



# Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE

*"11 Years of Service to Underprivileged Children"*

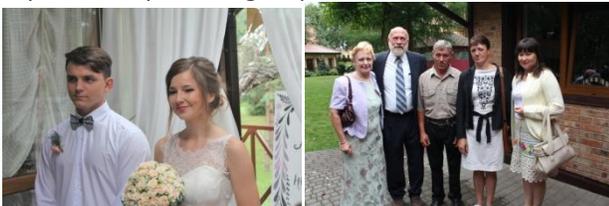
August 9, 2016

Dear friends,

It has been a busy, but rewarding summer. During our recent July trip to Ukraine I had the opportunity to speak about "abundant living". John 10:10 says that "I have come so that they may have life, and have it more abundantly." I used the illustration of each of our lives being a container, or a vessel. We can be like a pitcher, which when full, overflows to effect those around us. What spills out of us depends upon what we allow to fill us. If we are filled with good things, then good things will spill over to others. Sometimes, people might be a container that has a lid, and never have any effect on others, because nothing can go in or out. What kind of container are you?

## Brenna's Home - UKRAINE

We were thrilled to be able to attend Kolya and Ira's wedding on July 9. Kolya (22) was our oldest boy and had been at Brenna's Home since August, 2008. He has been a mature example and stabilizing influence at Brenna's Home, and we will miss him. We are glad that we had the opportunity to make such a difference in his life. Below: Kolya and Ira; Rich, Donna, Housemother Valya, and Kolya's biological parents.



We also got to see Pavel, Kolya's youngest brother who lived at Brenna's Home for three years. Below, right: our Brenna's Home family at Kolya and Ira's wedding.



We were happy to see how well our newest addition to Brenna's Home has adjusted. Maksim is happy and doing well. He was happy to meet "Mama Donna" for the first time! Maksim will turn 10 years old on September 1.

Another special highlight of this trip was taking our Brenna's Home family and support staff on a four-day trip to Southwestern Ukraine, Zakarpattia Oblast and the Carpathian Mountains. There were 20 of us travelling together and spending this time being together as a "family". We enjoyed spending time at a water park/resort, visiting several castles and an underground military installation from WW I and II, hiking to a waterfalls, and riding a ski-lift up one of the mountains. A special treat for many was riding on a zip-line for the first time. It was great being together like this for the first time, exploring, and enjoying the beautiful scenery! Here are a few pictures:



Vova, Zhenya, Maksim



Vova



Girls on bridge



Yulia zip-line



Ready for hiking



Valeria



Mountain hike



Pizza!



At the water park



Unfortunately, because of his recent surgery, Yura was not able to join us. He is improving, but the progress is slow. He will need to wear this apparatus on his leg for six months, but he has a good

attitude about it. Thanks to those who contributed to help defray our costs of this important surgery.

### Summer Camp for Children with Special Needs

The Brenna Engle Foundation provided funding for a summer camp experience for special needs children and their family caregiver in June. In addition some of the younger children from the Tabitha Program at Resurrection Church attended, The staff for this camp were the older teens and young adults from Resurrection Church. Many of the older children from Brenna's Home helped to facilitate the camp. The Foundation continues to support the regular weekly outreach to these families at a cost of \$200 per month. If you have a heart for special needs children, perhaps you would help us in our financial support for this program. These are some "precious moments" photos from the June camp:



### Sad News about Patrick (Petro)



On July 25, our dear friend Patrick (age 16) went to be with Jesus. Patrick had stage four cancer that had gone undetected and untreated until it took his life. We were able to spend time together with him and his family twice during our last trip. The pictures above left and center were taken when Rich visited in April, before the cancer diagnosis came to light. The picture above right is from 2006, when he was six. Patrick was born with spina bifida, and was confined to a wheelchair all of his life, but he had a spirit of determination and a strength that would put most of us to shame. He had a real heart for God and wanted to serve him. He was the third oldest of nine children and we visit his family every time we go to Lutsk. Everyone who has travelled to Ukraine with us

knew Patrick and have been touched by his life. We will miss him greatly, but rejoice that he is in heaven and free of pain.

### Birthdays at Brenna's Home

Our housemothers, Valya and Ilona, celebrated birthdays recently, Valya on July 25, and Ilona on August 2. We are so grateful for the hard work and dedication of these ladies. They have incredible patience and endurance. Happy Birthday and thank you for what you do!



Donna with Valya



Rich with Ilona



### Brenna's Hope - Ethiopia

#### Student Update: Haimanot Teka

Haimanot is a full orphan, very poor, and was living with her elderly grandmother in a distant village. She is now living by herself in a small town called Wukro, a 45



minute journey from Mekelle. She has been helped since her 9<sup>th</sup> grade, but she was unable to score high enough in the national exam to continue to grade 10. She has started vocational training on leather and related skills in one institution. If her sponsorship had not been

available, she most likely would have to return to living with her grandmother and have little hope for the future.

#### 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.

### College girls - Tigrai Province

We also sponsor female college students in conjunction 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 girls still needing sponsorship?

### Hope House - Central Ethiopia

Our third project in Ethiopia is in conjunction with Ellilta Women at Risk. The Brenna Engle Foundation continues to sponsor six children whose mothers entered and completed a holistic rehabilitation program to stop being street workers in Debre Zeit. Sponsorship for day care and education for these children is \$30/month, with a one year commitment. Ellilta Women at Risk has been functioning effectively in Addis Ababa for 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. Right now we are unable to accept women's clothing unless it is size 2X or larger. 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!

### 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. This service is available through our website.

**JustGive.org** Online donations can also be made from our website using the JustGive donation button. These donations carry a 4 1/2% service fee.

**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.

### Enjoy the rest of your Summer! With love, Rich and Donna



A special thanks to Thrivent Financial and to members that designate the Brenna Engle Foundation to receive Thrivent CHOICE Dollars.

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

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

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