



Update Newsletter

N° 9: April 2014



www.marinaskids.org

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Saying good-buy to 19 of 63 kids that came with Marina's Kids hosting program, Summer 2013, Seattle Washington airport.

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](http://smile.amazon.com/ref=smi_ge_rl_rd_gw?encoding=UTF8&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

*Every penny counts, Thank you.
Marina James, President, Marina's Kids*

Making a Difference!

Special thanks to all of Marina's Kids supporters from the Director and kids of our Location # 12 This past winters 2 water boilers that heat water for radiators for the orphanage housing 100 kids broke one right after another. The orphanage was left without any heat in the middle of harsh Ukrainian winter!!! But, with the wits of their maintenance guy and the shower house water heater Marina's Kids installed in the old shower house (new shower house will be built this summer), the water pipes were rerouted to heat the dorms.



Timothy had the best summer vacation ever 😊



This past winter we had our 3rd hosting program. 36 orphans were able to spend a few weeks with families in the US. Many families are keeping in touch with the children through our volunteers in Ukraine.

Our hosting program is a health and culture betterment program, it is not a prequel to adoption. However, statistically over 70% of orphans that come with a program like this one, meet someone who adopts them or actively advocates for them. Out of the kids hosted through Marina's Kids since the beginning of our hosting program 4 have already been adopted and 30 more are in the different stages of becoming part of a family!

Marina's Kids Hosting Program



Vasya got to go to the dentist, he was very brave!



**Their first meeting, Summer 2013 .
Now they are a forever family.
Thank you Shad, Noelle, and Cody for opening up your home and hearts to Lera and Vitaly.**



Many kids that come are older, they are great kids that had a hard life.

Most of them will never have a family. Who would want to adopt a gangly tall teenager with pimples and a teenage attitude of knowing everything? Only the people who will get to know them!!! Because under that teenager look lies a heart that will melt yours.

Besides knowing many of these kids personally, and well, my family has adopted 4 teens over the last 3 years. Yes, it is hard, but its worth the sacrifice.

It is not to late yet to help an orphan to be a part of the summer 2014 hosting program. We need sponsors , host families, and advocates.



Follow up on "An Orphan is Picking Life for Her Child"

from Newsletter #8.

March 25, 2014: Do you remember the story about Natasha and her baby Mathew? They were able to get an apartment gifted to them by the government. The only problem is all it has are walls and floor and ceiling. It has NOTHING else. No, sinks, no toilet bowl, just holes where the pipes need to connect, old broken windows and doors

Natasha is bringing food for the boys that are fixing her place



Kirill is redoing the walls



April 2, 2014: The apartment is slowly coming together. Marina's Kids has contracted the work to 3 young men, who grew up in the orphanages. Kirill is leading the project, a young man who grew up in the orphanage himself.

They are doing great work getting the apartment ready for Natasha and Baby Mathew. The walls and the ceiling have been scraped, all rubbish has been removed. Walls are being prepared with spackle and mortar for paint and wallpapering. New windows have been ordered, plumbing and electric work is being done this week as well. We hope to get it all set up for Natasha and Mathew to move in in just few more weeks. I spoke to Natasha a few days ago, and she is very thankful for all of our help, she want to make sure that you know it.



Working on putting in new windows



Update on Kolya K.:

As of the last update Kolya has successfully recovered from his surgery, and was finally, after 2 months, out of the lower half body cast. He is in the bone correction hospital, doing physical therapy and school. Kolya is able to walk and even run now. All of that he can do without any pain!!! This summer he needs to go back to the hospital where he had the surgery, and have another follow up surgery to remove a plastic bracket that was implanted during the first procedure. He will remain in Zatoca's hospital for Children, where Marina's Kids sponsor an orphan wing, for the next 1-2 years.

Update on Sasha:

I met Sasha last year in a bone correction hospital in the Odessa region of Ukraine - his spine was deformed as a result of spinal tuberculosis. Just a few months after we met his mother died -- he was just three-years old and spending 20 hours a day strapped to a plaster mold to improve his posture. But something else was going on and his overall health was worsening. He'd stopped eating and was losing weight and local doctors were not equipped to help him. Sasha's health was deteriorating rapidly and the doctors had given him just two months to live and I knew I needed to find a more effective treatment as soon as possible.

A hospital specializing in tuberculosis was an eight-hour train ride away in Ukraine's capital, Kiev. Thankfully, **Marina's Kids** volunteers arranged for a consultation, organized the trip, and accompanied Sasha to the appointment. The specialists examined Sasha and diagnosed him with an open form of tuberculosis that had spread to his lungs. Not only was he terribly sick but it also meant that everyone who had been in contact with him had been exposed to TB. All of the kids and nurses in the bone correction hospital in the Odessa region had to be tested. Mercifully, no one else was infected and we were able to return him to a different hospital in Odessa with a focused treatment plan for his bone injuries and the TB.

Sasha is doing a lot better now and is expected to make a full recovery, but he still has a long road ahead of him. It will take at least six more months of treatment before he will be ready for a spinal surgery and then he'll wear a special corset for the next few years. Like any three-year-old Sasha loves to play and thankfully the corset will help him live a more active life.

Our volunteers continue to check on Sasha's progress. They visit him weekly bringing him fruit, toys, and essential medication for his survival. His access to this medicine is not covered by the Ukrainian health care system but thanks to the care of our volunteers and the generosity of donors Sasha has a chance for hope and a future.





Location #2: Technical school clubhouse:

During the last few months Marina's Kids volunteers have been continuing to work with older teen orphans. The kids come regularly to the club house for talks, food, showers, and internet access. Sometimes they all call me as a group to chat. The new biggest addition to the club this winter was the laundry machine. Now, mostly girls, come to run their laundry.



One of the girls, Julia, is pregnant . It is because of talks with our volunteer Angela, she decided not to abort the pregnancy and to keep the baby. This winter she had a beautiful baby girl. She called her Anastasia, Nastia for short. We made sure that everything went well with the birth and that Julia had everything needed to bring Nastia home. At present Julia and the baby live with 3 other kids we work with, and she comes regularly to our club with the baby.



A lot of the kids we work with there will be adults soon. So looking ahead, our volunteers are working on getting to know more kids from local orphanages, so that as they enter the technical school there will be already established trust and rapport between our volunteers and the kids.



USA Kids are making a difference in life of orphans :

Over the last few years I have come to witness kindness and sacrifice of the kids in US. Here some examples:

Zendi from NC had a ball themed b-day party and collected over 300 different balls for the children in the orphanages. This is what her mother has to say:

“My daughter Zendi and I LOVE parties, especially THEME parties, and every year for her birthday we plan a big party and invite all the kids in her class, church, and neighborhood. We usually end up with about 30 guests. What if every one of those guests spent \$10-\$20 on a present for her? That would be \$300-\$600 of well-intentioned but unnecessary spending. So each year for Zendi's birthday we choose a more positive direction for that spending power. Her cousins were adopted from Ukraine a few years ago, so for her 6th birthday she chose to have a Royal Ball; instead of gifts the guests brought ball toys for Ukrainian orphans. We collected so many toy balls that they filled 3 garbage bags DEFLATED and were shipped to 3 different orphanages. Plus, several other balls were kept as gifts for a local hosting program, and we received almost \$200 in monetary donations for the hosting program. Another benefit of the party was that it increased awareness of orphans, adoptions, and hosting with many people who had not had exposure to these topics before. Best of all, everyone had a great time!”



The kids in Elkins Park Elementary School, after hearing my presentation collected \$50 in pennies for Marina’s Kids work.

A boy from NC, Vitaly, who was adopted 3 years ago last spring has donated all of his saved money so that an orphan with a hearing disability could be a part of our hosting program. His actions started a wave of donations that let Ivana come to US be a part of a family. Her hearing was examined by specialists and she was able to get a proper hearing aide. Her host mom told us:” I wish I took a picture of the moment she put in her hearing aid. The Expression on her face of hearing well for the first time on her life was priceless”

A girl Kiely C. , of Maine has asked for her B-Day party to be themed Marina’s Kids. During the party she showed slides of what we do and collected clothing donations. 18 boxes of donations will soon make it to the kids of Ukraine.



Sean for his birthday decided to sponsor a orphan to be able to come to US as well. His b-day gift requests were money for this cause. His efforts and generosity of his guests raised over \$700 last year.



Location #17:

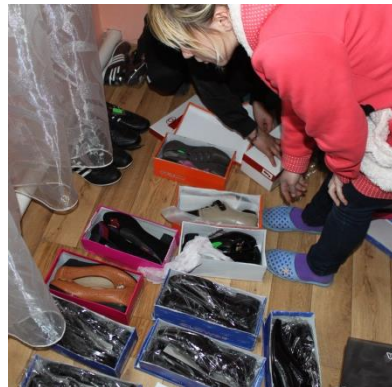
Kirill is our volunteer residing near that location. He goes to the orphanage on most Sundays after church, with a group of church volunteers. They teach the bible to the kids and spend time with them. They also provide fruit snacks for the kids every Sunday, It is a marina's Kids sponsored program run by the local church.



Kirill was able to get about 50 pairs of shoes for the kids in the orphanage, as well as some soccer balls, and other small needed things.

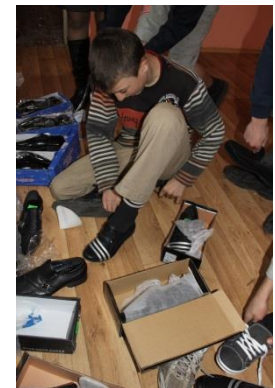


Shoes are always in high demand in the orphanages



Location #3:

Our volunteer Svieta purchased on behalf of Marina's Kids about 50 pair of shoes for orphans at that location this spring. The kids are very happy with their new shoes.





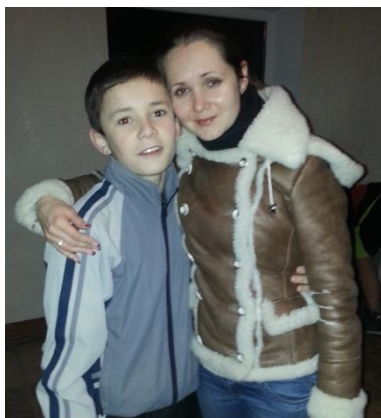
Our Hosting Director, Michelle, visited Ukraine this spring...

My recent trip to Ukraine was a wonderful gift of time with children. This trip enabled me to visit four of our orphanage locations. The main purpose of the trip was to meet and spend time with many of the children we have on our hosting program. For Marina's Kids Hosting Program to be the best it can be we must spend time with the children in order to adequately share all of the amazing qualities that each child possesses; stories of their day, their likes, dislikes, and how they interact with others. For host families, choosing a child to host it takes a lot of prayer and a leap of faith. Hearing stories about the children helps families connect and decide if a child has a personality that will fit their family.

I was able to take a huge suitcase full of gifts from families to their host children, in addition we had gifts for kids that families had never met before but have admired through pictures. We were happy to take pictures of the children with their gifts and share those photos with families that so thoughtfully sent a piece of their heart.



We found some of the kids at location 3 without a lot of food and toiletries, kids with shoes that had holes top to bottom and splitting at the seams. Making a trip to the market we were able to take a few things to the kids that were in desperate need. Julia, one of Marina's Kids key volunteers followed up after I left with more shoes, clothes, food and toiletries. The other three orphanages were in very good condition so the visit was short with some hugs and to give gifts from families.



Julia, Marina's kids hosting facilitator in Ukraine, and I visited a new orphanage of special needs kids in the south. We had a few hours to spend and meet kids. We will be praying about adding this orphanage of special needs children to our hosting program. This orphanage is a large orphanage with a variety of special needs kids and some kids that are just older. We met children with Downs Syndrome, FAS, and some with mental challenges that were just sweet as can be. The challenges of bringing children on a hosting with these sorts of disabilities will take some serious planning, prayer and manpower to accomplish. It is a desire to help these children so pray for everything we would need to add special needs children to M.K. hosting and the funds to help the kids at this potential location. They do have some needs we would like to help with.

It is with pleasure that I help the children and families who take a leap of faith and host beautiful children from Ukraine. I was able to take a huge suitcase full of gifts from families to their host children, in addition we had gifts for kids that families had never met before but have admired through pictures. We were happy to take pictures of the children with their gifts and share those photos with families that so thoughtfully sent a piece of their heart.

***Please consider hosting, deadline for this summer is May 20th. Ask me about other ways you can help with this program. Thank you,
Michelle Phillips, Ukraine Host Program Director, Marina's Kids***



Zatoca Hospital for Children

Location # 13

See more in Newsletter #8



This winter and spring Zatoca's hospital officially established a wing for orphans. Orphans who need different bone related rehabilitation from all over Ukraine will be able to stay there. Time for each kids will vary from a few weeks to a few years. Nine large rooms on the first floor with its own separate entrance are set aside for this. The goal is to have 3 rooms for boys, 3 for girls, and one as a guest/ play room.

Marina's Kids is sponsoring a lot of this. So far we have redone windows in 2 rooms, and a bathroom, and are in the process of getting 2 more rooms done. We also have purchased 70 new pillows, and are looking for bedding.

Orphan's Wing Rooms



70 new pillows for the orphanage wing

Some bedding was donated already by a Best Western Hotel in Fort Washington, PA. We will take anything stained or ripped, and will cut and sew them to size. If anyone has connections to hotels, or willing to stop by some in your area and check for us we will really appreciate it. For the bedding project please contact me, Marina James, directly

marina.james@marinaskids.org



We Need More Used bed sheets

Praise, Prayer, and Plans

These are the projects planned for January - June of 2014:

(several of these projects are already in the works)

Medical: follow up on medical needs with the Kolya K. (he needs a follow up surgery to remove implants from last summer leg saving surgery) and Sasha (battling TB and spine problems) (\$2,000)

Repairs:

- Redo 2 rooms in a children's hospital/ orphan's wing (about \$2,000)
- Build a shower house in an orphanage with 100 kids. (about \$13,000)
- fix/ a complete overhaul of an apartment for a young mother, who grew up an orphan and her baby(\$2,500) (Natasha and Mathew)

Graduating Kids: We want to support older children once more with graduation and a care packages including bags, clothing, bedding and school supplies as they leave the orphanages to go to technical schools. (\$1,000)

"you are not alone" club (\$500 a month *6 month= \$3,000)

Shoes for several orphanages for about 130 kids (\$2,000)

Mission Trips: Marina and Wendee will be traveling from US to Ukraine 15-29th of May.(\$3,500) and money needed for orphanages requests while we are there (\$3,000), like underclothing, toilet paper, broken school bus, etc...

Summer 2014 hosting program still looking for families. The deadline May 20th.

<http://marinaskids.org/hosting> if you would like more information. Or **call our** Hosting Program Director, Michelle Phillips 859.496.0419

We are looking for volunteers: secretary, different project managers, grant writers, writing and editing, driving for different projects, clothing donation collectors and sorters, fund raisers, organization presenters and promoters. There are many other needs, please contact Marina, for more info.

267.210.4909 or marina.james@marinaskids.org

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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