

Dear Friends and Family

Finally, it's September!!!! With kids back to school life in Sunshine became quieter and more organised. Additionally our whirlwind Sergei (photo) changed to live in Igor's foster family



(success of the century!) and Wanja, as he continues his studies, lives in Fastov during the week. We were able to bring the "small" Denis home to his mother and Vika was fetched home by her father, after he had been released from prison. An other new boy, the 16 year old Vlad, has been placed in a foster family outside of Sunshine, after he had spend three months in Sunshine. One year ago he lost his mother and younger (1½ years old) brother when their house caught fire. Afterwards he was brought to a state run crisis centre; we are going to tell you more about that later in this letter. We are happy that we could take him from there and that we found foster parents so quickly. This weekend two new children are brought to us and... everything will start

from the beginning.

In the beginning of the month we took Svetlana, the younger sister of Angela. Although she is almost 17 years old, she seems small and delicate, more a child than a young woman. For a long time she endured domestic violence, until she found the courage to leave the home and ask Angela for help. So now we have the small Svieta living with us and we try to give her the feeling of safety and security. Then we'll try to take care of her unfinished course of studies.



Svieta lives in the „Life Skills

Training“ flat, sharing the room with Angela. For us it looks like she is feeling at ease and she likes is here.

End of August we began with a new project – we visit street children in a state-run crisis centre. Next to street children, there are also children from families affected by crisis situations, children who have experienced abuse, under age law-breakers, and children like Vlad, who experienced a family tragedy – all in the same institution, ages 3- 18 years old. Most children are brought there by the police or the social services, and then screened off from

the outside world by barred windows and metal doors. Once a week we (together with our Sunshine team) organise an afternoon of games and as a result get to know the children. Of course there many known faces there, as well as some Sunshine “veterans”, as Katja and Sergei („Uncle Marek, take us to the centre again!!!”) After four weeks we know many other kids as well and now we have a waiting list of kids wanting to come to Sunshine. Unfortunately it’s not so easy to get them out there, as they are stuck in a bureaucratic system. In our next newsletter we will try to show you some pictures of the institution and their inmates. Please keep this in your prayers.

We are delighted about Vitia, our Sunshine graduate, who visited us on Monday. He was satisfied with life, communicative, and what delighted us most, dressed neatly and clean. Our doubts, whether he would find his way in the big wide world outside of Sunshine were unjustified. During lunch he told us of his job as a delivery man and when he mentioned his salary, we found out that he earns double of what our care givers earn in the Centre!!! Now we don’t know anymore how to plead for higher education with our less talented children... Still some things are turned up side down in this country.



Valia as well found a great job in a hairdresser's salon. The shop just opened and Valia is the only employee at the moment. The owner has her eyes on prosperous customers and the prices in the small salon are astronomical high, even for western conditions (a men’s haircut about 40 \$). Apparently they profit from the well known thought pattern: expensive equals to good. What is amusing for us is that the employees are separated into three categories on the price list. So in Valia’s salon you can be served by a (simple) master, super master or art director. As she is the only one cutting, she can classify herself☺. „Omne Trinum Perfectum“, the theologians say. Since September she lives in Kiev and, after some beginners difficulties, now enjoys independent life!



On Monday, October 1st, we are opening our new school building. The building is almost finished, missing are only the inside doors, and some small details, which have to be screwed

on in the restroom. Then we have to put in the school desks and other furniture, and – we can move the children from all corners in Sunshine into the bright and beautiful classrooms. Especially we want to thank all of you who contributed to our school building. It's a good investment into the future of our former street children.

We also collected the money for the roof!!! Thank you to all sponsors. In another country the roof would already be above our heads – here we are still waiting for the building material. We had to find a new wood supplier after the first one kept us waiting for over three weeks. The weather is not gracious any more, we are feeling the autumn and it rains once in a while. The wood is promised for next week. We firmly hope that it also will be delivered.



We have some new faces on our staff. Since end of August we have a couple, working with us for a year, as volunteers. Asia, from Poland, helps the parents of the foster family and also works as a care

giver in Sunshine. Simeon, her husband from Ireland, takes care of the work shops and the handicraft lessons with the children. Therefore we could finally integrate handicraft lessons

into the school program. On the photo Tamara is in a handicraft lesson – she is working on a wooden bird-house. Besides Asia and Simon we have a “genuine German” volunteer from Germany. Her name is Jelka and she as well will work in Sunshine for the period of one year. Also from Switzerland we had helpers. Micha Grimm, unbeatable, came with a team and together they accomplished much work on the building site, the new school building, and around Sunshine. That was, like always,



great!!! Fred Josi had not left yet, he worked very hard and dedicated during his stay in Sunshine, when Beat Specht came for a three months stay (in the front of the picture). We are very glad for all you guys who come and support us actively and practically and again we would like to thank you so much for your dedication and professional help.

In our family everything is going well. We expect our third child. According to the Ukrainian gynaecologist the baby is due beginning of February 08. Pascal and Michelle fight to weather



it should be a boy or a girl😊. Michelle is in the second grade and Pascal attends Kindergarden on four days a week. Outside its cold and rainy, no trace of a golden autumn.

We hug you from Kiev and ask you to pray for the following:

- Thank God for the finances of the roof and the school!
- For Svieta, inner healing and further perspectives in life.
- For our afternoons in the state-run crisis center
- For the new roof: that the material will be delivered and good weather during construction
- For all the children in Sunshine and the foster family.
- For our family, that we'll manage everything well: Sunshine, School and Kindergarden (bringing and fetching is time consuming), pregnancy of Nathalie
- For every day life in Sunshine and the finances.

Nathalie and Marek Wnuk

With Michelle and Pascal

And all Children and Staff members of Sunshine Children's Center

Joschi and Lina Schmid, together with Marina, also give you their warmest greetings!

P.S.

Visit our homepage: www.sunshine-kiev.org

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