

New Arrivals

SLAVIK (short for Vladislav) has joined the Genesis family only a few months ago. He is now the oldest child in the house (aged 9) and is already settling into his new family. Here is his story, according to Slavik's own words:



New members of Genesis Family: Masha (4y.o.) and Slavik (9y.o.)

“My mother worked at night and would often come home with different men. One night she did not come back. I continued living at home with two other men whom Mom brought home before. I called them 'stepfathers'. They were quite good to me, took care, fed me and even taught me to read. Then they brought their own women (Slavik called them 'stepmothers') and there was no place for me in the apartment.”

That is when they brought him to the orphan shelter. All the social workers liked Slavik a lot. He was a very interesting, polite, curious boy, not like the others who behaved like frightened wild animals. He read a lot. Since there were not many books in this shelter, Slavik chose the atlas for 7th grade pupils as his favourite book. The shelter staff that cared for him realised that once he would reach 9 years old they would have to send him to an orphanage and that is a place with no hope for the future.

Kids become aggressive, depressed and lose hope, influencing each other in a negative way. Thankfully our foster parents were in the process of getting all the papers ready and looking for a child who needed them. That is when Slavik showed up. Thank God they found him just before he was sent to an orphanage.

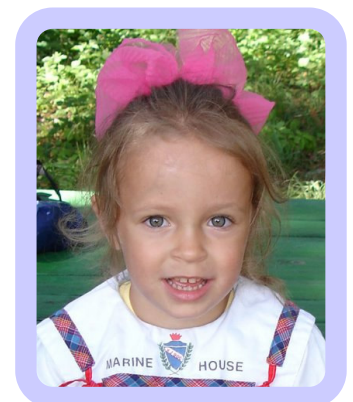
Slavik went to school for the very first time in his life last September. He went straight to 4th grade instead of 1st, not knowing how to behave, not knowing what studying was all about, or how to count, write, etc. It was incredibly hard for him, a great challenge, a lot of disappointment and many bad marks. However, things



Slavik's first ever day at school in Sept 2006

got better with our foster parents' help and Slavik's discipline and willingness to succeed, he did it. He is now catching up fast with his peers. We are all so proud of him. He goes to choir, craft studies and additional English, and has become a caring elder brother and well-behaved son. What a joy.

MASHA (short for Maria) was only 4 months old when she was abandoned at a homeless soup kitchen with a note from her mother “I will come back for her”. She was sent to a house of babies with the diagnosis - 'healthy child', which is simply a miracle for a child who was probably born on the street. That's where she had lived until 4 y.o. when our foster parent came to pick her up and welcome her into the family. Now she is safe in Genesis house and enjoys being the youngest sister.



A Helping Hand

Dear Pat,

I would like to take this opportunity to send you greetings and thank you spending your precious time to meet us. I can see that you truly understand our problems and your help is very much appreciated. The money kindly donated by New Beginnings will pay for Maria Kravchenko and Alexander Kravchun to attend a Computer course at the specialised lyceum. As you know, they were born with cerebral palsy and are both in wheelchairs and transportation is a great challenge. With your help, they will be able to pay a people-carrier to take them to classes, which are free. The course will last for 3 months, 5 days a week. At the end, they will get a certificate and new skills essential in this day and age. Thank you once again.

Yours Sincerely,

**Valentina
Bondarenko**

**Director of
Rehabilitation
Centre for children and youths.**



*Sasha and Masha going to
computer lessons*

These children are cerebral palsy sufferers and as such have no future in the eyes of the government. New Beginnings paid for transportation, which will enable them to attend the classes. The certificate may result in job possibilities in future or if not at least a feeling of being a valued member of the community as capable as anybody else is.

We will continue to support the rehabilitation centre for disabled children and youths in Ukraine. They do have a building but it is practically derelict. They need new plumbing, electrics, windows and floors. They will also need learning aids and even such basics as a phone line and a computer. The centre has been established for ten years and run by a Ukrainian charity. The government has given the building, but the financial support mainly comes from individuals or other charities. Seventeen disabled children are able to use the centre now, but we hope that our support will enable the centre to open its doors to many more kids and enrich their lives.

Pat Wrights

Dear friends and supporters,

“What a difference a day makes” – this old song keeps running through my head although I changed the words slightly to “What a difference a year makes”. My winter trip to Kiev in February 2007 was filled with such joy and hope despite the usual extremely cold weather and exhausting schedule. Doors that were shut before suddenly opened – local authorities in Kiev now wanted to meet us and talk about the problems associated with children living in the institutions and ways of establishing more foster families. Best of all we were able to take two more children into our family and the possibility of more arrivals when our newest family members are settled and confident in their new home.

While in Kiev I met with the director and founder of Magnolia TV – an independent Ukrainian television company that is brave enough to film programs highlighting social problems that affect the lives of children. In the last two years Magnolia TV has reunited 356 street children with someone belonging to their biological family. These children were the forgotten teen-agers living in the sewers and abandoned buildings struggling to survive by any means necessary. What joy that at last they will have a chance with support of their relatives and roofs over their heads.

While in Kiev I formed a partnership on behalf of New



Pat receives an award from Magnolia TV

Beginnings with Magnolia TV (who incidentally gave me a medal for the work our charity is doing).

Just before I arrived in Kiev Magnolia TV had finished a film featuring Genesis House to encourage more foster families to come forward and work in partnership with the local authorities and New Beginnings to establish other foster homes. All the

people working at Magnolia TV feel passionately about what they do and New Beginnings will sponsor their work to help even more of the 150,000 children in Kiev whose lives are in crisis.

We are also funding a programme in partnership with the Church of the Holy Trinity to help families in crisis either with financial support or professional counseling to prevent break-ups of families and children ending up in care or on the streets. We feel that if we can go to the source of the problem we can hopefully prevent more children joining thousands living without hope. This is a new venture and I expect we will learn as we progress but with Gods help we will save some children and keep a family together.

1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3For our love for God means that we obey his commands 4and his commands are not too hard for us. 1 John 5:1-4

Local Government

The Darnitsa Region is the local Government which is responsible for our foster children. During my trip I visited the director Ludmilla twice and was awarded a beautiful little statue of a hand holding a child in recognition of our work with helping the children in Ukraine. At last our work is recognized and the hand of friendship has been extended to the point where the Darnitsa Region is in the process of setting up the first foster family for HIV children. This is an unprecedented step for Ukraine and the answer to our prayers.

The boy who can cry again

What a glorious surprise it was when Iliya appeared at the church service for our children's baptism! He traveled with his mother many miles by train to see Michael and myself, bringing little gifts he had made in thanks for his treatment.



Iliya with his mother meeting Pat and Michael

The Unitarian Church, Kendal sponsored through New Beginnings a course of experimental treatment to help his Primary Immunodeficiency Disorder.

At this time Iliya's condition is stable and his greatest joy is being able to cry due to his tear ducts now working. He still requires nine injections a month at the cost of £350 per month. This is expensive even by UK standards and is totally impossible by Ukrainian standards. The Unitarian Church members are paying for the next month of treatment and we are now with Iliya's mother petitioning the Ukrainian Government to fund the treatment for Iliya and many more children like him – doomed to die without it. We hope God opens their hearts to the plight of these precious lives.

Seroja – Revisited



Seroja – a boy with a future

Do you remember Seroja, the beautiful little boy we paid to be HIV tested? His results came back negative. Now, a year later he has been adopted by a Ukrainian family. For the first time in 2 long years of his life Seroja is living in a real home. Our greatest fear was that Seroja like so many other children would go for a foreign adoption. This is a great money-making opportunity for those in charge of these young lives. Our support for the HIV hospital continues as does our work for the Borispol's hospital children unit.

Exciting News

New Beginnings was the recipient of a £22,950 legacy in 2006. This all came about from two of our supporters who I am sure do not wish to be named.

They worked tirelessly to bring about this generous gift. This will give us a great security from worrying about the bank balance from month to month.

Although I have to say we seem to always find the need outstrips the budget.

We have so many supporters who are constantly working to raise funds for our work not least our Eden branch led by Joan Raine whose committee have an excellent talent for coming up with the most imaginative ideas for successful fund raising. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you on behalf of New Beginnings Committee, Trustees and of course our children in Ukraine. Special "Thank You" to all the churches, schools, other organizations and of course our 1 in 1000 members.



Donation Form / Gift Aid Declaration

- I would like to become 1 in a 1000
 I would like to make a donation

Title _____ Initial _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Amount _____
(Please make cheques payable to New Beginnings)

Date _____

Phone (optional) _____

- I am a UK taxpayer and would like New Beginnings to reclaim tax on the enclosed gift.
 NO GIFT AID

Note: You must pay an amount of income tax and / or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give). Otherwise, tick "NO GIFT AID"

New Beginnings will not pass your details on to any other organisation.

If you would like to set up a standing order, please contact us for bank details.

One in a Thousand

As you know, the Genesis House is up-and-running now. However, our work is not done yet. It takes approximately £12,000 a year to sustain the project. It sounds an awful lot of money, but would only take 1000 people to donate £10 a year.

Would you like to become One in a Thousand?

Your donation for one or more consecutive years would provide for the children and ensure their future. In return for your gift each year you will receive regular updates on the life of the Genesis House.

If you would like to make a donation, set up a standing order or become "1 in 1000", please fill in the form and send it to us with the cheque made out to **New Beginnings**. **If you do not pay tax, please tick "NO GIFT AID" on the form.** The donations made through Gift Aid mean that your gift could be worth almost 30% extra without any further cost to you simply by completing the form. This will recover the cost of the postage. Only a small proportion of money donated to New Beginnings goes towards running expenses of the charity! All members of our committee are dedicated volunteers. Therefore, when you make a donation you can be sure that the majority of it will go straight to the children and **not** to cover various administration expenses.

Dates for Your Diary

16th June 2007 – "Strawberry Cream Tea" at the Unitarian Church, Market Square, Kendal – 2-4pm, please contact for tickets and more information.

19th June 2007 - Our AGM will take place on in the Unitarian Church, Kendal at 7p.m.

Our foster mother Olena will travel with two of our children to attend the meeting providing visas and all other document applications will go through as planned. Please come to the meeting and meet the children you support.

15th Nov 2007 – Amabile Girls Choir concert at Levens Hall. For more information and tickets please contact Pearson&Pearson Solicitors on 01539 729555

Get in Touch !

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