



Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE

March 5, 2015

Dear friends,

This year is a milestone of sorts, as it marks the 10th year since the founding of Brenna's Home and the Brenna Engle Foundation. February 13 marked 10 years since her passing. Donna and Rich want to express our gratitude for the countless numbers of individuals that have supported and enabled our work with underprivileged children. All of you together have made it possible. We are grateful in each one of you, even if we aren't always able to personally thank you as much as we would like. **We are truly thankful for faith that can move mountains.** This picture of Brenna is particularly meaningful to us because it represents the normality of life - something so simple as greeting baby goats - we can help other children find something in their lives that is "normal", because they have people who help provide and care for them.



Brenna with baby goats at Stagecoach Trails Guest Ranch



Brenna's Home - UKRAINE

Our January trip to Lutsk was quite exciting, both for us and for the children. We had not seen each other for almost a year and a half. Needless to say our visit was full of lots of hugs, and expressions of love. Christmas is celebrated on January 7, and we arrived on January 3, so there was a lot of activity surrounding the celebration of Christmas. The vast majority of activity is focused on the religious significance of Christmas, with much less emphasis on presents and materialism. We provide here a pictorial synopsis of some highlights of our trip.

Pictured below: Donna and Yulia greeting each other; Rich meeting Vanya C. and Vitalik for the first time.



Below: A meal together in the living room; visiting Zhenya in the hospital (Zhenya had a respiratory infection when we arrived, and then Vitalik also went to the hospital because he fell and broke his collarbone the day after we arrived)



Below: The war in Southeastern Ukrainian has created many refugees-here we are with some of the children from Donbas who have found safety in Lutsk; Rich played Santa for distribution of shoeboxes from Hyde Park Baptist Church to the Tabitha Children's Program.



Below: (L)Some of the boys from the Tabitha Program came to sing carols at Brenna's Home; (R) Children at Brenna's Home open Christmas presents from their sponsors



Below: (L) Lilia opens a present with Valeria watching; (R) We had to say goodbye to Dima while we were in Lutsk. Dima's mother recently got out of prison and wanted to regain custody of her son. We had one of the city officials and a social worker present when she came to get him. Pray that his time in Brenna's Home will have a lifetime impact not only on Dima, but also his mother.



Below: Housemothers Oksana and Vala pose for a picture with a Christmas lollipop; Vanya B. proudly displays a very special present - a "Dining at Delmonico's" cookbook and gear donated by Billy Oliva, Executive Chef at Delmonico's Restaurant in Manhattan. Vanya graduated from his cooking school the last week of January and is planning to continue his studies for an additional year beginning in September.



A Special Gift

The last week of January we were contacted by someone through our website who said they worked for a United Nations program in Vienna and frequently travelled to Ukraine. They wanted to do some humanitarian work for children in Ukraine and found us through the web. After checking this out a little further we made arrangements for Ken Velice to visit Brenna's Home and present them with a large assortment of food and grocery items. He spent half a day hanging out with the kids. Thank you, Ken. We hope to meet you and that you will come back again! (Pictured below)

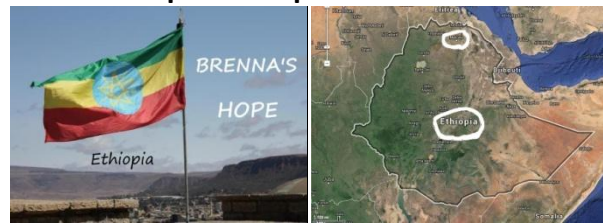


Please continue to pray for Ukraine as the political situation has created significant financial strain on the economy. This also has implications, for our work there, because the currency value is only half of what it was one year ago. Additional sponsors for the children help offset these increased costs. Sponsorship is a one-year commitment to provide \$25/month (\$300) toward support of a child at Brenna's Home.

One final picture of the Brenna's Home family from January, 2015:



Brenna's Hope - Ethiopia



High School girls - Tigray Province

We work with Hope Community Services in Northern Ethiopia to provide monthly support for vulnerable high school girls to complete their education. In this region of Ethiopia, many girls walk two hours or more EACH WAY to attend high school. This means they face dangers while walking in darkness, and also makes it difficult for them to complete their studies. Consequently they may drop out of school and are frequently used as wives for arranged marriages, even as young as ages 13 to 17. If this happens and they become pregnant, they face challenges with childbirth because their bodies are not fully developed. This may result in a condition known as [fistula](#). Our focus is PREVENTION.

We have committed to sponsor 30 girls for this program and we need just four more to meet our goal! Just \$25 a month will provide a shelter and food close to school or transportation services for these girls at great risk.



Le-elti's Story

One of the high school girls we sponsor is Le-elti Haile Selassie. She is 16 years old and has five younger siblings. She was an outstanding student. Her parents are uneducated peasants. They planned to get her married at age 14. Though it is not legal, anything goes in the rural areas. When the teachers came to know about the arranged marriage for a minor, they tried to persuade her parents to change their wedding plans, but the parents were adamant. Then the teachers hid the girl with one of the female teachers and reported to the community elders to intervene. To avert a legal battle for the family, the community elders persuaded the parents to let their girl continue with her schooling. Le-elti passed the 8th grade national exam with an average of 96.9 out of 100. She is now in 10th grade and is able to attend school through our sponsorship program and she does not have to walk four hours each day for school. Her case was highlighted by a director of the high school I visited in Mekelle. She ranked 2nd in her class and 2nd out of the 9th grade classes. She aspires to be an engineer. These poor girls face many challenges and your help will go a long way to brighten their future.

College girls - Tigray Province

Another opportunity also developed with Hope Community Services. Many girls graduating from high school who are orphans or from very poor families are excellent students and qualify for free tuition, room and board through a government program. However, the costs for travel and monthly hygiene expenses can be prohibitive for them to take advantage of the education. The cost for sending one of these girls to college is \$20/month (\$240/year). We will sponsor 30 girls for this program and need just ten more to reach our goal!

Hope House - Central Ethiopia

Our third project in Ethiopia continues to develop. In conjunction with Ellilta Women at Risk and Mekane Yesus Church in Debre Zeit, we have committed to provide the educational and daycare support for children whose mothers have entered Hope House, a holistic rehabilitation program to leave "working the streets". This organization has been functioning effectively in Addis Ababa for nearly 20 years, and this is a new extension of the work in the city of Debre Zeit. Our contacts are Michelle and Asaua Tiatia. Sponsorships for this program are \$30/month (we need a one year commitment). These are our "Hope House" kids. We will have more opportunities for sponsorship as women enter the program.



Mebrat Selam Samuel Yohannes

Mebrat's mother was not able to produce enough milk, and they were giving her cow's milk, which is not good for young children. We were able to send powdered formula to Debre Zeit with a mission team from Missouri to meet her needs for the next six months.



Fundraiser on May 2nd

We are holding our annual fundraiser on Saturday, May 2nd at the Poughkeepsie (NY) Grand Hotel from NOON to 3:00PM. If you are near Poughkeepsie, we invite you to attend, but you need to make reservations. If you, your church, or have a business that is willing be involved, please contact us!

Some words about financial contributions...

Hudson Valley FCU Members If you don't like writing checks, you can do member-to-member transfers to the Brenna Engle Foundation. Contact us for more information and account details.

ACH Transfers If your bank will allow you to do automatic transfers, we are happy to provide account information to set up automatic transfers. Please contact us if you are interested.

Billpay Many of our regular donors utilize a Billpay system through their financial institution for regular payments. If you are able to participate in such a program, we encourage you to do so. It eliminates the need to send out reminders.

We have been blessed year after year with what we need, and this has allowed our work to grow and prosper. When we receive extra gifts, it enables us to think about expanding what we do. If you are in a position to provide significant resources, or are willing to include the Brenna Engle Foundation in your estate planning, we would like to hear from you.

We are all looking forward to warmer temperatures, and Spring flowers! Love, Rich and Donna

All US donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be payable to "Brenna Engle Foundation" and sent to 3 Albert Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

If you are interested in scheduled recurring electronic payments, please let us know and we can provide you with routing and account information.

Donations can also be made online through our website using **Just Give**. They deduct a service charge of 4^{1/2} percent.

Also on Facebook and YouTube:

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

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

And our website brennaenglefoundation.org

This list server is maintained by The Brenna Engle Foundation, www.brennaenglefoundation.org If you wish to respond to any messages, please respond to richengle14@gmail.com (Rich) or DBRN1234@aol.com (Donna). If you prefer not to receive communications through our list server, please send a note to either of us requesting to "unsubscribe". We appreciate your support, whether through prayer or finances!

Rich and Donna Engle

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