



Bringing opportunity, dignity and hope to children around the world with your help!

# *Ukraine: Hope House, 2003 - 2013*

**HOPE HOUSE WAS PURCHASED IN THE FALL OF 2003 WITH THE HELP OF LEAGUE OF PRAYER AND HORIZONS FOUNDATION.**

Anniversaries are milestones that allow us to reflect on the great distances we have covered over a certain period of time. It is such a blessing to see how God has unfolded His vision for World Hope Canada in Ukraine over these last 10 years. From the very early days of providing tea and sandwiches to street kids to this present day of providing a safe and loving home for girls, we have great cause for rejoicing in all that God has done.



In May 2012, we had a party at Hope House and many of the girls who graduated from the program came back for a visit. Some of those girls are shown here with Sergiy Svystun, Executive Director of World Hope Ukraine.

## **THE BACKGROUND**

Our ministry in Ukraine is centered in the city of Odessa, right on the Black Sea. Odessa is a beautiful city that draws many tourists each year but it is also a haven for human traffickers. Back in the 1990's, there were many thousands of children living on the streets of cities all over Ukraine. We began our ministry by reaching out to those homeless children



Kerry and Carole Allison have volunteered either full or part time since 2004. They host the international teams, teach English to the girls and provide leadership support to Sergiy Svystun, the Executive Director of World Hope Ukraine.



Laying hens ensure a good supply of eggs for Hope House as well as enough left over to sell. They also provide the girls with the opportunity to care for the hens and keep a ledger of their sales, skills that will help them in the future.

in Odessa.

Realizing the danger of girls being swept up into human trafficking, a decision was made to acquire a home where they could live in safety, have nutritious food and pursue an education. As well, the 26 orphanages in Odessa, each housing approximately 100 children who would 'age out' at 15 or 16 years of age are another source of vulnerable kids for traffickers. With no one looking out for them, they became a prime target.

Experience has shown that the boys who age out often get into trouble with the law and the girls get pregnant. Realizing they cannot care for a baby, they drop their babies off at the baby orphanage and the devastating cycle continues.

Hope House was purchased in the fall of 2003 with the help of League of Prayer and Horizons Foundation. The intention was that this place of hope would help to spread hope and love to vulnerable children and offer them the opportunity for a much better life. A second property was also purchased, just two lots away, with future ministry in mind.

The "Home for Christmas" appeal provided the needed furniture to make a home for 12 children from the streets of Odessa. The selected children were able to have their first "real" home and their first "real" Christmas in Hope House.

In September 2004 Kerry and Carole Allison, volunteers from Canada, came to Odessa to work



The original home lacked much needed kitchen space, a pantry, a laundry room and living room that would comfortably hold the girls who lived at Hope House. The addition has made it possible to host teams, hold nightly prayer meetings and so much more. A two storey garage was eventually built. That building, aside from being a garage now has a bunk house to accommodate the many teams and an apartment where the Allison's live when they are in country. The photo to the right shows the garden, the original house plus the addition and the garage/apartment/bunk house for teams.

with the Director of World Hope Ukraine, Sergiy Svystun. (After 9 years they are still volunteering in Ukraine). Kerry and Carole brought two teams in Sept/Oct. 2004 to build a barn, which has housed chickens, pigs and goats over the years. Our chickens lay 50 eggs each day; some are sold to the public and the rest are used at Hope House!

In 2005 the Canadian Government (*Canadian International Development Agency*) provided a grant that enabled Kerry, along with the help of various teams, to build a large kitchen, pantry, dining area, and living room onto the existing home. A two story garage was also added to the property.

In 2008, Ukrainian laws changed and non-governmental organizations such as World Hope Ukraine, were no longer able to work with children under the age of 16. It was at this point that the younger children and house parents moved to another location that met with government approval and in July 2008 10 new girls moved into Hope House. Approximately 70 girls have lived at Hope House and have been transformed by the loving and supportive family environment and the power of the Gospel.

### **LUBA'S STORY**

*Luba came to Hope House in 2010 from a broken, non Christian home that was extremely overcrowded and nobody cared for her. She is a quiet ray of sunshine who loves the Lord and even though she is a little shy, she loves to tell people about the difference in her life since she became a Christian.*

*Luba graduated from a community college in June 2013 where she studied to be a secretary/bookkeeper. She is a hard worker and has done well. She completed her practicum at a local government*



*The property surrounding Hope House is cultivated and planted so the girls have a garden to care for and they have also learned how to preserve the produce and make jam. They enjoy fresh vegetables throughout the summer. These skills will serve them well throughout their lives.*

Approximately 70 girls have lived at Hope House and have been transformed by the loving and supportive family environment and the power of the Gospel.



Luba, pictured with Kerry and Carole Allison at her graduation this past June. Now that she is finished school, she has been invited to join Child Evangelism Fellowship where she will train to become a child evangelist.



Sergiy Svystun with his wife, Dina, has provided visionary and excellent leadership as the Executive Director of World Hope Ukraine since 2003.



Lena on graduation day in June 2010, proudly showing her diploma!

office in Fontanka. *BUT* the end of school is the beginning of a wonderful new path for Luba.

*In June 2013, representatives of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) responsible for Belarus, Azerbaijan and Ukraine were guests at Hope House so they could speak with us and Luba. They have invited her to begin a three month training course in child evangelism at CEF headquarters in Kiev along with 20 others. Following this course Luba will then do a one year practicum which will take her to different parts of Ukraine. The program is fully funded by CEF with no cost to Luba at all. CEF trains national people as commissioned workers. Following her training, she will receive a contract and begin her work as a child evangelist!*

*Luba has been a faithful servant who works diligently with the children in her church teaching Sunday School and working in children's church. World Hope makes every effort to send all of our girls to a Christian camp in the summer. God has been faithful and He is blessing Luba by granting the desires of her heart. SO, a big thank you to those who help support the ministry in Ukraine. Please remember to pray for Luba as she takes this exciting next step in her life's journey. t*

In 2010, plans were drawn up for the construction of a second home for girls, Hope House II. Located just one vacant lot away from the original Hope House, construction began in April 2012 under the direction of Kerry Allison and Sergiy Svystun. Target date of completion is the fall of 2014. It will house an additional 14 girls, providing them with nutritious food, a loving home environment and an education.

#### **LENA'S STORY**

*Lena was living on a construction site in Odessa. She*

came to First Step Centre for food, clothing and to get cleaned up from time to time. She had never really been to school and she was 12 years old. Lena eventually came to live at Hope House. A tutor was hired to help get her ready to enter school. She was smart, a fast learner and the following year, she began school. In June 2010, Lena graduated from the Christian University with a 4 year degree as a translator.

After she graduated and moved out of Hope House, she came back as a volunteer to help run a week long summer camp with a team from North America. There were several other Ukrainian volunteers and it was while she was there 'paying it forward' that she met the man that she eventually married. They now have a son, Nazar, and they continue to assist World Hope any way they can, usually as translators. We are so proud of Lena and all that she has accomplished in spite of her difficulties.



Lena and her husband Sergiy, met while volunteering for World Hope in Ukraine at a Christian summer camp. They married and now have a beautiful little boy, Nazar. They live in Fontonka, not too far from Hope House. We are so proud of Lena and her accomplishments!

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.

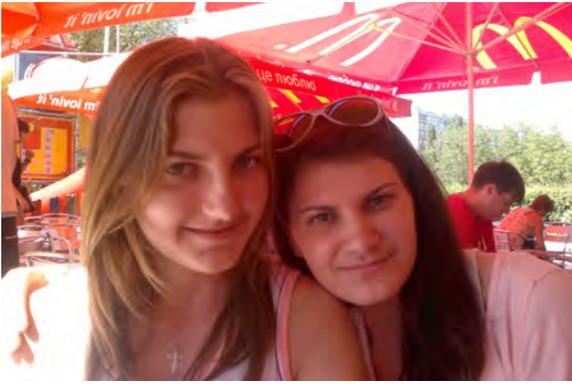
Luke 10:2



Teams have played a very important role in the development of World Hope's ministry in Ukraine. We have estimated conservatively that at least 600 different volunteers have visited as part of a work team that builds and upgrades things or to run a weeklong camp. We have been blessed with many people who return time and time again with each one contributing to the success of the ministry.



Hope House provides a safe home for girls who age out of state run orphanages at age 15-16. World Hope's Lina Nazarekno is shown here telling the girls at an orphanage in Tusli about Hope House, offering them the chance to live there and continue with their education.



When families break up in Ukraine, the children are often put in orphanages. This happened to these sisters who were separated by hundreds of miles since early childhood as each was placed in a different orphanage. Hope House is happy to say that these sisters are now sharing a bedroom and getting to know each other. One sister knew about this plan and one didn't . . . yah should have seen the tears of JOY!



The desire to assist vulnerable young women and positively impact Ukrainian society continues to grow at World Hope Canada. We are building a second home, Hope House II, to provide additional spaces where vulnerable girls can live in a loving and safe environment. We want to do all we can to ensure that girls don't fall prey to those who would want to harm and use them.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG UKRAINIAN WOMEN**

The vision for the children of Ukraine that God birth in the heart of Anne Medders has blossomed and become a beautiful reality. The leap of faith to provide a place called "Hope House" continues to transform and save the lives of vulnerable young women in Ukraine. **Hope House II** is scheduled to open in late 2014 and will provide a home for an additional 14 girls!

Matthew 7:24-25 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

**World Hope Canada** would like to **thank you** for the role that you have played in the success of this ministry. There are those who have given financially, those who have prayed regularly and those who have gone to serve. **Each link in the chain is vital to accomplishing what God intended.**

Thank you for your compassion, your generosity and your belief in World Hope Canada. We will never fully understand the impact of our sacrifices until we are in heaven. What a day of rejoicing that will be!