



One Heart for Bulgaria

One Heart, Inc. was officially incorporated in the state of Ohio on March 10, 2003, with Glyn Barker, Deborah Gardner, and Kelly Anderson as trustees. Glyn Barker was appointed statutory agent. A sister foundation, also called One Heart (referred to in this publication as One Heart-Bulgaria) was organized on March 16, 2003 in Sofia, Bulgaria, with Glyn Barker and Deborah Gardner as founders and members of the board of trustees. Radost Yanakieva was appointed director, and Rositsa Krupeva was named the president of the board. One Heart and One Heart-Bulgaria are non-profit organizations dedicated to the support of Bulgarian orphanages and needy children. One Heart is in the process of applying for 501c3 status.

We would like to thank those who have volunteered their time and donated generously to this latest effort: Dave Gardner, Devan Barker, Gil Rieger, Scott & Ali Garner, The Brown Family International Aid Corps, Lana Gardner, Annie, Kelly Anderson, The Vails, Pat Bryant, Fonda Wilhelmsen, the Chardon Branch, Lori & Jim Anderson, Alex & Jennifer Dushku, Christina & Brent Law, Kaly Dushku, Leslie & Adam Gwilliam, Chris King, Raeleen Anderson, Jean & Marilyn Waite, Spring City 1st Ward, Utah State 1st Ward, the Aggie Village Extension Center, The Sock Outlet, Sara Holmer, Nick & Donna Dushku, Providence 4th Ward, Matt Landheim, Asparouh & Aprille, Marta, Radost, Nadezhda, Rositsa, the Cherpokovi, Didi Childs, and Tor.

BULGARIA TRIP 2003 A SUCCESS

The two faces which Heidi Glyn Barker most wanted to see when she got to Bulgaria weren't there. But she wasn't really disappointed—she knew that Lyubcho and Ivan had moved to America three months earlier and were now settled in with their new family in Washington state. Still, it was a little strange for her to walk the halls of Orphanage #7 and realize that she wouldn't see them, or Toshko, or Ani, or Emi—strange, but good. In fact, very good.

Not all of the children at Orphanage #7 are as lucky as those who have since moved to their new homes in America, France, Spain, and Italy. Ninety percent of the children in Bulgarian orphanages are not adoptable—many actually have parents or other relatives who simply cannot or will not care for them on a continuing basis. It was with these children in

mind that Glyn Barker and Deborah Dushku Gardner traveled to Sofia in early March to set up a foundation to aid these children—de facto orphans whose parents can't or won't raise them, but who aren't available for adoption.

By all accounts, the trip was a success. In addition to setting up the Bulgarian branch of One Heart, Glyn and Deborah met with One Heart representatives and orphanage directors to discuss their needs and to deliver a shipment of requested items. Clothing, baby care items, medical supplies, and educational toys were among the goods distributed by the group during their six-day stay in Sofia. Radost Yanakieva, the director of One Heart-Bulgaria, had also made appointments for the group to meet with directors of several new orphanages, government officials,

including the director of Bulgaria's state agency for child protection, and other interested organizations.

During the course of the trip, it became increasingly evident that One Heart needed to grow to fill a broader mission than the one pursued in the past. Bulgaria is on the brink of change—new laws governing the role of humanitarian organizations will be coming in force in the next few months, and many aspects of the orphanage system will be changed to a foster care system in preparation for Bulgaria's inclusion in NATO. These changes herald a brighter future for Bulgaria-based humanitarian groups, churches, NGO's, and ultimately, Bulgaria's needy children.

Thanks to this latest trip and the contacts made, One Heart is positioned to take an active role in implementing this exciting change.

ONE HEART IS A HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO HELPING ORPHANS AND AT-RISK CHILDREN IN BULGARIA. COME VISIT US AT OUR NEW WEBSITE AND CHECK OUT PICTURES OF OUR TRIP, DONATION INFORMATION, ORPHANAGE "WISH" LISTS, AND UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS. FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED!

WWW.ONEHEART-BG.ORG

New One Heart Projects

“Can you get us a washing machine?” was one of the many questions from orphanage directors we encountered on our trip. Imagine our surprise when the following day a representative of another humanitarian group asked if there was anything his group could do for our project. “A washing machine? Sure. Anything else?”

Many people have responded to the call to aid the needy in Bulgaria. Unfortunately, the help doesn’t always get to where it is most desperately needed. The main problem is a simple lack of communication. During our discussions with orphanage directors, lawyers, and government officials, the idea of an informational clearinghouse was born to help in resolving this problem. Working closely with other humanitarian groups in Bulgaria, One Heart will establish a data base of information to match social needs (generally children’s needs) with available resources. We will

kick off our new project with a conference in Bulgaria on June 1, 2004—the Bulgarian “Day of the Child.”

Another exciting new project for One Heart, the Resource Center, is a result of requests from One Heart representatives, orphanage directors, and other church and humanitarian groups operating in Bulgaria.

One Heart representatives working in America were getting similar requests from many different organizations. At the same time, our representatives in Bulgaria began requesting items which they could keep at home and then take to the orphanage when they made their weekly visits. To meet this need, items such as educational games, toys, books, tools, VCR’s, CD players, outdoor equipment, and other non-consumable items will be purchased once and then shared among participating orphanages and organizations.

As Bulgaria moves from an orphanage based system to a foster care system, this same center will provide valuable resources for new foster families and organizations which support them. The center will be modeled after existing family resource centers in America and will partner extensively with other humanitarian organizations to provide access to this important resource to the children of Bulgaria.



Bulgarian Orphanage Project

The Orphanage Project represents what is most important to One Heart: fast, effective, and compassionate service to those in need. We will continue to support the orphanages already participating in the program, and hope to add several orphanages a year as people show interest in sponsorship.

Children sometimes enter Bulgarian orphanages in very bad shape: They suffer from parasites, rickets, and malnutrition. The orphanages are committed to providing the very best care, but their resources are limited. Their most pressing needs include supplemental food, emergency funds for transportation costs, and money

for special medication. The children also benefit greatly from close, personal contact with someone they look on as a friend.

The basic One Heart Orphanage support program—a \$1,200 yearly commitment—provides \$50 worth of food a month (fresh fruits, veggies, and milk for 40 children) and four hours of personal contact with the children every week for one year. As our relationship with the orphanage grows, we then try to respond to their specific needs: Sveta Paraskeva can always use diapers and Desitin, while Dom #7 really needs shoes and fingernail clippers. Because of our close contact with

the directors, we hear about urgent needs and can respond quickly.

One Heart Bulgaria has already identified three new orphanages which have asked to be included in our program. For each orphanage we add, we need to find a family, individual, or group willing to “sponsor” the orphanage—to raise the necessary \$1,200 needed to provide “Level I” care. For information on sponsoring an orphanage, to make a donation to One Heart on behalf of one of our participating orphanages, or for fundraising information, please contact us at the address at the bottom of the newsletter.

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