



# PILGRIM REPUBLIC, UKRAINE

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PILGRIM REPUBLIC THROUGH SERVING ORPHANS WORLDWIDE!

Your gift continues to improve lives everyday. We wanted to send you an update of how your dollars are impacting the children served at Pilgrim Republic in the Ukraine.

Pilgrim Republic faithfully serves over a hundred children, who are long term residents. Children at Pilgrim come for many reasons, including death of a single parent, death of both parents, abandonment due to poverty, substance abuse and parents too ill to provide care. Since their establishment, more than 3,000 children have received social, medical, psychological, spiritual and legal support. These things could not happen without generous people like you!



## PILGRIM VILLAGE



Ukraine has entered its fifth year of war, and as a result, many have died or have been displaced. Pilgrim Republic is doing what it can to meet the needs of orphaned and abandoned children in their city, offering them immediate shelter, warmth, food and rehabilitation for those addicted to drugs while living on the streets.

The property, often referred to as "Pilgrim Village", now consists of 19 houses, a recreation center, several refugee homes for people displaced by the war, and a subsidiary farm for sustainability.

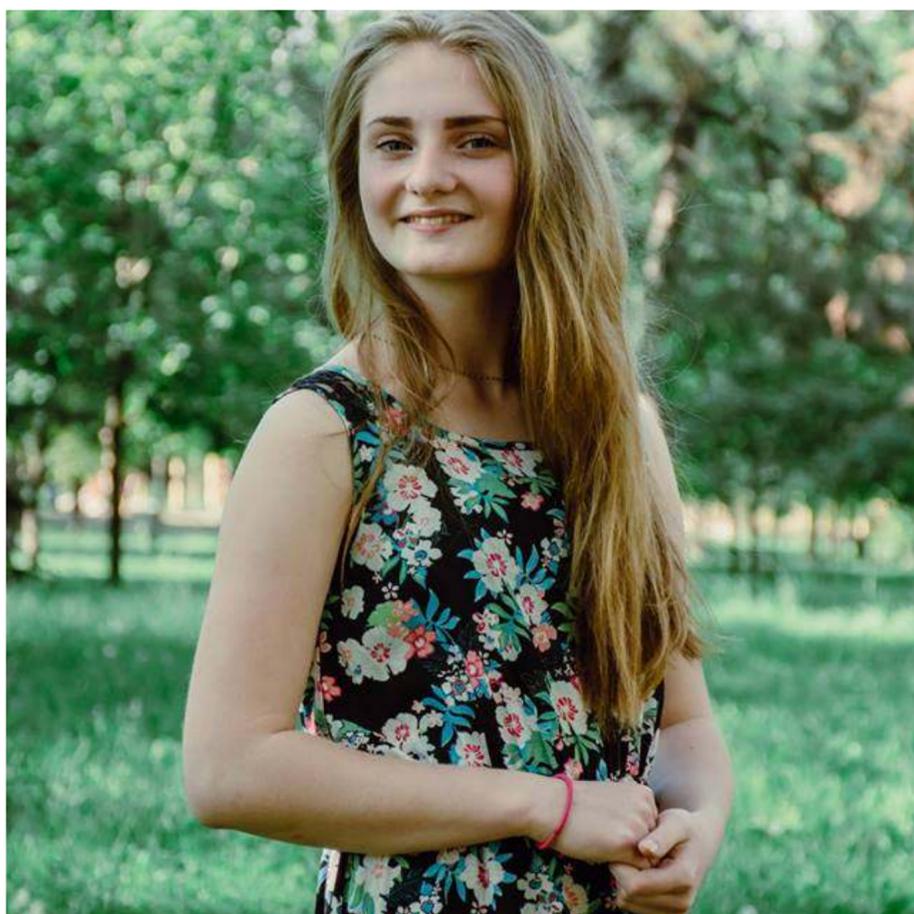
Pilgrim's growth in resources and capacity means better quality of life for the children living there.

## TEENS AT PILGRIM GRADUATE



Staff at Pilgrim recognize that for many of the adolescents who are about to complete high school, the transition can be complicated, and some do not have anywhere to go. Because of you, these adolescents are able to remain at the children's home until they enter secondary, specialized or higher educational institutions, or until staff can get their family situation resolved.

Recently, eight teens at Pilgrim officially passed their exams, received their certificates and will be moving on to their next phase in life. Among these graduates is a young girl named Tanya. She escaped the occupied town of Gorlovka and came to Mariupol, where she was alone and living on the streets. She was rescued and brought to Pilgrim. Since then, she has excelled socially and academically.



*"This year we can rightly be proud of our graduates, because among them are solid activists and the present future of our country. We want them to know that even though they are leaving our walls, that whatever comes their way, Pilgrim is their home. They can come in at any moment to chat, have tea, get support and inspiration. For the new generation of pilgrims who are leaving the walls of the children's republic, we wish new victories and a good decent path in life."*

*Tatiana Karpukhina, Director of the Central Republic of Pilgrim.*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please support us in prayer as staff at Pilgrim prepare for the beginning of the school year. They have some new children going to school for the first time and adjustment may be difficult for them.

Staff at Pilgrim Republic are beginning to collect and stockpile firewood to keep everyone warm as they approach the winter. Winters in Ukraine are long and hard-children are stuck inside, crops die and many get sick. Please pray for the health and well being of everyone at the home, and that they will be able to collect as much firewood as they need.



## ARTHUR'S STORY



Sukhov Arthur is an 11 year old boy who came to Pilgrim Republic Safe house and Children's Center two years ago. His mother suffered from substance abuse addiction, and had no permanent place of residence. Before he came to Pilgrim, he was not enrolled in school and was begging on the streets with his mother.

When Arthur arrived at Pilgrim, he could neither read nor write. He also had trouble with verbal communication, which caused a lot of fear and anxiety for him. Staff at the center worked with him daily, and as a result, he is now able to read, write, and speak confidently. Staff at the home say he has become such an open- hearted, playful, joyful boy who loves to dance and play soccer. His mother is currently attending the Pilgrim Rehab Center for Adults, with the hopes that she can overcome her addiction and be reunited with her son. Please keep this boy and his mother in your prayers!

## HOW ADVOCACY LED TO ADOPTION

Staff at Pilgrim Republic know that for many of the children who come through their doors, reunification is not an option. That is why part of their mission is to advocate on behalf of these children, by seeking out potential, caring, Christian families who can provide a loving home for them. They do this by using every platform they can to promote adoption and raise awareness about the orphan crisis in their city and around the globe.



Before Igor and Lyudmila Grechanovs were married, they had heard about the power of adoption and fostering through the many advocacy efforts put forth by Gennadiy Mokhnenko, founder of Pilgrim Republic Children's Safe house and Rehab Center. They immediately felt the Lord lay adoption on their hearts.

In 2012, they began to collect documents, and soon after, they adopted their first child. A year later, they welcomed another boy into the family, who required some special attention. Lyudmila decided to leave her job, so she could be fully engaged in raising her children.

Another year passed, and Lyudmila heard about two sisters and a little brother in her city who were left orphaned after their mother passed away. Without hesitation, the Grechanovs took them in, and adopted all three siblings. Their hearts were full, but always felt they could do more.

Today, the Grechanovs have officially upgraded their status to “family-type children’s home”, which allows them to take in additional children when needed, with the goal to help impact the orphan crisis in their community.

*“God created us to serve and care for someone, especially women and children. I asked God to fill the house with childish laughter, and He answered me in full.”*

*- Lyudmila Grechanovs*

**Without you, Pilgrim Republic could not continue to provide a safe, loving environment for vulnerable children in Mariupol, Ukraine.**

**From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.**