for every orphan

A LETTER FROM KYIV, UKRAINE

JULY 2026

Volunteers packing Seeds of Hope boxes during power outages in Kyiv region.

Dear Friends,

I write to you from Kyiv, where I live, the reality you support.

I share the nights of missile strikes with our partners and the families we serve. I sit in the cold during power outages. I worry about friends at the front. And I hold on to the hope that God will carry us through.

It is an honor to be a bridge between your generous heart and a mother in a de-occupied village planting seeds for her children. I believe this is how God works. Through me. And through you.

Thank you for staying with Ukraine.

With gratitude and hope,
Oksana Mykhaylovska
For Every Orphan Program Director | Kyiv, Ukraine

Current Situation in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine is not over.

The frontline continues to shift, communities are forced to constantly adapt, and the needs of families do not pause.

Around 20% of Ukraine's territory remains under occupation — an area roughly the size of Pennsylvania. Entire cities, homes, and communities remain inaccessible or destroyed.

Millions have been displaced, including a significant number of children growing up without stability, safety, or a place to call home.

This winter and spring, Ukrainians faced relentless Russian strikes on energy infrastructure — losing electricity, heat, and running water for days at a time.

Blackouts lasted all winter long, with some families going without power for up to three days straight. No light. No heat. No way to cook a meal.

For a family with young children, this is not an inconvenience. It is a crisis.

Source: Institute for the Study of War

Our Presence in Ukraine

Over the past six months, our partners in Ukraine focused on:

- Reaching families in frontline and de-occupied communities
- Supporting internally displaced families in safer regions
- Providing heating support to large and crisis families
- Distributing seed kits to help families grow their own food
- Supporting foster families and children in care
- Equipping social workers. psychologists to work with families and children affected by war

Behind this list is a team on the ground, a trusted partner, and a family that knows — because of your support — that they are not forgotten.

Present. Consistent. Transforming.

What is TBRI?

TBRI (Trust-Based Relational Intervention) is a trauma-informed approach developed at Texas Christian University, used by caregivers, foster parents, and specialists working with vulnerable children worldwide. Rather than focusing on behaviour alone, it addresses the root causes — helping children feel safe, understood, and genuinely connected to the adults around them.

Program Spotlight:
Therapeutic support for children through TBRI

We are committed to growing TBRI in Ukraine through our partners — equipping specialists, supporting caregivers, and bringing this approach directly to children who need it most. One expression of this work is therapeutic group sessions for children.

In Ukraine, the lights go out — but the sessions don't stop.

Our therapeutic groups continued even during power outages. Because for a child carrying trauma, war, and instability, consistency is not a comfort — it is a lifeline. Showing up, every time, is the message.

Over the past 3 months in numbers:

- **19 therapeutic group** sessions held, reaching **24 children** with structured, consistent care
- **17 consultations** delivered to **foster and adoptive parents** — equipping caregivers with practical TBRI tools to continue the healing at home

🙏 Please pray for:

- Children in the groups — for safety, healing, and the courage to trust
- Foster and adoptive parents — for patience, wisdom, and strength in the daily work of love
- Our facilitators and psychologists — for resilience and joy in a demanding calling

The Plaster Method

One simple technique used in TBRI therapeutic groups is the plaster method. A child receives a small plaster — not necessarily for a physical wound, but as a tangible act of care. Another child or a trusted adult applies the plaster with intention, speaks words of comfort, and acknowledges the pain — seen or unseen.

For a child who has rarely experienced safe touch, consistent attention, or someone who notices their hurt, this small act carries profound meaning.

It communicates: **I see you. You matter. You are worth caring for.**

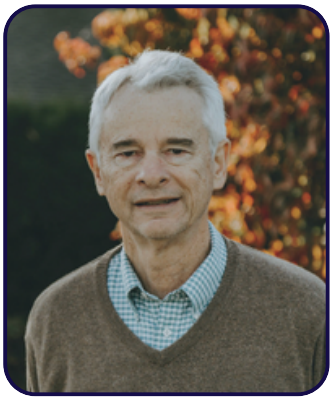
When a peer applies the plaster, something additional happens — the child giving care also heals. They learn empathy, gentleness, and what it feels like to be the one who helps.

Program Spotlight: Seeds of Hope

Growing More Than Vegetables

"Ukraine is the breadbasket of Europe — a nation with some of the world's most fertile soil, where planting a garden has always been part of family life. Today, 65% of Ukrainians grow their own vegetables; in rural areas, 83%. **In peacetime, a garden is a tradition. In wartime, it is survival.**

For three years, our Seeds of Hope project has been placing seed kits into the hands of vulnerable Ukrainian families — displaced families, single mothers, large families, and those living near the frontline. We help them grow their own food, prepare for winter, and take one step away from dependency toward self-sufficiency. **Because a seed is more than something you plant — it is dignity, resilience, and hope for tomorrow."**



-Dr. Richard Scheuerman
For Every Orphan Board Member

Thank you for helping us 80% of our goal!

- **$60,000 provided > 5,000 vulnerable families across 11 regions**
- **Over 8,500 children impacted**
- **Each seed kit contained 28 varieties — vegetables, onion sets, and flowers**

Mustard Seeds

Along with their seed kits, families received mustard seeds — a message of God's love and an invitation to connect with the local church.

These seeds are more than just grain. They are a sign of care, support, and faith in the future.
Even in times of war, God remains near. He gives strength to sow, patience to wait, and hope for the harvest.

"Those who sow in tears shall reap with joy." (Psalm 126:5)

May the Lord bless your home, strengthen your heart, and bring peace and light in the midst of darkness.
We are praying for you. You are not alone.

What's Next?

The spring campaign is complete. We are now planning for autumn seed distribution and greenhouse support — reaching families before winter, so they can prepare, preserve, and provide.

Family Update: The Kovalenkos

"The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow."
Psalm 146:9

Embracing This Season

Earlier this year, we shared the story of the Kovalenko family — an adoptive family in Ukraine raising four children, three of whom are healing from trauma and neglect. You responded with generosity, helping meet their urgent need for critical home repairs, electricity and heat, and trauma therapy for the children. We are so glad to share this update: **because of your support, this family is now embracing a season filled with joyful milestones and faithful service.**

This spring, Halyna, 7, completed first grade, and the whole family celebrated her last day of school together. For most children, it's an exciting tradition — but for Halyna, who now knows the love and security of a family, it was a deeply meaningful moment. What may seem ordinary to many is something truly precious for a child who once lacked the stability every child deserves.

Now the children are enjoying summer camp while their parents, Aleksiy and Daryna, serve there as volunteers. For the Kovalenkos, this is more than ministry — **it is an opportunity to remain close to their children, who continue to heal from the trauma of abandonment.** Their presence, encouragement, and consistent love help the children feel safe and secure, while also allowing the family to serve other children who need care and hope.

As summer continues, the Kovalenkos are already preparing for the months ahead — planning for a new school year, gathering supplies, and getting ready for the challenges of the coming cold season.

Thank you for helping make this journey possible. **Your support is giving these children not only a home, but the stability, love, and everyday moments that help them heal and thrive.**

Program Spotlight: Summer Camps

More Than Just Summer

Something beautiful is happening this summer.

Across our partner network, children are spending their days at therapeutic summer camps — laughing, creating, and slowly learning to trust again. For many children with disabilities and from war-torn regions, it's the first time in a long time that summer has felt like what it's supposed to feel like: safe, full of wonder, and surrounded by people who see them.

But the camps aren't just for the children. Parents and foster parents are there too — learning, connecting with one another, and gaining practical tools to support children with disabilities at home. That support matters more than it might seem. **Children with disabilities represent a disproportionate share of children living in orphanages and institutions worldwide — not because their families don't love them, but because families often don't have what they need to say yes, or to keep saying yes when things get hard.**

When we walk alongside those parents, something shifts. The impossible starts to feel possible. **And children who might otherwise have entered or remained in institutional care get to stay exactly where they belong — in a family.**

These therapeutic camps run through early September, and there is still time to be part of what's happening this season. If you'd like to help a child heal, a parent gain confidence, or a family stay together, a gift today goes directly toward making that possible.

Summer is a season of growth and connection, and we're seeing both in abundance. Thank you for being part of what makes this possible. Every child healing at camp, every parent gaining confidence, every family staying together — that's your generosity at work.

Stay Connected — You Are Part of This

What you have just read is not a report. It is a window into lives that continue long after you close this email — children showing up to the day center, families tending their gardens, a mother heating her home for eight little ones, a pastor serving on the frontline while his wife holds the ministry together.

You are connected to all of it.

Ways to Go Deeper:

GIVE

Support summer camps, therapeutic groups, Autumn seeds, or greenhouse distribution. Every gift reaches a specific family in need through a trusted partner on the ground. Give →

PRAY

Join our prayer community and receive monthly prayer needs directly from Ukraine. Real names. Real situations. Real requests.
Sign up for prayer updates →

CONNECT

Receive our newsletter with field updates, stories, and results from our partners across Ukraine. Subscribe →

SHARE

Know a church, a small group, or a friend who would want to be part of this? Forward this letter. One conversation can open a new door of support for a family in Ukraine.

**"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."
— Galatians 6:9**

So grateful for you.

War destroys many things slowly
— safety, trust, stability, childhood.

But restoration also happens slowly, through faithful presence, consistent care, and people who refuse to look away.

Thank you for helping restore hope in Ukraine.

With gratitude,
Oksana, together with our partners in Ukraine

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