

BIG FAMILY

Mission to Children

October 2007

“Worship that is pure and unblemished in the sight of God the father is this: to visit and help and care for the widows and orphans in their affliction and need....” James 1:27



Kommunar Foster Family Growing!

The smiling face that you see in the above photo (taken at a park near Kommunar) is that of Vova, age 16, the newest member of our foster family in Kommunar. Vova has been rescued, thanks to our foster family, and is now on his way to recovery. He needs your prayers for continued protection as he recovers from an addiction to sniffing glue.

Six months ago, Vova seemed to have little chance for a future. His mother died when Vova was two years old, and his father died when Vova was in the third grade. He spent several years at the Kommunar internat/orphanage and then the Sylverskiy orphanage, and not wanting to face into the future, turned to glue-sniffing as a way of temporary escape. The Gatchina social workers had their hands full with Vova and turned to our foster home mother, Ira, to discuss Vova's situation. With some assistance from the government in the Gatchina region, Vova was sent to a Christian drug rehabilitation center run by the Exodus Church. Three months later, he has returned to Kommunar as a new person, but also a young man who needs lots of prayer. Vova attends school in St. Petersburg, where he learns to be a carpenter and plumber, but his school requires that he spend the week in a dormitory, where there can be many temptations. On weekends, he returns to his family in Kommunar.

We now have 5 older children in our foster family at Kommunar, and they are a huge blessing! We recently received a brief update from our foster family, and we would like to share their letters:

Letter from Vania.

Hello Big Family! this is Vania writing. I'm doing good. I worked this summer. I put tile. I made not much money, but for some expenses it was enough. I spent all summer in Kommunar, now I continue to study. I would like to see you soon, I hope you can come!

Letter from Tania.

Dear Big Family, I'm doing good. I'm very grateful to you for setting off some money for my school supplies when I needed it. I've already had my first client. But most often the girls from my group ask me to make them hair, since I won 1st place in the content last year for afrobrades making. This summer I spent in 3 different Christian camps. In Gatchina church and in Ranger teen camp and in children's camp I was a helper. Next year I'll go as a chaperon. This is it! How are you doing? How did you spend this summer? With love. Tania

Letter from Ulia.

Dear Big Family! I was very happy to go to the South. I rested and studied in the Levite's school (this is a Christian training center sponsored by the Exodus Church). God changed me through this school. He gave me new friends - brothers and sisters from Azov town. After I got back I started to study in the same school as Tania did. The group is good, they met me well. I like to study, I do well in lessons. . I really want to fellowship with you from eye to eye. I thank you for your prayers and your financial support! I sing in the "Exodus" praising team. I like it, ministry is growing. Our family is doing normal. Be blessed!



“Big” Vania, “Little” Vania, Ira, and Slaviana enjoy some tea in their Kommunar home. See more letters on reverse side.



Our foster family, minus little Vania and Vova. Front row, left to right, Maxim, Vania, and Ira. Back row, Ulia, Tania, and Slaviana.

Letter from Slaviana.

Slaviana greets you. I'm doing very well! The summer was great! I'm very glad I was in the school of Levites. The Lord changed my attitude to the ministry a big deal. I rested very good, it was very warm, brothers and sisters around. I learned to play drums! I miss you very much! God is so wonderful and He loves us so much! And I love you very much too and support you in prayers. How are you doing? How is your health? Bless you, hug you, love. Slaviana.

Letter from Maxim.

Hello to our favorite and respected Big Family! Thank God for you. Through you He does a great things. The thing is that kids live with is and they bringing up in a special family first of all is because of the Big Family ministry. You came here at the very hardest times for orphans. Now the state government helps more to the families which take care for kids. Few words about me: I quit work in Police. I didn't work for a time since I was making repair at home (toilet, bathroom, etc). Now I work as a plastic window maintain worker. Now we have plans to change windows in our flat. I also learn to play drums in praising team! Can you imagine - I'm getting pretty successful! Glory to God! Thanks to you! Come! With love, Maxim.

Letter from Ira.

Our dear Big Family! I love you! We have many news, but I had to print for all of them, so I'll be brief. According to priorities: God blesses me in a great way! Our relationships are growing. He changes my heart. I pray for Maxim and I can see how God changes him a lot, he looks for God more! In the Kommunar church I work much. - sing in praising, fasting for different things, talk with people, I try to encourage people. I build relationship with the leader of praising, with pastor and their families!

Many people at church constantly praise me and thank me - I accept it as it is from God, try to fulfill His will.

In our family we have many changes - the girls came back from church camp so grown-up, they are more dedicated and search for God! We work together, pray, read the Word! Our fellowship is joy, mostly about God's works! Tania is with us! She is faithful! During a week we all go to the different meetings. Slava sometimes preaches to Vania at nights - he receives little by little!

Most amazing thing is that Vova now lives with us. He went through the rehab center, it was not easy for him there, but he withstood everything. Last Sunday he went to the church with us. I want to help him to enter to the school in Saint-Pete to become a carpenter. There is a dormitory there where he will live during a week and for weekends he will come to us!

More - later!

I love you! Blessings!

Host a Latvian orphan at Christmas!

Big Family Mission and other ministries and churches in the Northeast are partnering with New Horizons for Children to conduct a hosting program for Latvian orphans in the Northeast (PA, NY, NJ, DE, MD) during Christmas time 2007-2008.

This is not an adoption program, but many of the children who come to the United States can be and will be adopted by families they meet during the hosting program.

Quick facts:

- Latvian orphans, ages 5 years to 15, will live with host families for about four weeks (tentative dates mid-December to mid-January).
- The orphans will stay with families who reside in PA, NJ, DE, NY, MD and surrounding states in the Northeast. (For information about New Horizons' hosting programs, please visit: www.newhorizonsforchildren.org.)
- Hosting families fund-raise or contribute \$1950 to New Horizons for Children. The \$1950 contribution helps cover the cost of airfare, coordination in Latvia, travel in Latvia, passport, visa, medical insurance, safety and child abuse clearances for host families, and some of the expenses for the Latvian orphanage workers who must accompany the children.
- Hosting husband and wife must be of the Christian faith and attending a church. (Single mothers may also host.)
- Visit www.bigfamilyministry.org for more info.

Contact information:

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Big Family Mission is an inter-denominational mission outreach involving churches and Christians from many different denominations.