

## “A Life Forever Changed” Alexandra’s Story June 2013

**Life on the street was cruel to 8 year old Alexandra, but at least there her mother couldn’t beat her.** On the street, Alexandra found other children with similar stories to her own. Together, they made a home in an abandoned basement and vowed to take care of each other. They bathed by breaking a water pipe and fed themselves by stealing and begging. They forgot their pain by smoking and sniffing glue. Alexandra’s mother never once tried to find her. Watching some of her friends get sick and die caused this little girl to ask **“what will happen to me next?”**



*Without your help, children like Alexandra (second from left) and her friends may not be alive today.*

Fortunately for Alexandra, two years later a man named Roma rescued her from the streets and brought her to the safety of a foster family. Through the love of “Daddy Roma” and foster parents, this tough street kid turned into a tender young lady.

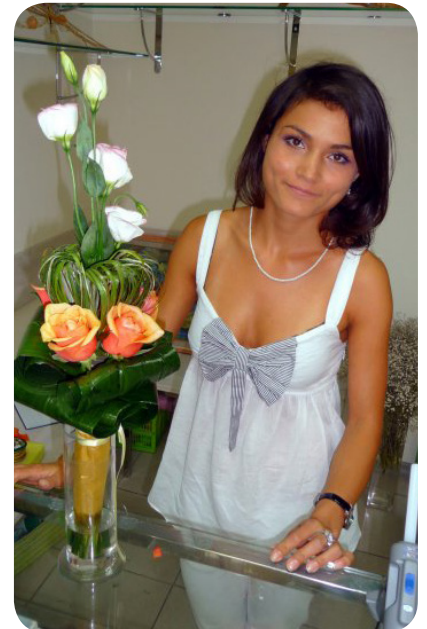
Now 22, Alexandra is a designer working in a flower shop. She specializes in photography and event decorating. She’s been happily married for three years and has a little boy. **Because she was welcomed by a loving family, she now has the skills and confidence to raise her own son in a happy, healthy home.**



*Alexandra, a former orphan, on her wedding day. The cycle of orphanhood stops with her and Roman. Thank you for caring for orphans like Alexandra!*

**“I could be an addict, a prostitute, “homeless,” or maybe I just would not have been alive.**

**Thanks to daddy Roma today I forgot about my past... I’m happy.”**



Thank you for helping transform the lives of orphans like Alexandra!

**\$39 a month places an orphan with an adoptive family in their home country.**

To make a donation:

- visit us at [doorwaystohope.org](http://doorwaystohope.org)
- or send a check to Doorways to Hope, PO Box 34628 # 37939; Seattle, WA 98124-1628



## More children have been adopted into the Bogdanovy family!



Last year your donations provided the Bogdanovy family with much needed furniture. **Since then they have officially adopted a group of three siblings**, to include Sveta (left). Here, Mom Anya tries to convince Sveta to share her bubbles with Keira and Bogdan.

Bogdan and Sveta (3) demonstrate that bubbles are a universal language for children.



Sasha (8) and Andrey (5) are the biological brothers of Sveta. What a blessing for these three children that they have been permanently adopted into the same family.

**Your support has helped make this possible!**



Bogdan (3), is the most recent foster child addition to the Bogdanovy family. Until the last several months, he lived in an orphanage for deaf children, though he is not deaf. This has affected his speech development, but he is quickly learning and is a sweet tempered little guy who loves to play with his foster brothers and sisters.

THANK YOU!

## More ways you have helped...



Thanks to you, 40 orphans went to summer camp in Kyrgystan!

*You provided the Apolkovy family with a new refrigerator. Some of their kids and neighbor friends show their excitement and gratitude.*

THANK YOU!

# What is life like for the “unadoptable” children in an orphanage?

## *Letter from Micala Siler (Executive Director)*

*(Micala is having some unique opportunities to travel with her family and live for short periods in Eastern Europe due to her husband's work in Eurasian embassies. Throughout this time she has met with current Doorways to Hope project partners in Ukraine and is exploring the possibility for projects in new nations, such as Lithuania and Latvia.)*

Dear Friends,

It broke my heart to see Arturos (photo right) so tenderly show love to my daughter Noelle and to know that he himself had not experienced the love of a family.

In April and May we lived in Vilnius, Lithuania. Noelle (now five months old), Keira (2 ½ years old) and I visited the Pabrade Orphanage, just outside the capital of Vilnius as part of an embassy outreach program. Most alarming to me was the number of teenage children who have lived in the orphanage most of their lives. From multiple sources we learned that **these children are viewed as “unadoptable”** because of their age, handicaps or they are part of a larger sibling group. The government puts little to no effort into resolving the status of their biological parents rights. **They neither return home to their biological families nor do they get adopted into a loving new family.**



*Victoria (6) is a sweet, lively little girl who longs for a loving family.*

## Meet Arturos: unadoptable because of his age



*Arturos (17) has lived in an orphanage most of his life. He was so loving with my little Noelle. Despite a noticeable limp, he says his favorite sport to play is basketball. **It saddens me that Arturos is viewed as “unadoptable” because of his age.***

Imagine hoping that your parents will come get you, or wishing that some loving family will adopt you as their own. Feel the pain, year after year, of knowing you have not been chosen. Knowing that as time passes, you are becoming less and less “desirable” to adoptive families, who are already scarce anyways.

This is the harsh reality for older orphans like Arturos. Arturos has lived at the orphanage most of his life. I couldn't help but wonder what he will do when he is too old to live at the orphanage. I told him that he was really good with little children, and he just kind of smiled and shrugged. I tried to imagine what it would be like for a boy like him to eventually have a marriage relationship and children of his own when he has never had the example of a mother and father in his own life.

### **BUT THERE IS HOPE!**

The good news is that caring people are making strides towards helping these children, **but they need your help!**

**Thank you for your generosity, and let's continue helping these precious children!**

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