



# New Beginnings

*Safe Homes for Children*

Registered Charity No: 1087263

## Dear Supporters

In July this year, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of New Beginnings. To mark the occasion we brought Sasha our Foster Father and Viktor, one of our children in Genesis House across to England.



What an adventure for Viktor, first time on an aeroplane, first time in another Country and during his stay he became quite a celebrity. He experienced TV interviews, newspaper articles, lots of visits to our local churches and schools. How his life has changed since he joined our family three years ago. Viktor had never been to school, never lived in a home and his life was filled with only fear and cruelty. Recently Viktor decided to write his story in his own words:

I, Victor Bolog, lived in the streets of Kyiv for 4-5 years. I often didn't have any food, and that's why I had to steal from the shops and market stalls. Every day I was forced to beg for food. On the days I would bring lots of money my mother would praise me, and if my earnings were poor she beat me up. We didn't have any warm clothes, that's why some of us died from freezing temperature.

One time police arrested my cousin and me and brought us to a shelter. It was very dirty there, they didn't give us much food, and even the food that we got was taken from us by adults. If we tried to resist giving up our food, they beat us up. The adults wouldn't let us sleep either. These tortures lasted for a

year or two. After that I was transferred to an orphanage. And again, the older ones took our food and beat us up. But then two strangers came and took me away and welcomed me into their big friendly family.

When we came to Genesis house, for the very first time in my life I saw tomatoes, cucumbers and other fruit and vegetables bloom and ripen. I made lots of new friends in the village. I signed up for music class. Many people noticed that I have a gift for music. One time 'Magnolia TV' filming crew came to make a film about us. When I showed them the place in the forest where I grew up they were very surprised. Some children from Genesis house were adopted into other families. I was sad then. But my parents, Sasha and Olena, welcomed new children into our foster family. We became friends very soon. We thank everyone who supports us!

This wonderful young man is now an accomplished musician playing clarinet and piano and thanks to three of our determined supporters he has had his dreams answered with the gift of a saxophone. He is a keen athlete going to circus school twice a week and has succeeded in catching up to his age in his school grades.

***"There is nothing in us that allows us to claim that we are capable of doing this work. The capacity we have comes from God".***

*Corinthians 2: 3-5.*

I thank God everyday for the lives of children we have changed but none of this would be possible without the love, prayers and support from all our supporters.

**Thank You!**

## Patricia Writes

I made my annual visit to Kiev in October this year along with Tony and our Trustee, Paul Smith and his wife Catherine.

My visit would normally have been earlier in the year but I have been the victim of a number of old age illnesses and then fell and hurt my knee. I am starting to feel better and my mobility is now improving. My apologies to all our supporters for the late presentation of the 2011 newsletter but I



**Patrons:** Mark Turner QC, Martin Bell OBE  
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Alexander Donskoy, Ivan Bespalov



wanted to keep you up to date with our work in Kiev and this is the reason for the delay.

On our first evening there our five children and Foster Parents gave us a wonderful



Party, with all the produce coming from our garden at Genesis House. The children then entertained us with their musical abilities.

I had tears in my eyes watching these beautiful healthy children playing with such talent a range of musical instruments knowing that only a short time ago they were trying to survive on the streets. Now they read music, love going to the ballet and Opera and two of our children show exceptional talent with their chosen instruments.



Our garden has once more produced a truly wonderful harvest of potatoes, green vegetables, corn, tomatoes, marrows, pumpkins and soft fruits. Our fruit trees which some of you will remember planting have provided an abundance of apples, pears, plums, apricots, cherries and our grape vine has given an excellent crop of juicy grapes. The children are a great help to our Grandma in the garden and are learning to pickle and store the harvest in our underground store for the coming winter. These skills will help them in their later lives. Just recently we took about 100kg of produce from our garden to our disabled centre in Borispol. Whilst there our children offered their services and the next day they all turned up with sweeping brushes and helped to pick up litter in the grounds, sweep the paths and generally tidy up. They then spent some quality time with the children and joined in

with them for a "Gala Concert". After the children finished their short performance, the Genesis House children continued to entertain them with their musical and circus school talents. How wonderful it is for these children to learn compassion for people less able bodied but also realise all your friends don't need to be as agile as you to have an enjoyable time.



Anastasia is our only girl at present in Genesis House. She is high in the pecking order as she makes sure the boys shower, make their beds and is teaching them to use the washing machine and iron. She will make an excellent wife and mother and I was amazed to see this shy little child blossom into a strong confident beautiful young girl who takes no nonsense from her brothers. Genesis House once again became a holiday home for some of our earlier children that have now been adopted into Ukrainian families. Yan and Slavik spent part of their summer holidays with us at Genesis House with their parents joining them at weekends. It's wonderful to think that they still feel part of "our Family" and want to return to Genesis House to spend time with their friends.

## ***News of Genesis House***

During our visit, Paul carried out a visual inspection of the property and we realize that we need to do some major refurbishments and repairs. Our downstairs windows need replacing as the wood has shrunk and water is getting into the walls. After eight years of severe winter / summer temperature changes and a family of twelve children, the internal decoration needs freshening up. We also have frost damage to our paths and cladding repairs to consider. Otherwise the house is in good shape.

## ***Borispol Disabled Centre***

New Beginnings support of this centre is vital. More and more children are being rehabilitated at the centre and for the first time in their lives are being able to use a toilet, feed themselves, do handicrafts and enjoy the company of other noisy children.

Julia Bozhak (her name means “Little God”) is seven years old. She lives in a one room apartment with her parents and two young brothers. Their apartment is only 26 square metres and Julia who was born with cerebral palsy and deformed feet



cannot move unaided and used to spend all her days in the cramped apartment. She was denied schooling as they had no equipment or teachers to cope with her disability. This pretty, gentle little girl who loves to write poetry and is very artistic, dreams one day of wearing high heeled shoes and going to a secondary school.



New Beginnings has paid for the first operation on her feet and she was very proud to show me that she can now stand and walk a few steps. She will need at least two more operations and continuous physiotherapy which she gets at the Disabled centre every day. Julia may never wear her high heel shoes but we at New Beginnings will do everything possible to enable her to walk un-aided and hopefully go to a secondary school. At the centre, we have eight children ranging from 18 months to seven years old that can only attend twice a week. This is due to the shortage of specialist teachers. New Beginnings have pledged to pay for a full time and a part time teacher in order that these eight children can attend the centre every day and reach their full potential. I look forward to seeing these children at least enjoying the life all children should experience regardless of their disabilities. The Mayor of Borispol is a great

supporter of our disabled centre and helps financially within his limited budget. Ukraine like the rest of the world is suffering in this financial downturn and unfortunately disabled children are not a high priority. Although the Ukraine now has laws in place for disabled people, they have no money to implement them. Their parents have the choice of keeping their children at home, trapped in a room with no education or interaction with others, or send them to an asylum and have them tied to a bed.

Our Borispol Centre gives these children and young adults a life and serves as an example to their government that with a little investment and a small budget, we can change the lives of vulnerable children and give their parents hope.



This card was made by the children at Borispol Disabled Centre for Patricia's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December

## General News.

Two exciting events earlier this year for our Foster Parents were the births of two healthy Grandsons. One in England and one in the USA. This brings their total up to three.

The birth of a child brings such happiness and hope for the future as on the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to end this newsletter and this year on a positive note. We are in the Lords hands, he has set out our path and will continue to guide us if we stay faithful to his teachings “Love thy neighbour and take care of the Orphans”

Whilst in Ukraine we had many discussions with our dedicated Foster Parents and one subject touched upon was their interest in helping guide some of the young adults leaving the care system. It has been identified as a great problem in Ukraine as these young adults have been living in institutions and have no life skills to start living individually. They end up homeless, hopeless and in many cases put in prison. Two or three years at Genesis House before being turned out into the world would

prepare them with life skills and a base to return to for advice and help.

Sasha, our Foster Father would ensure that they were found opportunities to work and get them involved in any government initiatives that were available. Our own children are quite happy sharing their home with anyone needing help as they are so confident and secure in the family we have created at Genesis House.

How God's plans for us over the last 10 years have grown along with our successes. We set off to look after tiny abandoned children to giving independence and dignity to disabled children, keeping Families together and now the prospect of helping young people to step confidently into an adult life with all its responsibilities.

Once again, my apologies for the late issue of this newsletter but it does give me the opportunity to send an early message. "We at New Beginnings wish all our supporters a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year".



### 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. 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. Thank you!

## One in a Thousand

As you know, our Genesis House and Disabled Rehabilitation Centre are up-and-running now. However, our work is not done yet. It takes approximately £12,000 a year to sustain the projects. 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 our work in Ukraine.

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 more 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.

## Beneficiaries

By remembering us in your Will you could be allowing us to help children in crisis to give them a chance to live their lives to the full.

### Get in Touch!

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