



One Heart Bulgaria

HOPE • LIFE • FUTURE
for Orphans

“Opportunity Homes” Project Proposal

Purpose: (1) to provide young adult female orphans age 18 yrs. with food, clothing and shelter while government social workers help these orphans find and keep jobs; (2) to provide nurturing house parents and a program to teach self-reliance and life skills for successful integration into Bulgarian society.

Description of Project: under the supervision of two government paid social workers and one set of house parents hired by One Heart Bulgaria, qualifying young adult female orphans will live at our Opportunity Homes/Apartments for one year. Each apartment or home will be rented or purchased in Bulgaria.

Upon entering the program, orphans will receive a “welcome package” of some clothing and toiletries. Their first two months' rent, utilities, and food will be paid by One Heart Bulgaria. They will be required to sign a contract and adhere to the rules and moral standards of the program while maintaining a job, contributing to housekeeping assignments, and participating in group social activities and community service. Upon graduation from the program, each participant will receive a certificate of honorable completion plus some essential items for living independently.

Adult couples who serve as house parents will live in an apartment close by in the same building and make a commitment of at least one year. During this time One Heart Bulgaria will pay their living expenses. House parents will be available to the young women around the clock to give guidance and assistance when the social workers are not available. The house parent's duties would be the following: (1) Supervise the orphans in general (maintain curfew and appropriate activities and enforce house rules, etc.) (2) Hold weekly group (family) meetings (3) Help plan a monthly community service project (4) Plan a monthly group recreational/educational activity (5) Conduct Saturday cleaning checks in each apartment. (6) Be available to the young women as mentors and friends. The house parents' apartment would also be the central meeting place for activities, group planning meetings, celebrations, etc. The house parents should create an “family” atmosphere.

The social workers will help the young women reintegrate into Bulgarian society by finding and keeping employment. They will help the orphans learn life skills such as problem solving, personal hygiene, social etiquette, housekeeping, food purchasing and preparation, laundering their clothing, money management, etc.

Long term goals of project: the long term goals of this program are to eliminate suicide, prostitution, unwanted pregnancy, alcoholism, drug addiction, unemployment, homelessness, and other anti-social and/or criminal behaviors common among young adult orphans. In addition, we believe nurturing Bulgaria's rising female orphan population through this program will create better opportunities for them in Bulgaria's communities and make it easier for these young women to secure jobs, live as competent citizens, and ultimately strengthen the communities in which they live.



Program Budget for 1 Year per 25 Women

- Cost of renting 3 houses/apartments/yr: \$10,800 (1 house/yr @ \$3,600 ea.)
- Cost of one-time initial renovations: *\$15,000
- Cost of initial furnishings: *\$6,000
- "Welcome package" of supplies for each woman: @ \$200 each x 25= \$5,000
- Cost of living for each woman for first two months: @ \$90 each x 25= \$2,250
- Cost of renting house-parents' apartment: \$3,600/yr.
- Cost of moderate modifications of house-parents' apartment: *\$1,500
- House parents' cost of living: \$2,000/year
- Allowance for the parents to conduct a monthly group community service project, monthly recreational activity, educational excursions, weekly meetings, birthday and holiday parties: \$3,500/year

Total program costs for first year: \$49,650.

Total program costs for each subsequent year: \$27,150

* These expenses are essential one-time start-up expenses.



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