

2023



# New Beginnings

SAFE HOMES FOR CHILDREN

## Dear Friends & Supporters

It has been a turbulent and sad year for our Charity with the continuing war in Ukraine and the sudden death of our founder Pat Harrison MBE. Pat was a remarkable woman and her passing in December 2022 has been a great loss to us all. She was unique and irreplaceable.

Since the Russian troops retreated from Kyiv area, our Genesis House family decided to leave the Czech Republic and return home to Genesis House where they appear to be relatively safe with only the occasional Russian drone flying by. Oleg and Natalia are much happier now the family are back together in Ukraine irrespective of the potential danger. We are supporting them and monitoring the situation.

**Paul Smith**  
Chairman

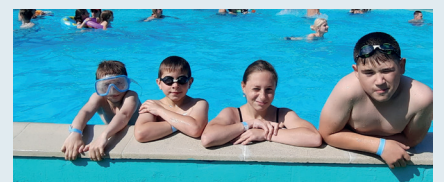
## Greetings from the Genesis House

Our dear English friends! Through God's great mercy and your continuous help we still live in free Ukraine, in Genesis House with our children.



There are just five of them at the moment as the two older boys have recently become old enough to leave and become more independent. Nevertheless, even five children keep us busy all the time. Anya and Katya are at the high school, Timur is at the middle school, Vlad and Stas are at primary. For the last three years they've been almost exclusively studying online. Unfortunately, that had not the best impact on them and their grades are not as good now as they used to be. The children had a great summer, relaxing and preparing themselves for the next academic year. Vlad and Stas have been to the summer camp for three weeks in the west of Ukraine, particularly in the area of Carpathian Mountains and have returned recently, so everyone's at home now. During the summer months we could go to the local pool in the neighbouring village and enjoy our time there. Timur

takes wrestling classes. Daily the children work along with us in the vegetable garden. We take good care of our vegetable patch and fruit trees to gather and preserve as much crops as possible for the upcoming winter. We are making stocks to use this winter ourselves and to share some of them with our relatives, friends and soldiers in the army. The life in the country at war, frankly speaking, is hard and horrifying. We often hear blasts when our Air Defence Forces shoot down Russian drones and missiles close to where we live. We frequently hear air sirens and need to take shelter in our basement. We sincerely want the war and the suffering of people that it brings to come to an end as soon as possible. We are truly grateful to the Lord for His protection and to you for your kind hearts and for your continuous support of our family. We wish for everything to be well in the UK, in your families. And hope that your country will never experience the terrors of war, for your mercy and peace to be never ending. With great love, Oleg, Natasha and the children.



# Young Charity Supporter

A SEVEN-year-old cycled 105 miles from Kendal to York to see his grandmother and raise money for our charity. Isaac Haworth asked his teacher dad Gavin if he could cycle to his 'granny's house' and the pair ended up giving the challenge a go with his mum Anna providing support in a campervan, after a couple of practice runs. Isaac and Gavin decided to turn the adventure into more than a summer challenge. Isaac is classmates with a few children from Ukraine and decided to raise money for New Beginnings. The pair set off on 21 August and rolled into York on 25 August, much to the surprise of Isaac's grandmother Elizabeth. Anna said the first and last days were the toughest. She said "It was a big challenge and he had his low points most days but he did very well. The terrain was hilly so I think the hardest day was leaving Kendal and leaving Oxenholme. The final day was hard because it was the biggest mileage. "Elizabeth didn't know they were arriving on their bikes. She couldn't believe it. She was amazed that we had managed to keep it a secret all week." Despite Isaac finding parts of the journey tough, Anna said that he 'totally enjoyed it' and was already asking if they could cycle down to London. Anna said that since their journey together, Isaac has kept raising the happy memories he made with his dad on their way to York. Well done Isaac! Adapted from an article in The Westmorland Gazette



# Support for Displaced Families

Since the start of the Russian invasion, New Beginnings have been involved in helping a number of Ukrainian refugee families with children who came to Kendal and the area. We are happy to report that all families known to us are all doing really well, Most have permanent places to live, have found jobs and are becoming self-sufficient. The children are all doing well in schools and Colleges and are making new friends.



*We are the Domashenko family from Ukraine, parents and three children of primary school age. We arrived to Great Britain in November 2022 because of the war in our country that made it difficult for us to keep on staying there with young children. We've been invited by one lady to stay in Kendal, but unfortunately we've got in a really hard situation with accommodation. Both of us were unemployed but New Beginnings made it possible for us to stay in a suitable home for a few months until we've found a long-term house to rent. Even then moving into new place we needed deposit and New Beginnings helped us with that as well. Thank you for making it possible for us to have a place where we and our children can feel secure. We are more settled now and grateful to New Beginnings for helping us out when we really needed it.*

New Beginnings are now concentrating our efforts and funds on helping families with children in Ukraine to escape the horrors of war. We are providing food and financial support through Ivan our Ukrainian trustee who lives in Kyiv, to families with children who have lost everything. We are currently supporting a number of families who fled their homes in the East of Ukraine and came to seek temporary shelter in Kyiv where we have our foster home. Most of them had to leave quickly with no time to prepare and travelled light. With Ivan's help we were able to help them with the essentials and make them feel welcome in the new city. This is a never-ending task and we are very grateful for all the support and donations we have been receiving to help us in our mission to help the weakest and most vulnerable children in Ukraine survive. From what we hear, there will be a lot of help needed while this war goes on, and beyond.



# Russian Attacks on Power Infrastructure

We have all seen the news of Russian attacks on the Ukrainian power infrastructure last winter to cause as much pain and suffering to civilians.

It is now feared that they are getting ready to repeat these attacks this winter. Our Genesis house is now equipped with a backup generator which can power the heating system and a few light bulbs. They also have a gas supply to cook with during the blackouts. This not only ensures our foster children will be warm and fed, but they will also be able to offer hospitality to their neighbours in the village left in the dark. However, there are many families with children who will struggle to study, work and keep connected to their loved ones when the power supply goes down. Last winter we were able to help some of these families by providing portable power banks. These devices can be charged when electricity is available then used to power a few small appliances when the power goes off.

We do hope that the Ukrainian air defences supplied by UK and other allies will protect Ukrainian power plants this winter, but if we find families in desperate situations again, we would love to help them with your support.



One of the families from Luhansk area who fled to Kyiv we helped last winter. The family consists of grandmother Natasha, mother Vika and daughter Sophia. The power bank enabled Sophia to study online and Grandmother Natasha, who is a teacher, was able to work when the power was off. They also had lighting and the use of small appliances during the blackouts. Grandmother's job was the only source of family income at the time, so this power bank enabled her to provide for the family.

## Make a difference

With your financial support New Beginnings are already working hard to improve the lives of children in Ukraine. However, there will be a lot more children in crisis needing help during these difficult times. We would like to help more families affected by the war and with your help we will. If you are a regular giver, we urge you to keep your support. If you would like to start supporting our work, please complete the form enclosed 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. You can also donate via JustGiving: [www.justgiving.com/newbeginnings-safehomes](http://www.justgiving.com/newbeginnings-safehomes) 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.

# Thank you for the New Beginning...

My name is Yan and I was one of the children that New Beginnings helped to find the path in life. When I was little, my father couldn't take care of me and left me, so I was basically "thrown away on the streets".



But kind-hearted people who wanted to save children like me took me home and took care of me. They taught me the rules of life, gave me the knowledge that I was looking for and they saved my life. Sasha and Olena Donskiy, my foster parents were the people who didn't mind giving their time and energy to save the lives of children that other parents abandoned or couldn't take care of. Years later, I was adopted, moved with my new parents to the USA and became an American Soldier. I never thought that my life could turn out this way and I am so happy that I am alive and healthy. New Beginnings, thank you so much for giving me another chance in life and I will never forget your help. And I am really grateful to every single supporter of New Beginnings who is helping to save little children and give them another chance in life.

## Yan's Tribute to Pat

Death comes unexpectedly and takes the best ones, because God has his own plans for these souls. Pat was a wonderful person. Not all heroes wear capes. She was the one who saved the lives of many children and gave them a second life, as if the hand of God touched the souls of these little children and breathed life



force. Time has passed and we have grown, became smarter, more independent and successful. But only think where we would have been if not for Pat's help. Thank you so much for everything you did for me and for others like me. Stay with God and rest in peace.

## Please Support our Work

Visit our website to find out how you can help:  
[www.newbeginningscharity.org.uk](http://www.newbeginningscharity.org.uk)

Or donate through our JustGiving:  
[www.justgiving.com/newbeginnings-safehomes](http://www.justgiving.com/newbeginnings-safehomes)

## Thanks

New Beginnings has to thank the many individuals, churches, schools and organisations who have supported us in our efforts to help the children of Ukraine at this disastrous time. You can read more about our work on our website.

Please continue to support our charity and we would like to reassure you that every penny donated will be spent to help the families here and in Ukraine as we have done for the past twenty-one years.

We would also like to give our heartfelt thanks to all our regular supporters who have been on this journey with us all over the years. God bless you and please keep helping us to continue this work.

**Trustees:** Paul Smith, Andrey Donsky, Graham Dawson

**Patrons:** The Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC, The Hon. Mr Justice Turner, Martin Bell OBE, Rt Rev James Newcombe Bishop Emeritus

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