

GOD BRINGS US FULL CIRCLE
OUR GIRLS INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

Once again, God has shown His perfect timing in our ministry. When Last Bell Ministries was founded, we thought our program would be residential. God closed that door three years ago and we then understood His call to have a day program for orphanage graduates. Through the Shelter, God has brought many young people to Christ and worked so many miracles. Now things have come full circle and we have an independent living program for girls as well as our day programs at the Shelter and the Haven. Praise God!



MEET THE GIRLS & VLADIK



Presently, there are five girls living at Liz's apartment in the Girls Independent Living Program, one with her two year old boy, Vladik.

Three of the girls are

working, one full-time, two part time. Another is still in trade school, and the fifth is seeking employment. We are happy to provide housing for these girls, especially because two of them came from very dangerous situations. The girls are learning the value of hard work and responsibility. They must pay rent and everyone contributes to the grocery budget. They take turns cleaning and cooking. They obey the rules and behave respectfully.

TANYA'S ROLE CHANGES

On staff from the beginning, Tanya Unguran has been the part time nanny for Andre and Oksana's children and part time leader of the Shelter teens. With the growth of the girls program, Tanya's role is changing. She is now... *continued...*

Matching Grant Donation!

A donor has agreed to do a matching gift donation up to \$7,500.00.

God has wonderfully provided and we now owe \$75,000. - halfway in less than 3 years!

Would you consider giving a one time gift towards the house payment. We would like to send our payment by the end of February.

Please designate on the memo line: "Shelter Payment."



SOMEONE WHO CARES... DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

This morning, I (Liz) was sitting with the girls having breakfast. We were discussing an orphanage graduate named Erna. Everyone knew her years ago, but no one has seen her recently. This was a sad conversation because we found out last night that she has been murdered. There were no details about the murder, just that she has been a prostitute since graduation.

Sadly, we know very few kids who graduated from the orphanage several years ago. Anya Hrobust and the two Katyas are three of the very few kids from the older classes that we are able to influence.

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TANYA'S ROLE CHANGES cont.

the assistant housemom at the apartment and will remain a leader at the Shelter. She spends two or three evenings a week with the girls and Vlad.

We are pleased to announce that one of our own Shelter graduates, Lena Shershova, has officially hired as Andre and Oksana's nanny.

Please pray for those who are in the Girls Independent Living Program: Ira Diduh, Alona Pavitska, Katya Bondarchuk, Katya Yakovenko, Bogdana Ostrovska, young Vlad, and Anya Hrobust (comes from medical school on weekends). Pray that they seek The Lord with all their hearts!

Alona's Story



Later, and by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, I felt a need to go into Alona's room and talk to her. The engagement announcement was abrupt, and I needed to talk to her about God. Thus began a very long conversation, which **she allows me to convey to you....**

In her entire life, nobody had ever loved Alona. Her mom died when she was little, her father was abusive and she lived in total fear of him until she was taken to the orphanage. Her older brother, Slavik, is in prison and her younger brother, Pasha, is in the orphanage. The one bright spot in her life has been Sasha, who she has dated since they were at the orphanage. She spoke to me about visiting her home village. She is afraid whenever she goes because her father might beat her (or worse). She often goes to her grandparents to help them plant and harvest their fields. Yet, they have never given her anything or said thank you. They continually remind her of the one time they gave her a bowl of (cold) soup. She has never felt loved by any of her relatives. She has always felt like a nobody.

“All my life, I have wanted a grown up to talk to and give me advice.”

Now, that void is filled. The Shelter is like a dream to Alona, like a fairytale. She worries she will wake up and it will have been just a dream. She can't believe that it has happened to her, that people love her, care about her well-being, help her with problems, and have shown her the meaning of life in God. I asked Alona what held her back from taking the step of repentance and becoming a Christian. The usual answers to this question are "I'm scared" or "I'm not ready yet." But, Alona answered that nothing was holding her back anymore. I was stunned.

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I want to tell a story about how a Shelter graduate, Alona Pavitska came to Christ last week. On Sunday morning at Loving Community Church, Pastor Oleg played a recorded sermon by a pastor from America. It was a very convicting and straightforward sermon directed toward youth and their need for true repentance before God. I knew that Alona was affected by it, she agreed with all the truths of Christianity presented, but she hadn't made a decision for Christ.

Sunday night at our apartment is family night. After dinner, we were drinking tea when Alona announced that she has become engaged to be married to Sasha Kaplun, another Shelter graduate. Sasha received Christ at the Shelter about a year ago, and the two have been a couple for almost five years. We have spoken with them often about the need for both of them to be believers before marriage.

ALONA cont.

She said she had thought about it for a long time, and was ready. She wanted to pray with all of the Shelter leaders. So I said "How about Tuesday?" and she said "OK". Tuesday we went together to the Shelter leader's prayer meeting and Alona prayed to receive Christ. Now, she is a child of God.

Alona's entire family line, for as many generations back as she knows, are and were alcoholics. She should be on the street by now, a prostitute and bum and alcoholic. She can't thank God

enough that He let her have a chance to be the one to **break the cycle**, have happiness, and meaning in her life. She prays that her relatives will one day know the happiness she knows. She admits that she and the other girls sometimes act cool at the Shelter and don't talk much about God. No matter how bad the kids act, she says that if we could see how they really felt, they would be kissing our hands and feet to say thank you for caring and for loving them. Alona knows that this was God's plan for them. She is sure that God brought her into this big family and He led her to salvation.



The Shelter Kitchen

Welcome to the Board!

Glenn Grosh is a Financial Planner in Colorado Springs, CO. Glenn and Nancy have two children adopted from Ukraine. They are excited about helping orphan teens.

Nella Wainscott is Ukrainian by birth. She has a background in non-profit development and has a heart for expanding God's Kingdom in Ukraine.

SOMEONE WHO CARES... DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE? cont...

Many from their graduating class are in prison, two others are rumored to be dead. The girls estimated that half of the girls had children who have already been surrendered to the orphanage. This is a terrible, vicious cycle, and we are working to break it.

When I feel like we're not making a difference, talking about these older classes lends some perspective. The Last Bell staff and I praise God for bringing us into these kids lives. Even when we worry about them, we know that statistically, things should be much worse. We are truly blessed by seeing the progress some of our kids have made. And no matter what, we love them for the unique individuals God created them to be.



EECO/Last Bell Ministries is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Gifts are tax-deductible.

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