



## Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE

*"12 Years of Service to Underprivileged Children"*

June 18, 2017

Dear friends,

It's Father's Day and just about the beginning of summer. We take a moment to reflect on our own fathers and those who fill a father figure in our lives. We are also grateful for the love of our Heavenly Father, whose great love gives us the capacity to love others as we can. Pray for those that need the love of a Father.

In just 12 days we will depart for Ukraine for our summer camp trip. We are filled with anticipation and busy with last-minute preparations.

### Brenna's Home - UKRAINE

We are happy that the kids at Brenna's Home generally all seem to be doing fine. It seems that with increased regular communications technologies (Skype, Viber) we have more face to face contact and receive fewer pictures. We do



have a few recent ones to pass along. The kids love animals, and even though the only official pets at Brenna's Home are two turtles, housemother Olena has a dog, and sometimes the kids find little kittens to play with. Here is a picture of Valeria with two kittens.

We are proud of Anya who graduated from high school (Form 10) this month. She is still deciding what her next plan will be. Anya will be 16 in November and will likely enroll in one of the technical colleges.



### Birthdays in May and June



Yura (r) 16, May 6



Lilia, 17, May 18



Vanya, 17, May 21



Vova, 15, June 2

### Summer Camp

Every two years, we try to take a team and provide a summer camp opportunity for the children in the Tabitha Program at Resurrection Church. Normally we hold a five-night sleepover camp for about 65-70 kids. This year we are taking on a larger endeavor. We will do a six-night camp for 90 kids. The children will come from Lutsk and the nearby town of Kivertsy, which has also started a Tabitha Program in the church there. We have assembled an outstanding team from the USA and Ukraine: In addition to Rich and Donna, Tom Slaughter, Natalia Bundy, Mike and Brianna DeCarmine are coming from New Beginnings Church in



Poughkeepsie, NY; Christina Polk from Garland, Texas; Meisha Deane, and Randy and Annette Hillebrand from Kyiv will

join us. The camp will be at a large lake in Northwestern Ukraine about two hours drive from Lutsk. We can still use your help - we have 35 campers sponsored at \$95 each. You can help us defray the costs from our operating budget through sponsoring one or more children for camp. **You will get a personal thank you and a picture from the child you sponsor. We are praying that God will miraculously provide sponsorships for another 30, 40, or 50 children in the next 10 days.**

### Exciting News!!!

Our oldest "daughter" in Brenna's Home, Sasha, has received a tourist visa to visit the USA for two months. Sasha (Alexandra) is 19 and is completing her second year of university, majoring in Economics. She will return with us July 13, when our team travels home from the summer camp trip. During her stay she will live with us, but will have many opportunities to experience American culture,



practice her English language skills, and be involved with many of the teens from our church. She will have chance to interact with sponsors, speak at

several churches, and have many day and weekend trips throughout the Northeastern United States. This will be the first time that any of the kids from Brenna's Home have had this opportunity. Sasha will return to Ukraine September 16 in time for her to continue her education.

### 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 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.

### Student Spotlight

Fotein is completing grade 10 at Mere-Meity Secondary School and we were privileged to meet her during our February trip. She comes from a



very poor family and is one of eight children. She is a very determined student who has a two-hour walk each way to attend school. Her home is 8 km (5 miles) from the school. Her family subsists on crops from farming a small plot of land.

### 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?

### OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Thanks to those who came out and supported us at our annual fundraiser on May 6! It was great to see everyone and we appreciate the financial support from those who were not able to attend. We really appreciate when you recommend us to your friends and share the work that we do. This is one of the keys to being able to expand the reach of our work. The silent auction was a big hit again this year with lots of quality donations and interesting items from Ethiopia and Ukraine. Thanks to our business sponsors:

Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park, NY  
Pagones Insurance, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Care Net Pregnancy Center, Poughkeepsie, NY



### 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.

### 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.

**DID YOU KNOW?** If you shop on Amazon.com, you can use the Amazon Smile option to select the Brenna Engle Foundation and we will receive a percentage from every purchase.

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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