

Dear Friends and Family

Trebuchov, August 2006

We're so excited to announce that, from year to year our summer camps improve. This year we received a few new tents and new equipment for the kitchen. Two teams, one from Poland and one from Switzerland came and did such a wonderful job taking care of the program, which made the kids so happy, that they didn't want to go home. François traditionally kept the kitchen going by taking care of the gas burners and doing the work of a "chef de cuisine". The weather was marvellous, except for one night that we spent in the midst of a thunderstorm. The campsite had dried up and we could even play football on the lowest field. To all, especially Judith Grimm and Kasia Kowalska with their teams, a huge THANK YOU, for the unforgettable atmosphere and the great commitment and dedication! Each evening the kids heard the gospel and we are convinced that their lives are being changed. These pictures give you a good insight into our summer.



The prize for the greatest surprise of the summer would surely have to go to the return of our small Sergey. In our previous newsletter, we told you of his return to the streets. At the end of July, on a beautiful Tuesday morning, he simply stood there asking whether he could come back. It's always a risk to take back such a "refugee" – the risk that he will run away again, when he can't cope with a situation, is very high. When a street child returns to the street, the distrust of the officials towards us is extremely high. They have no understanding of the behaviour of a street child, and if a child runs away, they search for the reason in the circumstances of Sunshine, or in the behaviour of the caregiver. In order to fulfil our mission to help street children, we have to accept such unpleasant reactions from the State. In a word, we took Sergey back, because we know that if we don't try to help him, his life will be completely destroyed. It's not clear though, whether he will adapt to life in the centre, live by the rules, fulfil his everyday chores and study in school... Please pray that he can make Sunshine his home and that his life will make the turn to a better future!

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Tamara will not return to us after the holidays. She is staying with her mother, her three brothers and baby sister and she will attend school there. We will surely miss her, but are glad, that she is with her family again – even though she has to live in very poor circumstances. It's a fact that she will have to take care of the younger siblings – when she was in Sunshine, we always said that she was a good "haziaika" (Russian for housewife). If anyone of you would like to support the family



of Tamara, please let us know or make a note on the deposit slip. We will go and visit her in September and will have the possibility to buy the bare essentials.

Valera is working for Joschi in his workshop since August 14<sup>th</sup>. He still lives in Sunshine but we are looking for a room for him, where he can live independently. In October, he and Vitja, who is already living with his mother again, both have to do their military service, which lasts one year. This is a picture of Valera (left) and Vitja (right) on their last day of their vocational school in Brovary

The new building looks more and more beautiful with each passing day. The second floor is being wallpapered, and the first floor is being tiled. On August 15<sup>th</sup> we received a grant from "Holt International" to buy the kitchen and some other furniture. It's a considerable

contribution to finish the new house. We are looking forward to the day when eight of our Sunshine Kids will move into the four double rooms and will be taken care of by a family. It will be a dream come true, a very big dream

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Since July, we have a new student trainee from Switzerland in Sunshine. Her name is Sybille Moser, she is 19 years old and she is from Landiswil. She helps us take care of daily duties, she's involved in leisure activities and is responsible for the bicycle workshop. She has good relations with the kids and her Russian is improving daily. We are glad to have her as a good helper!

(Sybille is the one with the red hair.)



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Personally, we have news as well: We moved. The summer camp had just started when we got a phone call from our landlady, telling us that we were to move out in three weeks because they were returning to Kiev and would like to move into their apartment again. Well, all right... Those of you who are familiar with searching for apartments in Ukraine know how difficult it is to find an affordable apartment with a clean toilette and a decent staircase, (and all that while we were living on the camp-site 60 km away from Kiev with the children). The clean apartments are called "Euro-Remont apartments" (with European remodeling) and are rather rare. The only way to find a new apartment is to hire a broker. They make good money in charging 10 Hrivna for each apartment they show you and 50% of the first monthly rent. As the price for viewing an apartment is affordable, the brokers try to show you as many "kvartiras" (Russian for apartments) as possible. Therefore, what on the phone sounds like a palace for sultans, turns out to be a shabby or only half-finished apartment... After several such surprises, we found ourselves wanting to forever stay on the beautiful campsite in the tent! Finally, we found a three-room flat not far away from our previous house. Here is our new address and telephone number:

02140 Kiev  
Prospekt Baschana 24/1  
Kv. 158  
Tel.: +380 44 574 74 67

Of course our Sunshine Boys helped us with moving. You should have seen it – a group of hyperactive youth, who don't yet quite know how to use their (during puberty longer grown) arms and legs, carrying a sofa up the stairs, around the corner and into the elevator. Difficulties were overcome with extra efforts, and as all the helpers, simultaneously and loudly wanted to explain how things should be done, the picture was peculiar 😊. It's almost a wonder that nothing was broken and the house still stands! We have unpacked and furnished our new home comfortably and... life goes on!

Please pray and praise with us for the following requests:

- Praise for the great summer camps.
- Praise for the finances, the workers and the children of Sunshine.

Especially pray for:

- All Children in Sunshine, especially our small Sergey
- More foster parents who will take our children
- A family to take care of the children in the new house
- Tamara and her family
- New workers (we desperately need a man in our team)

We greet you from Kiev

[Nathalie and Marek Wnuk with Michelle and Pascal](#)

[Joschi and Lina Schmid](#)

[Sybille Moser](#)

[All Kids and Workers of Sunshine Children's Centre](#)