

newsletter



Since our last newsletter in August there have been MANY new developments & updates. OBS's 2nd birthday came & went without much fanfare. I think we can thank Hurricane Ike for that. Otherwise progress was not slowed down even for the members affected by that storm!

Makiivka HIV-AIDS orphanage has been added to the growing number of orphanages we help. Pascal from [Les Amis de Svieta](#) is planning a trip to Makiivka the end of November. An update on his findings will be added when it's available. At the same time he is also planning to visit Kremenchuk. Partnering with [LAdS](#) has been a privilege!

Here is their link: www.svieta.org

Current Projects

- Christmas / Sports for Green Forest Internat
- Green Forest Internat Vocational Education Project
- Books for Green Forest Internat Library
- Playgrounds for Development Project
- Poltava Vocational Education Project
- Nova Borova Commercial Dryer Project
- 2008 Window Project—**COMPLETE!**
- Shoes Project

Look on our website at www.orphansbrightstar.org for more information, updates, Orphanage Needs, & a list of our Completed Projects.

Penney made a slideshow of the 2008 Windows Project. Much information is included within it. What an awesome job! Don't miss watching it! Be sure to click on the link! Stay tuned for its appearance on YouTube.

As for the GFI Library Fund—I blinked & it was already funded! Many thanks to all of you who supported this newest Library Project! More details will be provided in a future newsletter.

Carolyn & Natalie have worked tirelessly on the Vocational Education Projects. Great news from them: ALL of the graduates have been sponsored! This will be such a rewarding experience for the sponsors too—not just the students. Thanks to all of you for making a difference in the life of a young Ukrainian orphan! Carolyn has a great idea to Spotlight a Star in upcoming issues. This will be a wonderful way to share more about the graduates & see how the sponsorships affect them.

Photos are included from Svalyava. Look at the sweet faces of the children on their outings with the new strollers! Fresh air & experiencing nature are so important for the youngsters. These larger 4-6 passenger strollers & buggies are not available in Ukraine. Joan took the lead in getting them purchased & shipped. Stay tuned for an article in the next newsletter on the health benefits of using these strollers.

An Orphan's Bright Star

501(c)(3) Non-Profit

431 Biscayne Blvd

El Lago, Texas 77586

Web Site:

www.orphansbrightstar.org

Donations:

Address for a donation check:

An Orphan's Bright Star
431 Biscayne Boulevard
El Lago, Texas 77586

If you prefer PayPal :

www.orphansbrightstar.org/donations.html

An Orphan's Bright Star also accepts MasterCard and VISA donations. Contact Mindi, mindi@orphansbrightstar.org for more information.

Yahoo Group:

Please consider joining our Yahoo group. This is a great way to stay informed, get involved & meet other supporters. Messages can be searched by key words.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrphansBrightStar/>

News Blog:

<http://orphansbrightstar.blog-city.com>

mindi@orphansbrightstar.org

Work in Progress



Christmas / Sports for Green Forest Internat

This is the newest project started at An Orphan's Bright Star. The purpose is to give a gift & a message to each of the children. Let's let them know we care!

Green Forest Internat, in Kharkiv, receives little external help. Presently it is home to about 160 children, ages 7 to 16. Even though they are allowed to have some things of their own, most only have what is given to them at the orphanage. Clothes, shoes & toys are shared & passed on. Some of them have never received a present.

But that's changed this year! Dana Thompson & his students at Walla Walla University have most generously provided gifts for all the children! Many thanks to you! How thoughtful! This will bring much joy to so many children!

Here is a link to the brochure with more information on writing a message, or donating for the sports equipment that will be purchased in the spring: [GFI Christmas Brochure](#). There is also a link of the [Brochure in Spanish](#).

Shoe Project

Dnipropetrovsk, Kremenchuk, & Svalyava Baby Houses have received their shipments of the Buckner Shoes For Orphan Souls. That's 485 little sweethearts!!

OBS raised over [\\$3000.00 to ship](#) the shoes & socks so generously given by [Shoes For Orphan Souls](#) which is a ministry of [Buckner International](#). Most of the shoes & socks are on their way to the older children in other Orphanages & Internats. As more become available, they too will be shipped.

Check out our website to see a current list of the shipments to each Orphanage/Internat.

Our heartfelt thanks go out for this opportunity! You can learn more about Buckner International & Shoes For Orphan Souls at their web sites: www.shoesfororphansouls.org & www.buckner.org

Their generosity is overwhelming & has a great impact on lives across the globe.



Many of the shoes & socks (plus other goodies) are arriving at the orphanages!

Work in Progress

Website updates



Todd was able to get [Santa's Top 10 List](#) of ways to help. There are new items & ideas for you.



Our Webmaster Todd has been putting a lot of work into updating the [website](#)! It looks terrific! Be sure to check it out!

Here he is at an orphanage in Poland with a new friend. Todd works at [Webheads, Inc.](#) & is generously donating his expertise. Many thanks for this valuable service!

2008 Window Project Slideshow!

Penney did an awesome job on the slide show for this year's Window Project!

<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewalbum.html?bm=132750>

Nova Borova Commercial Dryer



This sweet girl is one of 85 young ladies who live at Nova Borova Internat. There is not even one dryer to help with all the laundry. I can only imagine the problem this has been especially with winter weather preventing hanging clothes outside. Where do they find room to hang all the wet items until they are dry?

Please consider helping alleviate the stress of this problem.

Raising \$4,000 will purchase AND install [a commercial dryer](#). So far, \$800 has been raised by caring people like you.

Cristin has set up a charity profile in [Facebook](#) for OBS, spotlighting this project & to help raise the remaining \$3200. What a great way to spread the word! Consider becoming a member on the page. When 100 member status is reached, a \$50 donation will be given!

Here is a link: <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/140886>

Update: Recently 3 boilers were added! Photos are included in the [2008 Windows Project slideshow](#) by Penney.

Work in Progress

Playgrounds For Development--Kremenchuk

Playgrounds For Development--Svalyava

Zinaida Grynewytsch Playground

Sandra Huff Strickland Playground

Raised: \$10,000+

Raised: \$5,000+

Here are photos of the chosen playground equipment. The equipment is sturdy & durable besides fun! These will be professionally installed. Vika, our Ukraine contact, has negotiated an incredible price!

Kremenchuk Now:



[Alma](http://almava.com/?a=item&id=15) is a reliable company in Khmelnytsky, Ukraine with excellent standards for their items. They've added more items since the last time I checked. Here is a link to look around for yourself:

<http://almava.com/?a=item&id=15>

Elizabeth says:

They have MOUNTAINS of regulations for the baby houses...they cannot just go to a Home Depot type of store (not that they even have any) and buy non-commercial playgrounds. ..ALMA is a Ukraine company with an excellent reputation. Most of the orphanages do have ALMA indoor items.

These playgrounds will be around for years....

When Carolyn showed Kremenchuk's director the pictures, she teared up...never dreaming they could get something so nice....

Svalyava now:



Adding this:



Funds for Svalyava's playground keep coming in rapidly. Some very large amounts arrived just as I was sending off the newsletter. Way to go everyone!

Adding this:



Thank you to so many supporters for funding Kremenchuk's playground! A very special thank you goes to Andy Grynewytsch, a Kremenchuk grandpa who also helped find a charity who is helping with the last portion of funding.



For Kremenchuk



Groundbreaking is in spring 2009!



This cute little fellow is planned for both orphanages. He is helpful for children who are a little challenged & need to sit to play.



For Svalyava

Project Updates

Svalyava Baby Orphanage Stroller Project

A quote from a recent letter from Vika:

“...in two words they thank you sincerely for everything you have been doing for them...”

Now here are some photos that are worth a thousand words:



Nadvirna Flood Fund



Nadvirna Baby House was greatly affected by flooding in their region. The good news is that no one was injured. Caretakers were taking the children into their homes when possible.

The electric system needs to be replaced. All 1st floor rooms were damaged. This means carpet, linoleum, furniture, etc. are needed.

\$1100.00 was recently sent from OBS supporters & it was used to purchase 30 beds. This is a big help!

We are still accepting donations of course. Clean up & repairs will go on for some time.

Here is a link to the [United Nation's report](#) on their assessment of immediate & long term recovery needs of the flooded regions in Ukraine. Nadvirna is in the Ivano-Frankivska oblast.

www.un.org.ua/en/news/2008-08-06



Highlights

The Total is in...

Nearly \$1200.00 is the share given to An Orphan's Bright Star from the 2008 [LifeLight Musical Festival](#) booth! This amount will be used towards the [Playgrounds for Development](#) & the [Commercial Dryer for Nova Borova](#). We give our sincere thanks to the Stout family, other volunteers & the many donors for the event in Sioux Falls, SD. For 3 days Joan & her husband stood over the hot grill cooking pork for sandwiches to sell. Their days started around 8am & they didn't get back to their hotel until after midnight. She had made information cards to hand out to those interested. Estimates of the crowd are at 320,000 people throughout the long Labor Day weekend.

Such dedication to children in Ukraine!

<http://www.lifelight.org/festival/recap>



Emerald Bracelet Raffle

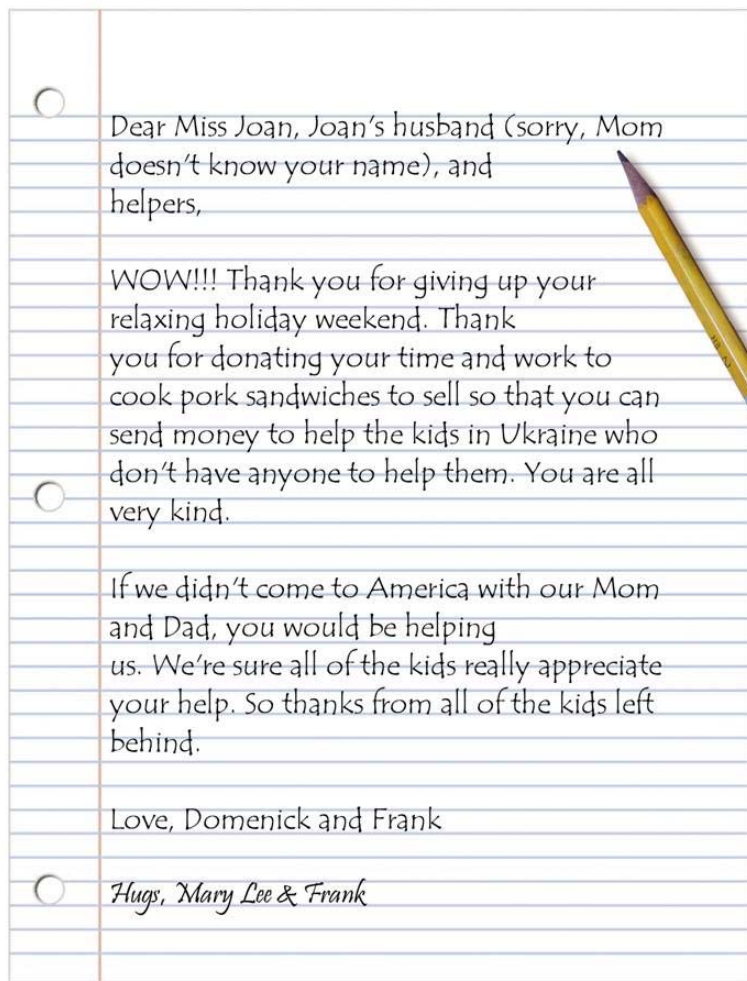


A gorgeous 14k gold Emerald bracelet is being raffled off on Mother's Day 2009. These tickets would make a great stocking stuffer!

Here is a link to this

[Fundraiser item.](#)

www.orphanbrightstar.org/order_raffle_tickets.htm



Hollywood Came Calling!

An Orphan's Bright Star was featured on "Privileged" on the CW network as the charity sponsored in a recent episode's tennis match.

Rachel Kamerman, Privileged's Production Designer, designed a 30 foot banner with OBS' name & website. We appreciate this exposure & the link on her website as a dedicated supporter for the children we care about so deeply.

Thank you Rachel, and thank you Warner Brothers!
www.rachelkamerman.com

Many Ways to Help Raise Funds

Employer Matching Donations – FREE Funds for OBS Projects!

Don't forget to check about employer matching program for charitable donations. Corporations will match up to three times your donated amount to OBS! Can you imagine your \$25 donation turning into \$100 for the children?! Do it now! Check if your employer matches contributions, and check on the charitable donation programs for employers of spouses, friends, and family as well. It is an amazingly EZ way to fund our projects.

MAGAZINES ... For All of the Readers in our Group

Please renew your magazines or subscribe to new ones for yourself or others as gifts thru our [link](#) and we will get a commission: www.magfundraising.com/orphansbrightstar. Of all our associate relationships, this one provides the biggest percentage back to OBS. The prices are great and you can help a child too! What could be easier?!

Box Top\$ For Education

Don't forget to save your [box tops](#). Every top is worth \$0.10 to OBS. Send them to Joan Stout, 725 130th Ave, Pipestone, MN, 56154. We've raised hundreds to date on box tops alone. This last collection of box tops in 2008 will be used towards the Playground Project.

Campbell Soup Labels

Joan is also in charge of collecting [labels](#). Unlike my school days, it's not just soup labels anymore! There are many items that are participating which will earn 1-Point. Don't forget to check out the 5-Point products.

Surf the Net!

www.goodsearch.com A search engine powered by Yahoo. Go to the web address, and enter "An Orphan's Bright Star" (based in Texas) in the box that asks you who you are searching for. It works just like any other search engine and earns \$0.01 for every search. We received hundreds from this source – it really adds up.

We are also registered at search.igive.com These past few months this search engine has been offering \$0.02 for each search.

Do Some Shopping!

www.iGive.com Register at iGive.com, then shop as you usually do online. Downloading the shopping window is helpful, especially if others use your computer. Then it will count their purchases too. A percentage of your purchase price will automatically be given to OBS. Sign up, purchase within 45 days through iGive.com and OBS gets a \$5.00 bonus.

www.amazon.com Go through our link to provide 5% of your purchase price to OBS.

www.amazon.co.uk The link for United Kingdom.

Even purchase groceries at Randall's and you will raise funds for OBS!

<http://www.randalls.com/randalls/tomthumbgoodneighborprogram>

Go to the service desk and ask them to associate your Randall's card with our account #11507. One trip and that's it – all of your future purchases will provide a percentage to OBS.



www.boxtops4education.com

[List of Box Tops For Education Products](#)



www.labelsforeducation.com

[List of Labels For Education Products](#)

*More ways to help are listed with links on our website: www.orphansbrightstar.org/links_no_brainers.htm

Grants:

For Grant Assistance or recommendations on where to apply for grants, please contact Mindi, mindi@orphansbrightstar.org

an orphan's bright star



CaféPress.com has an assortment of merchandise available with the OBS logo. Another great source for Christmas ideas to benefit the children left behind.

\$0, 0%, zero, nada, zilch, nothing...

We advertise that 100% of donor funds go to the children, but are often asked, "How much do you take out for administrative funds?"

Answer from Mindi:

"We take out \$0, 0%, zero, nada, zilch, nothing for operational expenses ... every bit of our donor money goes towards OBS projects for our sponsored orphanages and children."

Administrative costs are covered by members of the Board or by donations made specifically for this purpose.

\$0, 0%, zero, nada, zilch, nothing...



[Christmas cards](#)



[Ornament front](#)



[Ornament back](#)

EBay Auctions



EBay Auctions are a great and easy way to contribute to An Orphan's Bright Star. Just provide us with picture(s), description, shipping cost, and any price constraints. We'll post the item and let you know when it is sold so that you can send it to the buyer.

For questions please contact Barbara, barbarakraus1@yahoo.com

Or begin your shopping here http://search.ebay.com/_W0QQsassZorphansbrightstar
Christmas cards & the keepsake ornament by Hampshire Pewter Company are available on eBay right now as well as on the website.

OBS Officers and Contacts

President & Executive Director: Mindi Davis, mindi@orphansbrightstar.org

Vice President & Assistant Executive Director:

Elizabeth Galligan, elizabeth@orphansbrightstar.org

Secretary: Cristin Andrews, cristin@orphansbrightstar.org

Director: Amanda Cole, amanda@orphansbrightstar.org

Director: Jill Skobel, jill@orphansbrightstar.org

Advisory Group Member: Natalie, natalie@orphansbrightstar.org

Advisory Group Member: Heather, heather@orphansbrightstar.org

Advisory Group Member & Box Tops for Education Coordinator:

Joan Stout, joan@orphansbrightstar.org

Membership coordinator: Leanna Seyler, leanna@orphansbrightstar.org

EBay Coordinator: Barbara, barbarakraus1@yahoo.com

Blog Editor: Tammy Smith, tammy@orphansbrightstar.org

Webmaster: Todd Holway, todd@orphansbrightstar.org

Newsletter Editor: Gina Kinstle, ginaology@orphansbrightstar.org