

**September/October 2012 Update**

I Thessalonians 5:18 says "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." It's easy to give thanks when things are going well in our lives, but what about the times when we feel we do not have much to be thankful for? That is when we need to stop and think again about what we have and what we have been given, even though we might not deserve it. Sometimes we need to be thankful for what we do NOT have! While it might seem premature to talk about Thanksgiving, we should remember that it is celebrated in Canada on the second Monday of October (tomorrow), and has already been celebrated in many places in Ukraine. Thanksgiving in Ukraine is a church holiday. Each church determines when they want to celebrate. It is a wonderful day of church family fellowship. After the church service, there is usually a meal together.

Last Sunday (September 30), was Thanksgiving Day at Resurrection Church in Lutsk. This week we received a nice email with pictures about their special day. Below is a picture of the church and the children from Brenna's Home with housemothers, Valya and Oksana.



We were happy to see pictures of Vanya (now age 17) very involved with the cooking and food preparation for the Thanksgiving Day festivities. Vanya is studying cooking and culinary arts at technical school, so this gives us an opportunity to see him putting his education and talents to use! Below is Vanya with Valya, and him serving at the meal. He looks good in his culinary garb!



Here is a picture of Vanya with the kitchen staff that put effort into the Thanksgiving meal. The woman in the front is Svetlana (Sveta), who cooks for the 70+ Tabitha Children each day. There is also an example of the artistic creations the Ukrainians make with food, something we have always been impressed with during our trips.



We wanted to share some very kind words from Ukraine (Valya and Pastor Victor). They are not only for us, but for all of you who faithfully support us in so many ways. They wrote " Dear Donna and Rich and all who pray for us and help us. We thank God for you. You are a real witness of discipleship and Christian life on earth."

### **CHASE Community Giving**

We want to say a special "thank you" to all who voted for the Brenna Engle Foundation and who encouraged others to vote on Facebook as part of the CHASE Community Giving 2012 program. We ended up with 234 votes - with another 1100 votes we would have received \$10,000, but we were happy to be able to participate. We should receive about \$375 for being accepted as a charity in the program.

### **Upcoming Mission Trips**

Our next trip will be December 30-January 10, and we will be there for Christmas (January 7) again this year. We will again take cards for the children and will be able to take small gifts for them from sponsors. We will likely again make a visit to one of the orphanages in Lutsk.

We also anticipate doing a summer camp trip in July, 2013. We will determine specific dates in the early part of the new year. It is always exciting to plan a camp trip and build a team for this! We will need a total of 8-10 individuals willing to spend 12 or 13 days to accomplish this. Based on previous experience, approximate cost will be between \$1800 and \$2000 per person. Please contact us if you have interest!

### **Brenna's Home Birthdays**

There are two birthdays at Brenna's Home in October, our two newest children! Sasha turns 15 on October 15, and Dima will be 8 on October 20. Please pray for them!

We continue to be in need of "Sponsors" for children at Brenna's Home (individuals or groups who are willing to make a \$25/month commitment to help with costs for a specific child for a 12-month period (\$300 total). If you can help, please let us know!! Our plans for 2013 will depend on what happens to improve our financial picture over the next few months. We always appreciate your thoughts and prayers!

Love and blessings to each of you, Rich and Donna

This list server is maintained by The Brenna Engle Foundation, [www.brennaenglefoundation.org](http://www.brennaenglefoundation.org) If you wish to respond to any messages, please respond to [richengle@aol.com](mailto:richengle@aol.com) (Rich) or [DBRN1234@aol.com](mailto:DBRN1234@aol.com) (Donna). If you prefer not to receive communications through our list server, please send a note to either of us requesting to "unsubscribe". We appreciate your support, whether through prayer or finances! Rich and Donna Engle, The Brenna Engle Foundation, 3 Albert Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603