



# Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE

*"11 Years of Service to Underprivileged Children"*

December 30, 2016

Dear friends,

We hope that you have been experiencing the peace and joy of the Christmas Season and that you have expectations for the New Year that will be rewarding for you. There are many who still are in need of clothes, food, and shelter in this world. Those of you who have enough material things, consider how you may help provide for those in need. For all of us, whether in need, or with plenty, let our focus be based on Matthew 6:33-34, to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." As for the New Year, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." We are anticipating 2017, welcoming what challenges we will face, and seeking his wisdom and strength to meet them.

It takes a lot of work to feed all these hungry mouths, so everyone is expected to help do their part. This includes making "cole slaw" and stuffed pastries.



Some not-so-ordinary news is that Brenna's Home now has a car!! This will make the lives of our staff easier in so many ways. We were able to purchase this Volkswagen with a special donation made to Brenna's Home.



Yura continues to progress well after his surgeries, he had the first in May, then had to wear an apparatus on his leg for six months while the bone grew together. This was followed by another surgery in early December, and he is now getting around fine without crutches. Thanks to those of you who helped out with the cost of his medical needs.

In November, our five youngest children had the opportunity, along with some other children, to go to a special retreat center in Germany for two weeks, almost like a camp. Valya went with them, and it was a highlight for them to go to another country for the first time. This was financed by some German friends of Pastor Victor.

### January Trip

Donna and Rich will travel to Ukraine on January 2 and spend Christmas (January 7) in Lutsk. We shipped boxes in early December with gifts from those that sponsor the kids. This is always a highlight for them, and for us, when we are able to be there. We will be participating in the church Christmas program there, and also will have an opportunity to see the special needs children having a special Christmas as well.

### Summer Camp

We will also be planning a summer camp trip and will be recruiting a team to serve at camp. A number of people have already expressed interest in this trip, likely in July. We will be needing sponsors for children to attend camp.

### Brenna's Home - UKRAINE



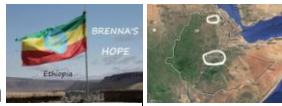
Lots of things have been happening at Brenna's Home, some ordinary and some not so ordinary. Below left is a nice picture of the kids before heading back to school in September. On the right below are Maksim and Zhenya at Independence Day celebrations.



Some of the children participated in the Thanksgiving service (below, left) Below, right: we continue to support the monthly program for special needs children.



## Brenna's Hope - Ethiopia



### Student Update: Tsega Woldegabriel Hagos

Tsega is a midwifery student in Mekelle University. She comes from a very poor family and has no mother. She has a dream to stop mother's death while giving birth and to improve infant mortality in Ethiopia. She is committed to her study, and had a grade point average of 3.35 after her second year. She is grateful to her sponsor because her support is really helping to bring her dreams to reality.



### 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

We also sponsor female college students in conjunction 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 two, eight girls had grade point averages of 3.5 and higher, and 19 had GPAs of 3.0 to 3.49! This year we are providing sponsorship for 38 girls for this program. Would you consider becoming a sponsor for one of the girls still needing sponsorship?

### Hope House - Central Ethiopia

Our third project in Ethiopia is in conjunction with Ellilta Women at Risk. The Brenna Engle Foundation continues to sponsor six children whose mothers entered and completed a holistic rehabilitation program to stop being street workers in Debre Zeit. This pilot program has been discontinued, although the children will be sponsored through June, 2017. We will be evaluating further involvement with E-WAR during our February trip to Ethiopia.

### 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. In conjunction with a local cub scout pack, we were able to provide presents for five needy families that we have met through Brenna's Basement. If you have items to donate, please contact us. We receive referrals from more than 10 local agencies as well as word-of-mouth. Items in the basement are given away without charge. Thanks to Sue and Veronica, who faithfully volunteer to help, and to Gabriella, who gives up her time to pick up and drive people who do not have transportation.

### 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. This service is available through our website.

**JustGive.org** Online donations can also be made from our website using the JustGive donation button. These donations carry a 4 1/2% service fee.

**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.

**Automatic Transfer** If your financial institution provides you the opportunity to set up regular, automatic deductions and transfers, we can provide you with our routing and account number to set up regular transfers each month. Just ask us! It saves everyone from dealing with checks.

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.

**Make the best of your Winter! The days are getting longer and Happy New Year!**  
**With love, Rich and Donna**



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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