

“Thank You” to all UCARE donors and volunteers for your generosity, kindness, and desire to make a difference in the lives of children!

UCARE volunteers continue to work closely with our partner organization in Ukraine, Pryyateli Ditey. We have had a busy year, as your contributions continue to fund our on-going programs, please read on to see what your generosity has funded.

“Carpathian Stars” 2012 Summer Camp

UCARE/Pryyateli Ditey hosted a summer camp for 57 children ages 11 to 17. Children from the Chervonohrad, Tulchyn, Novi Petrivtsi and Trostyanets orphanages arrived in Kosiv, Ukraine in mid July ready to spend three weeks in the fresh Carpathian mountain air.

The camp format relied on three main components: workshops, discussion sessions and excursions to Ukrainian cultural and historical sites to engage, educate and expose children to new ideas, skills and people. Social theatre/awareness drama was introduced this year to provide children with a safe-environment for “acting –out” real life challenges. This form of theatre allowed the leaders to help children play out hardships and solutions by staging their own situations. The scenarios selected dealt with fear, drugs & alcohol, self-confidence, anger and confrontation. An effective component of this method was that in “acting-out” their problems children had the opportunity to “rewind”/ take a closer look at themselves and “try again.” Keeping on a parallel theme, volunteers from the Ukrainian Catholic University lead discussions on forgiveness and tolerance.



Workshops included Hutsul pottery, animation, drawing, origami and kite making. Longtime UCARE Detroit volunteer Luba Petrusha led the pysanka workshop (traditional Ukrainian Easter egg). Luba dedicates a few weeks every summer to attend camp, teach children to write pysanky and share her wisdom and patience, making her a favorite among the children. Campers learn about traditional folk designs and also create eggs with original and camp themes. This year these beautiful eggs were added to the extensive collection housed by the Pysanka Museum in Kolomyya, Ukraine.

Sports and dancing are always practiced as a way to encourage physical fitness and healthy competition. The children had a chance to share their gifts at several organized performances and talent competitions. Sports included soccer and volleyball. A mock Olympics was held and medals awarded in running, archery, wrist wrestling and tug of rope.

Encouraging the children’s knowledge of Ukrainian history, culture, song and dance – excursions were organized to nearby towns, museums, cultural centers and churches.

Our summer camps open and warm children’s hearts. Thank you to our generous donors, volunteers and partners at Pryyateli Ditey for making this annual event a reality.

UCARE volunteers visit orphanages in Lotuhino, Tulchyn and Chervonohrad



UCARE volunteers travelled from one end of Ukraine to the other buying and delivering supplies for orphanages. We started by visiting the Lotuhino orphanage (eastern Ukraine). The children and staff were very happy to see us and showed us their dormitory and new beds (we purchased beds for them last year). We visited their campus and classrooms, were entertained by their singing and dancing and enjoyed interacting with the children. We brought books, chocolates and supplies. We purchased much needed winter boots in Lotuhino demonstrating our support of their local economy.



Next we drove to Tulchyn (central Ukraine) where once again we were greeted with singing and dancing. We also slept here and quickly determined that this orphanage was in need of new beds and linens. We dined in the student run cafe – where all students can “purchase goods” with their “allowance” (allowance program developed by Tulchyn). Students learn to manage money and prioritize how they want to spend their “allowance”. Tulchyn also received books, chocolates and some much needed kitchen appliances.

Chervonohrad (western Ukraine), again warmly welcomed us and thanked us for the books, chocolates and supplies. As with our other visits we met with the seniors and talked about their challenges, fears and opportunities once they graduate. During our visit we also had the opportunity to observe a *Students to Children Program* workshop, which was lead beautifully by a scholarship student and received well by the older children at the orphanage. Our trip was great! We stay committed to our mission.



TULCHYN NEEDS 110 NEW BEDS and LINENS PLEASE HELP US BUY NEW BEDS

We got a jump-start with donations from the participants of the 10th Annual UCARE **Detroit Golf Outing** and the students of **St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Chicago**.

We are grateful to them for their support but still need your help to reach our goal.

Scholarship Program Updates



Your support enabled 70 students-orphans to full participation in the 2011/2012 UCARE *Scholarship Program*. Students attended meetings in Kyiv, where they participated in workshops on time, project and presentation management. Each meeting also included an excursion to a historical site, museum or theatrical performance. In addition, 13 students attended three ten-day youth exchanges focused on the topics of peace, friendship and personal development. The conferences were attended by students from at least six different countries and were held in the United Kingdom, Slovakia and Georgia. Ten 2011/2012 scholarship students were awarded computers by Ernst & Young (E&Y). Twelve students successfully graduated from university; seven already have jobs. Congratulations and thanks to E&Y.

This year we are hoping to fully sponsor at least 70 students. We turn to our benefactors for support. Every year the applicant list grows and attendance at meetings increases – which is great! However, we are at a point where good applicants far exceed our ability to accept them in the program due to limited funds. We know from alumni that participation in the student meetings is extremely valuable. Knowing this, we have expanded our program to include a category of students who do not receive the full benefits of the program (no stipend). This category of students are, however, invited to use all

other services offered to program participants, such as access to staff in Kyiv, to legal services and attendance at student meetings while they wait for full sponsorship. This is not ideal but allows us to partially support new student applicants. Applicants stay in contact with and engaged in the program. Assistance is provided on an as needed basis. We wish our students a productive, successful and good year!

Students to Children Program

In its 5th year the Students to Children Program is designed to assist orphanage upperclassmen (grades 9-11) with setting “life after the orphanage” expectations. Since the sessions are lead by our scholarship students, who themselves grew up in orphanages, participants tend to listen more closely and are open to ideas introduced and suggestions made for “preparing to leave the orphanage”. Three to four workshops at 13 orphanages were held between November and April covering a minimum of four topics every session. Discussion topics included: realizing one’s potential, scholarship, money management, housing after leaving the orphanage and orphan rights. This year, the Program reached 330 children from 13 orphanages. 44 workshops were led by 17 scholarship students and 4 alumni volunteers. It continues to feed our pool of scholarship applicants and offer hope to orphaned children for a good life. For the student volunteers the Program offers leadership opportunities and more importantly the ability to mentor younger orphans and give back to their communities.



We need your support to continue our work!
Please make a donation!

Credit card donations can be made via our website: www.ucareinc.org

Or complete the form on the back and mail a check to:

UCARE, Inc.

PO Box 123, Glencoe, MO 63038

What Do 2012 Graduates Say?



"I have worked with UCARE for many years and have always felt comfortable in your company as a complete person. I was able to realize my potential by participating in different projects and by taking an active part in the student meetings which were very special to me. At the meetings we shared our life experiences; we discussed the challenges we face as orphans; we found friends. The scholarship project is very useful in supporting our smooth integration into society. I am immensely thankful to all who supported me all of these years". – **Viktor Bulka**, Kherson State University

"I was very happy to get financial support. When I received my stipend I decided to save it and put it towards furthering my education – I studied English. The scholarship program unites us (student-orphans) and shows us that we are not alone in the sea of life".

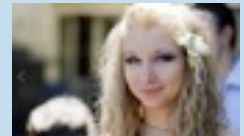
– **Ivan Vakulinskij**, National Univ. of State Tax Service of Ukraine



"Student meetings, the skillful trainers and caring volunteers and the UCARE/Pryyateli Ditey projects in which I participated inspired me and I started to feel more confident.

Thanks for your support which is tremendous for all of us!"

– **Tanya Bruzgina**, Lviv Polytechnic National University



I would like to express my sincere gratitude to UCARE/Pryyateli Ditey . I got so much positive energy during participation in the Scholarship Project. The funds I received I used to pay for a second education and that was a big help to me. I always felt the hard work of my coordinators and thankful to all of you for paying attention to our problems and helping us to overcome them".

– **Slava Bystrov**, Kyiv Polytechnic University



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THANK YOU for your support!