

Mission Project - Ukraine Youth House

I met Volodymyr and Ira last Thursday in a small town near Chernobyl, Ukraine. Volodymyr and Ira are caring for about 31 children right now. The orphanages in Ukraine dismiss children when they turn 15, and they're not eligible for state assistance until they turn 18. As a result, many of these children between 15 and 18 end up on the street. Volodymyr has opened his home to some of these children, along with children whose parents are unable to care for them. Most recently, several young ladies whose parents have sent them away from the fighting to protect them from the Russian soldiers. When Volodymyr and Ira started welcoming children into their home a few years ago they realized they needed more room, and their church built a dormitory size building out in the parking lot to house the young ladies and refugee families that are in transit to the border. They have rented a house across the street to house more girls, and the house needs a little work. As more young men came into their home, Volodymyr was able to raise \$17,000 to purchase an extreme fixer upper.



The boys are living there whilst they remodel the home. Volodymyr and Ira, in addition to their own four children, house 3 to 4 of these displaced children in their home as well. As a result of the war, this need continues to grow, and they continue to open their home to more and more young men and women.



Because the job prospects for these youths are very slim, Volodymyr has started construction of a shop-type building which will have an automotive and paint shop on one side and either a bakery or pasta shop on the other, and there will be living quarters above for men and women. This will not only provide a place for these youths after they graduate High School to live but also a means to support themselves.

I spoke with Volodymyr and Ira about how to best help; their biggest need right now is to finish the shop and housing. They are doing most all the work themselves and about \$25,000 is needed for materials to finish.

We are asking the Great River Region to come alongside Volodymyr and Ira and help raise the \$25,000 needed to complete this construction. I will be returning to Ukraine with a Youth With A Mission team in August or October to assist in the building of and repair of housing near Kyiv for families before winter sets in. I will be visiting with Volodymyr and Ira to encourage their work and deliver any \$\$ that has come in.



Karen and I will serve as the contact point to help raise the \$25,000 needed now, and all donations will be delivered to Volodymyr and Ira with no administrative or delivery costs taken from these donations.

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