



# Otchiy Dim

Help a parentless child, restore a generation and unlock the future.



**Otchiy Dim (Father's House)** is a charitable organization that responds to the needs of orphans and children at risk in Ukraine. We run a series of programs designed to create a path to societal integration for children of all ages. Built on the principles of family life and human dignity, our integrated system of sophisticated rehabilitation techniques is adaptable to the needs of each and every individual in our care. We believe that our child-based and family-oriented care model is the key to overcoming the societal challenges faced by disadvantaged children in Ukraine. To help a parentless child is to restore a generation, unlock the future, and influence history.

Since we began in 1966, Father's House has changed the lives of more than 3,000 children. We are now a leading example of the process of de-institutionalization being carried out in Ukraine.

# Youth Support

## «Step to Independence»



One of the most important tasks of Father's House is to prepare young people who have lost parental care for an independent and integrated life in their community. There is a significant lack of support and housing for teenagers deprived of parental care and those leaving state institutions. The aim of our Youth Centre, Step to Independence, is to provide young people with the space and support needed to form essential skills, set goals for the future and make the decisions that will shape their lives.

Our social workers engage with participants in workshops and discussions about education, career choices, relationships and general life organization.

**The project began in August 2012, and currently has capacity to house 30 young adults.**



# Centre for Socio-Psychological Rehabilitation



Delivering help and support to orphans and children deprived of parental care is central to the Father's House mission. Too often, these are children are living in environments characterised by poverty, domestic violence, alcohol abuse, unemployment, and little or no parental skills. These issues are exacerbated by insufficient government response and lack of initiative for developing the capacity of the family.

We opened our Centre for Socio-psychological Rehabilitation in 2001 and have since supported over 400 children through difficult circumstances. We run programs which help them develop their individual talents, prepare them for adoption or for reunification with their biological family, and educate them for and guide them into independent life.

**Today we support 52 children**

# Mother and Child Together Centre



The aim of the Mother and Child Together Centre is to provide expectant and new mothers for childbirth and parenthood. In doing so, we aim to reduce rates of child abandonment and facilitate social integration for women and children in challenging situations.

At the Centre, we create an environment that resembles the family home as closely as possible, and invite pregnant women and women with young children to stay for an agreed period of time. We teach parenting skills, build foundational knowledge of child development, nurture the relationship between mother and child through communication and play.

The Mother and Child Together Centre has been operating since 2012 and has successfully delivered support to 26 families.

**Today we support 12 families: 12 adults and 9 children**





# The New Family Centre



The New Family Centre promotes and facilitates the adoption of orphaned children into new families. We source potential adoptive parents for our database, provide practical assistance in the adoption process, and provide new parents with educational materials, teaching manuals, workshops and family bonding camps. The New Family Centre is a place for assistance and support to families who have adopted a child, and as such is an effective mechanism for spreading the positive experience of adoption.

# Treasure Island



For the past 20 years, Treasure Island has formed an important part of the Father's House rehabilitation program. The aim is to reach out to children living in difficult conditions, introduce them to the Father's House project, and let them know that someone is looking out for them. Father's House works in close cooperation with the Kyiv Region Child Services in the area of child-homelessness prevention. By directing children in crisis families to Father's House programs such as Treasure Island, this cooperation has contributed to the dramatic reduction in numbers of children living on the streets.

Until 2007 the camp took place on a small island in the Desenka River, Kyiv region, before moving to the town of Kerch in the Crimea and the city of Odessa on the edge of the Black Sea. Since 2014, the camp has moved back to Kyiv region.

## How does it work?

Treasure Island acts as a transition zone between life on the streets and the social care system. In May of each year, a group of volunteers arrives to construct accommodation and facilities, and to plan a list of leisure activities. Upon arrival, children are organized into groups of 5 and assigned a supervisor who oversees their activities and welfare around the clock.

The children soon settle into a routine that closely resembles a normal and secure way of life, from regular mealtimes and washing every day, to engaging in leisure activities and building relationships with one another. The camp leaders run games, competitions, and discussions, as well as educational activities such as cooking, theatre and arts and crafts.

Treasure Island acts as an alternative means of delivering rehabilitative care. Following the trip, many children return to their families or orphanages of their own will, while others join the Centre for Socio-psychological Rehabilitation at Otchiy Dim to benefit from further support.

**Give a child the chance to see the summer:** Email: [otchiydim@gmail.com](mailto:otchiydim@gmail.com)



# Project Boomerang



Father's House was founded on the Judeo-Christian ethic for compassion, kindness and empathy. We believe that spiritual nourishment is a vital part of the rehabilitation process, for its ability to foster self-worth and human connection. With this in mind, Project Boomerang was launched in 2012 with the aim of providing a spiritual basis to the children of the Father's House programs. The Project brings children and adults together in a friendly and safe atmosphere to learn about the beauty and perfection of God's love. We hold discussion aimed at helping children to realize their individual creativity and talent, set personal goals for their future and bolster their confidence in themselves.

**Since February 2012, the project has helped 100 children realize their potential and restart their lives.**

# Family Care Center



The importance of family life is central to the Father's House approach. While we know that no orphanage or care facility can fully compensate for the lack of a family in a child's life, we strive to surround the children we support with everything a family embodies: unconditional love, guidance and a positive example.

In the Kyiv region alone, there are over 1 200 parentless children living in institutions. We are based in this region, but welcome children from all over the country to benefit from the support and guidance offered by our Family Care centre, My Family. We bring together social workers, parents and children in order to emulate and provide an example of a loving family based on Christian family principles. Children are able to build relationships with caring adults, receive socio-psychological support and, as they grow older, participate in discussions about their future choices.

Since opening in 2003, the Family Care Centre has achieved the following results:

**250 children** received support

**170 children** lived in family groups

**60 children** were adopted

**16 children** were placed with guardians

**12 children** were reintegrated into their biological families

The Family Care Centre currently has the capacity to house **45 children**