



Every gift to HART has the potential to change a life. Behind every act of generosity, a new story of hope and transformation begins.



Dasha

## Faith, Education, and a Changed Life

[This is the story of Dasha Popovych whose dream of going to university was made possible by the kindness of people in HART's community who chose to support students like her.]

"Hello, my name is Dasha. I was born in the Luhansk region, where my mother raised me alone. I have never seen my father. In 2014, after completing the ninth grade in I dreamed of becoming a hairdresser and applied to a local vocational school.

But life had other plans. On August 12, 2014, the war forced me to flee my home, leaving behind everything familiar. I found myself in the city of Zhytomyr. With no other options, I decided to continue my education in the 10th grade.

One day, I attended a Christian conference where I heard a powerful message about the impact of education. It made me realize that every profession, whether a hairdresser, cook, electrician, or salesperson—has the potential to influence society.

Though I never considered myself particularly smart, learning had always come naturally to me. That sermon stirred something in me, and I decided I wanted would pursue post-secondary education.

With a singular focus, I worked tirelessly through the 11th grade, determined to pass the admission tests and secure a place at a university with a state-funded grant. My family had no financial means to support my studies.

My mother, an internally displaced person, could not find a decent job because employers were hesitant to hire her, fearing she might return home at any moment when the war ended.

Knowing this, I poured everything into my studies and my church, hoping for a future that seemed just out of reach.

Right after graduation, I knew I wanted to study international economics, so I applied to two universities. When I was informed that I hadn't received a state-funded grant, I felt like my dreams had come to an end. Attending university was financially impossible for us. But my mother, with unwavering faith, took a bold step—she submitted my documents anyway, assuring me that God would provide.

In August, our pastor invited me to a conference organized by HART, a Christian Relief Aid agency that provided food and support to children affected by the war.

As a volunteer in our church's Day Center, I joined the team, unaware that this trip would change my life. At the conference, I discovered that HART, also had an Education Scholarship fund for students. It was God's answer to my prayers.

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For four years, HART supported me, covering tuition, transportation, study materials, and more. Their generosity gave me more than just an education—it gave me a future. Thanks to their support, I earned my degree in international economic relations, but more importantly, I gained invaluable life skills. I learned financial literacy, business planning, and critical thinking. These lessons shaped my path in ways I never could have imagined.

Today, I work at the *Last Call* NGO, helping orphaned students learn essential life skills, from budgeting to paperwork. Many of them have never had someone to guide them through financial matters, and I feel privileged to be that person for them. My education has equipped me to write grants, analyze reports, and contribute meaningfully to our work.

At church, I serve with Young Life College, a youth club that introduces students to God. Many of the young women I mentor come through my work, and some have even begun attending church. I am also honored to lead the HART Education Fund at our church—a full-circle moment for me.

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Having once been a recipient of this incredible generosity, I now have the privilege of supporting students who, like me, dream of an education but face financial barriers.

Looking back, I see clearly that God's plan for my life was greater than anything I could have envisioned. **And at the heart of that plan were the generous donors who made it all possible.** Their kindness turned my dreams into reality, and for that, I am forever grateful."



Dasha with her husband and daughter

Dear HART Community, your support goes beyond funding education—it changes lives. Thank you for being part of Dasha's journey and the journeys of so many others. By supporting young students like her, you are making a lasting impact in Ukraine.

**TOGETHER...We are changing the world - one heart at a time.**

Give to EDUCATION FUND