



Update Newsletter

N 13: March 2016



Making a Difference!

It is with a gratitude and amazement that I look back at the last five years of Marina's Kids. By the grace of God we have been able to accomplish so much in so little time. Our impact has grown to over 2,000 kids, in over 25 locations. But there are always so many more needs. With war between Russian Federation and Ukraine funding cuts to the orphanages and single parents have been hard. And it is the innocent children that suffer the most. We would love to share our mission with your communities in more detail, so please reach out to Marina if you would be willing to invite us to speak to your churches or other groups in your community.

**Thank you so much for sharing the responsibility
and making a difference in this world!**

*Marina James,
President, Marina's Kids*



Medicine Needed

The most requests this fall/winter season have been for medicine. Funds the government normally provides for this have been cut due to the war. In addition there was an outbreak of the swine flu in Ukraine that caused many orphanages to have a quarantine period. With fewer visitors, they received less aid from other non-profit groups. Marina's Kids has supplied medicine for the flu, colds, and lice for several orphanages in Odessa region.



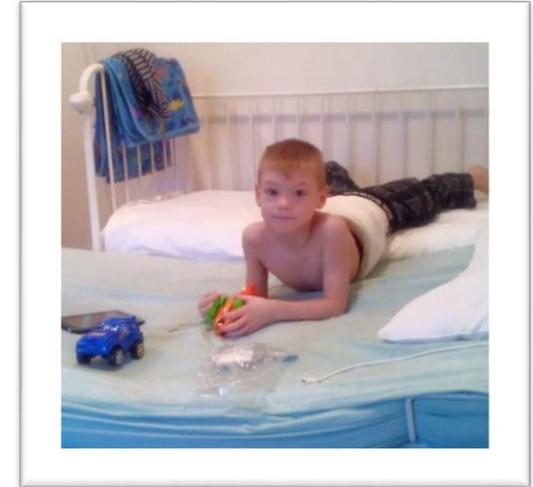
Arteom: an update

(an original story is in Newsletter #12, September 2015)

Arteom is now 7 yrs. old. We took him to the specialists to check that he was correctly diagnosed. He has active tuberculosis and a rotting and deteriorating hip bone. Before the 2 surgeries he needs can happen, he needs to be clear of his TB. We arranged for him to go to Kiev for a 6 month course of treatment. Meanwhile most of his lower body will be in a cast in order to prevent more damage to his bone.

The hospital and the medicine is free, but he does needs costly vitamins, and a special diet, he is very thin and small for his age. He is the youngest of 6 children. A child in a cast is not something the staff of TB hospital set up to handle so we arranged for his mother to stay with him at the hospital, in the same room.

We purchased a multi functional electric cooker, so that the mother can cook for both of them. We also bought Artem a cheap tablet so he could be entertained while he spends the next 6 months in bed. He was very happy and thankful.



Dzankoy orphanage:

The work of teaching God's word continues at this location. The volunteers from a local church, often accompanied by Kirill, visit every Sunday. They play games, bring snacks, run programs during the holidays, and teach the word of God with their teachings and their actions.



Hosting in Izmail



This winter a director of the orphanage in Izmail asked our volunteers if they would take the last few kids left in the orphanage for the winter holidays to their homes. This gave us an opportunity to have our first ever Ukrainian Hosting Program. Angela, Yana, and few other families took 7 kids to their homes for a winter break.

As part of the program each kid was given a spending budget for food and were able to work together on a menu. They all shopped together and spent time learning needed skills such as how to cook. This in country hosting program costed \$200 for all 7 kids, and the response from the kids was great. They learned a lot of useful things, and bonded with the families who live near the technical school they will be attending.



Summer canning class



One of the goals of our transition home is to prepare kids for independent living in Ukraine. Knowing how to preserve food during the harvest months for the long winter is a useful skill there. In the summer on 2015 the kids we work with in Izmail alongside of "Mama" Angela worked together on canning summer vegetables and have been able to enjoy the fruits of their labor this winter season. Besides learning about food preservation, they learned the value of hard work and how to work as a group.





Work in Izmail:

We have now transitioned several more children into independent living (this is our second set of children) and in the fall we are preparing to take in a new group of kids. The kids we have been working with for the last 5 years are in different stages of lives, some are single mothers, some are couples with kids, but most are doing very well. They have jobs, understand how to budget money, and cook for themselves. They are coming to understand that the real world is different than they imagined a few years back and they are facing the difficulties of life well.

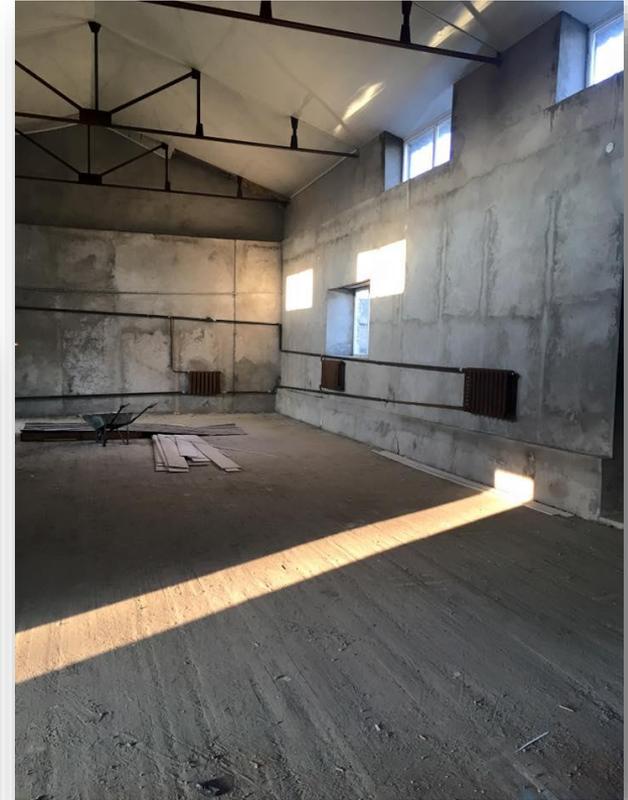


Our team in Izmail also works with the kids in a local orphanages, (soon several will move into our transition homes). They also work with a local hospital helping with abandoned babies; and have been asked to help with families in crisis who are on the verge of losing their kids, and foster families taking in kids from the orphanages. The last 2 groups of people have almost no support from the government since it is a new direction Ukraine is going in and there is not much structure or support yet.



Mixailovka Gym:

It was in December of 2014 when we first decided to take on the project of fixing a gym for the orphanage in Odessa region for about 200 kids. The roof collapsed years ago and water damage made the structure unsafe. The government gave some money to start repairs but when the war with Russia broke out all of the funding stopped. The gym has not been used for several years, and needed new floors and a working heating system.



Last month our local contractors completed installing the heating system. The workers in the orphanage plan to complete the floor in May. This means that next winter, when the snow comes, the children will be able to play inside a warm, and safe Gym.



\$5 Gift Baskets:

Consumable hygiene products are always in demand in orphanages, so this winter many of you donated \$5 on behalf of a loved one so that Marina's kids could provide the kids in the orphanages with needed supplies. This was the first time we did this project, and hope to do it annually. We were able to raise money for about 170 kids to have baskets with basic hygiene needs and sweets. Thank you for all of your support. Everyone, especially kids, were very happy with the results.





Kirill's work with young families and single parents in Crimea:

Kirill continues his tireless work with the Crimea's young single parents who have their beginning in the orphanages, as well as struggling young families, and a local family that does foster care, and a handicapped girl, Aiysha. He checks on them regularly, gets groceries, school supplies and shoes.

Kirill also repairs homes to make them safer and more livable. This spring I will be visiting Crimea and all of the families that are under Kirill's charge and I will have a lot more to tell you in the next newsletter. For now I just want to say, that I am very proud of this young man.





Marina's Spring Mission Trip:

I missed my fall trip due to personal/ family reasons, and so the trip this spring will be extra long. I will be traveling from May 2-May26th. I will be stopping at many locations in Ukraine as well as Crimea and St. Petersburg in Russia.

During the trip I plan to stop in

- Kiev: visit Artem and Stas
- Khmel'nitski: visit 2 orphanages, and meet aged out children. Will investigate starting transition home.
- Izmail: Visit transition home and 3 orphanages. Meet with social workers, foster families, and families on the verge of losing their kids.
- Visit a new developing settlement for foster families in Tyzli region.
- In Odessa: visit a transition home run by "Odessa without orphans"; meet several aged out kids we've worked with for years.
- Zatoka hospital: Visit sick orphans
- Other stops include orphanages in: Karolina-Bugaz; Andree-Ivanovka; Kotovsk; Balta-2; Dzankoy (Crimea) and a few others.

If you would like to pass a small package, or arrange a phone call with someone at one of these locations (even if you have hosted through other organizations), email marina.james@marinaskids.org.

- Marina James, President, Marina's Kids

Praise, Prayer, and Plans

As always funds are needed to run our many programs. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and it is easy to make a donation through our Just Give site:
<https://npo.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=30-0687266>

An easy way to support Marina's Kids

Amazon.com will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Marina's Kids. All you have to do is to log in on <http://smile.amazon.com>. Then find us by our name or EIN # [30-0687266](https://npo.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=30-0687266)

This link will take you there as well:

http://smile.amazon.com/ref=smi_ge_rl_rd_gw?encoding=UTF8&ein=30-0687266

Please continue to pray that God would give wisdom and guidance to the leaders, volunteers, and children we work with.

Thank You

***For your support,
Marina James,
President, Marina's Kids***

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