



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your spiritual and financial support for the “Marina’s Kids” organization. With that support the “Spring 2011” mission trip to Odessa region, Ukraine was a big success. As you can see in the report attached to this letter, we were able to accomplish many things, and to touch many lives. If you would like to read about it in more detail there is a blog of the trip on our site www.marinaskids.org .

In a summary* we accomplished the following:

- Medical center: Installed a toilet, a shower, and new sinks. Repaired several rooms and got new windows and a door.
- Kitchen: redid all plumbing and installed a bathroom, got repair parts for stove
- Roofs: Enough materials to re-shingle one roof
- Supplied many needed items to the children.(like shampoo and underwear)
- Provided 150lb of summer clothing

*This is not a complete list, only the highlights. We accomplished so much that it will take pages to share it all with you.

Most importantly , I was able to spend time with the children. I got to know many, and some I am getting to know very well. We had a fun time and many good talks. As we spend time together I have the privilege to get to know them true them- the good and the bad. It is at that time they start to trust and respect me, and are willing to take my advice. It is no longer polite nodding of heads while my words go in one ear and come out of the other, but I have good reports from their care givers about their attitudes and behavior. This kind of friendship will help to guide them through the transitional years as they leave the orphanage at the age of 15-17, and are bound for a hard life making many mistakes along the way, with almost no one to guide or support them.

I would like to thank you not just from myself and the organization, but from the orphanage director, caregivers, and children.

Thank You

In Christ's name,
♥ Marina James

December 2010 followup:

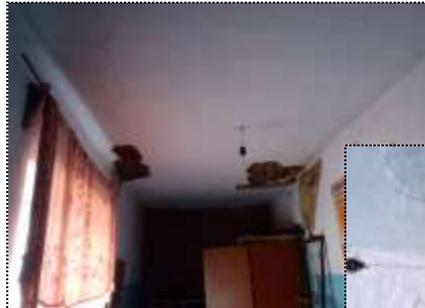
Freezer for food storage, and dishes- as you can see the one we replaced had a broken lid, and was very small for the orphanage kitchen that feeds over one hundred kids. There was not enough dishes, kids ate in 2-3 shifts.



Repairs in one of the "dorms":

This was an uninhabitable quarters. At the time when Marina came to visit, the children from the group this "dorm" was assigned to lived in a temporary location. The place needed to be painted and fixed up in general, but the biggest problem was the wash room, where there was a leaking roof which caused the ceiling to collapse. We have purchased all of the needed materials and 2 weeks later the kids moved into to the "dorm" that was warm and had running water!

Before and after



Before and after





Spring 2011:

Clothing: 150LB of donated summer clothing was shipped ahead of time and arrived in the orphanage while Marina was there. Thank you for all of the donations, it has clothed a lot of kids.



Some soccer socks was also given out to the Soccer team – as you can see most of them practice in regular clothes, like jeans and are short on soccer balls.



Many needed items were purchased and donated: buckets for carrying water, basins for personal washing and laundry, towels, underwear, socks, laundry detergent, shampoos, soap, gifts for b-days.



In the last 6 months the orphanage had no printer, one was gifted to them as well.



Medical center: this is the biggest undertaking during the spring 2011 trip. The windows were old, drafty, and broken. The front door was falling apart. ALL OF THE WINDOWS AND THE DOOR HAVE BEEN REPLACED.



The medical center's bathroom: It had most of the time no running water- water had to be brought in in buckets and (see bellow) drain outside was in bed shape also. And as you can see the medical center in addition to not having cold or hot water, also had no toilet, or shower. All of the sick kids in the isolator had to go to the outhouse with all the other kids. Ceiling had collapsed due to the leaking roof. The pictures bellow are before and work in progress. The "after" pictures I will have at a later date. THE BATHROOM IN THE MEDICAL CENTER HAD A COMPLETE MAKEOVER.



← Before and after

Before and in progress

Medical center "treatments room" this should be a sterile room were the kids get checked, get medicines, and shots. In reality this room is far from sterile. It had rotted out floors, no running water, poor lighting...and some other problems. ALL OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED PROBLEMS ARE BEIGH FIXED THIS SPRING/ SUMMER WITH THE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PURSCHASED BY "MARINA'S KIDS". (the after pictures will follow).



rotted out floors

Water source in the "sterile room" →



Before and after of one of the outside walls



Dinning Hall / Kitchen



Delivery stove parts



We were able to replace all of the badly rusted plumbing in the dinning hall and kitchen, get parts for the wood burning stove and put in a toilet in that building.



Time with the kids and face painting – I think no further commentary is necessary – these pictures speak a thousand words



All of the roofs are in bad shape some shingles are original from the early 1900s. All leak and do structural damage to the buildings. This trip we were able to get enough materials to replace one of the roofs (roof replacement will take place in the summer and I will have a pictures of that later). Our goal is to replace 1-2 roofs each trip.

Roofs



In addition to things mentioned above we also did some smaller things. We supplied the English teacher with posters for the walls, flash cards and story books to help children learn English. In just a few months between the trips the kids progress was amazing. We have purchased tools for the workers so that they could fix the orphanage. Got things like TV antennas for some groups, and supplies to redo some rooms for others. There are seven groups in total, but only 2 have sponsors. They all are in need to have some rooms repainted and other miscellaneous things purchased – like clocks, brooms, and drapes.



Next trip major project will be the bathrooms: as of the December trip there was only one indoor bathroom. 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, with no heat, water or electricity outhouses several minutes walk from of the orphanage territory. 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. Our goal is to put in a toilet in every one of seven dorms, as well as hot water heaters. We also put in an indoor bathroom for elementary school. We hope to accomplish it in October/ November 2011, so that the children of that orphanage can have a healthier winter. In the harsh Ukrainian climate.

December 2010 – “The best seat in the house”



There once used to be a sink here



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