

Our church's Child Sponsor caseworker heard about a 5 year old girl (Anastasia) who needed help because she was living in horrible conditions. Her father (Sasha) was a bad alcoholic. Her mother (also an alcoholic) had deserted them years before and was living on the streets.

When we checked out Anastasia's home we saw inhuman circumstances (filth, horrible smell, lice, hunger). We decided we had to help, so we got her into HART's Child Sponsor program. Women from our church would regularly visit them and helped Sasha with Anastasia.

We started to pray for him at every prayer meeting, and we brought Anastasia to Sunday School. The regular food hampers were usually distributed after the Sunday service, so Sasha began coming to church and listening carefully. After the service he would collect the food hamper and go home.

However, during one Sunday service the Holy Spirit touched Sasha's heart. He came to the front and repented in tears.

God changed him completely! He gave up drinking, started learning how to live a new life. He was taking good care of Anastasia by himself now. She started school. Sasha got baptized.

He came to me several times to ask what to do about his wife who was living on the streets. He mentioned divorce several times but we always talked him out of it and encouraged him to pray for her. It often seemed impossible for him because he rarely knew where she was or if she was even alive.

Then last year Sasha's wife Nadia miraculously found her way to a rehab center run by another church in our city. Nadia was terribly sick, final stage of liver cirrhosis, she was having epileptic strokes. She had lice. She was all swollen and looked like she was 60 even though she was only 29.

Nadia went through treatment, and eventually became a Christian. God even healed her liver.

Nadia and Sasha started seeing each other regularly and Anastasia finally was happy to get to know her mother, whom she had heard about, but never seen.

Tomorrow we are going to have a wedding ceremony for this couple. They had been separated for eight years! Anastasia is 10 years old now, and so happy to finally have a family. They are all happy. A new family is born.

Thank you for the Child Sponsor Project. There are many stories about changed destinies through your program.

—Pastor Andriy Kornichuk



How did this miracle happen? Over the years we've seen countless examples of lives transformed because someone like **YOU** chose to have their life intersect with that of an underprivileged child like Anastasia.

It could have been through supporting our summer camp programs or by deciding to sponsor a child, but that decision literally **changed the destiny** of a child.

Please read the child profiles on the following page to better understand the difficulties facing young children growing up in poverty in Eastern Europe.

Because children are precious to God, please join us in supporting National Christian ministries that nurture children and help them discover the plans God has for them...and **TOGETHER**, we **CAN** change the world...one heart at a time.

Sincerely, Lloyd Cenaiko President, lloyd@hart.ca

Child Sponsor profiles



CASEWORKER COMMENTS:

Maxim is raised by a single mother. She (Julia) suffers from psychological trauma as her step-father repeatedly attempted to rape her as a teenager. Her mother's response was to kick Julia out of the home.

Maxim and his mom live in house with relatives. The living conditions are terrible and unsanitary, with frequent parties, quarrels and fights. The police come regularly to stop the fighting.

The small room she and Maxim share, fits only a bed. Julia has no job and they both live in fear that they may be kicked out of this house with no where to go. Julia also worries that the government might take Maxim from her.

Maxim is a cheerful boy, yet he has nervous stresses because of the unstable situation at home. They desperately need a sponsor.



CASEWORKER COMMENTS:

Vasyl comes from a poor family. His father is employed but he's an alcoholic. His mother is unemployed. The parents can't look after Vasyl very well because they both have mental issues.

The grandmother is the one who takes care of Vasyl and their home. She is supporting the family on her meagre pension.

The living conditions are very bad; the house is cold and dirty.

Vasyl doesn't even have toys to play with. By sponsoring this boy, you will bring much sunshine into his childhood.

The grandmother says, "Dear Sponsor, we are very grateful to you for your desire to help our family. We look forward to getting a letter from you".



CASEWORKER COMMENTS:

Timur is a delightful 6 year who likes drawing and colouring books.

Unfortunately Timur has a number of health issues such as flat feet, scoliosis and is cross-eyed. He's had surgery on his eyes, but the results were not favourable and will require more surgery in the future.

Timur lives with his parents in a rented apartment. In a month, his mother will give birth to a baby boy. She is a member of an evangelical church, but his father is addicted to drugs.

This sponsorship project will be a big material help and support for Timur and his mother.



CASEWORKER COMMENTS:

Olia is a good child who helps her mother at home. She loves her family very much. Unfortunately, both her parents have cerebral palsy.

Her father is employed but hasn't a very good job. The parents were orphans themselves and therefore have no family to help them at this difficult time.

The family lives in an old house that needs major repairs. It has no heating.

It's cold and damp, and the walls are covered with black mold.

Their financial situation is very difficult. They buy only the most necessary food products. Mother bakes her own bread. They rarely have fresh fruits and vegetables, so Olia and her two brother's nutrition is very poor.

Having a sponsor will be a dream come true for Olia and her family.

WHY Sponsor?

Wilf sponsors 10 children through HART and just recently returned from visiting them in Ukraine.

My trip to Ukraine was a life changing experience for me. Praying for my children everyday was something I had committed to, but after meeting them, now I know how to pray for them. They shared with me their dreams and I have seen the battles that they face as a family and community.

I also saw evidenced over and over that poverty does not need to rob a nation of its hope and particularly its dignity.

While the poverty is extreme I witnessed the amazing resiliency of the people and an effort to be as resourceful as possible with whatever little they had. The lack of material items has created a true dependency on God and therefore a true opportunity for miracles.

What HART is able to offer is hope, and the truth of our eternal hope is shared at every opportunity.

The most memorable part of this trip was when one of my sponsored children, Alina, seeing me approach, ran from the playground and into my arms and hugged me.

We went up to her apartment to visit with her Grandmother, who I noticed was crying. When I asked her why, the Grandma replied, "Alina has had no



one to run to until now." (Both parents have died).

That for me defined what my true role was with my sponsored children; I had to let them know as long as I live they will always have someone to run to.

-Wilf Schlitt, Calgary



Check out HART's

NEW WEBSITE!!

www.hart.ca

We're MOVING!

As of June 20th we'll be at...

106, 90 Freeport Blvd, NE, Calgary

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

WHERE MOST NEEDED

Your gifts will allow us to respond practically and effectively to the current needs of our partner churches and ministries in Eastern Europe.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS

If you want to change a country—start with its children. Sending a child to summer camp is an investment in the future leaders of a country; ones that have been raised with Christian values and character.

PRAY

Please pray for case-workers, volunteers and the churches who administer HART's Child Sponsor project, and demonstrate God's love to children and families living in extreme poverty. Pray that God will provide a sponsor for each needy child.

EDUCATION FUND

Your support of HART'S Education Fund will lift countless young people and their families in Ukraine and Moldova out from under the heavy burden of poverty and despair.

SPONSOR A CHILD

You have the ability to change the world for an impoverished child in Ukraine or Moldova. Help them develop healthy minds and bodies while discovering God's love for them by sponsoring with HART. It all starts with YOU.



Humanitarian Aid Response Team International Relief

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USA - 7340 E Main St. #200, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 Toll free: 1.888.788.3880

HART is audited annually by an independent accounting firm and our financial statements are available upon request. Our Board of Directors has established the policy that all contributions designated for a specified project shall be applied to that project, with up to 5 per cent to be used if needed for administering the gifts. Occasionally we receive more contributions for a given project than can be wisely applied to that project. When that happens, we use these funds to meet a similar pressing need.

Learn to do right!
Seek justice
encourage the oppressed

Defend the cause of the fatherless

Plead the case of the widow