



Ministry stories 2019

Lilia Vakulina, Ark orphanage, Novovolynsk, Ukraine (117)

Greetings!

Thank you for your precious prayers and support. The "Ark" orphanage continues serving the orphan children and those from dysfunctional families. We witness God's miracles and see how He leads the kids we take care of. Even when it seems like they have walked astray, at some point God saves them and gives them joy of salvation. I would like to share with you a story of Roman - a boy who has been in Child Sponsor Project and whose life journey is a testimony of God's faithfulness and the importance of your support and prayers.



[WEBSITE](#)

Roman wrote this short testimony at the age of 16. "My name is Roman Cantor. I am 16 years old and have been living in the "Ark" for 9 years now. I remember my parents always getting drunk and doing drugs. I used to run outside to avoid seeing them like that. Then we lost the place to live and my aunt brought me to the "Ark". There were two of us - me and my older sister. When I came to this house I felt a little awkward because I had never been surrounded by so many friendly children. From the first day of my stay, I liked the "Ark" a lot."



"In my new family I was learning to be obedient. When I didn't listen to my parents, we always fought with each other. Here I was taught to love dad and mom no matter what. Dad still invites me to his new family from time to time. He is not a believer yet, but I keep praying for him and my mom. In the "Ark" there are good and loving mentors and a friendly group of



children. The older ones always look after the younger ones. In general, I really like it and I'm glad that I live here now. I am also excited about having an opportunity to visit a football section in a sports school. I dream of becoming a great football player. But most of all I want to always be faithful to God. I am very grateful to my Sponsor from Canada, who gave me everything I need to live in the "Ark". It became my true home and I feel comfort and love here. To be honest, in such a happy family environment I would like to live for the rest of my life."

But when he went on his own at the age of 18, the street changed him a lot. He did not resist the temptation of drugs, started stealing and literally became a vagabond. There were also incidents with the police. It was painful to learn such an information about the boy who once was so close to us. There was nothing left for us other than praying and fasting. I also asked the Sponsor for prayer support, for which I am very grateful. More than once we have seen God protect the boy from the terrible consequences of his action. However, now we want to share some good news with the Sponsor and the entire Hart team. God has changed everything in Roman's life. He set him free from the bondage of drugs and healed the wounds in his heart. God showed His mercy to Roman and saved him from spiritual death. The man was baptized in the summer and became a member of the Evangelical church. He is still in rehab but his childish dreams of truly walking with God finally came true.



I sincerely thank Hart team for the cooperation in serving the underprivileged children and for giving them the opportunity to build their life with God. Roman's life story continues. After completing his rehabilitation course, he became actively involved in the ministry of the church. It is pleasing that he serves children, preaches, participates in evangelical ministries in various places in Ukraine. He also does not forget about the house he grew up in. He comes to the "Ark" like to his own home and spends time with the children. The young man created a group on social media, which he called "Blessings" and encourages to join it.



His sister, Christina, was also baptized and now helps Roman in his various ministries. Their parents had been deprived of parental rights. However, Roman and Kristina have forgiven them, and now pray for their salvation and come to visit them very often. They keep the commandment of God with the promise: "Honor your father and your mother, and you will be well and you will live long on Earth." These young people who have gone through tough times are now used by God as counselors to many children who have never received love from their own parents.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please, pray for Roman to stand strong in his faith and continue serving the Lord;
- Ask God to bless children in the "Ark" orphanage and let them find Him.



OUR MISSION

HART is dedicated to alleviating poverty and injustice in Eastern Europe. We work alongside local churches and ministries and give them the tools to build a better world for themselves, their communities, and their countries.

403.230.8263 | 888.788.3880 | office@hart.ca | www.hart.ca

STAY CONNECTED:

