hart

CHILD SPONSOR PROGRAM

Dear Friends,

Ukraine and Moldova remain the poorest countries in all of Europe. Both are suffering from a myriad of socio-economic-political issues, which has created a sizable underclass of impoverished children and families.

At HART, we believe God has given the mission of releasing people from poverty to His Church. Our part of this mission is to partner with the local Church and give them the 'tools' to accomplish this work.

One of the most effective and fruitful 'tools' is the Child Sponsor Program.

We have had extraordinary success in transforming lives because this program is run exclusively through local churches, which understands and can respond to the challenges in their own communities.

Through this program, children develop healthy minds, bodies, and relationships while discovering God's love for them.

Thanks to all of you who've chosen to be Child sponsors. YOUR support of HART programs like this has been transforming the lives of thousands of children and families for the past 25 years!

Together, we ARE changing the world one heart at a time!



Sincerely,

CHILD SPONSORSHIP IS CHANGING LIVES

Second generation Child Sponsor story - a letter of gratitude

My dear sponsor,

I remember growing up with parents who didn't want me. I felt like an orphan whose parents deserted them. I remember so often when we had no food, and the one-room apartment where we lived always looked like a pigpen.

I also recall looking at my peers and didn't understand why they lived better than I did and why they could eat candies - the taste of which I'd never known.

Often, sitting in my corner of the room, I begged God to have mercy on me and improve my life.

Yes, God did hear my prayers. Some ladies from a church began taking care of me. Through their church, I was put into the HART sponsorship program, which was great.

But, as I became a teenager I wasn't interested to hear about God. I was more interested in doing things the rest of the world was doing.

And so it happened that as a teenager, I became pregnant and gave birth to a little girl - Angelina.

While raising my daughter without a father, once again, the church stepped in to help. God began to take care of Angelina and me again thru the Child Sponsorship program!

This time I began to seriously think about God's love and care. As my interest grew, the caseworkers spent more time teaching me about God and praying with me.

What a great day when I accepted Jesus as my Savior and later was water baptized.

My life changed dramatically, and for the first time I understood that there are no orphans, because GOD is the FATHER of all orphans.

Then after a while, God blessed me with a husband, and we now have three more daughters.



I know that besides providing material and financial help to me, you prayed for me and asked God to bless my life and the future of my children.

Thank you very much for caring for the destinies of disadvantaged children and praying to God for them.

May your heart never get tired of bringing the joy of salvation even through food packages and prayers!

Believe me, it is very important to always help and pray and constantly believe that the mission GOD entrusted to you bears abundant fruit for His Kingdom!

On behalf of our family, I express deep gratitude to our sponsor and all HART workers! With love and prayers - Angelina's mother.



PAUL NEEDS A SPONSOR

You can help transform this family's life!

At the young age of four, Pavlyk (Paul) is already helping around the house, stacking firewood, and feeding the family's farm animals.

He dreams about going to school and learning how to read and write. For now, his favorite activity is to use his handmade toy saw to 'help' his father cut wood for their stove.

While Paul is not quite old enough to understand, he and his family live in deplorable conditions in a remote rural hamlet in Western Ukraine.

Their home is a shack with a dirt floor, clay/mud walls and a leaky roof. Seven people live in this one-room 'house,' including his parents, three brothers (one older and two younger twins), and an elderly, bedridden grandmother who is blind and mentally challenged.



The house doesn't have gas, electricity, or water. Paul's father, Oleg, walks two kilometers to the nearest village to bring water for his family and the animals.

HART case-worker, Oksana, came to know Oleg when he visited their local church. After a short conversation,



Oksana realized this family needed support desperately and suggested getting Paul into HART'S Child Sponsorship Program in partnership with their church.

"When I first visited the family, I couldn't believe my eyes, and imagine that people nowadays can live in such dehumanizing conditions," says Oksana, "it's understandable why the kids are filthy and wear such worn-out old clothing."

When one of the twins was six months old, he came down with an infection that affected his brain and caused a severe mental disability. As a result, at age two, he cannot walk or talk.

While local doctors suggested that the family take him to Kyiv for proper analysis and treatment, Oleg quickly gave up on this idea.

"They couldn't afford to travel to Kyiv, let alone pay for any examinations and treatments," exclaimed Oksana sadly. "It is heart-breaking how poverty can steal a child's chance for a healthy and a happy future."

Neither parents are employed. Paul's wife, Luda, is illiterate, but is kind and hardworking. Oleg was a history teacher in the past, however when the kids were born, and his mother became bedridden, he decided to leave teaching to look after the needs of everyone in the family.

Oleg's devotion to his mother is remarkable, considering the severe physical and emotional abuse she inflicted on him as a young boy. It speaks well of his character that he chooses to continue to look after her.

The family survives on the food from their gardens and their livestock. They can't afford to buy grocery products from stores.

The boys have never had bananas or eaten nice pastries. Meat is rarely served, usually only a few times a year, on certain holidays.



The only material support they get is a small stipend from the government for their children.

This summer, social services visited the family and threatened to put the children in an orphanage if the parents couldn't provide proper living conditions for them.

Oleg is now working day and night to build a small house for his family. This process had been going slowly, simply because he has no money.

Recently, God answered Oleg's prayers through another local church who provided him with building materials and volunteers. (See the progress below!)



Even social services has backed off their threat to remove the children.

While this family may not have money, they have something more prosperous families often lack. They have love and devotion to each other.

The parents don't drink or use drugs; they are hardworking and loving people. They truly love their kids and want the best for them; however, their efforts don't always turn out well due to poor health and poverty issues.

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...However, with YOUR help and God's blessing we can alter the trajectory of this family and give their kids a better chance for a healthy and happy future.

This family's transformation story has already begun. Through a local Church's love, care, and prayers, Oleg became a Christian and is now preparing for water baptism!

HOW CAN YOU HELP PAUL'S FAMILY?

- Become Paul's sponsor!
 - Call the office: 403,230,8263
- Support Oleg's home construction project
- Donate to the construction of a water-well
- Support the medical care Paul's brother needs
- Donate for a slide and swing-set for the kids



CASEWORKER COMMENTS ON CHILD SPONSORSHIP:

"The Child Sponsor project is successful in Ukraine, because it not only speaks about God's love, but shows it. When a person is hungry or doesn't have clothes to wear it is difficult to tell him/her "God loves you", but when we offer our help through this project and at the same time tell them about God's love, people's hearts open up, because they feel sincere help and support and not only nice words." Lena

"When we invited a little girl, Inna to become a part of CSP project, I saw a spark of hope in her mother's eyes; she said: "Praise God that there are people, who do this kind of good work. I was in depression and I didn't know where to turn. My Inna is often ill, and we don't have money for her medical treatment. When you told us: "There are people (Sponsors), who are eager to help you," I thought, "There is a God and He didn't forget about me and my Inna!" Oksana



Case-workers delivering food packages to Carpathian Mountain families in the Child Sponsorship Program

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

SPONSOR A CHILD

We have many children whose mothers are praying for a sponsor right now! You can change the destiny of a child. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring, then go to our website, www.hart.ca or call the office at 403.230.8263, and invest in the life of a child.

SUPPORT THE CHILD SPONSOR GENERAL FUND

For those people who cannot or do not have a desire to sponsor a child, this fund can be a particular blessing to our Child Sponsor Program. How donations to this Fund are used:

- Medical care for special needs kids far exceed the \$35/mo sponsorship pledge.
- Summer camp experiences for siblings of sponsored children
- Home repairs that a sponsored child's parents cannot afford



Humanitarian Aid Response Team International Relief & Development

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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 has established a policy that all contributions designated for specific projects shall be applied to that project, with up to 10 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.

Life is too short, the world is too BIG, and GOD'S LOVE is too great - to live an ORDINARY LIFE

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