



15th Birthday Celebration

We had a fantastic 15th Celebration Dinner, Dance and Auction last year, and raised over \$14,000 sponsorship pre event, so that we could invite 200 guests for FREE. On the night we raised a further \$9000 towards the work

in Vladivostok. Whoopee! A huge thank you to all who helped us put on this event, to those who donated items or sponsorship and to ALL who came and enjoyed the evening with us and made purchases on the night.



Wow I can't believe it's been 15 years...

2014 saw us celebrating 15 years of being a Russian Registered Charity. A huge achievement especially considering that we have seen many other charities and organisations shut down and asked to leave Russia. Living Hope has been working by invitation of the local and state governments for a few years now and our latest project – Ark of Hope, works very closely with local centres and many of the girls we receive are referrals from Government organisations. The Russian team is headed by a local Director, Elena and she is doing a fabulous job of running the project in Russia, while I am based in New Zealand.

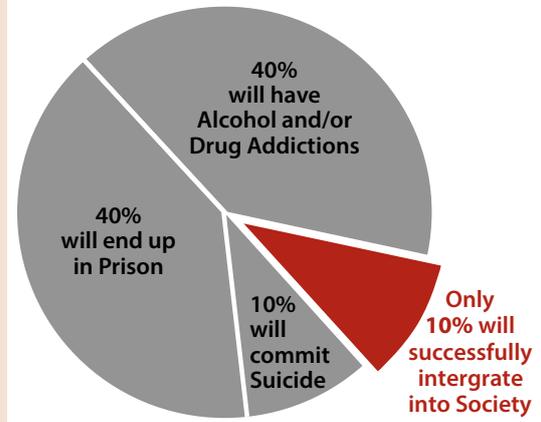


Our trip back to Vlad in September/October was rather emotional for me. We thought the building had sold so I was sorting files, folders and photos etc and basically re-experienced much of our history. There were many moments when someone walked into my office and found me with tears rolling down my cheeks as I relived and remembered the kids we have worked with over the years – some of whom are no longer with us and others who have their own Families now.

On a positive note, I also saw how many hundreds of lives we have touched and changed over the last 15 years.



Statistics:



Last year alone, 215 kids were abandoned by their Mothers. As you can see from the graph above the statistics show the horrific futures that most of these children will face. 90% of them will either commit suicide, end up in prison and/or develop serious drug and alcohol problems and with only a very small percentage 10% successfully integrating into society we hope that this work will help to secure safe and happy futures for at least some of these children.

Facebook quote by Rachael

This has been one of my greatest heartaches this time in Vladivostok - watching Kiera go through her surgeries for skin grafts. The day after her second operation I visited her in hospital and my heart broke seeing her sad little face screwed up in pain, and as a mother my heart broke for her mother Julia. I cannot imagine what it would be like to have to go through so much trauma with your child. Julia amazes me with her constant smile and enthusiasm in partaking in all that Living Hope has to offer her. I think she is the most 'positive' mother we have ever worked with. And I will be sad to say goodbye to her and her children on Friday when we leave to come back to New Zealand.



CASE FILE

Luda

Luda is one of our young mum's and is 20 years old now. She is an orphan and was raised in an orphanage with her younger brother until she was eight years old, when both her and her brother were taken into foster care. Because of her severe psychological and emotional issues, she was unable to bond with her foster family and after the age of 18 lost contact with them

Luda inherited a small one room bedsit where she lived while studying cooking at college until she discovered she was pregnant. Unfortunately her room is in such a state disrepair that it is unsuitable for a baby with no internal plumbing and is unheated. She was referred to Living Hope when she was five months pregnant

On 6th August of 2014 Living Hope took Luda in who was by now 5 months pregnant. Luda struggles



Luda and baby Mark

with emotional and psychological issues, we suspect alcohol foetal syndrome. Luda is learning to take responsibility for herself and chores in the centre and is also very creative and has been a great help with the kids craft classes.

Mark, her beautiful baby boy was born 6th of December 2014 and our Psychologist is working closely with Luda and is teaching her to look after him.

We have started the process of applying for housing when they will be ready to leave the centre.

News Bites

♥ We were able to employ an on staff Psychologist thanks to a grant from Caleb No.1 Trust to cover 12 months of wages.

♥ Although the building sale has not gone through at the time of printing - we are still hopeful that negotiations will be successful.

♥ The Catholic Nuns have invited our Mothers to participate in retreats where they will be able to work through their past traumatic experiences.

♥ Olive celebrated her 3rd birthday and was very proud of her Dora cake made by Mummy and Rachael is enjoying her new cake making hobby



♥ A big welcome to Lorraine our new office administrator who has taken over from Amanda, our best wishes to Amanda.

Living Hope Bed Appeal

All of our beds are old, broken and too narrow for the mothers to lie feeding their babies, they are basically camp beds, as you can see. We would love to buy all the mothers new beds to help alleviate their back pain.

We would like to get at least 6 king single size beds and linen to fit.

Please help us to do this by filling in and returning the form below or by going to our web site and using the donation button.



\$600 per king single bed / \$100 per set of linen

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Ph: _____

I am able to make a donation of \$ _____

Credit Card donations can be made at: www.livinghope.org.nz, please click on the DONATE button and Enter BED APPEAL in the Purpose field.

To donate via Internet banking: Living Hope Trust (NZ) ANZ 06-0193-0394121-00
Please use reference: BED APPEAL and your name as the code

Facebook Update:

Our new group, Living Hope – Friends who have made difference. The group was setup to publicly acknowledge and bring together all the amazing people who have had a positive influence and input into the lives of the thousands of children we have helped over the years.

If you have been a volunteer in Russia please add yourself to this group,
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/livinghopefriends>



If you would like to help the Living Hope team or any of the individuals featured in this newsletter financially or otherwise, please respond to: admin@livinghope.org.nz
For more information visit livinghope.org.nz

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Thank you from Rachael,
Durham and the kids of Vladivostok

