



Update Newsletter

February 2013:

Making a Difference!

- Facebook: *page 1*
- Winter hosting: *page 2*
- What is hosting? & Our summer program: *page 3*
- Orphan assistance : *page 4*
- Upcoming trip- Spring 2013: *page 5*
- 2013 plans: *page 6*



Donations of clothing delivered to an orphanage by Marina's Kids volunteer, Julia. See more on page 4.

We are now on Facebook!!!

<http://www.facebook.com/MarinasKids>

See our updates as they happen. Marina's Kids is growing by leaps and bounds. New programs are being developed and implemented. More and more volunteers in the US and Ukraine are working with the children. Pictures, stories, and news can be now found on our Facebook page. You can be a great help to us in loving these children by "like" ing our page and sharing it! Thank you!

www.marinaskids.org



Winter Hosting: 12.20.2012-1.15.2013

This past winter 18 orphans came to the US on a vacation from Ukraine with our organization. The kids were different ages, from different locations, and they ended up all over the United States. All had great time!!! For a few short weeks all were able to be a part of a family- a dream come true for 18 kids!



Arrival...



Our group at the airport



1 am...waiting for connecting flight

Here is a letter from one of the hosting families:

Dear Marina,

We hosted Nastya at the last minute. I was on Facebook and her little picture popped up and I thought about it for two whole seconds and replied to post. Waiting for her delayed flight into Orlando International at 3 o'clock in the morning this beautiful tired and scared little girl ran right into my arms I knew right then that this was more than just hosting an eleven year old girl from Ukraine I knew that we were all going to fall head over heels in love with her and our lives would change forever and that's exactly what has happened.

Nastya is just as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside She is very affectionate and got along well with everyone. We celebrated Christmas here in Dunedin and then went to the mountains in North Carolina Nastya said she likes Florida better because its warm, not cold like Ukraine. We cut our trip short by a few days she was quite happy with that. We took a five day trip to Disney World . Nastyas loved the roller coasters Thunder Mountain was her favorite. She loves to swim and is very good at it. We went to the beach and played in the waves.

Saying good bye was one of the hardest things I ever had to do. A huge piece of me is in Ukraine. Marina what you are doing for these beautiful children is such a blessing. Thank you and God Bless you and your continued work with the beautiful children of Ukraine. Peace in Christ, Stacy Colbassani



What is Hosting?

Why Hosting?

The Need: Orphaned children do not get a good foundation for family and miss out on things like how we treat each other, how we love and just what families do to have fun. It is important for them to see how we move through our days so they can one day look back and have a good vision of how to treat their wife or husband and children. They need to see that there is more to life than 4 walls of the orphanage and a life of misery and survival.

Our solution: Find a family willing to sponsor/ take a child in for a summer/ winter vacation. When the children go back, we make sure that there is a line of communication between the family and a child, so that the relationship can continue to develop, so that the child can feel the love and care of the family, and of God working through our volunteers.

Hosting is a cultural exchange program, where a family in the US will show a child new ways to live, love, and learn. Hosting is a way a child can get a glimpse of what it is like to be in a family, in a safe home, since they haven't experienced it in real life. It is a chance for a family to put a face and a name to a title "orphan". It is a way to link a child with a family that will mentor him for years to come.

Our Program:

Three ways to setup hosting:

- The kids can be sent to different locations in the US to spend their vacations with a one family
- A child could be co-hosted by 2 or more families
- A summer camp: A group of kids from one orphanage can go to one location . This way a community can help each other with these children. This option will let the community to be linked with an orphanage, supporting it in many ways. Befriending , supporting, and mentoring children from it for a lifetime.

For up to date list of communities hosting go to our website

When: 2 times a year:
Winter : 3-4 weeks in Dec/Jan
Summer: 5-8 weeks



During our post hosting trip to the orphanage children created some art memories.

If you are interested in learning more please see our website:

www.marinaskids.org

Or call

**Hosting Program Director:
Michelle Phillips
859.496.0419³**



Orphans assistance:



Winter shoes for about 300 children

This winter Marina's Kids provided about 300 kids in 5 different location winter shoes appropriate for the harsh Ukrainian winters. We had several Ukrainian volunteers working on this project. Here are some pictures:



Time with Kids: While in the orphanages delivering shoes, our volunteers also have purchased other needed items and spent time with the children.

Shipped clothing for

younger kids: we had about 200lbs of toddler / baby clothes donated, shipped, and delivered to the orphanages.



Upcoming Mission Trip- March 13-28, 2013

Once again I am (Marina) preparing for my semi-annual trip to visit children of Ukraine. I will be flying out of JFK alone , but will be meeting our Ukrainian volunteers on location. An action packed trip is awaiting me!

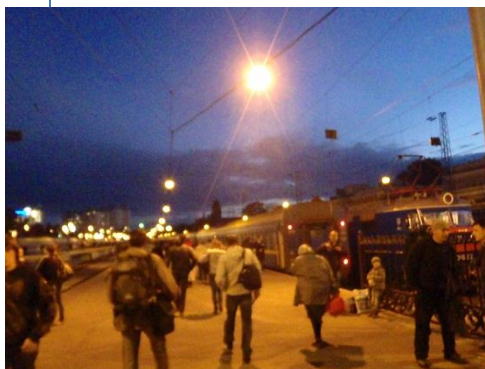
First stop: Kiev, where I will meet with our volunteers to discuss and check on projects, and plans. Same day trip to visit Stasic and his sisters. You might remember them from previous updates. Same night, train to Odessa. There I will be meeting Kirill, 19. This young man, who is himself an orphan, is now assisting me in my work for the second trip in a row.

Second location (Fri-Mon): Izmail, 3.5 hour by bus from Odessa. Many older children are awaiting me there. More strategic planning for the future and checking on present work with our volunteers, Angela and her family. I plan to rent a apartment to which the children will be invited to spent time with me. We will have lots of small group and one on one time together. I will have a kitchen, which is a big plus when there are so many growing, always hungry teenagers around.

Third location (tue-fri): place closed to my heart, the original location. I will spent few days there with the children . Face painting, doing workshops, talking them into bed at night. Once again, your prayers are needed, This orphanage is a heart of several villages, providing jobs and education, as well as having caring staff.- there is a good chance the government will be closing it, sending legal orphans to different locations, and social orphans back to families members who never took care of them in the first place. Please pray for the children and staff, and for the community. This is a hard time for them, with lots of unknown ahead.

Fourth stop (3 more hours by bus): (Fri): spend a day with our volunteers discussing a transitional home for older teen orphans, looking at potential site, and visiting an orphanage near there. .

Stop five (3 hours by train north): (Sat-Mon): One more orphanage. Many projects to discuss there, many children to get to know. This will be my first time at that location personally, however our volunteers have laid ground work for me already.



Overnight train.



From there an overnight train will take me **to my last stop.** It is a personal one: to see my boys, the once we , James Family, are hoping to complete adoption for this year! 2 days later, and I will be on an overnight bus to the airport, from there –home!

Plans For 2013

Mission Trips: we plan several this year

- **Spring 2013** – see more info in this newsletter on page 5.
- **Summer – Green houses-** our team from Canada will be fixing up a green house in one orphanages, and picking locations for more green house projects. We will also be providing gardening supplies, seeds, and plans for some orphanages.
- **Fall 2-3 groups-** We plan for a group to travel with me from Glenside area to visit several orphanages. We will also be organizing a community a Raleigh, NC to visit the orphanages they will be doing summers camp hosting, as well as a group from Washington to visit the orphanage they will be hosing from.

Clothing collection/ shipping:

- Clothing and other items are needed.
- [take a look at the list](#) on our website.
- Orphanage assistance will be happening thought out the year as well as on the trips

Upgrading and repairing orphanages: There are several locations we will be working in, and lots of things that need fixing. Updates on that will be posted on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Marinaskids>

Prayer Requests: There are many...You can pray for everything mentioned in this Update and as more things come up, you will see the needs for prayers and for praise on the Facebook page.

The most important one is this: wisdom and guidance of the Lord for leaders, volunteers, and children we work with.

7 "...Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"... 1 Kings 3:8-9 (NIV)



Transitional care:

continue to develop and implement programs for the older orphans.

Hosting:

- **Summer: we will have 60-70kids listing** picture s are coming soon, send us a request on <http://marinaskids.org/hosting> if you would like more information.
- Here is the link to our brochure: feel free to share it: [Marina's Kids Hosting Brochure](#)
- **Winter 2013-** we plan on winter hosting as well. Check our web site in September for the info.

Medical:

- Kolya K.'s joint replacement is scheduled for March. After that he will be in recovery, in a special hospital.
- Lazy/ corrective eyes surgeries are being researched. We hope to raise money and have contacts and volunteers for this project sometime this year.



Thank You

**For your support,
Marina James,
President, Marina's Kids
267.210.4909**

www.marinaskids.org