



Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE

"12 Years of Service to Underprivileged Children"

March 26, 2017

Dear friends,

It has been almost three months since our last news letter! We have so much to report because we have had two overseas trips. January 2nd we went to Ukraine for two weeks. This newsletter will focus on the Ukraine trip and shortly we will report on the most recent Ethiopia trip.



Brenna's Home - UKRAINE

Our two-week trip to Ukraine was packed with activities. We arrived just after the New Year celebration in time to get ready for Christmas in Ukraine which is celebrated January 7th. We were asked to participate in the Christmas play along with the children and were dressed as "wise men". We even spoke our lines in Ukrainian! Another highlight was to be involved in the "special needs program" which we support. They meet once a month at the church for a meal, activity, and Bible lesson. Donna was able to meet the children and their parents for the first time. We were happy to hear the children sing for us.



During the Christmas holiday we were able to spend time with our two young couples who are "newlyweds" in the past two years. Both young men are "graduates" from Brenna's Home and have lovely wives and are doing well.

It was special getting to spend time with two of our former children, Pavel and Pavlina, who had

been in Brenna's Home for a few years but are now in different living situations.

Pavel and Pavlina (below)



A very special thank you to those of you who sponsor children at Brenna's Home. It is a highlight for them to

receive cards, pictures, and even a gift at Christmas time. We shipped the gifts you gave by boat and they

arrived just in time for Christmas. We liked watching the smiles and delight as they opened the cards, especially if they had a photo,

and the gifts! (We still have a few "Thank You's" from the children to pass along).

Christmas eve is celebrated on January 6th. A big meal with traditional Ukrainian food is always prepared and eaten at Brenna's Home.



Unfortunately, 15 year-old Yura, who has had a bad leg for a number of years, ended up back in the hospital for "emergency surgery" due to a break again in his leg.

He spent Christmas in the hospital but that did not stop him from smiling when he received his cards, pictures and gifts we brought to the hospital from those of you who care and support him.



Just before getting ready to come back to home, our housemother was called by the Children's Services Department in Lutsk. There was a 15 year-

old girl who had been adopted at a young age. She was being treated very poorly by her adopted parents and was asking to go back to the orphanage. Her name is Anya. Children's Services wanted to offer her an alternative to returning to the orphanage so they called us . We were able to participate in the interview process along with Valya, our housemother and Pastor Victor. We decided she would be a "good fit". We offered her a place at Brenna's Home and she gladly accepted. We are now happy to report she has moved into Brenna's Home and is doing very well. The other children have welcomed her. We are looking for one or two additional sponsors for her. If you are interested, please contact us! 25 dollars a month and a little love is all it takes!



This trip we made it a priority to spend some "one on one" time alone with each of our 12 children at Brenna's Home. We asked each one how they felt they were doing and long term goals they have for their lives. We were so very blessed to hear their feelings, thoughts and plans. It made us realize how Brenna's Home has changed their lives and been a blessing to them.

BIRTHDAYS: January: Our now oldest boy, Vasya turned 20! He is a lovely young man and is in technical school studying mechanical drawing and drafting. We are so very proud of the young man he has become!



February: Zhenya was 11 on February 9. He is an active young guy who loves affection, but has a mind of his own. (He also loves to eat!!)



March: Yulia celebrated her 15th birthday! She has been in Brenna's Home the longest! She came to us at the age of 4. Yulia is an excellent student and speaks English very well! We are so very proud of her as well!

APRIL: We will celebrate the birthdays of Vitalik and Valeria! Please send a card and picture if you are able! Their birthdays are both on the 24th.



It is not too early to mail a card as it usually takes 3 weeks! Contact us for the address.

OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Please mark your calendar and JOIN US! This is a crucial event for our organization each year. We depend on the generous support of individuals like yourselves to provide for the children and young people that we serve. We have ambitious goals that we think are realistic, but we plan on continued support from our donor community and can only expand our work if new partners become engaged. We hope that you will help spread the word about the worthiness of the causes we support.

Saturday, MAY 6, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM
at the VASSAR COLLEGE ALUMNAE HOUSE
161 College Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY.

We will coffee and dessert! We will have MANY WONDERFUL ITEMS for silent auction including Ukrainian and Ethiopian treasures, gift baskets, gift cards and Renegades baseball tickets . It will be casual and informal. Please consider stopping in, bidding on an item , and/ or making a donation.

Stay tuned for our next update on our most recent Ethiopia trip



Ukraine Summer Camp

Our Ukraine Summer Camp trip is scheduled to leave on Friday evening June 30. We will return to the US on July 13. We will be providing a week-long camp for 75-80 children. The cost will be \$95/child. This covers the entire expenses for a child to attend a sleep-away camp in two hours outside of the city - including three meals a day, activities, lodging and transportation. If you are interested in a "one-time" donation, please consider giving one or more of these needy children an "opportunity of a lifetime". You will receive a photo after camp of the child you sponsor. Thank you so much for considering this way in which to donate.



Brenna's Basement - New York

We continue to provide clothing and small household items to needy families in the Mid-Hudson Valley. 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.

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

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