

2019



New Beginnings

SAFE HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Dear Friends & Supporters

It has been a year of reflection for me as it is nearly 20 years since New Beginnings was registered as a charity although I had been helping in Ukraine for several years before.

My thoughts have been:

- Have we done enough?
- Have we done it right?
- Have we made a difference?

After much soul-searching I believe we have done what our Lord taught us, "Love thy Neighbour", "Take care of Orphans". It will never be enough, but we carry on

House were in touch with them via Facebook, they told of the time they spent at Genesis House. Anton, Sophia, Masha, Yarik and Yan all remember their time and are grateful for the care and love they received plus the life skills and education they were taught which with the help of their adoptive parents has enabled them to go on to higher education and achieve their personal goals. Masha spoke to me on Skype, she is a beautiful girl and a talented artist who is about to start with art lessons from an experienced tutor. Sophia also spoke



Sasha and Olena with some of the older Genesis House children

doing his work. Have we done it right and made a difference? Yes, because we have cared about the many children whose lives were in crisis and we have done our best to help them.

Sasha & Olena, our former foster parents visited us recently and when they told us that our first set of foster children in Genesis

via Skype and although she had some emotional problems is living independently and working hard.

I think this means "Yes we have made a difference". None of these young lives would have been saved without the help of you, Our Friends and Supporters, but most importantly with our faith we know we are doing the Lords work.

When a Child is Born

This poem which was written by a Leader at one of our local churches embodies everything we at New Beginnings believe. We aim to enable children in crisis to feel safe and loved, reach their potential through education and learning. The world holds many wonders, like music, the arts and just the adventures through the freedom to play and have fun in safety.

Every child that is born is a child of hope.

Even in the shadows of shattered dreams

Each new life offers the promise of a new tomorrow.

Hope for ourselves, and the world.

In each new soul our past and future are connected

And a billion new possibilities are born.

Our children are part of us-yet more than us.

They belong to themselves.

The birth of a child is the embodiment of wonder,

And mystery, and hope for us all.

For even a child born in obscurity

Can change the world.

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As the poem say's "even a child born in obscurity can change the world".

Joshua's New Wheels

Recently we had the opportunity to help a young man in Kendal to purchase a specialised wheelchair which would greatly improve his quality of life. Joshua suffers from cerebral palsy and is totally reliant on his wheelchair.



new wheelchair for Joshua

His family and friends did a heroic fundraising campaign and we at New Beginnings were able to contribute £1,500 and now Joshua is enjoying greater comfort and freedom and he was able to stand for the first time ever.

Romans 15 Verse 1.

We who are strong in the faith ought to help the weak to carry their burdens. We should not please ourselves.

Malawi

Apart from supplying some extra mattresses for Genesis Hostel and our annual bursary contributions for education for the poorest families, we have no further project pending at the moment. We have to be cautious with funds due to the poor performance of the £ and inflation in Ukraine; we must carefully protect our resources needed to support Genesis House as our children are still young.



Genesis house children enjoying summer holidays

Genesis House Update

I think this report received recently from our Foster Parents, Natasha and Oleg, gives you an insight into how well our current children are progressing.

Our heartfelt greetings from Genesis House!

It has been the fourth summer in this safe and wonderful house, for which we are very grateful to you!

The kids finished their school and are enjoying their summer holidays.

Alyosha has already finished the 9th grade. He had three exams: The Ukrainian language, Mathematics and English. The average score is solid and honest 7. He will continue to study at school. Now he has been thinking about choosing a profession. Now he went to visit his grandmother. Alyosha has grown very much, matured. He and Bohdan are taller than me and Oleg. He wants to be independent and self-sufficient. He helps us a lot around the house. He is quite good at cooking. In fact, he loves good meals too. He also started his ministry at the Church - he helps to display on the screen songs' lyrics and passages from the Bible.

Anya graduated from the 5th grade. Her average grade is solid 8. She has also grown older and became more responsible. She still loves cats. She dreams to have several of them. Anya, together with Bogdan and Timur, visited Christian children's camp "the Compass". They just loved spending there a week on summer holidays.

Timur graduated from the 2nd grade. In terms of academics

he is amongst the top students, but in terms of behaviour, on the contrary. Timur visited already another Christian camp in June. There he took part in a tournament on checkers and got a second prize. He is very fond of all kinds of logical exercises and tasks.

Vladik and Stasik continue to go to the kindergarten. They will go to school next year. They have already grown a lot. They like to help me and Oleg with errands around the house. Also, they are very fond of pets. In addition to the kitty we now have a dog "Toppa" and six chickens. Throughout the spring they helped the father to build a chicken coop and now they have lots of joy and fun when they find eggs in the nests. They enjoy eating cooked fresh eggs too.

This is how our days pass: in care, in joys, in communication, in hard work, and in rest.

"Goodness and contentment is a great gain," the Bible says. We want to follow this and teach our children to live accordingly.

Once again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity for our children to grow in this great house, for your gracious hearts and for your love. May GOD bless you abundantly, give you much strength and good health.

With much love and best regards, Oleg and Natasha.

Psalms 145 Verse 3.

The lord is great and is to be highly praised; his greatness is beyond understanding.

Keeping a Family Under One Roof

When our former Foster Parents, Sasha and Oleyna visited recently they had just spent a week in Kiev and brought to our attention a family living close to Genesis House who were in urgent need of help. Coincidentally the parents' names are also Sasha and Oleyna (both common names in Ukraine) live with their four children. This young couple had attempted to build a small house of their own as they had outgrown their shared accommodation. Like many Ukrainians they were living on their building site it to avoid theft of materials. They had made two small rooms habitable after building the shell of the house and then put on the roof. Unfortunately, due to severe weather and I suspect using the cheapest of materials they could afford, the roof collapsed and the rain came in. They are now living in the two small rooms of the building shell with a tarpaulin for their roof.

This will not stand a Ukrainian winter and if Social Services inspect their living conditions, they will take the four children into care resulting in the family being split up and the possibility of the children going for adoption. Sasha and Oleyna are wonderful parents, Sasha works and

Oleyna works at night when the children are in bed. Unfortunately, they do not earn enough to repair the damage before winter so we feel the need to help this family for the sake of the children and to prevent them being taken from a loving family into a care system that is already overloaded. We estimate



that the cost of repairs, windows, doors and heating to be around £5,000, a small price to pay to keep this family together. Their children already play with our children at Genesis House and Natasha and Oleg have become friends with the parents and share clothes, garden produce etc. with them.

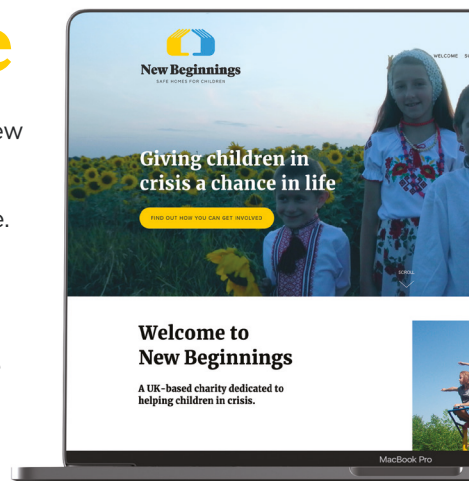
One of the things I have learned from our work in Ukraine is to try to prevent families from being broken up if possible and to show parents that someone somewhere cares not just financially but with love and compassion and not being judgmental.

Luke 9 Verse 47 & 48.

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he took a child, stood him by his side and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, also welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the greatest."

New Website

To celebrate 20 years since the start of New Beginnings and build strong foundations for the future of our charity, we are proud to launch our brand new logo and website. We have also set-up a VirginGiving account, making it even easier for our supporters to make donations. Please take a moment to visit our new website – www.newbeginningscharity.org.uk where we'll be posting regular project updates. You can still make donations by cheque and standard payments if you prefer.



Support for Families in Crisis

Christina continues to write giving us news how she is coping since being widowed at such a young age. This is her most recent letter:

Dear Patricia,

Once again, I want to express my immense gratitude to you. Your help gives me the opportunity to live in peace, do not worry about tomorrow. And even though I have already started to work, but the past has affected my health and it would be very difficult for me to pay for two operations that I have done in the last half of the year.

I hope that neither of my children nor I have any health problems anymore. Children grow up in full provision. There are clothes, food and I can pay bills for an apartment. I thank God and you for having everything we need.

Thank you again for your kind heart and may God bless you for your kindness. Through you, the Lord supports us at this difficult time for my family. I pray for you and ask you to pray for us.

With the love of Christ,

Khristina

We are also continuing our support to Tatyana and her two HIV children. We are in the process of making their bathroom accessible as one child is severely handicapped. Tatyana is a single parent struggling to provide for her children with very little funds. The apartment is urgently in need of some repairs and redecorating which we will fund to ensure these children's lives are more comfortable and their Mother's day-to-day life is a little easier.

Proverbs 11 Verse 25.

Be generous, and you will be prosperous. Help others, and you will be helped.

New Trustee

I would like to welcome David Miles, our newest Trustee. David has been a friend of the charity for a long time and has travelled frequently to Ukraine in the past. As a local business man he comes with fresh ideas and has already acquired some well needed funding for our new logo and website, which after 20 years seriously needed updating. Our revamped website will be available when this newsletter is distributed.



Yarik

One more thing that has just come to my attention. Yarik, one of our former children, now a young man is finding life difficult and is struggling. He is a wonderful boy; he plays in the band at church. He is in college training in social work and living in a rented room. He works at night to supplement the small amount given by the government but he now has to work weekends for extra money to buy his food so he is unable to go to church. All this work still does not cover his rent and living expenses however frugal he lives. He has asked us as his only family if we can help. I am so pleased that he looks to us before things get too serious. He was always so grateful when living at Genesis House and later went to live with Lydia, our grandmother until he started college and needed to be in the city.



Like most parents with children at university who have to help out with living expenses, food, clothes, etc. we feel this is also our responsibility especially as student loans are not available in Ukraine. Yarik being a foster child gets a very small amount from the state and due to inflation is not enough to cover even a reasonable existence. We decided to give him a monthly allowance to help him until he finishes his education and hopefully starts full time employment.

Matthew 18 Verse 12-14.

What do you think a man does who has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost? He will leave the other ninety nine grazing on the hillside and go and look for the lost sheep. When he finds it, I tell you, he feels far happier over this one sheep than over the ninety nine that did not get lost. In just the same way your father in heaven does not want any of these little ones to be lost.

Now it just needs me to thank you all once again for your support and generosity in helping to give so many children a chance in life and to wish you all good health and a happy Christmas.

Love, Pat

Get Involved

Our on-going projects in Ukraine and Malawi are up-and-running now. However, our work is not done yet. There are always more children in crisis we can rescue and with your help we will. We only need 1000 people to donate £12 a year to carry on saving lives. Would you like to become 1 in 1000? 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 lives of the children we support and our other projects. Please complete 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". The donations made through Gift Aid mean that your gift will be worth more without any further cost to you. 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.

You can also donate via our brand new website – www.newbeginningscharity.org.uk

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:.....

Email:.....

Phone (optional):.....

Amount:..... Date:.....

Please make cheques payable to **New Beginnings** and send to Mrs K Parson, New Beginnings, 20 Derwent Drive, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 7PB

- 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 25p 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.

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Pat Harrison MBE, Paul Smith, Andrey Donsky, Alexander Donskoy, Ivan Bespalov, David Miles, Graham Dawson

Patrons:

The Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC, The Hon. Mr Justice Turner, Martin Bell OBE, RT Rev James Newcombe Lord Bishop of Carlisle

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