



May, 2013

Dear friends,

"The righteous one rejoices in the Lord and takes refuge in Him; all those who are upright in heart will offer praise." Psalm 64:10 We are thankful that even when situations turn out differently than we might hope, we can still rejoice. What is interesting about this verse is that "rejoice" and "take refuge" are used together - meaning that even when we need to take refuge or find shelter from all those earthly things that distract us and challenge us, we can still rejoice and offer praise. How difficult that can be most of the time - our perspective needs to be beyond ourselves and what we "feel". Some of the items in this newsletter helps us understand this.

Update on Housemother Valya

As most of you know, in February Valya went to the hospital with some symptoms and underwent a series of tests. After three weeks at one hospital and no diagnosis or conclusions, she went to another hospital for three weeks. (In between, she travelled to Crimea, in southern Ukraine, to take Yura for 6-8 weeks of physical therapy for his leg!) Finally there was a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, which was consistent with some of the tests indicating an immune disorder. The doctors prescribed steroids for her, but we knew this was not a good long term solution. Since Donna was also diagnosed with this last year, and we have some other dear friends dealing with this, we were able to find appropriate non-steroid medications for Valya, and that she is able to obtain in Ukraine. Please continue to keep her in your prayers as she seeks relief from her pain with these medicines. It is good to have her back and functioning more normally again. Here is a picture of Valya on an Easter outing with the children:



Happy Easter! - May 5

Easter was celebrated in Ukraine this year on May 5, and here are some pictures of the Brenna's Home children making Easter eggs;



And Easter cakes, too - with housemother Olena.



April Sickness...

April was a challenging month for housemother Olena. (Olena is Valya's 26 year-old daughter who inherited the full-time care of the 12 children at Brenna's Home while Valya was in the hospital. She also has a husband and a 4 year-old son!) First, Zhenya came down with a very high fever and went to the hospital a week and needed IV fluids to counteract dehydration (photo). Then one by one, over the next few weeks, most of the other children also got the nasty virus at different times. We must say that we are blessed to have Olena to help fill this crucial role.)

Zhenya in the hospital...



Other Activities

The children helped with a special program for children and adults with physical disabilities. In this picture, Vasya (yellow jacket) helps escort one of the children:



Some of the children participated in a drama at the church. Here are the four girls (l to r) Lilia, Yulia, Valeria, and Sasha:



And here are Pavel, Dima, Yulia, and Vova enjoying cotton candy during an outing at the park!



May Birthdays



Yura was 12 on May 6. Lilia turned 13 on May 18.



June Birthdays



Vova, June 2
(turns 11)

Pavlina, June 7
(turns 11)

Pavel, June 10
(turns 9)

Summer Camp Missions Trip

We will have a team of twelve for camp, plus interpreters. Seven of the team leave from The thave a team of seven, leaving from New York City on July 18 and return July 30. We will be joined be three more team members in Kyiv. Please pray that our camp theme of "Finding Treasures" will be a blessing to the 75-80 children that will attend. **We are still seeking sponsors for 20 children for camp. The cost is \$79 per child.**

Thank You!! to those who helped plan, spoke at, sponsored tables, program ads, attended, and gave generously to support our April Fundraiser. If you want to see a copy of the program, let us know and we can send/email you a copy. We are still accepting "fundraiser donations." If you desire to participate in our future and the future of underprivileged children, send a tax-deductible contribution to the Brenna Engle Foundation, 3 Albert Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Blessings to you! Love, Rich and Donna

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Rich and Donna Engle

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