

From Abandoned Child to a Future Teacher

At just 18 years old, Viktoriia Volkova already knows what kind of person she wants to become.

She wants to work with young children—to teach them, encourage them, protect them, and help create the safe and loving environment every child deserves.

Perhaps that dream means so much to Viktoriia because it is exactly what was missing from much of her own childhood.

When Viktoriia was only two years old, her mother left the family. Her father struggled with alcohol addiction and eventually abandoned his responsibilities as well.

Because of addiction and severe instability within the family, several of Viktoriia's younger siblings were eventually removed by social services.

By the age of 14, Viktoriia was essentially on her own.

While most teenagers were worrying about school, friendships, and what they might do on the weekend, Viktoriia was learning how to survive.

She needed food. She needed somewhere safe to live. She needed medical care.

Most of all, she needed someone to remind her that her life still had value and that her past did not have to determine her future.

When Family Was Missing, God Provided Another

During those difficult years, a local church stepped into Viktoriia's life.

Through HART's **Child Sponsor Program**, made possible by caring supporters in Canada and the United States, she received food, practical care, help with rent, and financial assistance for medical examinations and recovery following surgery.

But something even deeper was taking place. Viktoriia was discovering a community that cared whether she succeeded or failed. She was discovering people who prayed for her, encouraged her, and refused to give up on her.

Today, she is temporarily living with other young women at the **Elim Adaptation Center**, where she has been given something she desperately needed: a safe place and time to mature.

Looking back on the past year, Viktoriia says the church gave her the space she needed to grow up, accept responsibility for her life, and begin making thoughtful decisions about her future.

And she has done exactly that.

Viktoriia Is No Longer Simply Surviving

Today, Viktoriia works as a nanny and pays many of her own expenses, including groceries and utilities.

She is learning independence. She is working hard. And she has begun dreaming about the future.

As she interviewed for jobs, however, she discovered an important reality. Her love for children is a wonderful beginning, but if she hopes to work professionally in quality preschools and kindergartens, she needs an education.

So Viktoriia has made a decision.

She wants to study **Early Childhood Education at Lesia Ukrainka Volyn National University** and become a professional educator. For a young woman who has already overcome so much, this is an exciting next chapter.

But there is one major obstacle.

Viktoriia has no parents able to help her pay tuition, transportation, books, or educational expenses. And once university begins, she will have far fewer hours available to work.

That is where HART's **Education Scholarship Program** can once again become part of her story.

“Because I Was Helped...”

Perhaps the most beautiful part of Viktoriia's story is what she wants to do with the opportunity she has been given.

She is deeply involved in her church, attending and serving throughout the week. She helps teach children in Sunday school, serves at children's camps, and even assists with video editing.

The child who once desperately needed people to care for her is now caring for others. In her scholarship motivation letter, Viktoriia wrote:

“Because I was helped, I want to pass that kindness on. I want to be the person who helps children grow, develop, and feel truly loved and supported.”

That may be the clearest picture of transformation.

You Helped Write This Story

When HART supporters provide a scholarship for someone like Viktoriia, they are doing far more than paying a university bill. You are helping a young woman break free from the circumstances into which she was born.

You are helping her become independent. You are helping her build a profession.

And perhaps most importantly, **you are helping her become someone who will pour the love she has received into the lives of countless children for years to come.**

This is how generosity multiplies.

Someone in Canada or the United States chooses to give. A church in Ukraine is equipped to reach a vulnerable child. That child discovers hope. Hope becomes opportunity. And eventually, the person who was once helped begins helping others.

Viktoriia's childhood cannot be rewritten. **But because people cared, her future can be.**

And as she begins investing her life in the next generation of Ukrainian children, the kindness shown to one abandoned little girl will continue multiplying far beyond anything we can see today.

Thank you for being part of that chain of grace. Through your generosity, lives are changing, futures are becoming brighter, and God is being glorified.



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