

The house for the foster family is open! After two and a half years of building, isolating, installing



the electricity, and furnishing, the first five kids from Sunshine moved to the family. There is room for three more kids, but we'll wait with filling them, until the foster parents, Igor and Inga, of whom we wrote in our previous news letter, have settled down well. The five kids: Nastia, Ira, Lusia, Sascha and Vitalik, are enthusiastic about their new home.

We interviewed the four younger ones for you:

**What do you like most in your new home?**

Lusia: I like everything, everything... Mostly that I have a twin-bedded room.

Nastia: It's more like home...

Ira: Here everything is your own, and we have twin-bedded rooms.

Sascha: Now we are a family and we get much more attention. We are always together. And the older boys don't tease me there.



**What is the difference between the Center and the family?**

Ira: The rules are different in the family, they are less strict. And there is more love in the family...

Lusia: The parents go for walks with us, and they always answer our questions. In the family it's more like living with mom and dad.



Nastia: Life is less structured in accordance with a daily routine...

Sascha: We have more freedom, and when we go somewhere, we don't have to take the „Marschrutka“ (public bus), but drive with the car.

**What do you like less in the family in comparison to the Center?**

(Silence, considering/reflecting)

Sascha: Sometimes it's boring – in the Center

is more action...

**What do you wish for your family for the year 2007 (a question for the goldfish)?**

Ira: That we'll all stay friends.

Sascha: That all stay healthy.

Nastia: That we'll never fight and all regard each other as friends.

Lusia: That we'll be like a family, always loving and kind with each other.

A Swiss chocolate bar ended our interview and the kids went back to their new home contented.

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In the last days of the old year we took all Sunshine Kids to the Carpathian Mountains. We spend



five days in a small guest-house, and every day went for long walks, on sleigh rides, and the most courageous even tried to ski and snowboard. Snow was rare and only one slope had enough snow to ski, board and sleigh ride. A very old ski-lift took us there, of course with some breaks in between. It was quite adventurous (the other word for dangerous), and we were praying for surviving on the way to the top.

Holidays with kids are usually very pleasant, but also strenuous. After five days Lina, Joschi and we were

fed up! On December 30<sup>th</sup> we were back in Sunshine – on time to prepare the New Year's party. All helped to prepare a wonderful meal, the games and the fun time. At midnight we launched firework and until the early morning kids were playing games, looking films and trying to stay awake as long as possible. Christmas, celebrated here on January 6<sup>th</sup>, was as beautiful. After we sung our standard Christmas carol (Happy Birthday to Jesus) and



Marek traditionally read the Christmas story, we ate a turkey, American friends had given us for Thanksgiving. The turkey was huge and we all ate enough. Nobody knew though, how to cut that BIG CHICKEN, and we regret not having filmed how Marek tried to cut the turkey with all possible thinkable tools. It surely would have been be a cinema hit for all Americans. The christmas presents were practical as always. On top the kids received beautiful clothes and shoes from our church

here in Kiev. Our sincere thanks goes to ICA (International Christian Assemblies) for generously supporting Sunshine and making kids happy this holiday season. Real Christmas!

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For Nastia, one of our new kids at Sunshine, this Christmas was the first one with presents, a christmas tree, fire burning in the open fire place. Christmas, for the first time, without Vodka, without fights, and without fearing her parents and their friends. After supper we talked with all the kids about the ending year, and Nastia told us, that her best day was the day, she came to Sunshine. We are glad that she is with us now. Nastia moved to the foster family after a month ob being in Sunshine Center.

Ania came a bit later – she was in a hospital and nobody cared about her – neither her alcohol addicted mother, nor the governmental children’s home, where she had lived and where she was regarded as a problem child. Ania lived on the streets for two years, was caught from the police once in a while and brought back to the children’s home. That she is a problem child we realised very quickly and as care-givers we see a lot of work in front of us.



Denis was admitted to us by the regional social welfare office. He is only 12 years of age, but has a long career of living on the streets. He went home for Christmas, stole money and run away again. We calculate that he should be with us again in a few days, either because he has no money any longer, or because the police will catch him again and bring him to the state run crisis centre for children.

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In our previous news letter we wrote about Ruslan (on the right in the picture): *„One of the boys, Ruslan, should come to Sunshine on the following morning. We waited for him in vain and thought that he – as so often is the case with kids – had not woken up in time. It turned out later that he and also Seriooga had been caught by the police and that they were brought to the state run crisis centre for children.“* From there he didn’t come to us, as it was planned. Before we could take him, he run away and returned to his hiding place in Kiev, where we had met him back in October. Two hours later he was dead. He run into a glass door of a supermarket, the glass broke and the broken pieces of the glass cut through his throat. In just a couple of minutes, in the presence of pedestrians, he bled to death. For any help it was too late. We all are extremely dismayed and mourn for Ruslan, who almost could have started a new life in Sunshine.



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In the end of February we will be in Switzerland for two weeks. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be in the Pfimi Frutigen (Service starts at 9.30 am) and in the evening at the Ekklesia Youth Sercie at 19 pm (located in FMG Frutigen). On Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 14-16 pm, we would like to invite you and your friends to a reunion for friends in the hall of the reformed church in Münchenbuchsee. We will

inform about the developments and happenings of Sunshine (for ex. The visit of the officers of former KGB), about street children and Kids in the Centre and our plans for 2007. On Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> we are invited to Fislisbach to the annual Soup-Day (Service starting at 10.30 am in the Ref. Church) and we look forward to meeting our friends there as well.

We would like to thank all of you for your donations we received during 2006, especially also for the help for the winter. We are able now us to secure the ongoing operation of the center durih the winter months. You are the best sponsors, friends and co-workers we could possibly have – for us it's a joy to continue this work with the street children in your name. Thank you also for the many postcards and good wishes. It is very special for us to receive mail from you.

Soon we will present you our annual accounts. If you need a written confirmation of contributions to our Swiss Organisation Kiev Kids, please contact our treasurer Gerhard Weiss, tel.nr.: 0041 33 869 31 86 or email us.

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As a family we are having a good time and we enjoy the time together after Marek spent seven weeks at an university in the United States. Pascal started to speak very good Russian, as he attends a Kindergarden near to where we live. The winter has been very mild and our appartment is pleasant warm. We are looking forward to meet some of you soon and hope, that you'll order some snow for us.



Our prayer requests are:

- Thank for the protection, finances, blessings and sucesses in 2006
- Pray for wisdom in 2007
- Inga, Igor, their own three girls and the five Sunsine children in their family. Pray especially for Vitaly, as new situations are very stressful for him. (That's why he was not included in our small interview.)
- All the children and staff members of Sunshine

Be blessed and know, that we appreciate you very much!

*Nathalie and Marek Wnuk with Michelle and Pascal*

*All Kids and worker of Sunshine Children's Centre (they love you and pray for you every morning)*