



# Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE

*"11 Years of Service to Underprivileged Children"*

March 21, 2016

Dear friends,

We are grateful for Spring. Although, here in Poughkeepsie, NY, 75 miles north of New York City, we certainly will not complain about a long and difficult winter, as we saw less than 7 inches of snow all winter (less than I can ever remember). But there is something special about Spring. It is watching new life develop, or anticipating new growth of what has been dormant. In conjunction with Easter, we celebrate new life because Jesus was victorious over the grave. The victory He experienced can also be ours. When we look at the lives of the children and teens we have been able to touch, we are grateful also for the new life that they are able to experience. Because Jesus loved us, we are able to pass that love along. It is exciting now to watch these kids sharing that love with many others. Praise God for the promise of new life, for life that springs up from the ground, from what seems like nothing. We are thankful that He came so we might have life, and experience it abundantly - John 10:10



## Brenna's Home - UKRAINE

The children at Brenna's Home are doing well, with the routines of school, work and worship. It is gratifying to see them so involved in youth activities at church and now many of them are helping with the new outreach program to children and families with disabilities.



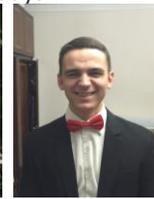
Here are several other photos from the new program that we sponsor for these children:



**Birthdays** are always a highlight for our kids at Brenna's Home. They love receiving cards (and pictures) from people who care about them, so if you want a way to be involved with them, let us know and we will provide a list of birthdays and the address where to send them. Some recent and upcoming birthdays:



Zhenya - Feb. 9



Kolya- Feb. 23



Yulia - March 3



Valeria - April 24



Vitalik - April 24

Yes, Valeria and Vitalik share the same birthday (three years apart). She will turn 14 and he will be 17. It is amazing to see how fast this family is growing up! Valeria recently spent a few days in the hospital with a high fever and flu-symptoms, but is home and recovered now.

**Upcoming trip to Lutsk** - Rich will be leaving April 19 to go to Lutsk for several weeks, to spend time with the kids, celebrate birthdays, take care of some administrative matters, and celebrate Ukrainian Easter on May 1. He is also planning to spend some time helping to practice English language with some of the students in a school there. One additional aspect of the trip is to hopefully meet two new children, a brother (13 and sister (11) who have visited Brenna's Home and may be coming to live there. They currently live with an alcoholic father and we are waiting for a court decision as to where the children will live. Here are two pictures of Artem and Anya taken at Brenna's Home:



## Brenna's Hope - Ethiopia



### Student Update: Le-elti

We would like to start a newsletter feature where each time we focus on one of the students we sponsor in Tigray Province. Our student this month is Le-elti, an 11th grade high school student.

Le-elti is a very charming girl living in a small town around Mekelle called 'Queha' while renting a very loosely-made house with her brother. Her brother is also a grade 11 student in the same school which is helping to study and face challenges together though this girl holds a big responsibility as an elder. Their family are peasants in a place far from 'Queha'. The financial support lets this poor family to lay a foundation for their children in the future. As Le-elti mentioned the support helps her to cover the cost of the house rent, food, and stationary materials with her brother. Here is a picture of Le-elti and one with her brother in their crudely-fashioned living quarters. BUT, notice their wonderful smiles!! They have an opportunity to pursue their dream of an education.



### 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 are still seeking a few more sponsors 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.

These girls are responsible for carrying water to their homes before they leave for school, or again after school. Often these girls will walk together in groups for safety from those who might try to take advantage of them.

### 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). The first year we sponsored 30 girls, studying a variety of disciplines including electrical, chemical, civil engineering, veterinary medicine, accounting, land administration, public health and midwifery. After year one, six girls had grade point averages of 3.5 and higher, and 18 had GPAs of 3.0 to 3.49! **This year we are providing sponsorship for 36 girls for this program. Would you consider becoming a sponsor for one of the eight girls still needing sponsorship?**

### Hope House - Central Ethiopia

Our third project in Ethiopia is in conjunction with Ellilta Women at Risk and Mekane Yesus Church in Debre Zeit. Since Hope House was launched as a pilot program, there have been some significant developments. The leadership of the program decided that it would be necessary to reevaluate the program and has suspended the day to day operations. The program continues to support the women that completed the program, but will not be taking additional women into the program at this time. The Brenna Engle Foundation will continue to sponsor six children whose mothers entered and completed this program. Sponsorship for day care and education for these children is \$30/month, with a one year commitment. Hope House was set up as a holistic rehabilitation program to help women leave "working the streets". Ellilta Women at Risk has been functioning effectively in Addis Ababa for nearly 20 years. Please pray for these women and children and for the future direction of the program.



Samuel, one of the young boys we sponsor through this program will be 3 years old in June. Samuel is a growing boy who is enjoying KG1 in Debre Zeit and is living now with his mother at their pastor's residence. His mother is currently working there as a house helper and they are both part of the family there. He has been through a lot of changes in his life over the

last few months and they are looking to move to Addis Ababa soon where his mother has a job lined up in a restaurant. As you can see in his photo, he is still a very playful young boy who loves to eat cookies and chew gum as often as someone will buy them for him! Thank you for all your help in supporting Samuel to live a happy and healthy life.



### Brenna's Basement - New York

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. If you want to donate items, please contact us. 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!



A special thanks to Thrivent Financial and to members that designate the Brenna Engle Foundation to receive Thrivent CHOICE Dollars.

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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### February, 2016 Fundraiser

The last number of years we have held a fundraiser luncheon at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, and we felt that this year it was time to do something a bit different. Thanks to all came out to the Vassar College Alumnae House for the Dessert Social and Silent Auction and helped make this day a success!



### 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.

**Wishing you the best for Spring! Happy Easter!  
With love, Rich and Donna**