



From Dreams to Service – Kateryna’s Journey

What happens when a dental student’s dreams collide with a war zone?

Kateryna’s life was turned upside down when Russian bombs struck her city of Chernihiv in northeast Ukraine. Displaced and heartbroken, she found refuge, healing—and a renewed calling to serve on the frontlines of need. Discover how your support helped turn a tragic chapter into a testimony of faith and healing.



My name is Kateryna Vlasniuk, and I am profoundly grateful to be a recipient of the HART Education Scholarship Fund. Through your generosity, God made my dream of becoming both a doctor and a minister of compassion a reality.

From 2015 to 2020, I studied dentistry at the Oleksandr Bohomolets National Medical University and completed my internship in the city of Chernihiv. **On the morning of February 24, 2022, everything changed.** The sounds of explosions shattered the peace, and in an instant, my life—and the lives of millions of Ukrainians—was thrown into chaos; chaos in the streets, in our hearts, and in our minds. It was unlike anything we had ever experienced.

At first, I was paralysed by fear and disbelief, spending hours crying as I watched the news on television. But the distant, yet unmistakable, sounds of explosions soon confirmed the horrifying reality. By evening, enemy troops had advanced to within 15 kilometres of our city.

Living alone, I felt vulnerable, but God's providence shone through when the family of a local church pastor took me in. Together, we found refuge in the basement of the pastor’s home, which grew more crowded by the day.

In that dark, crowded space, we gathered nightly to sing hymns and lifting our prayers to the Lord, asking for His mercy and protection.

For three weeks, we endured relentless artillery fire, air strikes, and bombings while living without electricity, gas, or water. Each day felt like a test of faith, but amidst the despair, hope continued to flicker in our hearts.

On particularly harrowing nights, fear would creep in as the sounds of rockets and approaching enemy troops became unbearably close. But the bravery of our soldiers and our faith in Psalm 91 bolstered our spirits, reminding us that God's protection is steadfast.

When the children’s dental clinic where I had been interning was bombed, I knew it was time to leave. By God’s grace, I was able to escape by traveling to West Ukraine and in two days I was **reunited with my family** in my hometown of Novovolynsk. The contrast between the terror I had left behind and the peace I found there was overwhelming. I wept with gratitude to God for bringing me to safety.

Adjusting to life in the West was challenging. I longed to return to Chernihiv to help those in need, but I also needed time to heal. My faith was tested – I found it hard to pray at first. I felt lost and broken.

But God, in His mercy, began to heal my heart. **I realized He was calling me to serve**—to bring both physical and spiritual healing to others as well as myself. When you give, you not only fill others' lives with hope but also enrich your own soul.

I returned to volunteering with *Hope in Action*, a Christian mobile medical ministry that brings care and the message of Christ to the hurting. The war has brought new challenges—many of our patients have faced unimaginable trauma, having come face-to-face with the horrors of war.

In 2023 alone, we traveled across Ukraine 12 times, including to frontline regions. We treated wounds, listened to stories, shed tears, and prayed with those who had lost everything. Sometimes, healing started not with medicine, but with a shared prayer or a whispered, “You are not alone.”



Today, I work as a dentist at the Novovolynsk City Dental Clinic and have completed specialized training in orthodontics to help children with developmental challenges. Every smile I restore inspires me to grow in my profession and reminds me of God’s faithfulness.

One patient, after her treatment, told me, “**You are a doctor from God.**” She was thrilled with her new smile. Her words touched me deeply, and I silently smiled, knowing that I am also a child of God, called to serve in His name.

Another, a young woman from occupied Luhansk named Dasha, had no family nearby. God placed on my heart to befriend her, and we began attending church and home group meetings together. I gave her a New Testament and continue to pray that she’ll accept Christ fully into her heart.

I praise God for all that He has done and for the incredible gift of your generosity. None of this would have been possible without the support of HART and donors like you. **You make the impossible possible, giving us hope and the means to fulfill our dreams, serve others, and live lives filled with purpose.**

May God richly bless your families, your country, and our beloved HART. I hold you in my prayers with love and gratitude.

— **Kateryna Vlasniuk**

Because of You... Lives Are Being Transformed

Thanks to your generosity, the **Education Fund** is creating a ripple effect across Ukraine.

Many of the young people who received support through this program have now graduated—and are giving back in their own communities as teachers, pastors, counsellors, and servant-leaders.

Every story is a living testimony to the impact of HART’s incredible community in North America. You’re not just funding education—you’re changing lives, building futures, and **empowering a new generation of Ukrainian Christian leaders.**

Would you prayerfully consider helping us equip even more students this fall?

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