



SEPTEMBER 2011

Exchange Rate
250 Hryvnia (Grivnas) = \$31.57

Getting to know our children!
This month I would like to introduce you to....
Marina

*By Richard YAGER, President of House of Hope...*As a reminder, Bezhad and I visited the Awakening Orphanage (AO) this past June. One of the objectives was to interview the children in order to provide to our supporters a more personal awareness of each of God's children under the care of Pastor Leonid. Having been there, I can't thank enough those who continue to support our efforts. **We are the lifeline for their basic needs and hope for their future.**



Marina Modenko
Age: 15
DOB: April 10, 1996
Arrived at orphanage August 2007

My first sighting of **Marina** was fleeting. She, like most of the kids, was curious about the "new guy" accompanying Bezhad. Unlike the others however, she was hesitant to make eye contact and preferred to lower her head, stay in the background, and avoid any verbal or physical contact with me. It was only after watching the other kids hanging around me for a couple of days, did she slowly become less apprehensive, leading finally to one of the prettiest smiles I've ever seen and by the end of our stay was very engaging. As one of the older girls, she is very protective of the younger girls. My interview with her was difficult for two reasons. One, she was reluctant to talk about the things which led her to the "AO". Two, it was hard for me to comprehend the challenges she has faced. Many of the "what, where, who, and why" of her story are unclear and I didn't feel right by pressing for more. Here is what I gleaned from our short interview and my discussion with Lilya afterwards. Some things I have purposely left out in respect for **Marina's** privacy. The orphanage receives a copy of this newsletter.

Her father died some time ago (no details). Her mother died a year or so before **Marina** arrived at the "AO". After her mother died, her mother's boyfriend at the time sold their flat to buy his own place and threw her (**Marina**) away (her words). She then went to live with her aunt and her husband. After her aunt was admitted to the hospital suffering with tuberculosis, the husband began making sexual advances. She left her aunt's house and was invited by a young boy two years her senior named Kolya to live with him. His parents also had recently died and he was still living in their flat. For a short period of time they lived as a couple, even calling each other husband and wife. She would stay home and tend to the flat and he would go out and do what he could to provide. Their situation was finally brought to the attention of the local authorities and they were taken in by Pastor Leonid. After arriving at the orphanage they were separated which led Kolya to frantically plead to know the whereabouts of his wife. Although **Marina** has adjusted to the orphanage, Kolya has had a much tougher time. Leonid has been forced on numerous occasions to place him in a correctional facility where he was at the time of our visit. **Marina** has her challenges as well and like many teenagers pushes the limits occasionally.



When asked what she hopes to be as an adult she responded, "A chef". Not an uncommon response I've discovered. Coming out of a communist state, the idea of freedom of choice and opportunity is still a bit foreign. Her prayer is for her aunt to be healed. Her praise is for Pastor Leonid and the orphanage, particularly for the food and clothing. **Please keep Marina in your prayers and thank you again for your generous support.**

One hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, how much I had in my bank account, or what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because I was important in the life of a child."
unknown

Remove this portion and mail with your next monthly contribution.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ for September 2011 October 2011 3 Months 6 Months
Child's Name: _____ Reference Number: _____
Sponsor's Name: _____ Phone _____

- I want to sponsor a child Soup Kitchen General Fund