



Child Sponsor Program Story

From Tragedy to New Life: God’s Answer for Five Orphaned Children

In a quiet village in western Ukraine, heartbreak struck the Bondarchuk family.

Sofiia—a bright, kindhearted girl in HART’s Child Sponsorship Program—lost her mother in 2020 after a sudden illness. Her father, Petro, devoted himself to caring for their five children, doing everything he could to protect and provide for them through years of hardship and war.



But the burden proved too heavy to bear. Earlier this year, Petro took his own life. Tragically, it was Sofiia and her older sister, Viktoriia, who found their dad and had to assist in removing his body. The trauma they endured is unimaginable.

Overnight, five children were left without parents, their home filled with silence and sorrow.



For a time, neighbors tried to help. But no one could take all the children together. Their older brother Vladyslav, only nineteen and still in school, wanted to care for them but didn’t have the means. It appeared that the siblings would soon be separated into different orphanages.

But God had another plan.

In the nearby city of Ternopil, **one of HART’s partners**, Pastor Oleksandr Maksymov and his wife Ivanna, parents of three, had built their lives around one purpose—to follow God’s call and serve their community.

Through years of church planting, youth camps, and outreach, they had witnessed countless lives changed by the Gospel. Yet, one day, God placed before them a calling that would test their faith in a new way.

“When we heard about the Bondarchuk children,” Oleksandr shared, “we knew God was speaking to us clearly:

“Defend the cause of the fatherless.” –Isaiah 1:17

With faith and compassion, the Maksymovs opened their home and their hearts. They welcomed all five children, determined to keep the family together. What once was a house of two parents and three kids became a bustling home of ten—filled with laughter, bedtime prayers, and the comforting rhythm of family life.

“We couldn’t let these children be torn apart,” Oleksandr shared. **“God didn’t ask us to do something easy—He asked us to do something right.”**

Sofiia and her siblings found not only shelter, but warmth, safety, and love; the kind of love that heals deep wounds. Where there had once been grief, laughter began to return. Where there had been fear, hope took root.



Oleksandr and Ivanna continue to seek God’s direction—whether through eventual reintegration with extended relatives or permanent guardianship—but for now, they are content to let grace do its quiet work. “God’s family is meant to restore what the world breaks,” Ivanna says. “These children are His, and we are simply their stewards for this season.”

You are part of this miracle

Together, we are living out God’s heart for the fatherless—transforming heartbreak into hope and tragedy into a testimony of His love.

Through HART’s **Child Sponsorship Project** and **Pastor/Church Support**, this family will continue to experience God’s care and provision in the days ahead.

How You Can Help:

- **Sponsor Needed:** We’re seeking one sponsor for Sofiia’s younger sister. (Call 403-230-8263)
- **Support this Foster Home:** The Maksymov family has lovingly opened their home to Sofiia and her siblings. Your support will help provide food, clothing, school supplies, and medical/dental care - and help them rent a larger home or apartment.

Your support will ensure these children remain together, safe, loved, and surrounded by God’s family.

[Click here to help the Maksymov family today](#)