



November 11, 2013

Dear friends,

You probably would not recognize the name Thomas Chisholm, but he penned the words of the well-known hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" in 1923. Those words include the line "Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow...". These words came to mind when thinking about the work that we do with children. Just as we trust God to provide OUR strength for each day AND a bright hope for the future, so can we provide the same to the children we serve. By meeting their needs each day, they are provided with hope for a brighter and fuller future, as they grow and develop physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

We are overdue for an update, but there has been a lot going on, much of it "behind the scenes". For Brenna's Home, much of 2013 has been a year of adjustments. Valya is adjusting to mothering 12 twelve children with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. We are glad that medication is keeping her symptoms under control, for the most part. It has also been an adjustment dealing with twelve children day in and day out. Now that they have "adjusted", they are preparing for the likelihood of a new addition to the home, possibly by the end of November. We will wait to make it official until it happens. Here some highlight pictures from September and October.

First Bell (Back to School) Pictures

Here is a picture of the Brenna's Home children on the first day of school. It is traditional that the children get all dressed up and present flowers to their teacher on September 1.



And here is a nice picture of housemother Oksana with Yulia (left) and Lilia (right).



Ukrainian Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving in Ukraine is celebrated at different times. Resurrection Church celebrated thanks for the bountiful harvest on September 29. Here are Lilia, Valeria, Yura, Pavel, and Yulia participating in the Thanksgiving service.



One of the women at the church, Armina, is quite an artist with food. She arranged the main display for Thanksgiving.



Clothing Shipment

In September, we shipped five boxes of clothing and other items to Brenna's Home. Here are some of the children showing off their clothes. We are grateful to those who donate slightly used clothes that we can use for the children. Here are Zhenya (l) and Vova (r).



And some fancy dresses!! Yulia (l), Sasha (c), and Valeria (r)



Vanya in the kitchen-because Vanya is in cooking school he gets to assist with some of the food preparation! Anyone for fish?



Overall, the children are all doing well. The five younger boys can be a challenge with their activity level and mischief, but we guess that is to be expected! And of course there are the occasional bumps and bruises (Dima below)...



Exciting NEW News

Just as we believe that eight years ago God opened the door for us to work with children in Ukraine, we believe He is calling us to an additional place to serve children. After five months of soul-searching, we have come to a realization that this place is on another continent, Africa - and more specifically, the nation of Ethiopia. Our work will continue in Ukraine, and we are now beginning the process of determining the specifics of how we will be used in Ethiopia. We have made some preliminary contacts, and Rich will travel there leaving December 30 and returning January 16. He will meet with a variety of people involved in serving the desperate children there. Ethiopia has 4.8 million orphans (that is the population of Philadelphia, Chicago, and Baltimore combined).

We can make a difference in the lives of children like this:



Will you help us?

The Flags of Ukraine (l) and Ethiopia (r)



We are moving forward in faith - that we will find the right situation where the Brenna Engle Foundation can make a significant impact and that the resources we need to do that work will be provided. Please join us in prayer for the future in Ukraine and in Ethiopia, and open your hearts to how you can be involved with us to make a difference!

Love, Rich and Donna

We always appreciate those who remember and support us on a regular basis, and those who contribute as they feel led. Together, we are building up the character of children who otherwise would have little hope. The life we offer them is truly a New Life, and we are privileged to be used in this way.

If you desire to participate in the future of underprivileged children, please send a tax-deductible contribution to the Brenna Engle Foundation, 3 Albert Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Another important way that you can participate is to share our work with family, friends, your church, and various organizations with which you may be associated.

Blessings to you! Love, Rich and Donna

On the web www.brennaenglefoundation.org

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Brenna-Engle-Foundation/101419966565747>

Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ah0gHE6eLM>

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Rich and Donna Engle

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