



Oleg, Charina, Sergey, Maxim, Katya, Ceejay

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Dear family and friends,

I am tickled pink to present our 2012 Newsletter. We made this just for you to thank you for all the miracles and support you've given to the cutie pies we help at Maya's Hope!

When I first visited an orphanage in the Philippines in 2008, my intention was to inspire and bring love to orphan children. After losing my mother, I had this desire to be with kids who just needed a little bit of hope in life. But what happened, is that these kids inspired me and I gained the most wonderful family in the world, including you!

We hope you enjoy reading these sweet stories and learning how you have improved their lives. With your generous support, Maya's Hope continues to unite people who bring love and hope to kids who need it most.

I can't thank you enough for loving these children who have touched my heart. These are our superstars.

Thank you for believing in them too!

— Maya Rowencak



▼ *Maya and kids from San Martin De Porres Orphanage, Philippines*



TO UKRAINE, WITH LOVE

Our Guardian Angel Sponsorship brings motherly love to children with special needs by hiring extraordinary women to take care of them!

(more on page 12)

Vanya ►



VISIT TO CUTIE PIES IN UKRAINE

Maya and Justine Stojowski made a surprise visit to the cutie pies and company at Kalinovka and brought an American Thanksgiving too!

(more on page 7)

MARGARITA'S HOPE



▲ Margarita

We launched a special sponsorship, inspired by a little girl named Margarita.

(more on page 2)

FINDING ALEX

Maya found Alex wandering in the market late one night, and he later became her official Superstar!

(more on page 8)



▲ Alex

A HAPPY ENDING

Lyosha is no longer at Kalinovka! The wonderboy with no arms and no legs was rescued by Julie! Where is he now?

(more on page 5)



▲ Logan, formerly known as Lyosha

COMMIT TO HOPE!

More than 250 friends – with Bravo TV stars Sonja Morgan, Amy Laurent, and Liz Margulies, along with Miss America 2013 Mallory Hynes Hagan – gathered in support of our superstars!

(more on page 12)

A CHRISTMAS REUNION

Maya flies to the Philippines for Christmas and joins Father Boyet Concepcion on a mission to save kids from the streets of Manila. *(more on page 9)*

INSIDE!

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▲ Margarita

Once upon a time, there lived a princess faraway. At birth, baby Margarita was given away.

She coughs, she fights, she lays in bed all day. While all the healthy kids laugh and play.

But what many do not know about this little flower is that this princess has the greatest magical power!

Her smile and laughter are what she can give. And because of her, other fragile cutie pies can live.

PUTIN BANS FOREIGN ADOPTIONS IN RUSSIA

President Vladimir Putin banned Americans from adopting Russian orphans, including those with special needs. Natasha Pisarenko, who is blind, wrote Putin an open letter pointing out that some children benefit from medical care not available in Russia.

Thankfully, adoption by foreigners is still possible in Ukraine.

Superstar Sergey is the big brother in the Happy Home and needs to be adopted by October 2013! Or else!... See page 6.

DID YOU KNOW?

- If you visit Ukraine, there are almost no wheelchair ramps.
- In 2012, 58 children with special needs were adopted in Ukraine. Of these, 56 were adopted by Americans, 1 by a Canadian, and 1 by a Ukrainian.
- The second Happy Home at Kalinovka will open in 2013!

WHY UKRAINE?

- 1991– Fall of Soviet Union, Ukraine becomes independent and is left with a weak economy.
- Today – 35% of the population lives below the poverty level
- Children with Down Syndrome are considered a "curse."
- Children with mental and physical disabilities are generally given up to state-run mental institutions.

KALINOVKA ORPHANAGE

Hidden in the desolate countryside, Kalinovka is a state-run facility on an old Amish farm in Zaporozhia.

The children have mental and physical disabilities. Most were abandoned at birth.

The fate of these children is to spend a lifetime in an institution, never to receive an education, be transferred to another institution, or worse... die.

VANYA, THE BOY WHO STOLE MAYA'S HEART

Little Vanya was the firecracker who happened to have Down Syndrome. Nothing could bring him down.

He was fearless and overflowing with love. He brought life to a place which would seem like the last place on earth for joy to exist.

He loved to be hugged and never let go of Maya's hand on walks.



VISIT TO CUTIE PIES IN UKRAINE

Maya Rowencak and Justine Stojowski flew to Ukraine to celebrate Thanksgiving with the children and staff at Kalinovka! Maya and Justine spent time with children in the Happy Home and other wards while documenting the conditions in order to find ways to improve them.

See page 7 for photos and thank yous!

UKRAINE'S FIRST HAPPY HOME OPENS IN 2012!

Albert Pavlov, founder of Happy Child Charity, is revolutionizing Ukraine's institutions through family-style homes. The Happy Home at Kalinovka houses 8 children and provides education and art activities. It is the first step toward a Happy Village. The second Happy Home is under construction!



▲ Artyom, Oleg and Maxim in the Happy Home

MARGARITA'S HOPE

Kalinovka receives both babies and children with tummy troubles. These children need special formula as their main source of nutrition, which is not in the budget for an orphanage.



▲ Margarita

Margarita's Hope provides funding for formula and therapy for bedridden children. This program was inspired by a princess named Margarita.

Margarita was abandoned by her parents because of her severe health problems. She is six, but you wouldn't have guessed that by looking at her size. Anastasia, who had the same condition passed away last November. Meanwhile, Margarita continues to fight to live, even though doctors dismissed her as a "disaster" from the child's birth.

Thanks to you, Margarita looks chubbier these days, compared to when she was first admitted to the hospital. She cannot digest food properly and receives nutrition through a tube in her nose.



▲ Michael & Maya at Commit To Hope

MAYA'S HOPE MONEY MAN: MICHAEL MELTZER

By: Michael Meltzer

As Treasurer of Maya's Hope, I balance the checkbook and keep track of legal documents, while Maya and her dedicated volunteers are out making a difference in kids' lives.

I've known Maya for years and when Maya told me the winter after her mother had passed that she was taking a trip to visit orphanages in the Philippines, her mother's home country, I thought it was a nice idea, despite it not being a typical vacation plan.

After that experience, I saw firsthand how Maya's priorities in life shifted. Back in NYC, she was running around like crazy trying to help these kids: collecting books, diapers, Band-Aids, toothpaste – aggregating as much as could fit in the box, spending her own money! I said to Maya, "You are doing all this work yourself for these kids – you are basically running a not-for-profit organization on your own and you are the sole source of funding!" Well, the rest is history.

My role in the organization is more administrative in nature, but when I get cards from my sponsor child, Princess Ericka, I can't even begin to tell you how it melts my heart. She calls me "Uncle Michael" just like my nieces and nephews do. I haven't met her in person, but she is so genuinely appreciative of my help. It feels really good to know that doing so little can mean so much to someone! Princess invited me to visit her in the Philippines. Maybe, one day, I will!

2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT of ACTIVITIES

REVENUES:

(For the year ended Dec. 31, 2012)

PUBLIC SUPPORT	
CASH	\$30,388
NON-CASH	\$7,284
INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)	\$11
FUNDRAISING EVENTS	\$20,195

TOTAL REVENUE \$57,878

EXPENSES:

PROGRAM SERVICES

GRANTS TO PHILIPPINES	
CASH	\$7,263
NON-CASH	\$7,184
GRANTS TO UKRAINE	
CASH	\$7,320
NON-CASH	–
TRAVEL	\$1,271
SHIPPING/POSTAGE	\$1,748
WIRE/COLLECTION FEES	\$862
MISCELLANEOUS	\$786

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES \$26,434

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE \$1,525

FUNDRAISING

DIRECT/EVENTS	\$7,534
INDIRECT	\$976

TOTAL FUNDRAISING \$8,510

TOTAL EXPENSES 36,469

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

BEFORE WRITE-OFF OF ASSETS \$21,409

WRITE-OFF OF ASSETS \$(100)

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$21,309

NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR \$3,138

NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR \$24,447

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

ASSETS, LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

(As of Dec. 31, 2012)

ASSETS

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS \$22,273

INVESTMENTS \$1,016

PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$1,158

TOTAL ASSETS \$24,447

LIABILITIES \$ –

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$24,447

SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

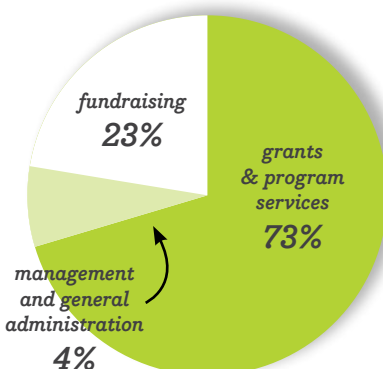
CONTRIBUTIONS \$57,867

INVESTMENT REVENUE \$11

TOTAL EXPENSES \$36,469

EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES \$21,409

ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES BY FUNCTION





▲ Our First Guardian Angel: Corbett Burick

Meet **Corbett Burick** from Illinois! After adopting **Vlad** from Ukraine to join her family with **Little Sy, Whitman** and her husband **Josh**, she decided to help the children at **Kalinovka** too. She is our first **Guardian Angel** sponsor!



▲ **Anna Blighton** from London is a **Guardian Angel** and sent handmade cards to **Sasha** at **Kalinovka** and **Maya**!



▲ **Shaun Budka**, owner of **Little Traveler**, donated sixteen boxes of clothing! We shipped them off to orphanages in the Philippines and Ukraine!



▲ Gary & Christina

Guardian Angel Gifts

Gary Mosleh from New York wrote: "My wife has been following you on Facebook and talks to me all the time about how she would like to visit the Ukraine and would love to hug the kids there."

For Valentine's Day he surprised his wife, **Christina**! Awww!

abc
LANGUAGES

ABC Language Exchange sponsored Russian classes for **Maya Rowencak** to help her communicate with kids at **Kalinovka**!

www.abclang.com

Special thanks to **Patricia Lambert Jorgensen** for spreading the word about **Maya's Hope** and being an advocate for our cutie pies at **Kalinovka** and in the Philippines!



▶ **Catherine James** from London sponsored a caregiver for a year and wants to start a chapter of **Maya's Hope** in the United Kingdom!

Julie Paperno is a huge fan of **Maya's Hope** and always sends words of encouragement. Julie is visually impaired, has six children, and always offers a hand!



Square Circle Muay Thai of New York City shares Maya's passion for Muay Thai and children! Owners **Robert DeVera Rogan & Beatrice Fiedorowicz** proudly support Maya's Hope and contributed \$2,000 to **Commit to Hope**!



▲ Damaris & Ethan

Ethan Cohen and **Damaris Vega** have been sponsoring **Jomar** from the Philippines since 2009! Ethan has been a huge fan of **Maya's Hope**. They send Christmas presents every year and Ethan is now joining our **Medical Advisory Board**!



▶ **Ashlee Beck**, a **Margarita's Hope** formula sponsor, is adopting two children from Bulgaria on top of the six kids she has. *(You're our hero!)*



▲ **Olga** is a **Maya's Hope Super Momma**! She taught bedridden **Varya** how to walk. "She cried a lot after her first days in **Kalinovka**. She felt pity because of the children's appearance, but now she just loves them." - *Mariya Syemashkina, Happy Child Charity*

An Ordinary Miracle

Lyosha, the wonderboy without arms and legs at Kalinovka was magically swept away... Julie Vilardo spent two weeks at Kalinovka and brought him home to Ohio. He is now Logan!



▲ Julie and Logan at Kalinovka in Ukraine

Before they left Ukraine, Logan was sad because they went to the Embassy instead of a place he could get new legs. So, his new sister cheered him up by modifying a Pringles can for his leg. "He's so cute with it. He keeps it with our shoes and puts it on when we go out," says Julie.

"Logan is going to school full time. He seems to enjoy it. Yesterday was his first day to ride the bus. We have a teen friend who gets him off the bus and gives him a snack and naps until I get home an hour later. The bus driver told her there was a little mishap... She forgot to strap the wheelchair in, and it toppled over. So we asked Logan about this. He was hysterical, talking furiously in his language, showing us what happened.



▲ Logan's Pringle Can shoe in Kiev, Ukraine

Shaking his body back and forth spinning in a circle and falling over yelling 'oopa.' Fortunately he wasn't hurt. It had us in tears laughing because each time he showed a sibling he got more animated.

Logan is practicing to stand and has a pair of legs. What a determined kid! He's our superhero!" – Julie ■

Watch Logan blossom on Julie's blog!
www.offtoservehim.blogspot.com



▲ Logan and his new legs in Ohio!

Guardian Angels to Kalinovka Cutie Pies

Chersteen Anderson, Ashlee and Paul Beck, Sally Bellinger, Anna Blighton, Mary Blihar, Alex Bliss, Corbett Burick, Monika Ciecka, Kat Dudina, Deanna and Lou Galgano, Steve Gavin, Catherine James, Barbara Kennedy, Vivek Kovivalla, Tara Morgan, Christina Mosleh-Trunzo, Maria and Ramon Rivera, Janet Smith, Amy Swindle, Lorna Vassallo, Julie Vilardo, Amy Viray, Daneille Vrtar

Thanks to you all, we have hired 5 caregivers and have formula and funds for medical emergencies!

Become a Guardian Angel too!
hugs@mayashope.org

Doctor! Doctor!

We are starting a **Medical Advisory Board!** Welcome **Dr. Ethan Cohen** and **Dr. Amit Manhas!**

We ♥ Mariya

Thank you **Mariya Syemashkina** for providing us with photos, videos and updates on the cutie pies!

▼ Silly Oleg with serious Mariya



Thank you VOLUNTEERS

Albert Pavlov, founder of Happy Child, remains a strong partner with Maya's Hope and picked up Maya and Justine from the train station early in the morning and drove them to Kalinovka. Albert is family!

Deanna Galgano and Daneille Vrtar started Crowdise fundraising pages for doctors and formula.

Monika Ciecka set out on a mission to help find doctors in Ukraine to help Margarita.

Kat Dudina is our in-house Ukrainian advisor and main translator. She Skypes with our caregivers and transcribes our calls!

Yulia Chernigova, Tamara Klioutchnikov, Olga Ten, and Ruslan Klassen translate technical, medical and simple documents.

Natasha Martisova, co-owner of In Your Pocket City Guides, Ukraine helped organize the annual trip to Ukraine, bought train tickets, set up internet for the cell phones, and opened her home in Kiev to Maya and Justine.

Justine Stojowski was Maya's Hope's official photographer for Visit to Cutie Pies in 2012. **Andrew Dutkowsky** photo edits and sends photos to print to be mailed out to sponsors.

Do you want to volunteer or fundraise for Maya's Hope? Email: info@mayashope.org!

SUPER SERGEY

Sergey turns 16 on October 24, 2013. When he first arrived at Kalinovka, he had no use of his legs, so he was given a metal chariot. Turns out... his lost legs triggered supernatural powers.



DANCIN' SERGEY

A boy in a wheelchair can't dance? Or does he have the moves like Jagger?

SUPERHUMAN WILL

Born without the use of his legs, thrown into a mental institution, and abandoned by his family, Sergey only became stronger! Despite this, Sergey is gentle, kind, wise, curious, and seriously lovable!



HANDS OF CREATIVITY & STRENGTH

Sergey loves to create things with his hands. He loves to paint and to create art with his hands. Sergey even helps out on the farm!



"I like to sculpt from clay: recently I've made a teddy bear. I'm beadworking. I like when somebody brings sweets. Also I like to study and learn new letters and numbers. If you want I can count for you? One, two, three..." – Sergey

But don't let his creative side fool you! He's got super strong hands!

"When we high-fived, he would smack my hand so hard that I would wince in pain... and he would feel bad, but then glorious... because he in fact was strong." – Maya



HEART OF GOLD

Sergey cried for Nastia, a volunteer who visited Kalinovka. Maya teased him so much that he started laughing and got over the pain of losing his beloved Nastia. He is a charming, hopeless romantic. Maya started calling him "Cassanova".

"They painted in the colouring books and then he painted on the other side of the paper a woman's face and wrote

'Mama.' He dreams about his own family all the time."
– Mariya Syemashkina

CONTAGIOUS SMILE AND LAUGH

Sergey is a happy kid. He shares his stories excitedly, whether you can understand him or not. Sergey taught Maya how to say "I love you" in Russian. "Ya looloo tibia." When Julie visited Kalinovka to adopt Logan, Sergey appointed himself her interpreter.

SERGEY'S GAZE

He has the uncanny ability to pierce your defenses. With his brown eyes, he disarms you with honesty and love. He can tell stories with just his eyes.

A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Once considered "retarded," the State decided to banish him from society. But the staff later discovered that besides his physical disability, nothing was wrong with him mentally.

"If only he could study in special group, or better still be in family! He has potential!" – Sergey's teacher

"Sergey is so bright, he is amazing! He loves gadgets and computers and is a typical boy like that! He managed to get into my camera bag (even though it was high on a cupboard) and took my mobile phone apart! He was truly mortified when he couldn't get it back together and was so sorry... he came straight to me very shamefaced and repentant." – Julie Vilardo, who adopted Logan from Kalinovka

ARCH-NEMESIS

Sergey is mobile with his wheelchair, but he can never go as fast as he would like without someone else pushing behind him and running.

But nothing will stop him, especially with this custom "hand" bike! However, there is one force pushing him, while also working against him. When Sergey turns 16, the State will close his door for adoption forever. Children who age out of the system either spend the rest of a short life in a mental institution for adults, as a statistic, or simply give up on life.



SERGEY THE PHILOSOPHER

After one outing, the boys sang and said 'Thank You' on our way back. Only Sergey said sadly, 'We have to come back to the orphanage again.' Sergey asked about my family, namely if I was married.

He is one of the brightest and most talkative boys, but he could not understand my sense of humor. I told him my so-called husband 'overate pears' and vanished (a Russian expression for someone who leaves you suddenly) and he replied that my husband should not have eaten so many pears.



Then Sergey asked me to say Hi to my family for him. He asked me what I wanted to receive as a souvenir from him. I replied 'Time.'

Sergey turned towards Valya (Maya's Hope caregiver) and asked her 'Valya what time is it now?' And then he looked straight into my eyes and said, 'I have given you my greeting and presented you time. What else do you need?!' – Mariya Syemashkina

What else do we need?" ■

Follow Sergey on
facebook.com/mayashope



We celebrated **Thanksgiving** with the children from the **Happy Home** and staff from **Kalinovka**.

Special thanks to: Alina Lerman, Matthew Berritt, Big Bird, Patricia Biswanger, the Blihar family, Kat Dudina, Adam Esses, Irine Lelchitskaya, Jayson Littman, Dmitry and Stella Koltunov, Dave Kovach, Michael Meltzer, the Morgan family, Anya Page, Maribeth Remulla Mejia, Richard Rubenstein, Beth Spinner, Lorna and Andy Vassallo, Elena Vereshchak, Julie Vilardo and Danielle Vrtar.



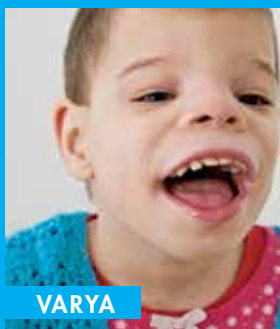
RUSLAN



MAYA & NIKITA



YURA



VARYA



ANZHELA & JUSTINE



ILYA



MAXIM



MAYA, MARIYA & IGOR



KOLYA



NASTIA



RUSLAN



YEGOR



ALEX, ★★ MY LITTLE SUPERSTAR!

By: Maya Rowencak

“Alex!!!!” I ran and hugged him. As I held him, he fought back tears.

I first met Alex when he was seven. He grew up in Bethlehem, and it was the only home he knew.

He had a big head and tiny frame. He was always dancing, singing, and trying to get Ate Maya's attention. (“Ate” means “big sister” in Tagalog) I thought he was annoying until I stopped myself and said,



“What’s wrong with you Maya?! He just wants your attention.”

He spoke English fearlessly. Others huddled in groups, but Alex would run over, hold my hand and give me the biggest smile. He was so smart. I was hopeful he’d become “somebody” some day.

Two years later, I returned to Bethlehem looking for the Alex I missed, but the boy I found was quiet and withdrawn. When I tried to take a picture, he wouldn’t smile. Maybe he didn’t remember me. Maybe Alex had grown up. In the days after, I found it strange I never saw him at Bethlehem again.

Late one Friday night, I was out at the market to buy 100 slippers for kids in Norzagaray. As I walked home, there he was!

“Alex! What are you doing out by yourself?” I saw sad, vacant eyes.

“Did you eat?” I shook him.
“Alex, kainan?” (“Let’s eat” in Tagalog.)



He looked down and shook his head.

“What do you want to eat?”
(Silence.) “ALEX!” I yelled.
“Burger”, he whispered.

I led him by the hand. He ordered a double burger with cheese and egg and I gave him an orange. Finally, he opened up.

His foster “mother” sold coffee. Instead of staying with her, he preferred to be alone. I saw Alex as a child punishing himself.



After a few bites, he carefully tucked away his burger and orange into his pockets. I looked down. His slippers were worn and too big. I bought him slippers. Realizing it was late, I asked him to take me to his mother, then I would take him home.

We walked past slaughtered cows which hung like laundry. Stray cats feasted on guts and rotten vegetables. Karaoke machines blasted. Alex was numb to it all. But, he never let go of my hand.

Alex’s shack was right across the street outside Bethlehem. It must’ve felt terrible seeing it every day. Behind a flimsy board, he showed me the 8x8 floor he slept on with six others. I told Alex to come to Bethlehem tomorrow. I wanted terribly to bring him back. I hugged and kissed him and told him to sleep.

“The greatest love is to love and be loved in return.”

Closing the heavy gate of the orphanage behind me, I heard “Ate Maya!” and ran to peek. He whispered, “Thank you.” I said “Go to sleep! Go home! I love you.” He responded, “I love you too.” He turned around and walked home.

I learned that Alex was transferred to a foster family for breaking rules, fighting, pulling girls’ hair, and rejecting authority. He became jealous of children who went home to families during Christmas.

When he was younger, he often dressed up like a girl. Children called him “*bakla*” (“gay” in Tagalog). I also found out he had been molested.

His behavior suddenly made sense. I remember being bullied by others and turning around to lash out at my mom. But Alex suffered worse. He was alone and even orphanages rejected him. He had nothing to soothe his pain and no one to show him he mattered. Before I left, I begged Leila, the administrator at Bethlehem, to find him an orphanage to welcome him back.

When I visited San Martin Orphanage last Christmas, I didn’t know what to expect. My fear was that Alex would have forgotten me. When I got out of the car, I screamed “ALEX!” I told him how much I missed him. I asked, “Who am I?” He whispered, “Ate Maya.” I hugged him tighter.



▲ *He loved seeing this Christmas tree and urged me to take pictures*

Fr. Boyet allowed Alex to come with us to Manila. In the car, I kept my arm around him while he gazed outside. Alex felt special. It was a luxury to be out and see “normal” life.

When we arrived, he stuck close. Tondo is a living hell, a garbage dump where people scurry desperately to survive. I was a foreigner, and Alex never let go of my hand. He was fearless and acted like my bodyguard.

At lunch, Alex sat patiently and never asked or grabbed. I offered

him a hamburger, and just like that night in the market, he took only one bite and wrapped it up.

By the time we got back, it was dark. Alex picked up a puppy and Fr. Boyet fetched dinner. That Christmas, Alex had a family, and I was happy Fr. Boyet loves him dearly.



▲ *Alex and Fr. Boyet Concepcion*

Even though I’m on the other side of the world, Leila told me that Alex always asks her when she visits San Martin, “*When is Ate Maya coming back?*”

We’ll always remember how we found each other in the market that late night and I promised him we would never lose each other ever again.

The greatest love is to love and be loved in return.

I sponsor Alex through Maya’s Hope. He’s my superstar. ■

To sponsor a superstar like Alex, email hugs@mayashope.org.



Bea
was first
sponsored
in 2011!

Thanks to **Hailey Myziuk** and **Joshua Maddox** from Michigan, Bea has been given the opportunity of a lifetime: *education and a future!*

Bea doesn’t worry about having school supplies, food, books, or shoes on her feet. *Look at how beautiful her smile is today!*



**Become a
hero, sponsor a
child like Bea!**

hugs@mayashope.org



Lotus scholarship

Be a Hero and change the life of a child for \$1 a day!
To sponsor a child like Ryan, email hugs@mayashope.org!

◀ *Meet Ryan! Ryan arrived at Bethlehem malnourished, unable to walk or talk. Thanks to his sponsor, Rhonda Haro of New Jersey, Ryan is eating three meals a day and attends school.*

WHY THE PHILIPPINES?

When Maya visited the Philippines in 2008, she was shocked to see how many of the children lived. They were malnourished, barefoot, hungry, selling flowers and rags in the streets... and instead of forgetting those kids, she believed they deserved a fighting chance.

IMPROVE NUTRITION, IMPROVE IN SCHOOL

Malnutrition is not just a child's problem. It is a community problem. It increases every child's risk of malaria, diarrhea, and other illnesses. It affects development, school attendance and performance, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Improving nutrition is the single most effective form of aid.

Your sponsorship with Maya's Hope gives children the nutrition they need and the support to go to school.

BETHELEHEM AND MAYA'S HOPE TO THE RESCUE!

Bethlehem nurses malnourished children back to health and provides food, medicine, clothing, and shelter. Bethlehem social workers, Nurse Elvie, and volunteers visit poor children in remote villages where Maya's Hope supports kids with food, medicine, clothes, school supplies, and other things needed for a happy, healthy childhood. In the remote village of Norzagaray, the children live in makeshift huts with no running water, electricity, or toilets.

Maya's Hope helps these children who need it most, thanks to loving sponsors!

MEET OUR PARTNERS:



▲ Fr. Boyet, Maya and Leila

LEILA FERNANDO - TOLOSA

Leila has been working at Bethlehem since 2000 and has collaborated with Maya Rowencak since 2009. She is a daily inspiration not only to the kids at Bethlehem, but also to Maya. A congenital defect found in 1984 led to a broken femur, hospitalization, and eventually the loss of her left leg. With Fr. Boyet, she was able to overcome her physical and emotional pain and went on to join Bethlehem in 2000. Four years later, she was struck by a drunk driver and suffered a shattered right arm. Despite these setbacks, her commitment to Bethlehem has never wavered. Leila's dedication to the children of Bethlehem inspires us every day and provides a daily example of how to overcome obstacles.

FR. BOYET CONCEPCION

Fr. Boyet founded Bethlehem House of Bread and San Martin de Porres Home for Children. He is currently building a home in

the slum area of Tondo in Manila. He envisions a loving home which provides shelter, education and practical skills. Most street children of Tondo suffer from malnutrition and are vulnerable to drug use and prostitution. Fr. Boyet hopes to protect kids from these dangers and provide them with love and hope.

Maya's Hope wants to provide these children with the love and support they need to grow into happy, healthy, productive adults.



▲ Children on the street in Manila.

WHAT THE POOR CHILDREN EAT

Unfortunately, street children and children from poor families do not have fruits or vegetables in their diet. Instead, they have:

- instant ramen
- rice
- salty condiments
- scraps discarded from restaurants

Many families need to share a single cup of rice every day. Canned food is a luxury.

Maya's Hope is fighting to get kids out of the cycle of poverty.

◀ Michelle, Maila and Michaela are Maya's Hope Princesses!



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2012 DONORS

\$1,500 AND ABOVE

Shaun Budka
Catherine James
Barbara Kennedy
Michael Meltzer
Maya Rowencak
Julie Vilardo

\$1,000 TO \$1,499

Corbett & Joshua Burick
Beatrice Fiedorowicz
& Robert DeVera Rogan
Victor Gao
Rob Lyons
Janet Smith
David Samuel
Tocqueville Asset Management

\$500 TO \$999

Ashlee & Paul Beck
Matthew Berritt
Anna Blighton
Marietta Daly
Garan Inc.
Rachel Glazer
Jaila Graham
& Stephen Sorbaro
Christopher Pegram
Maribeth Remulla
& Pedro Mejia
Kevin Ruth

\$250 TO \$499

Sally Belinger
David Cohen
& Lindsey Page
Yale Cohen
Kathleen Carolan
Stella Dogot
& Dmitry Koltunov
Adam Esses
Jeffrey Feinman
Lawrence & Cynthia Fields
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Special thanks
TO OUR SUPERSTAR
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Smurf Love to Hailey Myziuk of
Snow & Ivy for this newsletter which
is a labor of love for the cutie pies!

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▲ Matthew Berritt, Amy Laurent, Maya Rowencak, Sonja Morgan, Mallory Hagan
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OUR FIRST FUNDRAISER WAS A SUPERSTAR SUCCESS!

Maya's Hope held its first major FUN-raiser, *Commit to Hope*, on November 28, 2012 at Soigne K boutique on Madison Avenue in NYC. This event, co-hosted by Commit2Change, was a HUGE success! We raised \$13,387.11 for Maya's Hope! With over 250 people in attendance, we had people begging us to let them buy tickets for this sold out event!

We were treated to wonderful cocktails and hors d'oeuvres provided by **Robbins Wolfe Eventeurs**, music by **DJ Brenda Black**, a sensational silent auction, and a super cool pop-up portrait studio for our guests, by the talented Amber De Vos and her team at **A. De Vos Photo, Inc.** We are so fortunate to have amazing Bravo stars who support us and believe so strongly in what we do, including our special guest **Sonja Morgan** of "Real Housewives of New York City", as well as **Liz Margulies** of "Gallery Girls", and **Amy Laurent** of "Miss Advised" who attended our event. And how can we forget **Miss America 2013 Mallory Hytes Hagan!!!** Of course, we couldn't have pulled all this off without our celebrity PR guru **Matthew Berritt**! Now the pressure is on to have an even more successful event in 2013!



"Anything to do with the well-being of children, be it in America or across the globe, is going to be important to me and I couldn't do anything but show my support and be here."

— Mallory Hagan, Miss America 2013,
at Commit to Hope

Image courtesy of A. De Vos Photo, Inc.

YOU ARE A SUPERHERO!

Words can't express how grateful we are for your support. Thank you for believing in the children and Maya's Hope. You are making miracles happen. You are our superheroes.

Batman was an orphan who turned into a superhero and saved a city in the comic books... But the real superheroes in this world are those who fight to help kids who have no one else to fight for them.



▲ Zhenya with Raisa. Little Zhenya passed away suddenly in November 2012.

MAYA AND HER UKRAINIAN "MOMMAS"

"After my first visit to Kalinovka, all I wanted is for these children to feel loved. A year later, we hired 5 caregivers and even though I can't be there all the time, I know these kids are getting hugs and love.

Thank you Raisa, Valya, Sophie, Olga and Lilya for loving these cutie pies!" – xoxo Maya



▲ Nanay Rose cares at Bethlehem House of Bread

A MOTHER'S LOVE AT AN ORPHANAGE

Even though many of the children we help are abandoned and orphaned, we have amazing women who love these kids as their own... and that's Maya's Hope!

BECOME A HERO TODAY

MAYA'S HOPE

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Maya's Hope is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to helping cutie pies around the world.