



## Brenna's Home - UKRAINE

# Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE

*"11 Years of Service to Underprivileged Children"*

January 20, 2016

Dear friends,

With the new year upon us, many people take time to reflect on the previous year, perhaps make resolutions to do, or not do, certain things in the coming year. For me, each year brings a renewed realization of my own mortality, that I have one less year than before to do those things I feel are most important. That motivates me to look at how I use the resources that have been given to me, whether it's time or money, and what kinds of fruit are most evident in my life that can be a blessing to those I meet. I realize that I am not always as disciplined a person as I should be, so I need to look carefully at how I use my money and my time. I hope that you, too, will consider how you use what you have been given. Do we use what we have only for our own self-indulgence and self-gratification, or do we use it to benefit others? I challenge you, as I do myself to closely examine that question throughout 2016. It is my goal and prayer to use what I have for things that have lasting and eternal value, not for a fleeting fad or fix. "Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31

### Shoebox Project for Vinnytsia, UKRAINE



The children's shoeboxes sent to the Kukushkin Family are being distributed last week and this week and we will have a report and pictures in our next newsletter. Our hearts were saddened to hear of the passing of Mama Kukushkin in early December. We know their Christmas was different this year that father and the three adult children will miss her.

It was difficult for us not be able to go to Ukraine for their Christmas this year. Ukraine officially celebrates Christmas on January 7, but there is quite a bit of interest now to make that December 25, as does the rest of Europe. This has much to do with Ukraine's desire to move toward the West and shed some of the Russian influence. We are thankful for children's sponsors and others who provide gifts for them. We shipped these boxes of presents on December 8. and they arrived two days before Christmas. The picture below shows the Brenna's Home family with the beautiful handmade stockings on the couch provided by Netherwood Church.



I was able to watch the children receive and open their gifts by Skype on Christmas Eve (Thursday afternoon in NY.) Below Yura (left) and Zhenya (right) hold up presents. It's always fun to see their smiles!



One of the activities this Christmas Season was when some of the kids at Brenna's Home along with other teens and children from Resurrection Church went to an orphanage for older children with developmental challenges. They put on a special Christmas play for the orphanage children.



## New Program to Assist Children with Developmental Disabilities in Lutsk, Ukraine

In November, we committed to two new projects in Lutsk. There are a number of families with children who have developmental disabilities in close proximity of Resurrection Church. While the government provides some assistance for these families, they still suffer significant hardships. The Brenna Engle Foundation committed to provide monthly support for providing these children a hot lunch six days each week. This will be on an ongoing basis. We also provided the support for a special Christmas program for these children and their families, where each family was provided a bag of food.



Here are some of the high school girls we sponsor:



## College girls - Tigray Province

Another opportunity also developed with Hope Community Services. Many girls graduating from high school who are orphans or from very poor families are excellent students and qualify for free tuition, room and board through a government program. However, the costs for travel and monthly hygiene expenses can be prohibitive for them to take advantage of the education. The cost for sending one of these girls to college is \$20/month (\$240/year). The first year we sponsored 30 girls, studying a variety of disciplines including electrical, chemical, civil engineering, veterinary medicine, accounting, land administration, public health and midwifery. After year one, six girls had grade point averages of 3.5 and higher, and 18 had GPAs of 3.0 to 3.49! This year we are providing sponsorship for 36 girls for this program. Would you consider becoming a sponsor for one of the eight girls still needing sponsorship?

## Brenna's Hope - Ethiopia



## High School girls - Tigray Province

We work with Hope Community Services in Northern Ethiopia to provide monthly support for vulnerable high school girls to complete their education. In this region of Ethiopia, many girls walk two hours or more EACH WAY to attend high school. This means they face dangers while walking in darkness, and also makes it difficult for them to complete their studies. Consequently they may drop out of school and are frequently used as wives for arranged marriages, even as young as ages 13 to 17. If this happens and they become pregnant, they face challenges with childbirth because their bodies are not fully developed. This may result in a condition known as [fistula](#). Our focus is PREVENTION.

We sponsor 30 girls for this program and are still seeking a few more sponsors to meet our goal! Just \$25 a month will provide a shelter and food close to school or transportation services for these girls at great risk.

These girls are responsible for carrying water to their homes before they leave for school, or again after school. Often these girls will walk together in groups for safety from those who might try to take advantage of them.

## Hope House - Central Ethiopia

Our third project in Ethiopia is in conjunction with Ellilta Women at Risk and Mekane Yesus Church in Debre Zeit. Since Hope House was launched as a pilot program, there have been some significant developments. The leadership of the program decided that it would be necessary to reevaluate the program and has suspended the day to day operations. The program continues to support the women that completed the program, but will not be taking additional women into the program at this time. The Brenna Engle Foundation will continue to sponsor the seven children whose mothers entered and completed this program. We have sponsors committed to six of the children, but are still in need of one more sponsor. Sponsorship for day care and education for these children is \$30/month, with a one year commitment. Hope House was set up as a holistic rehabilitation program to help women leave "working the streets". Ellilta Women at Risk has been functioning effectively in Addis Ababa for nearly 20 years. Please pray for these women and children and for the future direction of the program.



### Brenna's Basement - New York

We continue to accept quality donations of children's and adult clothing, baby equipment, toys, and small household items to provide to needy families in the area. If you want to donate items, please contact us. We receive referrals from more than 10 local agencies as well as word-of-mouth. All items are given away, not sold. And we have some awesome volunteers who help on Saturday mornings!

In addition, each year we provide Christmas presents for select families. This year we helped create a special Christmas for five families:



### Happy Birthday...

To Vasya at Brenna's Home who turns 19 on January 24! Here we are together in November at Vanya and Oksana's wedding:



### February, 2016 Fundraiser

The last number of years we have held a fundraiser luncheon at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, and we felt that this year it was time to do something a bit different. We will be holding a dessert only event at the Vassar College Alumnae House on February 20 this year. We are hoping to have many of you come for an informal gathering. We will again have a Silent Auction. Here is the event notification. Please note RSVP!



Vassar Alumnae House  
161 College Avenue  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12604  
20 February, 2016  
2:00 - 4:00 PM  
Reservations please by:  
13 February, 2016  
Call (845)473-7849 or  
(845)471-5020  
Snow Date is 5 March  
Informal attire

*Please join us at the Vassar Alumnae House for the  
Brenna Engle Foundation  
2016 Fundraiser and Dessert Social  
We will have a Silent Auction!*

### Some words about financial contributions...

**Hudson Valley FCU Members** If you don't like writing checks, you can do member-to-member transfers to the Brenna Engle Foundation. Contact us for more information and account details.

**PayPal Giving Fund** Donors who have a PayPal account or eBay sellers can donate through PayPal Giving Fund at no charge to donor or recipient. The Brenna Engle Foundation is an approved not-for-profit to benefit from this service.

**Billpay** Many of our regular donors utilize a Billpay system through their financial institution for regular payments. If you are able to participate in such a program, we encourage you to do so. It eliminates the need to send out reminders.

We have been blessed year after year with what we need, and this has allowed our work to grow and prosper. When we receive extra gifts, it enables us to think about expanding what we do. If you are in a position to provide significant resources, or are willing to include the Brenna Engle Foundation in your estate planning, please contact us.

**Wishing you all the best for 2016!  
With love, Rich and Donna**

All US donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be payable to "Brenna Engle Foundation" and sent to 3 Albert Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Also on Facebook and YouTube:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Brenna-Engle-Foundation/101419966565747>

Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ah0gHE6eLM>

And our website [brennaenglefoundation.org](http://brennaenglefoundation.org)

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