

Shape the Destiny of a Remarkable Young Woman!

Dear Friend,

I would like you to meet 17 year-old Alyona.

My husband Paul and I met her last Winter while doing volunteer work at her orphanage in the Ukraine.

We fell in love with all the children we met there, but **Alyona really stood out!**

We saw in this young woman a loving, energetic, and resilient spirit, and found her to be **remarkably selfless** in her giving.

As an older child she stands virtually no chance of being adopted, while every day the responsibility of living on her own grows ever closer. **And yet she devotes herself to caring for 20 of the younger children in her orphanage at any one time.**



Alyona's dream is to get an education so she can support her younger brother when he leaves the orphanage.

A simple dream

Alyona's dream is to get an education so she can find a job and help support her younger brother when he too leaves the orphanage in a few years.

That may seem like an achievable goal to you and me, but for Alyona **it's a huge dream.**

Why? Because Ukraine is one of the poorest countries in Eastern Europe and the **unemployment rate for women is over 80%.**

Orphans at risk

Statistics for orphans integrating into society are even more tragic – in Eastern Europe **orphans are prime targets for sex traffickers and slave traders.** Within a year of leaving the orphanage, **60% -70% of these young people end up in prostitution and other forms of organized crime.**

Alyona was “emancipated” from the orphanage in June 2005. **She left with just the clothes on her back.** She has no money, no family support, and little chance of securing even a menial job. Getting a decent education is virtually impossible - **survival is now her primary challenge and her future looks bleak.** **And there are many more children in a similar position to Alyona.**

A bridge to a brighter future

There is an opportunity to help shape the future of these budding young adults. We have established **Haven Bridge**, a non-profit helping capable and deserving orphans at the time they need it most – **just as they leave the orphanage, when they are most vulnerable.**

With our help, armed with an education, increased self-confidence, and her amazing spirit, we strongly believe Alyona will succeed and **the course of her life will be changed forever. All she needs is a chance; she will do the rest.**

Your help makes a difference!

We want to give Alyona and other promising youngsters that chance, but we can't do it alone - and we invite you to play a key role. **Your act of kindness can make all the difference in the life of Alyona** and other deserving orphans.

We need your assistance, not to bring them to the U.S., but to fund their education at a school in Ukraine and insure they have –

- ◆ **Safe accommodations**, so they don't fall prey to those in the sex trade offering them housing when they are most desperate – right after release from the orphanage;
- ◆ **A qualified guardian** to help them adjust to their new life;
- ◆ **Basic support** while they attend lessons, so they are not lured into crime or prostitution.

It costs roughly \$3,500 to pay for a year of school; \$2,000 for accommodations and \$1,500 for other basic living expenses.

With your support these young adults will be in a strong position to build a life for themselves.

Otherwise they face very limited options for starting their adult life. **Without some form of outside help, it's likely they will end up like the majority of orphans who are lured into slavery, crime, or prostitution.**

Please consider a tax-deductible donation, of any amount. All contributions are greatly appreciated, and can be sent to:

Haven Bridge
1105 Pine Grove Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30319

To learn more about Alyona, Haven Bridge, and the assistance needed, please contact us at 404-264-1066 or email Kathy Forbes at Kathy@theforbessgroup.com.

Sincerely,

Kathy Forbes, Director
Haven Bridge – Safe Passage to Life Beyond the Orphanage

Did universal charity prevail, earth would be a heaven, and hell a fable.

- Charles Caleb Colton