



Making a difference in a child's life...

Exchange Rate
250 Hryvnia (Grivnas)
= \$31.21 U.S.
\$1.00 US= \$8.01

April 2012



Tanya & Denis Ermakova

By Richard Yager, President of House of Hope... There are a number of sibling children who call the Awakening Orphanage their home. The following is about a brother and a sister – **Denis & Tanya Ermakova**. **Denis is now 21 and Tanya is 16.** Their eventual arrival at the "AO" came at different times but stemmed from a common cause, a disintegration of the family.

Their father was murdered when **Denis** was very young and he remembers living with an alcoholic mother who, along with other adults served alcohol to both him and his sister. Their mother was hospitalized at one point but continued to drink while on medication. This led to a severe reaction and she became paralyzed as a result. **Tanya** soon became alcohol depended and antisocial. Pastor Leonid suspects sexual abuse as well. They loved their mother but had little control over her addictions. When **Denis** was 17 (**Tanya 12**) their mother died from alcohol/drug related issues. **Denis** was eventually sent to a state run facility. This only added to **Tanya's** downward spiral and rather going to a state orphanage, authorities recommended the "AO" and Pastor Leonid. Initially, she was reluctant to enter the orphanage not knowing where her brother was.

After finishing school, **Denis** left the state facility and pursued the construction trades. After returning home one day he discovered that the house he was living in had burned down. A friend suggested that he might find a place to stay at the Awakening Orphanage. He was aware that a number of out of work men with trade skills work for room and board there. While waiting at a bus stop, there, amongst the crowd, stood his sister **Tanya**. They, of course, were overjoyed to see each other. She indicated that she was on her way back to Awakening Orphanage where she now lived and asked where he was headed. He informed her that's where he was going and why. After explaining the situation to Pastor Leonid, **Denis** was given permission to live at the orphanage.

My interview with **Denis** went very well. He is very quiet and polite with an unassuming nature. He is thankful to be close to his sister. He thanks the sponsors for all they provide to the children. He would like to be a chef someday and can often be found helping Vira in the kitchen. He turned 21 on October 26th, 2011.

My time with **Tanya** was difficult. When we arrived, she seemed almost scared to be around us and refused to engage in conversation. Most of her story came from her brother and Lilya. She had spent much of her short life running with a bad crowd and now, with the help of those at the "AO" is still trying to overcome addiction, depression, and other self-destructive tendencies. Although she's unsure of her future and has lots of doubts about life in general, she feels loved and cared for at the orphanage. She praises God for Pastor Leonid and is thankful she is not in a state orphanage. She celebrated her 16th birthday while we were there and I received my first smile and hug from her a few days before we left!!!



Remove this portion and mail with your next monthly contribution.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ for April 2012 May 2012 3 month 6 months
Name: _____ Reference Number: _____
Sponsor's Name: _____ Phone _____

I want to sponsor a child

Finish the Kitchen

General Fund