

## The Brenna Engle Foundation

The Brenna Engle Foundation is a New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation founded to:

- provide the financial support for **Brenna's Home for Underprivileged Children** in Lutsk, Ukraine, which provides a safe environment for Ukrainian orphans and abandoned and underprivileged children.
- support organizations which raise awareness of the problems of orphans and abandoned and underprivileged children in Ukraine and elsewhere.

## History

The Foundation was established following the death of three-year old Brenna Engle in a tragic automobile and truck accident in February 2005. After Brenna's death, her parents, Richard and Donna Engle, requested that in lieu of flowers, financial donations would be made to the Tabitha Children's Program in Lutsk, Ukraine. Donna and Richard were familiar with the work of the Tabitha Program and believed that sending donations there would be a fitting memorial to Brenna and a worthwhile cause for the hundreds of people who responded to Brenna's untimely death with an outpouring of emotion and support.



The Tabitha Children's Program in Lutsk, began with feeding four small children and expanded over the years to provide educational and recreational programs and a daily hot meal for more than 60 children. In the city of Lutsk many children live in very poor conditions, often in tiny flats with abusive and alcoholic parents, or with relatives unable to properly care for them. Through the Tabitha program, the children are fed a healthy lunch and given nutritional supplements six days each week. For some of them it is their only good meal of the day. The program resulted in improved health for the children who attend it.

After Brenna Engle's death, the donations to the Tabitha program in her memory were much more than expected, and were sufficient to provide the seed money to lay the financial foundation to support a home to accommodate three children in dire home circumstances. "Brenna's Home" became a reality shortly thereafter.

## Brenna's Home (Ukraine)

Over the next 12 years, Brenna's Home expanded to serve as many more children. In January 2009, a three-bedroom flat was purchased to provide a permanent facility for Brenna's Home. In May, 2011, an adjacent flat was purchased. The two flats were physically connected to create one home. The home served as home to as many as 14 children during 2014. Brenna's Home continued to serve as a foster-care facility until the end of 2017. At that time there were circumstances which caused the Foundation to redirect the purpose of the home to serve the needs of children in Lutsk in other ways.



During 2018, a partnership was formed with Golgotha Church, to develop using Brenna's Home to meet several needs. One goal was to use the home as a transition home for girls who were aging out of the orphanage system and needed a safe place to live while pursuing educational and technical opportunities. Now, there are girls living there that can have a chance to develop technical skills to work and support themselves. Staff from Golgotha Church assist and mentor these girls.



The second program is a day program for underserved children that live near Brenna's Home. They come on Saturdays to have a cooked meal, sing and hear Bible stories, and do a craft or have a fun outing. We are happy to have a chance to share our hope with them, as many are desperate for love and attention. Again, this program is coordinated by youth leaders at Golgotha Church.



## Brenna's Home Support Sponsorships

Your commitment of \$25 each month enables the Brenna Engle Foundation to provide a home and facility for these programs. It allows us provide heat, water, and electricity, and to support staff involved in the care and upkeep of Brenna's Home. Would you consider a commitment of 79 cents a day as an investment in the lives of those the children and youth that we serve at Brenna's Home?

**Ukraine Summer Camp Programs** are another way the Foundation provides opportunities for children. Summer camps usually involve taking between 65 and 100 children out of the city for a week where they can enjoy fresh, clean air in a loving environment with both structured and unstructured activities. The camp programs are organized and coordinated jointly through an American team and the Ukrainian youth leaders. These camps are excellent way for people to be involved in a "mission trip" experience and provide the love and care that these children to desperately need in their lives. We ask donors to provide support by sponsoring specific children for our camp program. Those Americans who are interested in being participants in the Summer Camp experience are invited to apply with us.

## Brenna's Basement (Poughkeepsie, NY)

As items were donated for use in Ukraine, a surplus developed, and we began supplying items for mission trips to other parts of the world, including Chile and Romania. In 2008, we established Brenna's Basement and now routinely collect donations of clothing and small household items for needy children, teens, and families in the Mid-Hudson Valley region of New York. We have been able to assist with many needs in the Poughkeepsie, NY area and receive referrals through numerous local organizations, including Mid-Hudson Love INC, Care Net Pregnancy Center, Birthright, The Grace Smith House, Dutchess County Healthy Families, and Hudson River Housing. Through this program, clients receive assistance at no cost. Quality donations and volunteers are always welcome!

## Brenna's Hope (Ethiopia)

Starting in 2014, the Foundation began work in Northern and Central Ethiopia with several different projects:

### High School Girls Project - Tigrai Province Sponsorship for this program is \$25/month.

We are working with a local non-government organization (NGO) in Northern Ethiopia to provide monthly support for vulnerable high school girls to complete their education. In this region of Ethiopia, many of these girls walk two hours or more EACH WAY to attend high school. 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. Sponsorship allows the girls to live in closer proximity to the school, or take advantage of transportation, thereby increasing the chances of completing their high school education.

## University Girls Project - Tigrai Province

### Sponsorship for this program is \$20/month.

We are working with a local non-government organization (NGO) in Northern Ethiopia to provide monthly support for vulnerable teenage girls to complete their college education. These girls are very poor, some of them are orphans and they live in remote areas. BUT, they have great potential and have distinguished high school records for academics and leadership. They are eligible to receive free tuition, room and board to attend college. However, because of their poverty, even the cost of transportation for college and the cost of personal hygiene items and classroom supplies can keep them from continuing their education. Our sponsorship program provides these necessities for them to attend college, and begin to break the cycle of poverty they have known. Fourteen of our first student beneficiaries graduated in 2018. You can make a difference for 66 cents a day!

## Child Sponsor Project - Central Ethiopia

### Sponsorship for this program is \$35/month.

Through our project coordinators, worthy families, usually poverty-stricken or single mothers are identified. We provide ongoing support for educational needs as well as some subsidy for basic needs. Currently we support one family of four girls and a family with two boys.



## Donations & Sponsorships

We prefer **Checks or BillPay** as the method of receiving donations as there are no service fees involved. Checks should be made out and mailed to:

**The Brenna Engle Foundation**  
**3 Albert Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**

**Online giving** available through **Pay Pal Giving Fund** on our Facebook page and website at no cost. We also use **JustGiving** on our website. Donations through **JustGiving** are subject to a 4.5% service fee.



## Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE



"As you have done unto one of these, you have done unto me."

Serving orphans and underprivileged children in Ukraine, Ethiopia, and Poughkeepsie, NY  
Established 2005

## Brenna Engle Foundation

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[brennaenglefoundation.org](http://brennaenglefoundation.org)

Facebook: **Brenna Engle Foundation and Brenna's Basement**

An IRS 501(c)3 organization, donations are fully deductible by IRS guidelines.

The Brenna Engle Foundation is an organizational member of  
The CoMission for Children at Risk  
([www.orphancareresources.org](http://www.orphancareresources.org))