

Present Realities:

The Dnipropetrovs'k (region/state) of Ukraine has a population of 3.5 million people. The region is located east of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev in the central part of the country. This area was especially hard hit by the collapse of the Soviet Union. Many of the heavy industries and factories found themselves ill equipped to compete in a global economy. The huge state run farms and factories have failed to produce as equipment and technology have fallen into serious disrepair. High unemployment rates, poverty, lack of social programs, alcoholism, prostitution and poor medical care leading to early death have all contributed to Ukraine's orphan problems.

The government provides institutionalized orphanages with only the very basic of necessities. Once an orphan becomes part of the government system there is little to no chance (10%) of having a successful life after leaving the orphanage. Orphans are kept in state care until they reach the age of 16 when they are sent to live on the street without being provided with the necessary skills to live independently. The results of this are evident in the statistics below.

- > 10% commit suicide
- > 40% go to prison
- > 40% have mental problems
- > only 10% can adapt to life outside the orphanage

History to Current:

The Priazovje Orphanage (located 300 km southeast of Nikopol, Dnipropetrovs'k) was started by the local Baptist Church who saw a need that was not being met. After prayerful consideration they were given a vision to open an orphanage. In 1998, renovations began on the first building after capital funds were received from the MCC. Four years later, the Priazovje Orphanage opened its doors and began caring for 25 orphans who were placed there by the state.

Since the opening, Priazovje has not received any government assistance; rather the state requires taxes, dictates the amount of orphans sent to the orphanage, and expects specific items to be purchased in order to maintain their government status. The orphanage is currently home to 12 girls and 25 boys in addition to 26 workers.

Plan of Action:

While the Orphanage has many needs, one area that is a continual pressing concern is the orphans that are 'graduating' from the orphanage. The state requires that residents leave the orphanage by the age of 16. The Priazovje Orphanage has been allowed to keep orphans until they turn 18. There are currently 4 orphans who are 16/17 with the first orphan scheduled to leave in May of 2009. There are no places for the orphans to go after leaving the orphanage, which puts them right back onto the street. It is essential to provide a permanent residence for them to live and adjust as they get started on their own. Without a permanent address they will not be able to obtain a driver's license, attend post secondary education or work for a registered company.

The government has provided the orphanage land to build a duplex to be used as a transition home.

This is a tremendous opportunity for the orphanage to provide a safe place for graduating orphans. Through 2 teams that have visited the orphanage in fall 2008, over \$17,500 CAD has been contributed to start this project.

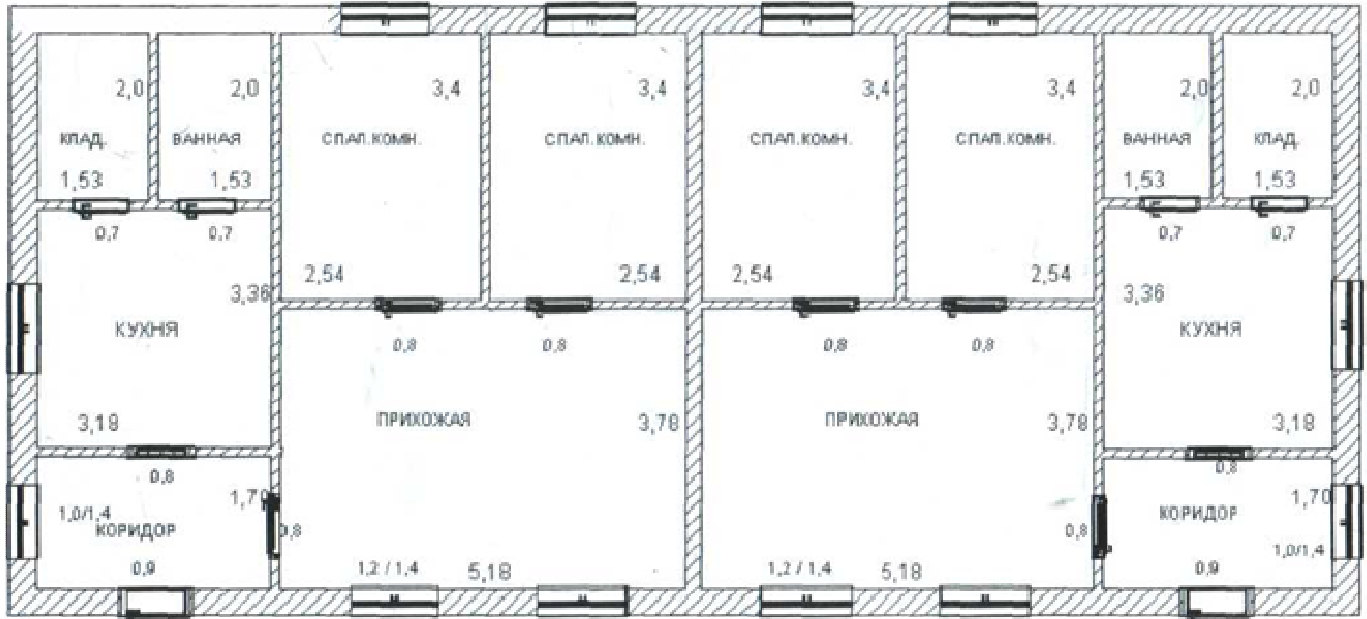
Cost: \$32,000 CAD \$27,500 USD

Positive Benefit:

Investing into the future of Ukraine's orphans will benefit not only individual lives but Ukraine's social system, as 80% of orphans end up having to be taken care of by the system through prison's or mental institutions.

Persons Responsible for the Project:

The staff of Hungry for Life, under the leadership of the Board of Directors, are responsible for the project.



Blue print of transition home duplex