

## Street Children in Ukraine

According to many reckonings there are more than

100'000 children who live on the streets of Ukraine. Homeless, lonely and deserted...

most of them are the victims of their own families and indifference of neighbours, authorities and society. Two thirds of these street children are between the ages of 12

and 15 and the youngest ones are less than 3 years old. Children find refuge in basements, attics, in various parks and on the banks of



the rivers. Their favourite hiding places are the mines at the sewage system. As a rule the children unite in small groups, where they share food, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and clothes. Most of their time they spend at the markets, railway stations or at the

metro stations, where they do whatever they can to get money and food. Almost every child sniffs glue — which is the cheapest and

the most available drug. Sadly it severely destroys the central nervous system. Most of these children use alcohol and smoke.

Their health condition is critical — most of them need urgent medical help.

SPONSORSHIP for:



individual children



foster house project



ongoing needs

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## SUNSHINE CHILDREN'S CENTER



[www.sunshine-kiev.org](http://www.sunshine-kiev.org)

Hope and Future  
for street children in Kiev

## SUNSHINE CHILDREN'S CENTER



Sunshine gives accommodation for a short or unlimited period of time to children that are in the streets



for various reasons. We are confident that it is possible to help them effectively through purposeful social and therapeutic work. With the help of pedagogical

and therapeutic approaches we motivate the children towards self-development.

Social adaptation, development of positive self-esteem, and healthy confidence in their personal abilities are of great importance. While the children are in the Center, our goal



for them, first of all, is to overcome their past physical and psychological trauma. This is crucial in preparing them for independent life outside the walls of the

Center or for life in a foster family. In the building of the Center, there are bedrooms for girls and boys, a private school with four classrooms, a small sports hall, a sitting room, a



kitchen and three workshops, where pedagogical work takes place.

## WORKSHOPS

Our purpose is to let the children experience joy in their work, at the workshops, and to teach them how to develop new skills and also train them for their future professional education. We use different ways to assess the children's



work in the workshops. Much attention is paid to their behaviour, motivation, endurance and tidiness. In critical situations, work in the workshop or in the garden may be

used as a break from routine, in order to give a child time to think about his or her misbehaviour.

Children may be involved in the following activities at the workshops:

- work with wood
- work with metal
- repairing bicycles



- making candles
- sewing
- work in the kitchen
- work in the garden



The Centre can hold 12 children: 6 girls and 6 boys.

Sunshine is situated in the village of Trebuhiv, 20 Km away from Kiev.

## FAMILY ACCOMMODATION

We are confident that the Children's Centre can not be the final stage of therapy for children who have overcome their past, who don't have difficulties in their studies and who have acceptable behaviour. These children, rather, should grow up in families. Only in the context of a



family will they have an example of a mother and father. Only in the family, they'll be able to learn how to interact in family relationships. Very rarely we have cases, when we find it possible

to return a child to his or her biological family. The best solution for these types of children is a foster-family, or a family-type children's home.

Presently, we are in the process of repairing a new building for a foster-family. We hope that this project will be accomplished in summer 2006.



**HELP US TO BRING  
HOPE AND FUTURE  
TO THE STREET CHILDREN  
OF KIEV**