

„Amerykanskije Gorki“ – that’s Russian for roller-coaster. The month of Mai was for us almost like “Amerykanskije Gorki” – at breakneck speed, emotionally charged, with surprising turning-points,



highs and lows, ... It started with kids running away to the streets. Within a week three kids were gone. The “small” Serioaga, Albina and to our surprise also Serioaga, who was the only one of the three, who returned after a few days. The “small” Serioaga and Albina decided to live on the streets again – the challenges of living in a children’s center were unbearable for them – the school, the work, the daily schedule. Our feelings of loss and perplexity were mingled with thoughts and reproaches of having done something wrong, of

having paid too little attention, or having had too high expectations... In these moments we remind ourselves that we want to offer the street children a chance. They have to decide whether they want to accept our help or not. Even then it’s hard to let them go, especially when we already know them for such a long time and know for what future they decided. In the picture above – street children of Kiev – Serioaga being the second from the left...

Sergey’s adventure had a good end. He told us how after four days he was grasped by a longing for Sunshine: „I sat in a pedestrian underpass and sniffed glue und felt, how the tears were running down my cheeks. In my head was only one question: Why did I run away? Why did I run away? Then I don’t know how I found a phone-booth, dialed the



number, now I am so happy, to be at home again...” For some days Sergey had a headache and the feeling of nausea after having consumed the glue – but for that we didn’t have any pity any more. Sergey is standing on the picture we made on our last hike on Krim on the very right.



Mai is the month of school-leaving. One after the other kid comes and shows us their end-of-year report. Every time it’s time to celebrate – even if the marks are not very good for every child – they have completed a school year and move to a higher class. We are particularly

proud of Angela, who was mentioned as one of the best students in her group on the parents' evening. Also Valia has a successful year behind her – her vocational abilities increased and she confidently does all the hair in Sunshine. Even Micha Grimm, who together with Aschi Schranz and Fred Josi visited us and were helping and working around Sunshine, had the possibility to test Valia's artistic treat. The effects can be seen in Frutigen from the middle of June on ;) On our building site things are moving forward: in two weeks the floor, the ceiling and all the walls should be finished on the second floor.

Valera and Vitja have 3 weeks of practical training and the last exams in front of them. On the 30th of June both should get qualified motor mechanics. Also Wanja says goodbye from school and will change into a vocational school on September 1st. – according to the latest conversations he would like to be a carpenter – the good example of Joschi has first imitation effects! It was very unusual but at the same time we were very proud to see



Wanja in his suit among the other young people...



What pleased us the most during this roller-coaster similar month of Mai was that the foster parents we are training started to take Sunshine Kids home. Ira could go visit a family in Tschernigov for a month (on the left picture you see Ira with the foster mother), and Lusia could go and live with a family who lives in Borispol. Marina will live with Joschi and Lina from June 1st. and she will visit a school in Kiev from September onwards. Tamara went home to her family for a month – it's a attempt to reunite her with her family. If the attempt fails, we already have a family willing to take her as a foster child.

The camp preparations are beginning slowly.

We expect two teams, one from Switzerland and one from Poland and like every year – almost 100 children from poor families from our region. The Sunshine Kids will once again build the camp and serve the participants. We look forward for this time outside in the tents. François, Nathalie's father, is coming again to help us! We are especially looking forward to that... In advance we would like to thank all the sponsors who make the camp possible – for many children the only possibility to have a good rest and hear the gospel. A short while ago our camp site looked like on the picture! Please pray for much sun, that the camp ground can dry.



As a family we are clearly feeling the Mai-stress. Once in a while Marek succeeds to rise into the sky and flies some rounds with his paraglide. In the first half of June we are traveling to Poland, to visit parents and friends. On June 17th we'll attend the wedding of our friends Kamil and Asia, who are close friends of Sunshine. Marek has the privilege to preach at the wedding ceremony.

Michelle completed the Ukrainian pre-school in the end of Mai and looks forward to the first grade. She will have to



add Ukrainian to her languages, but she does not worry about that. On the picture she's with her friend Ira. Pascal will most probably occupy Michelle's place in the Kindergarten and we'll be childless for some hours a day!

Please pray with us for the following requests:

- For all children in Sunshine
- For Tamara and her Family (Short Update: Tamara decided to stay home for the whole summer. She is not coming back for the camp. She is helping her mother, who delivered her fifth child in the beginning of June. The mother is ill and needs to have an operation, so Tamara will take care of her three younger brothers and her baby sister.)
- For the foster parents who took our children.
- For the school-leaving qualifications of Vitja and Valera and entry exams of Wania
- For the upcoming summercamp (for dry sunny weather, no accidents)

With love from Kiev

Marek and Nathalie Wnuk
with Michelle and Pascal
and all the kids and staff
from SUNSHINE Children Centre

Joschi and Lina will complete our newsletter:

Dear Friends

The warm weather and the longer days drive the work on our building site forward in a good direction. We are also thankful for our new worker Sascha. Until now we are very content with him, he seems to be a dependable guy. He is married and has a child.

The two weeks voluntary work of Aschi, Fred and Micha from Frutigen was an enormous help to cope with the heaps of work. Thank you so much!

On the building site of the Swiss client we are completing our first work. It is true though that I'm already writing a new offer for him. He wants to change the roof on one of his buildings. In Sunshine we have the goal to finish all the projects until the end of the year. There still is very much to be done! If you or someone you know would like to come and help for a shorter or longer period of time, you are always welcome. Micha Grimm (micha.grimm@bluewin.ch) will answer all your questions and help you plan your trip.

We have news from our home as well: Since June 1st Marina lives with us. Marina lived in Sunshine for the past four years and after her mother was killed last summer, she is an orphan.

Marina had already asked us a year ago, if she could live with us, but back then it was for us unimaginable. Since half a year we are now nursing the idea. For now Marina will live with us for one year and visit a school in Kiev. Lina and I am glad to have her in our family and we hope that this new task will have positive consequences on the lives of us three!



We are glad for your prayers:

- *Thank you for Sascha*
- *For Marina and our new situation at home*
- *For wisdom leading the company*

We greet your from Kiev

Lina und Jürg Schmid

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