



Feburary Newsletter, Issue 2

A Note From The Editor

Greetings fellow OBS members! This is the Feburary newsletter to inform everyone of the excellent progress we are making within our organization. We have been going strong for about 6 months now, and it is remarkable the progress we have made so far. We have completely funded our first project, the Kremenchuk Laundry Project in just the few short months the project was running! Thank you to everyone who participated in this. We are waiting on a few employer matching funds and then the money will be wired to Ukraine and the project will get underway. Way to go OBS! It is even more of a victory for the Kremenchuk baby house to be able to now provide clean laundry to the whole orphanage. Also, the library for Nizhny Vorota, a special needs orphanage in western Ukraine is now fully funded! This is especially important for these kids aged 6 through 17, as they had no other learning materials. Their map was so old it didn't even show Ukraine! Thank you very much to Carolyn for heading this up! These projects are monumental for these children. I just want to on behalf of the rest of the OBS family thank you all for your dedication to make the lives of these children better. This has got to be the most dedicated, loving, creative, and hardest working group that I have seen helping those left behind. Together there is nothing we can't do to help those waiting for their forever families.



Children at Nizhny Vorota Orphanage

VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITY!!!!

We are still looking for a volunteer to help with the website. This would only take a few hours a month, and would be a great way to help support OBS!!! Please contact Elizabeth for more information at:

Elizabeth@orphansbrightstar.org

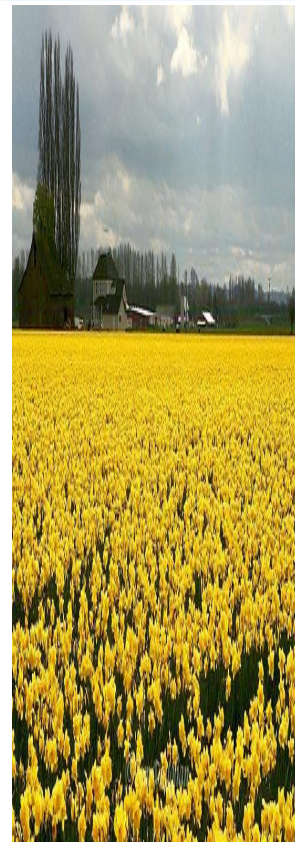
Announcements

It's now time to introduce the shipping process being offered by An Orphan's Bright Star for shipping in-kind donations to any Ukraine orphanage or other locations. For your convenience a file has been uploaded to the group page under files that details this process.

Special arrangements have been made with Meest Boston by An Orphan's Bright Star to provide a humanitarian discount for parcels sent to Ukraine orphanages. Meest Boston offers a very simple and straight forward process to efficiently shipping parcels. They are offering special shipping rates to An Orphans Bright Star for parcels being sent to **any Ukrainian orphanage**. The special shipping rate is \$.79/lb and a \$7.50 delivery charge per box.

Is there anyone in the group willing to help pilot this process with boxes they maybe intended to ship to their designated orphanage or OBS orphanages? Once we can get the process kinks worked out, the shipping process will become part of the website as a shipping webpage and offered to everyone who visits the OBS website. Please contact Stacey with any questions or for more information at: stacey@orphansbrightstar.org

Our new partnership with Alt-V will be heading up the work camp. They will be supplying the volunteers and approximately \$1650 towards the food for the volunteers. Thank you very much Alt-V!!!





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Summit Highlights

In December 2006 there was an OBS summit held in Houston, TX. You can find a full copy of the minutes here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrphansBrightStar/files/> click on the Summit Minutes document.

The summit opened with The Daffodil Principle, based on a true story. The moral to the story is we can each make a difference by planting one daffodil at a time. Each of us can make a change by helping one child at a time.

Please see the *Daffodil Principle* on <http://www.geocities.com/thedaffodilgarden/>.

Our Mission statement was also developed:

- **Provide fundamental assistance to the children in our sponsored orphanages in Ukraine: sustenance, shelter, services, skills and spirit.**
- **Work as a team with orphanage staff to determine prioritized needs our supported homes, and develop lasting and trusting relationships with those closest to the children.**
- **Respect and support local Ukrainian traditions, products and people in each of our endeavors.**

The big focus was on the current projects, fundraising, and the need for OBS members to become involved in community wide fundraising projects. The summit was a huge success! Thank you to all of you who attended to help contribute to the ongoing success of OBS!!!

Current Projects

If you don't know it already, our next project is to repair over 100 windows at the Svalyava Baby House...this project is in collaboration with the ECO club of Ukraine...They are experts in winterizing and insulation projects. They will supply an all volunteer force to complete this project during the first 2-4 weeks of August. Yes, free labor will enable us to stretch our dollars and get this large project complete.

We have a couple of donors who have offered to match all donations received in February up to \$500 to jumpstart this project. We need to reach our goal of **\$6,250**, So far we have raised \$432 toward this goal. If you are thinking, will \$10 or \$20 really help...the answer is **YES** because this month your donation will be doubled !!

To read more about the project and how you can help by feeding a volunteer for a day or week, paying to repair one of the windows, buy materials or replacing a window, check out.....

<http://www.orphansbrightstar.org/projects.html>





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Current Fundraisers

We still have a few of those amazingly beautiful Christmas card sets left. They were made by Ukrainian orphans, and they are blank inside. You can use them for any occasion, give as a gift, or just to keep for your child. Check out <http://www.orphansbrightstar.org/fundraisers.html> for information on how to get a set before they are gone, we only have a few left!

Joan Stout is heading up the "Boxtops for Education" and "Campbell's Soup Labels" fundraiser. Check this website to see the products that earn money. <http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/Products.aspx#>

The Judsonia Church of Christ will be saving boxtops and labels for us. Please ask your church, youth groups, scouts, etc if they will help us on this project.

Please send them to Joan at the following address:

Joan Stout 725 130th ave Pipestone Minnesota 56164

EBAY! Traci & Heather have generously offered to head up the EBay auctions. The following is about the auctions from their post:

We are ready to begin taking donations for our Ebay auctions!! We need all items by Wednesday of each week-for auctions beginning on Friday and ending the following Sunday! We will need a picture of each item along with a brief description. We are only accepting 100% donated items that are in new or close to new condition. The approximate value would be nice as well, but not necessary. Please send all correspondence to heather@orphansbrightstar.org.

At the close of the auction we will notify you of which items sold and to whom they need to be shipped to. Shipping will be by the donator and a quick turn around is strongly requested.

Make sure that you also check our site to bid on any items that you too have been longing for!! Happy EBaying!!

The Entertainment books are still for sale! Each book offers hundreds of dollars in savings. They are available for nearly every county in the U.S Log onto <http://www.entertainment.com/discount/home.shtml> to purchase one for your area.

These are spectacular for those of you who go out to eat often, hundreds of two for one coupons! Golfers just love these as well for all of the get 18 holes for 9! Also lots of fabulous entertainment coupons in there as well as services coupons. Hurry and get one now and save yourself some money on the things you do already!

We have some wonderful OBS logo merchandise. We have apparel for everyone, mugs, hats, pins, bags, etc. for sale. These are a wonderful way to get the word out about OBS and what it is we do. Buy pins for all of your family & friends, buy the bags for your weekly shopping, give a hat to one of your kids. The more we get our name out there, the better it is for the children we are trying to help in Ukraine. <http://www.cafepress.com/brightstarorg> is the link to order these high quality, fair priced items!



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Easy Ways To Help OBS

Some easy ways to help raise funds are through the following websites.

www.goodsearch.com This is a wonderful search engine powered by Yahoo. Just go to the web address, and in the box that asks who you are searching for enter "An Orphans Bright Star" it is based in Texas. It will bring it up, press the verify button and then search. It is super easy and it earns us 1 cent for every search. You can also add a goodsearch toolbar to your screen to help remind you. I use it every time I need to perform a search. So far our members have raised us over \$46.00 for just searching!

www.igive.com There is still a \$5.00 bonus for new shoppers, so please log on and shop!

www.amazon.com

www.buyforcharity.com

<http://www.littletikes.com/> Little Tikes Giving Program

[http://www.randalls.com/randalls/tom thumb good neighbor program \(account #11507\)](http://www.randalls.com/randalls/tom_thumb_good_neighbor_program_account_#11507)

<http://www.magfundraising.com/orphansbrightstar> Magazine Fundraiser

Some of the faces we work so hard for!!!



Grants & Donations

[Wendy](#) is taking on the challenge of grant writing for OBS. [Wendy](#) now has the software for writing the grants. Anyone who wants to provide grant assistance, or recommend places to apply for grants, please contact Wendy@orphansbrightstar.org. She welcomes any input from individuals with grant writing experience

You can also make a donation to OBS in the following ways:
mail a donation check to:

an orphan's bright star
431 biscayne boulevard
el lago, texas 77586

or through paypal by following this link:

<http://www.orphansbrightstar.org/donations.html>

Upcoming Projects

We are currently in the research and discussion phase of a cookbook project. We are focusing all of our resources on the current fundraisers right now, but start looking through your favorite recipes. I just want to give a heads up so you can stick some notable recipes aside to be considered for the cookbook. I believe we will be doing a Ukrainian/American cookbook. Showcasing our favorite recipes from Ukraine, and our children's new favorite American recipes



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Partnerships

Svieta.org - Continuously provide assistance with fundraising efforts and make site visits to our sponsored home, providing orphanage feedback from the staff, along with photos. The founder, Pascal, is an enthusiastic member of our [Yahoo email group](#).

[FedEx](#) - Facilitated the shipment of H.E.L.P. International donations to the location where the container was being prepared.

[H.E.L.P International](#) - Provided pallets of donations for disbursement which included medical supplies, warm blankets & coats, along with numerous other items. The total amount donated exceeded 1,600 pounds!

[Judsonia Church of Christ](#) - They coordinate shipping of containers of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, paid for by the US government. They have offered to provide help to our orphanages as they are able with supplies of: clothing, medical supplies, furniture, and school supplies. In 2007, at least 2 shipments are expected to be sent to Kremenchuk, 1 shipment to Svalyava and Chinadievo, and 2 shipments to Zhitomir.

[AICM](#) - Group of doctors and medical professionals working to deliver medical equipment and supplies to hospitals, clinics, schools, and orphanages in Ukraine. They are exploring the dental equipment needs at Chinadievo. If their delivery routes take them near any OBS orphanages, they will see if they can supply any needed medical equipment.

OBS Contacts

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