

Giving Children in Need a Fighting Chance

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 •

Issue 3

















HERMELINA

IGOR

SAIREL

IIKITA

VANYA

MAXIM

KYAN

Dear Maya's Hope Supporters,

It is our third year and I'm happy to say we are spreading love and glitter around the world! Thanks to your support and our tireless efforts, orphans with special needs in Ukraine who once were neglected now have amazing caregivers and access to medical care. Meanwhile, children living in extreme poverty in the Philippines can focus on their school and have improved immensely in school due to sponsorship.

We continue to find new ways to improve the lives of the children, with a focus on medical needs. Improving the overall health and well-being of the children is our top priority!

Thanks to you, friends and supporters, we are proving to the world that these kids are superstars and deserve a fighting chance!

Each and every child we help now realizes his or her value because of you. And some of our orphan superstars are now getting adopted thanks to people spreading the news of the kids we feature!

Maya's Hope is making miracles... Thank you for believing!

Hugs, Maya Rowencak

Founder and President Maya's Hope

Maya

In 2013, Maya's Hope raised more than \$100,000 to run ongoing programs in Ukraine and the Philippines. We currently sponsor 90 children, provide care for 60 orphans with special needs, and fund life-saving surgeries.

WHO WE ARE

Maya's Hope is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in New York City.

Maya's Hope improves the quality of life and provides special care to impoverished, abandoned, and orphaned children. Through direct care, support, and education, we seek to give them hope for a better future and give kids a fighting chance against poverty, disease, and neglect in institutions.

WHAT WE DO

EDUCATION

Through sponsorship, we provide opportunity and hope to children who wish to break the cycle of poverty and achieve great things. We provide food, basic necessities, school supplies, books, and anything the kids need in order to excel.

MEDICAL CARE

Through our partners, we arrange necessary treatment for any medical emergencies, including surgeries. We also provide medical check-ups to maintain the health and well-being of each child.

NUTRITION

Due to extreme poverty, many children are malnourished. We make sure that children receive three healthy meals a day.

LOVE

For all the cutie pies in our care, many of whom are orphans, we do our absolute best to make them feel secure, happy, and loved. Through our caregivers and massage therapists, we are able to provide loving care for orphans.

TEAM

Maya Rowencak, Founder and President Levin Ng, Assistant to Maya Rowencak

Emi Nakajima, Webmaster

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Cohen

Genevieve Gimbert

David Kovach

Robert Lyons Michael Meltzer Maya Rowencak

UKRAINE

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

2 life-saving surgeries

6 caregivers

2 massage therapists

60 **happy** orphans with special needs

WHY UKRAINE?

- Children with special needs are considered a "curse" and parents are often encouraged to give up their children to state institutions.
- The Ukrainian economy is on the verge of bankruptcy and cannot provide sufficient support to orphanages.

WHAT IS KALINOVKA?

Hidden in the countryside on an old Amish farm, Kalinovka is a state-run institution that is the home for children and men with mental and physical disabilities.

Since Maya's Hope and Happy Child collaborated in 2010, the lives of children at Kalinovka have drastically improved. Children receive more personalized care and medical access.

Since pictures and videos shared by Maya's Hope have gone viral, 5 children have been adopted. Prior to 2011, no child was ever adopted from this institution.

UKRAINE'S SECOND HAPPY HOME OPENS IN 2014

Founded by Albert Pavlov, Happy Child Charity, has built two family-style homes at Kalinovka. Each home houses 8 children with special needs, one for boys, and the new one for girls!

Maya's Hope will be hiring more caregivers for these homes!

To learn more about becoming a Guardian Angel, visit mayashope.org!

DOES UKRAINE ALLOW AMERICANS TO ADOPT? YES.

Despite the ban of adoption to foreigners in Russia since December 2012, Ukraine has its doors open to Americans.

WHO IS MARGARITA?

Margarita is our princess. She is a social orphan who has lived on formula since birth. Doctors in Ukraine considered her a "catastrophe." In court, her mother waived her parental rights and Margarita now has the chance to be adopted. While this little girl has captured the hearts of many, we hope she captures the heart of a family to call her own.





Once upon a time, there lived a princess far away.

Born with little strength, Margarita was given away.

All alone in her crib, she coughs and lays in bed.

But we send her formula so she is well fed.

To help her fight atrophy, we sent her a friend.

With massage therapy, Sasha helps her body mend.

Margarita is no longer alone in this big world

And we will keep watch over our little girl.



BECOME A LOTUS

A Lotus helps nurture and grow Maya's Hope. As a Lotus, you support Maya's Hope programs so our children can blossom.



RED LOTUS \$500 - \$999/mo





WHITE LOTUS
Up to \$99/mo



Help cutie pies BLOSSOM!

SUPER SERGEY

Sergey turned 16 on October 24, 2013. The boy who had dreamed of a "mama" and drew pictures of her, finally got his wish! His adoptive parents Karen and Wesley Blake had filed the paperwork in the nick of time to save our "Superman."

Just like Superman, Sergey will be adopted.







DID YOU KNOW?

If not adopted by the age of 16 in Ukraine, an orphan with special needs will spend the rest of his life in a mental asylum.

BE A SUPERHERO AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Lotus

Help Maya's Hope bloom by becoming a Lotus! As a Lotus, you support Maya's Hope programs. Starts at \$10 a month!



Guardian Angel

Be a Guardian angel and provide loving and compassionate caregivers for Ukrainian orphans. Orphans with special needs live in a supportive family environment, receive an education and acquire basic life skills. Starts at \$30 a month!



Margarita's Hope

This sponsorship funds formula, emergency surgeries, doctors' visits, gas for transporting children, massage therapy, and any medical care. This is inspired by a little girl named Margarita who has fought against all odds. Starts at \$30 a month!



The Pay It Forward College Fund

Maya's Hope gives exceptional students the opportunity of a college education. They are the first in their family to attend college. Education is the saving measure for these kids.



Sponsor a Child

You give impoverished children opportunity and hope. Your sponsorship pays for school fees, school supplies, transportation to school, uniforms, food, vitamins, and medical treatment. We require that children maintain a minimum average of B. Starts at \$30 a month!



Emergency Medical Fund

You can save a child's life by providing funding for medical needs for children in the Philippines.

BE A FUN-RAISER FOR CUTIE PIES!

Want to host your own fun-raiser? Join Crowdrise! www.crowdrise.com/mayashope Host a Party, Bake Sale, T-shirt Sale, and more! Email info@mayashope.ora

SAVING PRIVATE IGOR

Igor is one of our toughest little cutie pies. He has fought some of the greatest battles – including hydrocephalus, atrophy, and loneliness. Igor won't give up and we're committed to making sure he wins his battle! (We love his smile too much!)

Igor had a life saving surgery that was funded by Maya's Hope in June 2013. To make sure he received post-surgery care, we hired a caregiver to give specialized attention to help rehabilitate him and give care to other orphans in his ward.

Igor is doing well and he's learning to walk with his walker. Before his surgeries, we hardly saw Igor smile. Now, his smile is contagious! He's a favorite with the ladies.

Look at that smile!



Igor and his caregiver, Artem



Igor as a bedridden child at Kalinovka in 2012



Igor walking independently



Mariya, Igor (left) & Vanya (right)

Special thanks to Mariya Syemashkina, who manages the programs of Maya's Hope, and loves the cutie pies!

FROM UKRAINE WITH LOVE TO THESE SUPERSTARS



Amy Swindle Georgia, USA loves glitter and the cutie pies!



Heather Waits
Georgia, USA
Mother of three, her
daughter is a Maya's
Hope super fan,
Heather loves
Natasha and Yulia
at Kalinovka.

Kayleigh Bloom Illinois, USA
Kayleigh and Christian plan on
adopting from Ukraine. Kayleigh
inspires, offers advice, makes videos
and promotes Maya's Hope. She is also
a Guardian Angel.



Keshia Melton

New Zealand
"I decided to become a
Maya's Hope sponsor
because these sweet,
beautiful children on the
other side of the world

have stolen my heart and I want them to have the life they deserve."

Keshia makes videos, fundraises, and will be the first Maya's Hope volunteer to go to Ukraine.



The Burick Family
Illinois, USA
Corbett and Joshua
Burick have four
children, one of whom,
was adopted from

Ukraine. They were our very first Guardian Angel sponsors!

Anya Page London, United Kingdom is committed to helping grow Maya's Hope!

Vilardo Family *Ohio, USA*Julie Vilardo adopted Logan from
Kalinovka and is a Guardian Angel!

The Beck Family Texas, USA
Ashlee and Paul Beck, adopted two
children from Bulgaria. She and her
husband Paul have 8 children. 4 children
have special needs.





A DREAM IS A WISH YOUR HEART MAKES

By Maya Rowencak



There is a little boy in Ukraine who spends most of his time in a crib. Whenever he goes into the playroom, he picks up Mickey Mouse. Mickey didn't just bring him joy, Mickey brought him hope.

He is quiet and less active than the other

children and sits still like a statue. He wears sweaters with sewn up cuffs so he can't chew his hands. He consumes his food by sucking it through an old rubber nipple attached to an old beer bottle.



He seems unnoticeable and never begs for attention. He swings in the toddler swing and smiles. He never talks or makes noises, but his smile is golden. He is already 10 years old and lives in a mental institution.





Nikita is cute like a doll. He has gorgeous, long dark eyelashes, a sweet smile, and you want to hug him.

One afternoon, I took him out with the "big boys." Due to his weak heart, he couldn't be too active and so I sat down and cud-

dled him. In that moment, I realized how much Nikita had a hold on me. It was like staring at the face of an angel. I wanted to take him home, but of course, I could not. When I returned, an email arrived. It read: "Nikita is going to die. He has a weak heart. He needs an operation. If he has the operation, he may die. If he doesn't have the operation, he may die."

He had typical congenital heart defects from having Down Syndrome. It was just a matter of time.

I prayed for a miracle. Then one day, a woman named Monica contacted me about adopting Nikita. Whatever questions, concerns or worries Monica had, I answered. If I didn't know, I looked for the answer. Monica was "Nikita's Hope."



"Can you get a Mickey Mouse shirt and send it to Nikita?" she asked. I went to the Disney Store in Times Square to get Nikita his shirt.

Months later, a message arrived: "We're approved to adopt Nikita."

A miracle.

Finally, I flew off to Ukraine in the beginning of November and the first little guy I wanted to see was Nikita. He happily greeted my hug with a smile and we bonded like time and distance never separated us. I noticed he still loved music and Mickey Mouse. Before I left, I gave him

a big hug and kiss, knowing that it was the last time we would meet at Kalinovka.



On Thanksgiving he met his mother Monica and his father Ricky who would take Nikita away and love him forever.

Nikita's dream is a wish his heart makes. His physically weak heart brought him a family. And now he lives in Florida, where he can see

Mickey at Disney World. Nikita arrived in Florida and high-fived Mickey on December 10th, 2013. He's home.

Nikita is scheduled to have heart surgery in the United States.



Photos: Mariya Syemashkina, Richard Sotolongo, Maya Rowencak

CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM KALINOVKA



Sasha adopted 2009



Logan adopted 2012





Samuel adopted November 2013

Shane & Cassidy Robertson adopted Bogdan & Samuel. They had adopted Sasha from Kalinovka in 2009.

"Maya's Hope provides loving care for these orphans... so that when they are adopted, they are healthier and happier than they were in their previous conditions!

Maya's Hope shows the world what life can look like for an orphan with special needs in Ukraine, and these children show the world that they are capable of so much more than anyone could imagine."

Kayleigh Bloom
 Maya's Hope Guardian Angel

WHERE IS LOGAN?

In 2012, Logan (formerly known as Lyosha), was adopted by the Vilardo family. He now lives in Ohio.

He is doing well and learning to walk with prosthetics. He is learning English and is determined to be the top of his game. His favorite superhero is Spiderman and he loves going to hockey games.





Logan with his buddy in 2013

PHILIPPINES



TO COLLEGE AND BEYOND!

Jaylord is our very first superstar who is going to college. He is extremely bright and determined. He has wanted to become an accountant and will be attending college in 2014. We are so excited for him and his family!

BIG THANK YOU FROM THE PHILIPPINES



Pamela De Vera Acosta wanted to make Hermelina feel like a Princess so she sent her a castle and princess gear.



Maribeth Remulla Mejia surprised Renz for his birthday with a pair of basketball shoes.

Dave Kovach raised more than \$1000 to buy computer equipment to improve communication with Maya's Hope sponsor kids and allow them to do school work.

Leah Swarzman is a teacher and a mother. Her family purchased canned food



and other non perishable items while her students made specialized care packages for children in our program!



"it was the first time Hermelina received a present."

— Lyn, Field Worker

Beatrice Fiedorowicz and Rob Rogan,



owners of Square Circle New York, inspire their students and believe in giving kids a fighting chance. Their superstar fighter, **Wayne Barrett**,

wore a shirt with Maya's Hope on it at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

DIANA'S WISH

By Maya Rowencak



Diana, July 2013

Diana had lost everything. She didn't have a family, had lost her confidence, and couldn't even smile. To show Diana that she has value, her sponsor wanted to send her a gift.

"What does Diana want?" Lizelle asked.

Lizelle sponsors Diana in the Philippines and wanted to get her a special present.

Diana's Story:

Seventeen-year-old Diana is second in a brood of five. Her father is a laborer. Their father could hardly support the family's daily needs. When their mother got ill, she died without being seen by a doctor in October 2008.

Soon the surviving family members got separated from one another. Despite their situation, Diana wouldn't give up her education.

Her mentor says, "Diana is a precious human being-bright, driven and kind-hearted. The young girl has a lot of potential and helping her fulfill her goals in becoming a teacher will benefit not just herself and her family, but her community as well. Someday, when she becomes a professional, she is hopeful of being reunited with her four siblings and their father."

A Gift She Will Remember

Maya: "Your sponsor wants to get you something. What would you like?"

Diana: "All I want is my front tooth."

Her Hidden Smile

Lizelle was determined to make this wish come true. On December 7, 2013, I finally received an email from Diana. It was the first time I saw a picture of her smiling.

"Thank you very much mam Maya, and please extend my warmest thanks to my sponsor for the wonderful gift. I will now have a confidence facing people that I can give a sweet smile when talking with them. Again thanks for all the generosity and may God bless you both."



Thank you Lizelle for restoring Diana's smile and confidence!

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Father Boyet Concepcion is a friend, a visionary, a leader and a father to many children. He founded 5 institutions that cater to the elderly, impoverished children and a rehabilitation home for drug addicts. In 2013, Fr. Boyet and the John D. V. Salvador Foundation founded Centro Salvador in Tondo, Manila, a community center for poverty-stricken children. At Centro Salvador, children receive education, nutritious meals, and a loving home and community with other local children.

Fr. Boyet also founded Bethlehem House of Bread Home and San Martin de Porres Home for Children in Bulacan, Philippines.

He has devoted his life to children and the community allowing children a chance to be part of a loving and supportive family and learn life skills as well as provide spiritual guidance. Many children have turned their lives around from crime in order to give back to other children and the community.

All children he meets, and those in his care, are his special sheep and deserve to be loved and nurtured.

To learn more how you can help, email info@mayashope.org!



Maya, Father Boyet, and Maya's Hope sponsor kids: Justine, Rommel & Angelo

WHY THE PHILIPPINES?

When Maya visited the Philippines in 2008, she witnessed scrawny and desperate children living in the streets, begging and selling flowers. Why? Because they are helping their families at an early age.

Children work instead of going to school. Instead of forgetting those kids, she believes children deserve a fighting chance through education and the comfort of food and access to medical care.





SAIREL'S HOME

Sairel was first sponsored in 2011. Thanks to Gladys and Yohell Collado, Mary Liberatore, and Pavlina Fedakova, she has been given the opportunity of an education!

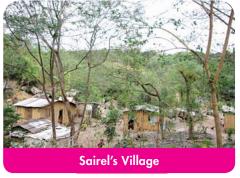
Sairel loves to draw and sends her designs to her sponsors and writes the sweetest letters that could just melt your heart.

Sairel dreams of going to college. You can be part of her journey to college.

www.mayashope.org/donate



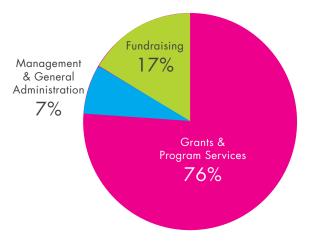




FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Assets, Liabilities & Net Assets (As of December 31, 2013)	
Assets	
Cash & Equivalents	37,925
Investments	1,232
Property Plant and Equipment	868
Total Assets	40,025
Liabilities	_
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	40,025
Summary of Revenue and Expenses	
Contributions	107,810
Investment Revenue	216
Total Expenses	(92,448)
Excess Revenue over Expenses	15,578

ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



Statement of Activities		
	2013	2012
Revenues:		
Public Support	78,117	37,672
Investment Income/(Loss)	216	11
Fundraising Events	29,693	20,195
Total Revenues:	108,026	57,878
Expenses:		
Program Services		
Grants to Philippines	(22,106)	(14,447)
Grants to Ukraine	(32,450)	(7,320)
Miscellaneous Grants	(460)	-
Travel	(4,314)	(1,271)
Development	(1,190)	-
Shipping/Postage	(3,544)	(1,748)
Wire/Collection Fees	(1,736)	(862)
Miscellaneous	(4,357)	(786)
Total Program Services	(70,157)	(26,434)
General and Administrative	(6,772)	(1,525)
Fundraising	(15,519)	(8,510)
Total Expenses	(92,448)	(36,469)
Write-off Assets	-	(100)
Change in Net Assets	15,578	21,309
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	24,447	3,138
Net Assets - End of Year	40,025	24,447

CORPORATE SPONSORS

3 Angels Productions
Aberdeen Proving Ground
Federal Credit Union
Agile Productions, Inc.
Alexander West LLC
Amazing Language Services
Bermuda Silverlight Gems
BidTec
Bloom Tree Partners LLC

Chelsea Manor
Daily Good
Deutsche Bank Americas
Foundation
Digital Harvest Capital LLC
Efinia LLC
Energy Media Group, LLC.
Exoltis Technologies Inc.
Fletcher-Nasevich Funeral Home

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OUR SECOND FUN-RAISER WAS A HIT!



Hope:
An Evening
Celebrating
Superstars,
was our second
annual Fun-raiser at
The Ukrainian Institute
of America in New York
City on October 22,
2013. We raised over
\$25K for Maya's Hope!
We had a star-filled
evening with special
guest, Sr. Bernarda.



Because of Maya's Hope's work in the Philippines, Maya Rowencak was awarded the Outstanding Filipino of New York Award for Community Service at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The White House and Mayor Michael Bloomberg congratulated the winners.



FROM CUTIE PIES TO SUPERSTARS

"After my first visit to Kalinovka, all I wanted was for these children to feel loved.

"Two years later, we hired six caregivers and two massage therapists. When you see the photos of these kids today, you see the smiles, the laughter, and the sparkle in their eyes that didn't seem to exist before. But the best part is that these kids are no longer hidden and forgotten; they're the world's superstars!" — Maya Rowencak



"SAINT" BERNARDA BY MAYA ROWENCAK



Sr. Bernarda visiting a Ukrainian orphanage September 2010

There are very few people who can affect the lives of many in a lifetime.

Sister Bernarda Arkatin has dedicated her life to helping children. Since she was 19, she has been teaching in schools, conducting orchestras, writing music, and has been traveling for more than

20 years to Ukraine, giving hope to orphans and those she refers to as the "crippled." Sister Bernarda is now in her 90s and still sends care packages to orphanages throughout Ukraine.

With a rod in her back, Sister Bernarda lets nothing stop her from touching the lives of people who are often forgotten in this world. She has personally paid for countless surgeries for children and adults, and believes in sharing music, art, spirituality, and balloon animals as a way of spreading happiness and hope.



Sr. Bernarda at Maya's Hope Gala in NYC October 2013

Sister Bernarda has been a tremendous influence on me as well as Maya's Hope. She is a confidant, and showed me the path to helping those in Ukraine. When I ask her why she does all this work? "Nothing is more precious than seeing the smiles on their faces. All these children need is love," replied Sr. Bernarda.

On behalf of all the children we help throughout the world and Maya's Hope, thank you for being a superhero.

YOU ARE A HERO!

Thank you for believing in the potential of the children we help at Maya's Hope.
You are making miracles happen.

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.