



Education Scholarships

Change a life through Education

Dear friends,

Thanks to people like **YOU**, HART'S Education Scholarship Program is giving life and hope to young people, allowing them to dream of a brighter future for themselves and their families. Despite the uncertainty of the times, young people in Eastern Europe have not lost sight

of the fact that the only way out of poverty is through education.

We wanted to share with you some stories and testimonies from young people whom you have blessed through supporting this Scholarship fund.

YOU are helping to write their success stories!

Quotes from scholarship recipients



Andrew (Physics. He and his family are refugees from the war in Eastern Ukraine.)

To go back to my hometown Donetsk, where my church had been blown away by missiles seemed the worst option to me.

However, my dream university in Kyiv was unaffordable. My family didn't have enough money for this. So I was preparing myself for

the worst, however not giving up on my dream and asking God to intervene.

When we learned that there were people willing to pay for my education, joy filled our hearts! It seemed too miraculous to be true! But you brought that miracle into life. Your sacrificial hearts became a great blessing for our family! **Thank you and God bless you!**

Mykola (Paramedic)

I am a student at the Rivne Medical College. Since childhood, I wanted to help people who are in difficult situations.

Thanks to my future profession as a Paramedic, I will be able to save hundreds or even thousands of lives with the help of God.

I will also be able to introduce people to God, because in difficult circumstances people

often look to God for help and someone who will listen to their problems. This is my Savior. He will help all who will turn to Him.

I want to thank you for making my childhood dream come true. Every day is one step, which brings me closer to it. Thank You! I wish you God's blessings!

Pavlo (Computer programmer)

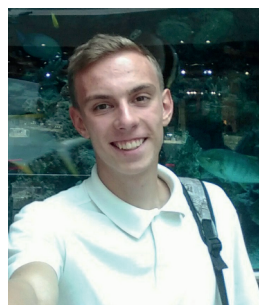
My mom raised me alone. She has been disabled from her childhood. Financial difficulties compelled me to ask the education program for help.

Thanks to your support I can study in the institution in the department that I chose. I am getting closer to my dream of becoming a good programmer and to have a good future.

Danik

I am deeply grateful to HART for your financial support! I was asking God to answer my prayers with hope. I was extremely happy when I found out I had been given a scholarship because it would give me a chance to continue my studies.

I got a second breath and I understood that God is alive and people in Christ are not indifferent. It encourages me to study hard. Glory be to God for everything!



Yaroslava (Medical College - Nurse)

A year and a half ago, I didn't know what my life was going to be in the future and whether I would be able to study somewhere, because my family couldn't afford to pay tuition fees. I am so happy and grateful that I heard about the Education fund and was able to receive financial support.

I will have a profession that will be useful for people in the future. I am so grateful to the people who help me and through whom God does His work! When I face difficulties, this help is one of the biggest testimonies for me that God takes care of me in different ways and He never leaves me.



Natalya (Chef)

(Her parents lost parental rights, usually because of alcohol, drugs or abuse). Natalya and 2 siblings lived in a foster home. She has moved out to go to school.)

Because my parents are not able to help me and I needed money for living and studying, I applied to the Education program.

Your support is a huge help. Part of this money I use to buy household things and the balance covers my studying costs.

I am getting closer to my dream. I can say that I see myself as a successful cook in the future, who will bring a little bit of joy to people's lives.

This profession will help my family always be fed.

Thank you to all the sponsors who help me and a lot of other people like me.

Your help is critical to us. Sometimes when we have no money at all, your support is like an answer from God. He takes care of everything. Thank you one more time for your compassionate hearts.

Nastya (English Translator)

Financial circumstances forced me to seek help from this Education program. After my parents' death, I lived with my grandmother, and we didn't have money for my university.

Thank you so much for your help! The biggest part of my expenses I can cover with your money. Without it, my studying and living would be impossible!

Oksana

Because my family couldn't afford to pay for my tuition, I told God that if it was His will, He would help me and provide financial support.

A week before the college application was to be submitted, I received a phone call and was told I received a HART scholarship.

God answered my prayer this way! He always takes care of me, so I am deeply grateful to Him and glorify Him. May God richly bless you! Thank you very much for your help! With love and respect.

Tanya (Hairdresser)

I'm studying at the Dybno "College of culture and Art" to be a hairdresser. I needed to ask for help from the Education program because my step parents are not able to pay for my studying.

Thanks for this financial support! Because I will have a better education I will be easier to find a job, so I will be able to help my family financially.

I am now serving people with disabilities and with my profession I will help such people even more.

Also, I will spend a lot of time with non-Christian people, and I will have the opportunity to share the Gospel with them.

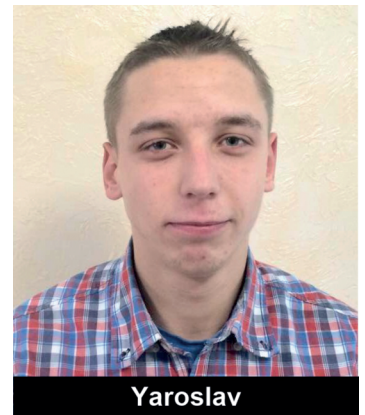
Education Scholarships

Yaroslav's story: *Against All Odds*

Yaroslav Bilenkyi was showing off the different prizes, medals, and awards his sports club had recently won. Although the club was relatively new, the Wall of Fame at the local church would soon be too small for their numerous certificates, medals, and diplomas.

“Of course, I’m proud of every achievement of my team,” says Yaroslav. “But first of all, this is a testimony of God’s grace and miraculous intervention in my life, because it could have taken a completely different turn in 2016.”

This young man has lived a life of extreme contrasts. Yaroslav’s past includes poverty, hunger, a drug-addicted mother, and total hopelessness. And yet today he is a God-fearing Christian, husband, successful coach and sports ministry leader. The contrast between these two lifestyles is dramatic, and if not for HART’s Education Fund, this transformation may not have been possible.



Yaroslav



Against all odds

Yaroslav is the oldest son in a family of three boys. Their father was an alcoholic and passed away when the kids were too small to remember him. Eight family members were living in a tiny dilapidated house; Yaroslav’s brothers, his Mom, grandparents, and two uncles. All the adults except for one were alcoholics. His mother was also a drug addict, had AIDS, mental disorders, and a liver condition.

The only person who was a good role model for the boys was their grandfather – a man with a kind, loving heart. However, due to his old age and poor health, he couldn’t properly take care of the boys since he needed care and nursing himself.

Lubar, a small provincial city in central Ukraine, had little future to offer a young boy like Yaroslav.

Many of its teenagers were involved in drugs and the crimes that are associated with it. This future seemed the most plausible for three sons of a drug-addicted mother from a poverty-stricken dysfunctional family.

But God was merciful towards them while they were still kids and protected them from getting caught up in a sinful life. It all began because of a small Evangelical church in Lubar.

The Bilenkyi brothers became acquainted with

some youngsters from the church and started attending services and Sunday School classes.

God and the church family became the only anchors that kept Yaroslav and his brothers from going astray and following in their parent's footsteps.

Little did Yaroslav know that God had a plan for him - to make him an instrument for transforming the lives of dozens of teenagers in his city and region.

Yaroslav's ministry begins

When Yaroslav first applied for an Education Fund scholarship in 2016, he shared his aspirations with HART.

"I want to become a preacher and bring people to God through my work and ministry. I also love sports and am passionate about starting a sports club for teenagers in my region. It would be my dream to one day be able to spread the Good News and share the love of Christ with teenagers and street kids."

Before this, he had graduated from a technical vocational school as a welder. However, he wasn't passionate about being a welder. The three years at vocational school was a period of spiritual decline and reevaluation of Yaroslav's faith.

Although he wasn't attending church regularly, going through this time of spiritual crisis and solitude eventually strengthened his convictions that there is no real life without Jesus.

After finishing his vocational training, he was now on fire for the Lord and began thinking about starting a Christian sports club for teenagers in his hometown. Yaroslav had always been a good athlete from his early

years in school. After returning home, he started a small sports ministry called 'Strongboys' designed for teenagers and street kids. In 2016, Yaroslav was baptized and became a member of his church.

However, he soon realized that physical development alone doesn't help youth whose lives are broken and in need of healing, whose families were falling apart and were facing countless temptations as they approached the doorsteps of adulthood.



Yaroslav decided to build his sports club on the foundation of God's Word and its message of Salvation.

As he began to witness and preaching to the boys, he soon felt God was calling him to attend a Bible College. He believed this would help him lead this ministry more effectively.

Education Fund scholarship

In 2016, Yaroslav decided on the college and chose 'Pastoral Ministry' as his major. But he and his family had no money to help make this dream come true.

His mother, in addition to her existing diseases, was now diagnosed with cancer. Soon after, she even developed gangrene.

Yaroslav had to spend what little savings the family had, on medicines and expensive treatments for his Mom.

Even his grandfather's meagre pension was required to help save his mother's life.

During this critical situation, Yaroslav applied for and was successful in receiving a HART Education scholarship. This became a pivotal moment in his Christian life and ministry.

Becoming a leader

In 2018 Yaroslav graduated from the Bible college and came back to his home church and ministry.

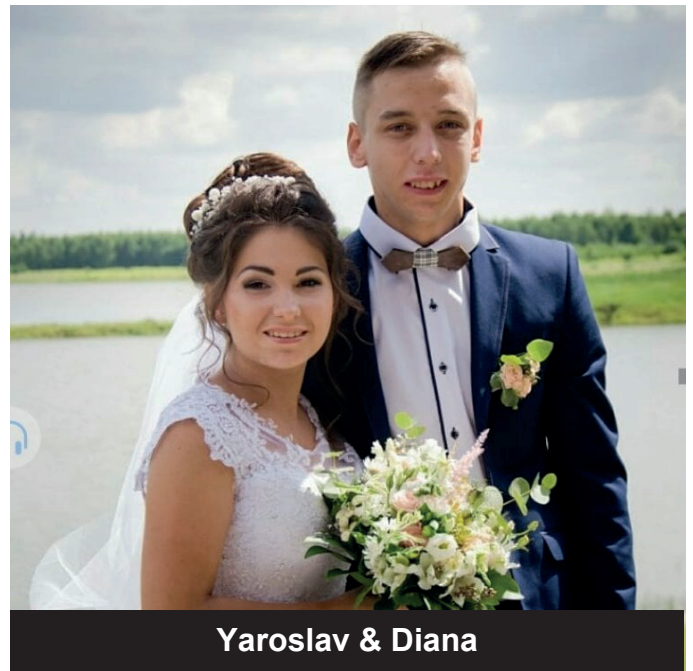
With renewed vigor and a fresh vision, he poured his life into developing the 'Strongboys' club. He formed a team of four coaches and invited more than 40 boys from his city and region aged from 7 to 20.

By 2019, the 'Strongboys' had quickly become one of the most popular social sports clubs in the region.



After the Bible college, Yaroslav modified the club's purpose and now pays more attention to the spiritual growth of the team. Every week, he holds Bible study and prayer meetings and uses his knowledge gained at the Bible college to mentor the boys and preach God's Word to them more effectively.

Soon Yaroslav's suffering mother passed away. However, God blessed him with a new family. He met Diana, a musician and worship team leader, and six months later they were married. She is very active in church ministry and helps Yaroslav with his sports club. He also adopted his youngest brother Taras, who is now in grade nine.



Yaroslav & Diana

"Thanks to HART, I was able to get more than just an education," Yaroslav says. "I regained hope! This scholarship was proof that God wanted me in ministry. During our financial crisis and a difficult family situation, it would have been easy to give up on my dream. But through generous sponsors in Canada and the US, I got a chance to change my life and gain

knowledge that now helps me change the lives of others."

Today, Yaroslav's sports ministry is remarkably fruitful, with many teenagers coming to know the Lord. "I am passionate about helping every boy develop the character of a winner, with an unbreakable, yet humble spirit, who sets and reaches goals, and gives all praise to God alone!"

HART believes that **investing in education** is the key to transforming communities and reducing poverty, suffering, and injustice worldwide. Educated citizens are citizens who are empowered to act as advocates for economic and social change. And yet, for families living in poverty in Ukraine and Moldova, post-secondary education for their children is cost-prohibitive.

People like YOU helped write Yaroslav's story. THANK YOU!



THANKS to all of you who joined us online for HART'S first-ever Virtual Auction! HART supporters from across Canada and the USA participated in helping us raise enough funds to send THOUSANDS of children in Eastern Europe to summer camps. Depending upon the impact of COVID-19, the camps will take place later this summer, or we will use the funds for next year's camps.

Ways you can help

■ **DONATE TO: 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.

■ **EDUCATION FUND**

Help us give life and hope to young people in Eastern Europe, allowing them to dream of a brighter future for themselves and their families.

■ **PRAY FOR THE WAR TO END**

Please pray that peace will return to Ukraine. Pray for the churches throughout Ukraine that are extending their love and resources to displaced people due to the war.

■ **BECOME A MONTHLY SUPPORTER**

You can make a difference all year long when you make a monthly gift to HART. From **\$5/mo** to 100/mo, your support will impact lives throughout the year.

WHERE WE SERVE - EASTERN EUROPE



UKRAINE

Population: 45 million
 Languages: Ukrainian, Russian
 Main Religions: Orthodox 65%, Catholic 7.5%, Protestant 1.0%, Islam 1.1%

MOLDOVA

Population: 3.6 million
 Language: Romanian, Russian
 Main Religion: Orthodox 96%, Protestant .9%

HART also serves and has partnerships in Romania, Russia, Georgia and Central Asia.

Humanitarian Aid Response Team
International Relief

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HART is audited annually by an independent accounting firm, and our financial statements are available upon request. Our Board of Directors established a policy that all contributions designated for specific projects shall be applied to those projects. Up to 10% can 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.

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the father, is this: To visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” James 1:27