

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 once 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:

There is a need to increase the skills acquisition for boy's beyond the current brick making program offered at the orphanage. With 70% of the orphans being boys, a mechanical shop has helped to provide them with necessary skills that will give them a better chance at a successful life once they turn 18 and are forced to begin a life on their own.

Positive Benefits:

Equipping the boy's with a necessary skill enabling them to have a greater opportunity to contribute to society once leaving the orphanage.

Projected Costs:

\$41,500 CAD

Persons Responsible for the Project:

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

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