



# Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE

*"Our 10<sup>th</sup> Year of Service to Underprivileged Children"*

June 15, 2015

Dear friends,

**Compassion** is the response to the suffering of others that motivates a desire to help. Literally, it means "to love together with". Compassion is considered in almost all the major religious traditions as among the greatest of virtues. In Matthew, chapter 20, Jesus encountered two blind men begging by the road. The crowds around him tried to dissuade the blind men, but it says in verse 34, that "Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him." Jesus was not afraid to **touch** people. He touched blind people, lepers, and dead people. Showing compassion requires touching people, and each of us can do that in different ways. How have you been able to touch someone with compassion today? We challenge you to make every effort to touch another life with compassion each and every day.

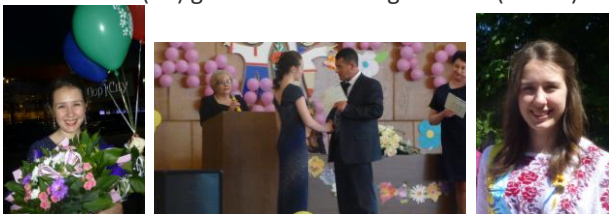


## Brenna's Home - UKRAINE

Please continue to pray for the situation in Ukraine. While the area of war is many miles away from Lutsk, it has so many effects on the lives of everyone throughout the rest of the country. No one wants to see their young men going off to war-especially to defend against pure aggression from a neighboring country. The country faces many challenges in their battle for true democracy and rid itself of the corruption that has been rampant for many years.

Where does the time go? Brenna's Home is now almost completely teenagers! Yulia, Valeria, and Vova all turned 13 in the last few months. Zhenya is the only child under 13.

Please keep our older children in your prayers as well: Kolya, Vanya, Vasya are each at challenging stages of life where they are making important decisions about the future. Sasha (17) graduated from high school (below).



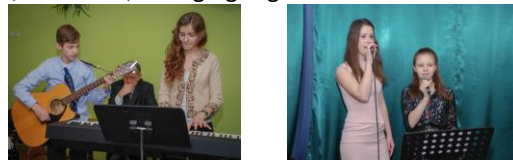
Sasha hopes to attend language school starting in September, with aspirations to become a translator. We believe she will be successful in her endeavors, as she is disciplined and motivated. We are amazed and grateful

for the changes she has made in her life over the last few years. We enjoyed practicing English with her in January.

Birthdays are special times for the children. They always enjoy receiving cards or a small package. They especially like receiving cards with pictures from people that care about them and pray for them. If you are interested in sending cards to them, please contact us and we will provide the mailing address for Brenna's Home. We do not post the address in our newsletters because they go on our website for the general public. Here are pictures of Zhenya (10) and Valeria (13) enjoying their birthdays:



Another aspect of life that we encourage is developing and using musical talents. Resurrection Church provides opportunities for the kids to use their abilities. Below is Vitalik playing guitar in church for the first time. On the right, our Yulia, is singing together with older Julia.



We are so grateful for the work and dedication of our housemothers. Below left is Valya with our four girls. On the right is Oksana with Lilia, Sasha, and Vova.



A few more photos...



A landscaping project and Zhenya with his buddy...

## Ukraine Summer Camp Plans

We leave for Ukraine with our team on July 21 to run our summer camp. We are excited to be going to a camp in the Carpathian Mountains in Western Ukraine this year. This will involve a long 4 <sup>1/2</sup> hour bus ride for the 65 kids attending camp. Our team this year includes Steven Velardo, Budd Sizemore, Emily Saleman, Brandon Spadaro, and Rich and Donna Engle from the US. We will be joined in Ukraine by Randy and Annette Hillebrand, Meisha Deane, Sergei Shevtsov, and Pavel Onatsko, plus two additional translators from Lutsk. **We still have an urgent need for sponsors for summer camp. Can you help? We are still in need of sponsors for 40 children for camp. The cost per child is \$85. If you can help meet this need, we need to hear from you (see end of newsletter).**

## 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 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.



### Zewdu's thanks

We received thank you notes from a handful of high school girls expressing thanks to their sponsors. We would like share one of these with you. As communications are very challenging in this remote part of Ethiopia, so we are grateful when we receive any communication from them.

My name is Zewdu. I was born in the village of Mai Keyih in the Tigray State of northern Ethiopia. I attend a gov school called Meremiete High School and it is an hour walk one way. There is no transport and even if there was, my parents couldn't afford. I scored 3.9 GPA in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade national examination. I am now in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

I am deeply grateful for the help you have been sending through Hope Community Services. Your help will enable me achieve higher. It will help me to get school materials, for room rent and books. Your support has given me hope to press on so that I can benefit myself, my parents, siblings and my country. If God wills, I aspire to be a medical doctor. When my wish is achieved, I have a vision to help and encourage fellow poor female students.

Counting on your continued support  
Gratefully, Zewdu

### 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 have sponsored 30 girls for this program and have just committed to sponsor six additional students! Will you have compassion to enable one of them to have their dream become reality?



Here is a "thank you" recently received from Wnesh, one of the college students:

Dear XXXXXXXX,

I am writing to thank you for the financial support you sending me through Brenna Engle Foundation & Hope Community Services. I am Wnesh a first year accounting student at Mekelle University in Tigray state of Ethiopia. I want to tell you that I have a deep interest in university education. My first semester grade is 3.34. I had a better result in the high school national examination.

My parents are illiterate and live in the rural area. They are poor and don't even know about the needs for a university student. There is no any other relative that could help or encourage me.

My home is in a remote village and was in bad condition, there is no road and hence no transport. There is no telephone service. I used to walk 2 hours one way to attend school. I have a sister and a brother but they are not educated. I am the only one that attended school. I suffered a lot in my life from the walk, lack of necessities and other problems. From 9-12 grades I got a small scholarship that enabled me to attend school.

University provides lodging, food and free tuition but stationary, photocopying and hygienic needs etc. are not provided. My parents didn't send me any since I joined the university because they think everything is covered by the gov. But I am happy that I have support from you and have hope for the future.

My parents have sent me a message to return home to marry an educated man. I am saddened. They haven't sent any money so far and yet they want to give me for marriage. There are annoying circumstances in life but I believe all will pass away. I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your financial support that has encouraged me to press on. Sincerely, Wnesh

### 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. Sponsorships for this program are \$30/month (we need a one year commitment). We now have seven children sponsored through this program.

Sponsors are still needed for two, will you be the one to touch their lives with compassion?



Yohanis



Berhan

### Fundraiser on May 2nd

We held our annual fundraiser on Saturday, May 2nd at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. While our group was smaller this year, there was lots of spirit! Thanks to all those who came and a special thanks to those who participated. Here are a few pictures: Our musician, Kira Shcherbakova; Honey-Jo Kelly, Director of Birthright; Mauricio LaBorde; The Balmer Family; some of our audience.



### Brenna's Basement - New York

We often fail to mention our local work in New York, but we were blessed by a donor this year who funded the construction of shelving and new lighting to improve the overall functionality of Brenna's Basement. We continue to accept quality donations of children's and adult clothing, baby equipment, toys, and small household items to provide to needy families in the area. We receive referrals from more than 10 local agencies as well as word-of-mouth. All items are given away, not sold. And we have some awesome volunteers who help on Saturday mornings!

### 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.

**PayPal Giving Fund** Donors who have a PayPal account or eBay sellers can donate through PayPal Giving Fund at no charge to donor or recipient. The Brenna Engle Foundation is an approved not-for-profit to benefit from this service.

**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, please contact us.

Have a great summer! 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

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](http://brennaenglefoundation.org)

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