

# newsletter

## an orphan's bright star



The summer has begun and we are half way through 2008. We've had a very successful year.

When our last newsletter was sent out we were working on the Shoes Project and Wheelchairs for Poltava. We are happy to report that these projects have been fully funded. If you remember, the Shoes Project was aimed at providing one pair of shoes for nine orphanages totaling 1,286 children. Buckner Shoes for Orphans Souls provided shoes for the younger children and OBS raised \$3,000.00 to pay for shipping to Ukraine. We typically buy items in-country because it's cost effective and supports the

Ukrainian economy, but this has been an exception. We have already begun shipping the shoes and socks to the Ukraine. Hooray for warm, small feet!!!

The wheelchairs for Poltava have also been delivered. Hope Haven supplied 13 brand new custom wheelchairs for the rehabilitation home which can be adjusted as the children grow. Four quad strollers, a six passenger Bye Bye Buggy, and a four passenger Bye Bye Buggy for Kremenchuk & Svalyava are on their way, along with new clothing and numerous other items for the children. Joan Stout was the driving force behind the Wheelchair Project and the stroller shipment. For that we owe her a big "Thanks!" This one was no small feat.



## Current Projects

- Playgrounds for Development Project
- Nova Borova Commercial Dryer Project
- 2008 Window Project
- Green Forest Internat Vocational Education Project
- Poltava Vocational Education Project
- Shoes Project

Look on our website at [www.orphansbrightstar.org](http://www.orphansbrightstar.org) for more information and a list of our Completed Projects.

## Important News

**Visits to Ukraine in 2008:**  
- Carolyn to Kremenchuk  
- Jamie to Svalyava

**2008 Window Project Completed**



**\*\*Special Thanks\*\*  
to Todd with Webheads Inc  
for the new web site!  
It looks amazing!!**



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## Work in Progress



### Commercial Dryers for Nova Borova

85 young women plus their caregivers are without a dryer. Can you imagine yourself not having even one dryer? At the moment, they use a heating grate to dry all of their clothing. OBS is raising \$4,000.00 to purchase and install a commercial dryer. We are still in the funding stage, and any contribution will help.

## Window Project 2008

The special needs home for girls, Nova Borova Internat, and the boarding school for preschool children in L'viv were the focus for our 2008 Windows Project. This project was been made possible through the collaboration of OBS, EcoClub, Alternative-V and the L'viv local government. This project was fully funded and took place July 20<sup>th</sup> - August 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was completed on time and everything accomplished as expected. Pictures should be coming soon! Special thanks to Cathy Harris with Ukrainian Angels, [ukrainianangels.org](http://ukrainianangels.org), for helping us send the additional \$500 needed for this project. Please contact Crystal, [crystal@orphansbrightstar.org](mailto:crystal@orphansbrightstar.org) for more information.



### Playgrounds for Development Project

The goal of this project is to build a playground for the Kremenchuk Baby Orphanage in honor of Zinaida Grynewytsch, a Kremenchuk Baby Orphanage grandmother and native Ukrainian born in the Vinnitska oblast. \$6,000 of the \$8,000 needed has been raised for the Kremenchuk playground. Please contact Elizabeth, [elizabeth@orphansbrightstar.org](mailto:elizabeth@orphansbrightstar.org), for more information.

## Vocational Education – All of our students are sponsored!

OBS is helping 8 teens from the Potoki Orphanage and 13 teens from Green Forest Internat who graduate this year to continue their education. Most of these students age out of the orphanage system with a 9th grade level education, and statistically the odds are against them. However, the Ukrainian government will provide 1-2 years of free vocational education to any graduate. The problem for orphan graduates is that they must have some means of extra support to take advantage of this opportunity. With just \$50.00 a month for two years from a sponsor they can gather the necessary items, move into quarters provided by the school and begin to learn a trade. At the end of 2 years, if they can find jobs, they will already have beaten the odds against them. OBS has successfully found sponsors for all of the teens. Contact Natalie, [natalie@orphansbrightstar.org](mailto:natalie@orphansbrightstar.org), for more information about Green Forest Internat and Carolyn, [carolyn@orphansbrightstar.org](mailto:carolyn@orphansbrightstar.org), for Potoki.



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## Visits to Ukraine



### Svalyava Baby Orphanage

Jamie visited Svalyava Baby House for OBS in March. The changes in this orphanage are obvious at every turn. Many of the items donated by OBS are in use...the quad-strollers have been a big hit as well as the Bumbo seats. They enjoyed a nice, warm winter thanks to the amazing window project completed there last summer! OBS is held in very high esteem here and they are very thankful for all of the help! They mentioned a need for some swimming pools for the summer and Mindi, our super-shopper, found some awesome ones and shipped them out right away. Kremenchuk got some pools to enjoy this summer as well. Photos from the visit are here: <http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=0AcSWTlyObMmLCSg>

### Kremenchuk Baby Orphanage

Approximately four years ago I joined Elizabeth in working with the baby house. At that time we were desperately trying to feed the babies. You would not think it so difficult, being only \$5.00 a month, but getting enough people to contribute was a major project.

Then we started with beds, as theirs were being held together with ties and had splitting mattresses. Well, let me say, "WE'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY"! While this is still an orphanage and nothing like a home, it is 1000 percent better. The walls are painted cheery, a new laundry facility (remember those hanging clothes outside in the winter?) and now a new kitchen. The staff is so caring and try very hard with what they have to work with. I am so proud of the group I work with and the things we've accomplished. When we started we had babies going into disability status because of lack of food and no exercise. We started with Johnny Jumps and bouncy toys and are now trying to give them a nice new playground. The little playgrounds are clean, but the equipment is very dated. Remember the metal playgrounds of the 40's and 50's? That is what they have! We are still short on our newest playground project so please try to donate to this wonderful cause. These children are as happy as they know happiness to be - but it is still a long way from what you would want for your own child. Actually seeing the house and meeting Director Lydia has motivated me to keep me working for our babies. Seeing pictures of when we started and seeing the house now is like seeing your dreams come true.



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## Highlights

### BIG NEWS!

The 2008 Annual Fundraiser for OBS this year was organized by our valuable member Joan Stout. OBS will partner with Hope Haven serving sandwiches at the [LifeLight Musical Festival](#) in Sioux Falls, SD over the Labor Day weekend. Joan worked tirelessly to acquire free food, equipment, and more. We expect this fundraiser to bring in thousands for the benefit of the children.



**THANK YOU** to the ladies of [Alpha Chi Lambda](#) sorority at Trinity University for doing another 'dorm storm' for OBS. They raised nearly \$500 this year! We can't wait to see what their next fundraiser will bring!

Mindi was one of the featured alums in the Trinity University magazine this fall. If you missed the article, check it out: [http://www.trinity.edu/departments/alumni\\_relations/alumnet/0806\\_alumnet.htm](http://www.trinity.edu/departments/alumni_relations/alumnet/0806_alumnet.htm)

OBS was happy to partner with LAdS in helping orphans get much needed medical help. Nikolay, Irina and Vitaly had to travel to Kiev to be evaluated for further treatment. It is with great pleasure we report that in LAdS capable hands, all of the children traveled to Kiev for their surgeries and are doing well – each at a different stage in the recovery process.

**THANK YOU** to Cathy Harris, [ukrainianangels.org](http://ukrainianangels.org), for distributing informational packets about OBS at the 2008 Ukrainian Angels reunion in July. Mindi handmade envelopes filled with OBS goodies and information to spread the word about our organization's great work, and Cathy was generous enough to take them with her for the families in attendance.

### New GFI Library Project

Our newest project not even up on the website yet is for new library materials for the kids at GFI. You may remember the library project we did last year at Nizhny Vorota and those pictures of the kids so happy to see new books. We are trying to duplicate this at GFI. Please find a way to buy a book or 2 for these children ... the cost in Ukraine is very inexpensive. Lidia is helping us again with the purchase and delivery. Our goal is to have this small project complete before school starts.

### Employer Matching Donations – FREE Funds for OBS Projects!

Don't forget to check about employer matching program for charitable donations. Corporations will match up to three times your donated amount to OBS! Can you imagine your \$25 donation turning into \$100 for the children?! Do it now! Check if your employer matches contributions, and check on the charitable donation programs for employers of spouses, friends, and family as well. It is an amazingly EZ way to fund our projects.

### MAGAZINES ... For All of the Readers in our Group

Please renew your magazines or subscribe to new ones for yourself or others as gifts thru our [link](#) and we will get a commission: <http://www.magfundraising.com/orphansbrightstar>. Of all our associate relationships, this one provides the biggest percentage back to OBS. The prices are great and you can help a child too! What could be easier?!



### Box Top Collection Brings in Hundreds!

Don't forget to save your [box tops](#); every top is worth \$0.10 to OBS. Send them to Joan Stout, 725 130<sup>th</sup> Ave, Pipestone, MN, 56154. We've raised hundreds to date on box tops alone.

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An Orphan's Bright Star  
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#### Web Site:

[www.orphanbrightstar.org](http://www.orphanbrightstar.org)

#### Grants:

For Grant Assistance or recommendations on where to apply for grants, please contact Mindi, [mindi@orphanbrightstar.org](mailto:mindi@orphanbrightstar.org)

#### Donations:

Mail a donation check to:  
An Orphan's Bright Star  
431 Biscayne Boulevard  
El Lago, Texas 77586

Go through PayPal :  
<http://www.orphanbrightstar.org/donations.html>

An Orphan's Bright Star also accepts Mastercard and VISA donations. Contact Mindi, [mindi@orphanbrightstar.org](mailto:mindi@orphanbrightstar.org) for more information.

## Other Easy Ways to Help

### Surf the Net!

[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) A search engine powered by Yahoo. Go to the web address, and enter "An Orphan's Bright Star" (based in Texas) in the box that asks you who you are searching for. It works just like any other search engine and earns \$0.01 for every search. We received hundreds from this source – it really adds up.

### Do Some Shopping!

[www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) Register at iGive.com, download the shopping window, then shop as you usually do online. A percentage of your purchase price will automatically be given to OBS. Sign up, purchase within 45 days through iGive.com and OBS gets a \$5 bonus.

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) Go through our link to provide 5% of your purchase price to OBS.

### Even purchase groceries at Randall's and you will raise funds for OBS!

<http://www.randalls.com/randalls/tomthumbgoodneighborprogram>

Go to the service desk and ask them to associate your Randall's card with our account #11507. One trip and that's it – all of your future purchases will provide a percentage to OBS.

## EBay Auctions



EBay Auctions are a great and easy way to contribute to An Orphan's Bright Star. Just provide us with picture(s), description, shipping cost, and any price constraints. We'll post the item and let you know when it is sold so that you can send it to the buyer.

If you have any other questions please contact Alison, [alison@orphanbrightstar.org](mailto:alison@orphanbrightstar.org).

Or begin your shopping here [http://search.ebay.com/\\_W0QQsassZorphanbrightstar](http://search.ebay.com/_W0QQsassZorphanbrightstar)

## OBS Officers and Contacts

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