



# Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE

*"Our 13th Year of Service to Underprivileged Children"*

May 24, 2018

Dear friends,

It has been eight months since our last newsletter. It's not that we haven't been actively engaged in our work, but circumstances and developments in our Ukraine work necessitated a period of adjustment on our part. It has been a challenging time for us, but also believe that the work we have been called to do required us to make new plans and adjustments for the future. We trust in God's providence and wisdom for us as we prepare for the future.

## Brenna's Home - UKRAINE



Our work with Brenna's Home and the children we have come to love has undergone a major change over the last number of months. We will not delve into specifics, but felt that we had a serious breach of trust upon those in charge in Ukraine, that we had to terminate our relationship with the housemother and church we worked through. This resulted in asking our housemother to leave Brenna's Home. As she is also legal guardian for most of the kids, we knew that there was a risk of losing them in our home. Subsequently by the end of 2017 we had an empty Brenna's Home. When we travelled to Lutsk in January, 2018, we knew it would be a difficult trip, as we needed to assess where things were at and establish plans for our home there for the future. Please know that the children we had in Brenna's Home are physically ok, and are supported by the government through their foster mother. It has been difficult for them feeling caught in the middle of a challenging situation. We recently received an article from the local paper with some pictures of the kids which we feel we can pass along.



The article was about a local horse stable that invited orphans to attend a special program for the day. The pictures above show Yulia who absolutely loves horses! On the right is Zhenya with Yura behind him. Since we are not free to communicate with them, this was a treat for us to see! So please continue to pray for these kids, that the seeds of love we planted in their lives will result in fruit! During our trip in January we had



the opportunity to connect with many people. Of course one of our favorites is visiting the Litvinchuk family. Many of you know them as "Patrick's family". Here we are with the four girls.

## New Plans for Brenna's Home!

We are thrilled to have our friends Slava and Yura Yaroshevych managing our affairs in Lutsk. They are from Golgotha Church, with whom we are now partnering. It is a vibrant church community, and we have many friends there, so we look forward to working with them. We have known Slava for over ten years, as she has translated for us at multiple summer camps. We are grateful to have them working with us, it is also a blessing that Slava knows English so well!



We are happy to announce that Brenna's Home will have two new programs coordinated by Anatoly (Tolik) and Iryna (Ira) Levtsenyuk from Golgotha Church. Anatoly is assistant pastor of the church. Iryna has been involved in orphan ministry for a number of years. So these are our new partners!



The upstairs apartment will be used for a day ministry starting June 9. This program will involve feeding 15 needy children a hot meal, as well as craft, Bible lessons, and helping with homework. The program will start operating three days per week initially. The staff are busy purchasing all the

necessary items for this program, which has been developed in conjunction with the city children's services department.

The second program, in the downstairs apartment, will be a transition home for orphan girls who age out of the orphanage system when they turn 18. Our first girl, will be moving in shortly, and we are planning on having up to eight girls moving in during the summer. From Brenna's Home, they will then attend further education, or find jobs, in order to become self-sustaining. Staffing for this program



will be from Golgotha Church. Here is a picture of Ira with some of the girls they support in the orphan ministry.

We are excited that these plans are now coming to fruition!!

## Brenna's Hope-Ethiopia



### High School girls - Tigrai 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 have new girls now in this program and are in need of additional sponsors. 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.

## University Students

We are excited that most of the university students we have sponsored for the last four years are graduating. Thanks so much to those sponsors who helped make this dream become a reality for them! We are communicating with Hope Community Services about our continued involvement in this program.

## Support Program for Rape Victims in Tigray

In partnership with Hope Community Services, we are sponsoring four teen girls who are victims of rape and are under their care for emotional and rehabilitative support. These girls range in age from 13 to 16 and have great needs. Two of them are diagnosed HIV positive. We will provide support for them for healthcare needs and also to continue their interrupted education. For privacy reasons we will not publish photos or specific stories, but if you are touched by this, and want to sponsor one of these girls, please let us know and we will provide individual details to you. The cost of sponsorship is \$25/month (\$300/year).

## Central Ethiopia - Debre Zeit

We have been sponsoring a family of four girls and their single mother for the past year. We are thrilled to have Henok and Enat helping to care for them. Congratulations to Henok and Enat on the birth of their first child in February! Also, Enat just graduated from Meserete Kristos College, so lots of things to be thankful for. We are grateful for how they have "adopted" our sponsored family! We also support these girls through sponsorships of \$35/month. Here is Henok with the four girls and their mother.





### 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. Our biggest continued need is for boys clothes size 7 through 16, and sheets, towels, and household items, especially kitchenware.



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.

### 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.

All US donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be payable to "Brenna Engle Foundation" and sent to 3 Albert Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Brenna-Engle-Foundation/101419966565747>

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And our website [brennaenglefoundation.org](http://brennaenglefoundation.org)

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**With love, Rich and Donna**