

The Brenna Engle Foundation

The Brenna Engle Foundation is a New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation founded to:

- provide the financial support for **Brenna's Home for Underprivileged Children** in Lutsk, Ukraine, which provides a safe environment for Ukrainian orphans and abandoned and underprivileged children.
- support organizations which raise awareness of the problems of orphans and abandoned and underprivileged children in Ukraine and elsewhere.

History

The Foundation was established following the death of three-year old Brenna Engle in a tragic automobile and truck accident in February 2005. After Brenna's death, her parents, Richard and Donna Engle, requested that in lieu of flowers, financial donations would be made to the Tabitha Children's Program in Lutsk, Ukraine. Donna and Richard were familiar with the work of the Tabitha Program and believed that sending donations there would be a fitting memorial to Brenna and a worthwhile cause for the hundreds of people who responded to Brenna's untimely death with an outpouring of emotion and support.



The Tabitha Children's Program in Lutsk, was started in 2001 by Victor Melnychuk and Valya Yankovska at Resurrection Church. It began with feeding four small children and has expanded over the years to provide educational and recreational programs and a daily hot meal for more than 60 children. Tom and Michele Weight and their family went from Hyde Park, NY to support this work and additional programs through Resurrection Church in Lutsk.

In the city of Lutsk there are many children living in the street, or in tiny flats with abusive and alcoholic parents, or with relatives unable to properly care for them. Through the Tabitha program, the children are fed a healthy lunch and given nutritional supplements six days each week. For some of them it is their only good meal of the day. The program has resulted in much-improved general health for the children who attend it.

During the winter of 2004-2005, a brother and sister in their early teens showed up at the Tabitha program. They were very withdrawn and would not make eye contact. The early signs of frostbite were visible on their hands. Their parents were alcoholics, and the family had been living in a house with no heat, electricity, or running water for at least two years. After the parents agreed, a room at the Resurrection Church was converted to a temporary bedroom with beds, blankets, a desk, and games for the two children. The Ukrainian church leaders, along with the Weights, felt moved to establish a foster-style "home" for children in similar dire circumstances, but lacked the funding to proceed.

After Brenna Engle's death, the donations to the Tabitha program in her memory were much more than expected, and were sufficient to provide the seed money to lay the financial foundation to support such a home. Donna and Richard were pleased with the idea, as was the Resurrection Church. "Brenna's Home" became a reality shortly thereafter.

Brenna's Home (Ukraine)

Brenna's Home has three staff members who care for the children who live there. They attend to the meals, cleaning, laundry, shopping, helping with homework, and teaching life skills. The children also learn responsibility by helping around the house. In January 2009, a three bedroom flat was purchased to provide a permanent facility for Brenna's Home. In May, 2011, an adjacent flat was purchased. The two flats were physically connected to create one home. Brenna's Home currently is home for 14 children, from a variety of challenging circumstances



The children living at Brenna's Home are not required to leave at a certain age as in some types of homes. This allows them the opportunity to continue education and training to enter the job market when they are ready to be independent. Brenna's Home has served many different children since its establishment in 2005.



Brenna's Home Child Sponsorships

Your commitment of \$25 each month enables you to have an assigned child and to develop a relationship with that child as they grow and mature. Would you consider 79 cents a day in the life of one of these child as a worthy investment?

Ukraine Summer Camp Programs are another way the Foundation provides opportunities for children. Summer camps usually involve taking between 65 and 80 children out of the city for a week where they can enjoy fresh, clean air in a loving environment with both structured and unstructured activities. The camp programs are organized and coordinated jointly through an American team and the Ukrainian youth leaders. These camps are excellent way for people to be involved in a "mission trip" experience and provide the love and care that these children to desperately need in their lives.

The Foundation supports the **Tabitha Children's Program** in Lutsk in a variety of ways. This program at Resurrection Church is designed to meet the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of school age children who come from poor and desperate family situations in nearby apartment buildings. Through this outreach program, approximately 60-70 children are fed a hot meal six days each week. This program also provides the opportunity to identify children with dire needs and circumstances who might benefit from the safe haven which Brenna's Home provides.

Brenna's Basement (Poughkeepsie, NY)

As items were donated for use in Ukraine, a surplus developed, and we began supplying items for missions trips to other parts of the world, including Chile and Romania. In 2008, we established Brenna's Basement and now routinely collect donations of clothing and small household items for needy children, teens, and families in the Mid-Hudson Valley region of New York. We have been able to assist with many needs in the Poughkeepsie, NY area and receive referrals through numerous local organizations, including Mid-Hudson Love INC, Care Net Pregnancy Center, Birthright, The Grace Smith House, Dutchess County Healthy Families, and Hudson River Housing. Through this program, clients may receive assistance at no cost. We welcome quality donations and volunteers to assist us!

Brenna's Hope (Ethiopia)

Starting in 2014, the Foundation began work in Northern and Central Ethiopia with several different projects:

High School Girls Project - Tigray Province Sponsorship for this program is \$25/month.

We are working with a local non-government organization (NGO) in Northern Ethiopia to provide monthly support for vulnerable high school girls to complete their education. In this region of Ethiopia, many of these girls walk two hours or more EACH WAY to attend high school. 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. In the future we may work directly with fistula victims for pre- and post-surgical support and training through the NGO and the Hamlin Fistula Center.

Girls College Project - Tigray Province

Sponsorship for this program is \$20/month.

We are working with a local non-government organization (NGO) in Northern Ethiopia to provide monthly support for vulnerable teenage girls to complete their college education. These girls are very poor, some of them are orphans and they live in remote areas. BUT, they have great potential and have distinguished high school records for academics and leadership. They are eligible to receive free tuition, room and board to attend college. However, because of their poverty, even the cost of transportation for college and the cost of personal hygiene items and supplies can keep them from continuing their education. Our sponsorship program provides these necessities for them to attend college, and begin to break the cycle of poverty they have known.

Child Education Project - Central Ethiopia

Sponsorship for this program is \$30/month.

We are partnering with Ellilta Women at Risk in Central Ethiopia and Tsion Mekane Yesus Church to provide monthly support for children of mothers who are entering a holistic rehab program to leave a life of "working the streets." By providing ongoing support for the children, the women can focus on making life-affirming decisions and developing needed vocational skills.



Donations & Sponsorships

Checks are the preferred means of receiving donations as there are no service fees involved. Checks should be made out and mailed to:

The Brenna Engle Foundation
3 Albert Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Online giving is available through JustGive on our website at brennaenglefoundation.org Online donations are subject to a 4 1/2 percent service fee.



Brenna Engle Foundation

Have FAITH, Provide HOPE, Demonstrate LOVE



"As you have done unto one of these, you have done unto me."

Serving orphans and underprivileged children in Ukraine, Ethiopia, and Poughkeepsie, NY
Established 2005

Brenna Engle Foundation

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brennaenglefoundation.org

Facebook: Brenna Engle Foundation and Brenna's Basement

An IRS 501(c)3 organization, donations are fully deductible by IRS guidelines.

The Brenna Engle Foundation is an organizational member of The CoMission for Children at Risk (www.orphancareresources.org)