



Update Newsletter

N 18: January 2018



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This edition covers the last year of Marina's Kids work. This has been one of the busiest and most exciting years at Marina's Kids with productivity at an all time high.

Here are some highlights of what we have accomplished:



- Marina has traveled to Ukraine on 3 different occasions, in February, June, and October.
- Several aged-out orphans were helped with medical needs, school, and living situations.
- Sponsored a playground for an orphanage with physical and mental disabilities.
- Help CP twins with medical trips to the hospital
- Regularly visiting and working with a baby orphanage (kids birth to 6 years old)
- Our transition home in Izmail has graduated a group of boys, and now we have girls living there.
- "Wings of Hope", a social center in Izmail, is now opened with a gym, shower, kitchen, laundry machines, and rooms for other events.
- Easter, summer, and a winter camps for local orphanage and children in need.
- Work with families in crisis, delinquent kids, aged-out orphans, local orphanage kids, autistic kids, and single moms.
- New project: a construction of a social center/ shelter for battered women.

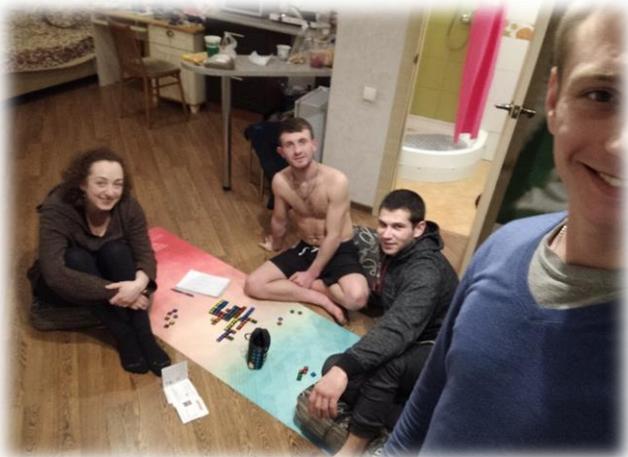
Marina's Trips to Ukraine February 2018

It was cold and snowy. Marina went to Ukraine in February to check on our projects and visit the kids. One of the stops was a baby orphanage. Our team delivered bags of oranges and cookies. The kids were napping when Olga, Marina, Oleg, and Angela arrived so they were not able to spend time with the kids. Planned to visit the following day, did not work out. Olga and Marina left Izmail 2 days earlier than planned. A 2 am departure was just few hours ahead of the storm. All of the roads were closed to and from Izmail for the next several days. Even though the visit to Izmail was shortened everything needed was accomplished



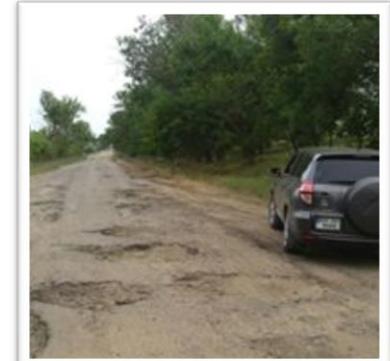
Few days were spend with aged out kids in Odessa. We played board games and talked.

Marina's Kids Team training: Izmail



Trip to Ukraine : June 2018

The trip in June was different than many others. On The trip came from the USA Marina, Angel, and Andrey. Angel, aspiring movie maker, has been taking footage the whole way, and interviewing many people that have receive services from Marina's Kids, as well as volunteers of Marina's Kids. Andrey, adopted several years earlier, came as a translator, and to see his family and friends he left behind. The documentary of Marina's Kids work and origins will be released later in 2019, we are still working on it.



The trip was filled as always with fun, excitement, visits with children, helping with a summer camp in Izmail, checking with aged out orphans, and travel on "roads" of Ukraine.



Trip to Ukraine : October 2018

October was a fast-paced trip, with just Marina flying to Ukraine from the U.S., meeting up with Olga in Odessa region for the 5 days of travel. We had a few days to check on our projects, talk about training of new volunteers, and time spend time with aged out orphans and their kids.



Marina's Kids has sponsored a playground for an orphanage with physical and mental disabilities

From the director of the orphanage: "Thank you, Marina's Kids Organization, and friends and families who donated to build a playground for Special Needs Children. You all made a huge difference in the lives of children. Our children don't see many visitors, don't get many gifts, they are not healthy, but they are children and love to play. I treasure all of you that make kids' life easier and brighter. Thank you" ♡ (Organized by Marina's Kids volunteer, Julia Z.)



Baby Orphanage, weekly visits ☺

Marina's Kids volunteers are now regular visitors in a local baby orphanage (kids birth to 6 years old). We get to bring snacks, fix rooms, Oleg helps assemble furniture, fix and move things around. A great handy man! Angela and other volunteers visit and play with the kids. More than candies, cookies, and gifts the children want hugs and attention.





We have helped several aged-out orphans with medical needs, school, and living situations. One of the regular things that Marina's Kids does is to check on and help aged out orphans.

Some quick summaries of 2018:

Denis...The unfortunate accident that happened 14 months ago turned into a heartbreaking event for many of us. So many of you stood beside Marina's Kids and donated money for surgeries, medication, food, lodging, and transportation. Many people sent gifts and more importantly prayed with us. We are always grateful to each of you. At 18 years old it is a difficult being an orphan and waking up all alone one morning at the hospital with nobody around and no feelings in your legs, a broken spine, no money, no food, no help. Denis asked to return to Lugansk where he grew up. He was nervous but happy and heading home. Physically he is healing but emotionally he struggles. Pray for Denis.



Julia D. from a family in need. Marina has known her for 8 years now. Julia is studying to be a hairstylist in Odessa region. Marina's Kids sponsors her with \$500 a year, which pays for her dorm, tuition, some clothing, and school supplies. When Marina visits, she always takes Julie with her for a few days. At the end of time together, with many hugs and tears we say goodbye, there is always a grocery bag full of food that goes back with sweet Julia.



Ivan is an aged-out orphan of 19. In the fall he broke his leg but without proper care it did not heal properly. After suffering for so long, Ivan finally asked the family that was in the process of adopting his brother to help him. Not knowing how to help, Keri, the mother of that family contacted Marina with the desire to help. The surgery was not cheap, and there are many dishonest people in Ukraine. Marina's Kids volunteers made some calls, checked with some sources and contact to ensure this was a legitimate injury and claim. Ivan has had surgery, recovered, and doctors say that his leg will be fine.



One of the orphanages we have worked with in the past has contacted our volunteer, Julia with an interesting dilemma. Two of the older boys have been invited to Special Olympics in Switzerland. **Thank you everyone friends for supporting our boys and praying for them.** 😊❤️🙏 Marina's Kids was able to help with the plane tickets to Switzerland for boys. We want to Congratulate our **older orphan boys Vitaliy, Kolya** and their amazing coach Anatoliy. Boys won 1st and 2nd places at the Special Olympics in Switzerland. You are our pride and future. We are so thankful and amazed of your hard work and dedication. We love you and are so proud of you.



-Marina's Kids



Transition House – graduation to better future!

For several years we have had a transition home in Izmail. We have turned Oleg's and Angela's attic into a three-bedroom apartment with a kitchen and bathroom. Over the last two years we had a great group of boys in our transition home. Our boys have been mentored for several years and in May it was time for them to leave the coop. In the fall we moved into that space several girls. The girls must learn to cook, take care of their well-being, finances, go to church with the family, and over all become self-sufficient adults. They must learn how to be a part of a family. The kids we take in come from orphanages, and do not know what it is to live with and listen to parents.



Papa Oleg is teaching the girls how to can for the winter.



It is always fun when Marina comes to visit.

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These two beautiful 8 years old twin girls **Mashenka and Sonya** were both born with Infantile Cerebral Palsy. Right after the birth of the girls the dad refused them and left the family. Now they are cared for by their mother and aging grandparents. The girls need to visit rehabilitation hospital at least once per year for a few weeks. The total cost of each trip is \$1,700. In 2018 marina's Kids was able to sponsor one trip for the girls. Mashenka and Sonya's mom have no one else to ask for help, Marina's Kids is their only hope. Rehabilitation has been very good for the girls who can now identify colors and shapes, respond to their caregivers, and are smiling when visitors play with them. Daily, their mother and grandparents take turn doing exercises and playing with them. Trips to the hospital for checks and new exercises are needed. We are hoping to raise funds for a trip for the girls in 2019 as well.

SHOES for Christmas, Marina's Kids able to provide shoes as part of Christmas gifts for 40 kids in the orphanage.



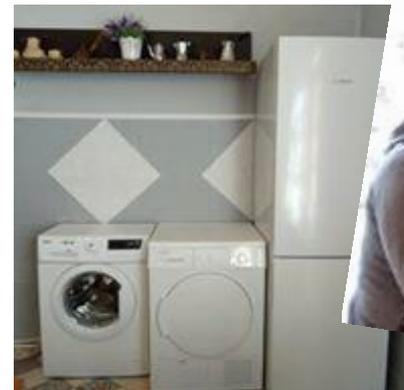
NOW OPEN! Social Center in Izmail,

Izmail is a small town with many needs for children and families. Teenage boys have no place to hang out. Many boys get in trouble out of boredom. Last February, Roma (21), went to collect metal wires so that he could sell them to have pocket change. Him and his friends ended up on a construction site. Roma grabbed a copper wire which happened to have high voltage going through it. The electric shock threw him across the room, killing him instantly. There are so many boys and young men like Roma, who need a safe place to be, learn and skills to have a job.



We are pleased to announce the social center **Wings of Hope** is **now open**. We have a warm inviting with a gym, a shower room, laundry machines, and a kitchen. The building was donated to us by a church and is a part of the church. The boys will be able to come, wash up, eat a healthy meal, use the gym and internet. The boys will have mentors, and a pastor to talk to.

In Memory of Roma!!



Winter

In 2018 we had three different camps

A fun, unique thing about winter camp is that each child in the local orphanage got a little personal cake (that our volunteer Yana baked) with a personal candle to blow out. Kids really liked the idea of celebrating the b-day of Jesus.



Easter

During the time of Easter camp Kids came to our social center from a local orphanage, as well as kids from local families in crisis. They did crafts, played games and got an Easter basket with goodies and hygiene products (very needed!). Thank you all that sponsor these programs.



Summer- "Sails of Hope"

For summer day camp that lasted 2 weeks, Marina, Angel, And Andrey from USA were able to come and help. Marina face painted, Angel filmed footage for our documentary movie, and Andrey played with kids and Translated for Angel. The name of the camp was "Sails of hope" with the sea theme. There was a pool, crafts, snacks, songs, and lots of fun. Our pastor Andrey was the captain of the ship, a small group of volunteers wore striped shirts for this incredible occasion.



In our social center “Wings of Hope” we work also with families in crisis, delinquent kids, aged out orphans, local orphanage kids, autistic kids, and single moms.



Ukraine is not set up to take care of **autistic kids**, and especially as they become adults. There are parents who worry, what would happen to their children. We have a social group and play time with therapy.



A support group for single mothers, and mother from families in crisis has regular meetings that involve crafts while sharing their lives, therapy from our trained volunteers, and just a time to distress and take care of themselves with a cup of tea and a listening friend and mentor.



We now work with delinquent kids (the boys in this picture did not want to have their faces shown). We have training in life lessons for them, clothing, donations, personal hygiene gift baskets during holidays, and time to come to gym and talk to a mentor

We provide **monthly food baskets** for several your single moms. for a \$25 we can get enough pasta, vegetable oil, rice, buckwheat, and other grains, sugar, tea, and small treat for the kids.



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This is **Irina, she is a single mother** who has a hard time right now. She comes to our center to talk with pastor, receive food, and needed things for her 2 kids. She is not the only one who is in a hard a difficult situation. We have young women that come to our center who have been beaten, who are thrown naked onto the street in the middle of the night, young women that are pregnant and have no idea how to support a baby.



Our team are awaiting for the new center to open

Rehabilitation shelter for battered young mothers:

The need: There are many young women in Ukraine that come from bad families or orphanages, who find themselves in a relationship with a man who abuses them. What is worse, many get pregnant and must think about how and where to raise a child while still being a teenager themselves. There is No family support and No place to turn!

Our Solution: Marina's Kids is building a shelter in Odessa region to house and help several girls and their children. We will have housing, food, heat, employment, and education opportunities. We also have psychologists and mentors on hand. The construction has already begun, and we hope to open our doors in 2019.

What is still needed: We still need to install a water boiler, toilets, shower stalls and sinks, floor coverings and, paint walls, get furniture, and some other needed things. We need to still raise \$12,000 before we can open the center.



As always funds are needed to run our many programs. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. To contribute please go to our PayPal Giving Site:

<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1672120>

FREE, 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://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1672120)

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



Thanks You

***For your support,
Marina James,
President, Marina's Kids
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Please invite Marina's Kids volunteers to speak at your church and social groups. We would love to tell you personally about our work and the way you can help.

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Marina's Kids is a not for profit organization and is recognized as a public charity under section 501c3 of the internal revenue code. EIN: 30-0687266 ¹⁰