



Our Mission

All of the children of the world are the Lord's children. As Christians we are called to love and care for them. Some need us more than others...

"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." (Psalm 82:3-4)

Marina's Kids is devoted to the cause of helping disadvantaged children around the world to build a better future. Our goal is to develop long term relationships with the children, so that we can help them through their formative years and beyond..

We want to help them discover who they are, to show them the love that God has for them, and to give them a fighting chance to become a productive part of our society so they would be able make a difference as they become adults.

Updates Newsletter

Number 2

December 2011:

- We have a logo!- thank you Fred Jung
- ***We finally received 501c3 nonprofit status from the government- any donations you make are tax deductible. You can donate through Paypal on our web site, or send a check to 123 New St., Glenside PA, 19038***
- Mission statement-see page 1
- Fall 2011 trip to Ukraine to visit technical school and an orphanage in Odessa region- see pages 2-5
- Coming soon: Our brochure –see our web site- www.marinaskids.org
- Plans for year 2012 -see page 6.

This work involves caring for four types of needs the children have:

Physical-we help to cloth them and improve living conditions.

Educational-encourage to stay in school, educate about life topics, work with teacher to provide programs and educational materials.

Emotional- listen, give advice, and become their friends.

Spiritual- teach about the hope they have in Jesus, show them love them without judgment, and set an example of service through sacrifice.

Thank You

***For your support,
♥ Marina James***

Once again I am back from another trip and of course I wrote a lot during my travels, if you wish to read it in more detail, you can find my blog on our site www.marinaskids.org. Below are some pictures from the time in the orphanage. This time the trip was shorter and split between 2 locations. One was at the orphanage in the Odessa region. The second location was a tech school, several hours drive from the orphanage. Many children end up going there after finishing 9th grade. They live there for 3 more years, although many drop out due to hard circumstances. During the trip, I spent time with the kids- face painting, and having one on one and group talks. I also checked on the progress of the projects that we started in the spring. I purchased supplies to start another major project, and got many gifts and necessary things for the children.



Time with the “graduates”

The part of the trip to this location had 2 purposes:

1. Assess the needs at that location: I met with the director, who gave me a quick tour of the dorms: out of 300+ kids living on premises about 60 are orphans. The building is about 50-60 years old and has never been properly repaired, nor has much new furniture. Everything is patched up beyond belief. Every floor that housed 60 kids has one cooking room with a 4 burner stove. The windows are drafty, the rooms are cold, the beds are ancient. There is not enough staff to properly keep track of the kids who still need a lot of supervision.



2. Check on / spend time with the kids who graduated from “our” orphanage, and make new friends. That was a lot of fun: my old friends introduced me to new friends. We spent time shopping, playing arcade games, fishing, going out to eat and even went to the movies!



Checking on previously started projects in the orphanage:



Old Pipes and Faucets



New Pipes and Faucets



Kitchen- it now has a bathroom , new pipes and faucets work well. New dishes are well appreciated.



Medical center: bathroom is mostly done- it is functional, just needs some touch ups, but the project is not complete. Some floors, new windows and a front door has been installed,



Drapes and paint for one of the dorms- looks nice!



Before



After

Old Roofs



New Roofs



Roofs: we thought we got enough materials to re-shingle one of the roofs, but at the end 2.5 roofs were done!

Before



After



Before



After



Before



Starting new projects this fall:

This trip's major project was the indoor bathrooms: as of the December 2010 trip there was only one indoor bathroom, in the club house. Because of "Marina's Kids" now there are 2 more: one in the sick bay, and one in the kitchen. That means that most of the time over 100 children still use antiquated, unsanitary, unheated, outhouses several minutes walk from the orphanage territory with no water or electricity. Those are the the same bathrooms used by schools (in addition to that there is no hot water in any of the dorms and a baths are only once a week in an antique bathhouse since hot water has to be brought in). Our goal is to put in a toilet in every one of seven dorms, as well as hot water heaters. December 2011 update- 3 bathrooms are fully installed, the other 4 are in progress. We will have pictures of new bathrooms for you after the spring 2012



December 2010 –
"The best seat in the house"

Antiquated, unsanitary, with no heat, water or electricity outhouses

There once used to be a sink here



In addition to the bathrooms we also purchased:

- 2 warm stockings for each girl (total 90 pairs),
- 7 soccer balls and teapots- one for each dorm,
- 7 Hula hoops, 7 jump ropes, 2 balls for younger kids, 2 volleyballs , and of course some new movies on DVD. -all will be at the "club" the kids can take it out after school to play with.
- Brooms, laundry detergent, scissors, girl products (4 month supply), 300 notebooks
- A new back door and 2 more space heaters for the medical center.
- About 30 energy savers light bulbs for all around the orphanage.
- Toys for elementary school kids , **and more....**



Making plans for 2012

We plan to make 2 trips to Ukraine in 2012- one in the spring and one in the fall, and to ship donated clothes from the US.

There are several problems in the same orphanage that we are hoping to address:

- **Roofs:** The orphanage consists of several one story buildings on campus. The roofs have not been repaired in a long time. Many leak, weakening the structure. Over the last year several ceilings have collapsed in the buildings. We were able to replace 2.5 roofs last summer and would like to replace 1-3 roofs this summer as well.
- **Install an indoor bathroom for elementary school:** On our last trip we installed indoor bathrooms in the dorms, but the schools still only has an outhouse. We would like to install an indoor bathroom for the elementary school, so that the kids ages 6-10 do not have to go outside to use facilities without heat or running water during the harsh Ukrainian winters. We will install 2 bathrooms: one for girls and one for boys. Each with 3 toilets, 2 sinks, a boiler for hot water, and tiles for proper sanitation.
- **Upgrade Kitchen appliances:** The kitchen in the orphanage prepares and serves over 600+ meals a day for both the orphans and the local elementary school students, as well as poor village children. The refrigerators are old: out of 3 small ones (10 cu. Ft) one is beyond repair, (it died in September). The other 2 are not far behind.- we would like to replace them with a professional quality 25 cu. Ft new refrigerator, or at very least get another small 10 cu. Ft one. There is a 4 burner electric stove that breaks often and is in constant need of repair, and an 8 burner wood stove. We would like to purchase two 4 burner electric stoves. The oven is electric and has 4 tiers of which only one still works: We propose replacing that with a new 3 tier electric oven. We also would like to get some needed cookware. Electrical systems will need to be upgraded to install the new appliances.

More on the next page

Making plans for 2012 continues

- **We would like start updating dorms:** Most dorms were converted from Stables 100 years ago and still have the original windows and doors from the time of the Czars. They are poorly fitted, cracked, and drafty. One of the Dorms still has the original 100 year old heating system called a petchka where hot coals are placed in the walls and radiate heat to adjoining rooms. We would like to install a new heating system in this dorm.
- **Dinning dishes:** we have sent 120 sets of dishes to the orphanage in September, but that is only half of what they need. We are hoping to be able to send more in this upcoming year.
- **Hygiene and other regularly needed items:** I can not stress enough how low of a supply / budget the orphanage gets from the government for things like socks, laundry detergent, soap, and many other needed items. Most of these items, including clothing and shoes are supplied primarily by asking for support from charitable organizations; like us. The toilet paper is not even on the list of things government provides!
- **Time with the kids:** We continually work on making a connection with kids. During visits Marina spends many hours talking with and visiting with different groups of kids, as well as doing activities such as face painting . After she is back in US she calls regularly to the orphanage to speak with kids and the caregivers. This year we will add bible studies to our meetings for the kids who show an interest.

For the new location- Technical school:

- **Time with the kids:** Develop and foster new and previously made friendships. Many orphans drop out of school, or make bad choices, and end up ruining their lives. Smoking, drinking, prostitution, fighting and theft are very common in teenagers with no proper upbringing , low supervision and with no one they feel they can trust. There is actually a lot of counseling that Marina does with that age group 15-18- kids that are pretty much on their own. We plan to start generating local support that the kids can turn to, but most importantly- TRUST to turn to.
- **We would like start fixing dorms:** To start on the plan of action we will communicate with the director of the school. Of course as for most of our work we must raise the necessary funds first.