



HART's Child Sponsor Project

Sponsor-funded care is mending a little girl's heart

This story follows Elina's journey of healing—made possible through the love and compassion of her sponsors from Canada, Ronald and Jeanette.



Elina's Turning Point

Before the war, seven-year-old Elina loved stories at bedtime with her dad, drawing in bright colors, and racing her sister down the path to church.

She was tender-hearted—quick to help, quick to feel—and happiest when someone else was smiling.

Then the shelling began, soldiers occupied her city, and the girl who once laughed easily learned to be very quiet.



Her family fled under heavy fire; belongings were searched and taken; their home was lost along with the security it once provided; and, most devastating of all, Elina's father never came back from the war.

In the months that followed, fear rewrote the rhythms of childhood. In a stranger's house, Elina hid under the table and would not speak. When she played, she played only one game with her doll: "Air Raid Alarm." Even simple questions—"What's your name?"—felt too heavy to answer.

The lively, sociable child became anxious and withdrawn, haunted by memories of sirens, soldiers, and loss. She had been very close to her father and still waits for his return, despite having attended his funeral and regularly visiting his grave.

Occasional visits to a psychologist proved to be ineffective. The grief piled on top of trauma: no home, no father, no familiar place to be a little girl. She lost interest in the things she loved, avoided groups for fear of failing, and often dissolved into tears over the smallest stress.

Her mother heard the same sober conclusion from a psychologist: Elina's heart and mind needed attentive, tailored care—help to process trauma, rebuild confidence, and become aware of her God-given strengths again.

And then the story turned.

Because friends in North America chose to love a child they'd never met, through HART's Child Sponsor Project, Elina's story turned.

Yuliia writes this to the sponsors, **"Thanks to your generous support Elina was able to begin a course of psychological rehabilitation. This has been a turning point."** Steady, compassionate, child-centered care.

Elina's therapist also recommended physical movement to release emotions and process trauma, so she encouraged her to start swimming lessons. Elina had dreamed of water and a real pool for so long; now the pool became more than exercise—it became a place to breathe, to feel safe, to try, to try again, and to discover that courage can grow one stroke at a time.

Healing doesn't erase the past, but it does reframe the future. Her therapy sessions focused on strengthening her emotional and cognitive development crucial for a child navigating grief and emotional sensitivity.

Even her physical health has been impacted by her sponsors. Yuliia says, **"We are also incredibly grateful that your support allowed us to afford vaccinations and essential medicines. Elina's fragile emotional state has weakened her immune system, making her more vulnerable to illness. Your help has been a priceless gift of care during one of the most difficult times in our lives."**

This is what transformation looks like in a child's life: not a sudden leap, but faithful steps—caring adults, consistent support, prayer, and a community that believes God can "bind up the brokenhearted."

Through HART's local church partners and programs, Elina's story has moved from hiding to healing, from silence to the first brave words, from panic to peace that can grow and endure. Her mother says it simply: **"Your compassion brought light into Elina's world and hope into ours."**

And here is where you come into the story.

For families like Elina's, the distance between Calgary or Houston and a Ukrainian village is bridged by your generosity.

Your monthly gifts, your prayers, your belief that God loves the fatherless and the brokenhearted—these are not small things.



They fund trauma therapy and swimming lessons. They put medicine in a mother's hands. They strengthen the ministry of local churches that carry Christ's comfort into homes that still feel the ache of sirens. **Through you, God is glorified as despair gives way to hope, and a child learns to live unafraid again.**

Elina's future is brighter today because people across North America refused to look away. **Thank you for being part of her turning point. And for every child still waiting for one, your love can write the next chapter.**

[Learn More About Sponsoring](#)

[Give to CSP General Fund](#)