

# Children's Embassy



Street children - the future generation of Ukraine?



# Street Children are real

They may have parents. They may officially have a place to stay. They cannot call that place home though. They say:

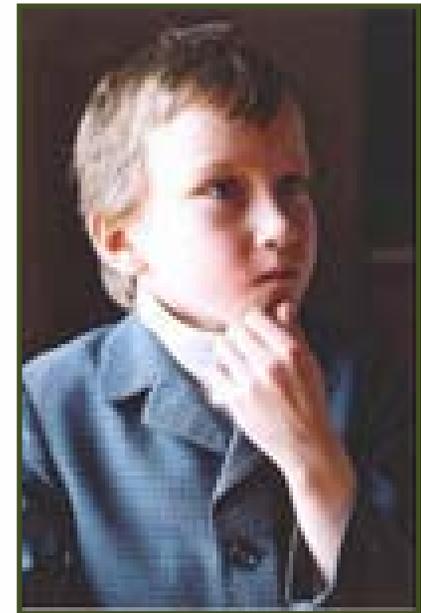
**“Life on the street is better than life at home”**

Whatever the reason, this is terribly wrong.

Today’s street children are the future generation; the new generation that is supposed to Continue to make Ukraine a better country, a better place to live. And yet, they themselves live on the streets.

We now face the second generation of street children – children of street children. The problem must not be ignored anymore. Ukrainian authorities as well as companies and individuals have to contribute to stop and prevent more children living on the streets.

Every little help and contribution counts.



Igor – “a social orphan”. His mother left him and his two brothers in the Friend’s House and hasn’t shown any interest in taking the boys back in her care for a year and a half.



# What exactly is a street child?

In 1992 the EU carried out a study of the situation of street children in Europe. The term 'street child' became official.

## European Union Street Child Definition:

A child under 18 years of age which lives short- or long-term on the streets in poor conditions and bad environment and are in contact primarily with other street children and youth groups also present on the streets. Officially, they have a home address or are officially registered but the severity of problems at their home is so strong they have virtually no contact with their parents or guardians which are responsible for them.

## Street Child Definition by UNICEF:

Children that have contact with parents or guardians but live at temporary addresses (usually empty buildings) or sleep over at a different location every night.

Children that are in contact with parents or guardians but because of poverty, overcrowded apartments, abuse and various types of violence they spend the majority of the day and often night as well on the streets.

Children placed in 'Internaty' or orphanages that for some reason left and live on the streets.

In Ukraine, there is legally no term for street children. Instead, they are classified as social orphans with living parents.



This is normal





This is not



“I just so much wish that someone  
would hug me...even if just one, ...one  
single time”



# Children's Embassy

Children's Embassy exists and works thanks to Mirjam and Boas Adolphi. Their main activities are:

- Street working - nutritional help, counseling, documents assistance and other help to street children
- Friends' House – rehabilitation center and children's home in a family style
- Support Line – a phone hotline set up for children at risk
- Legal activities – arrangement of documents, school admission, medical help for children in need
- Counseling – mental support to children placed in 'Internaty' or in correction institutes for young delinquents
- Heart to Heart – sponsorship of a child in care of a guardian or relative program
- Seminars – coordination work with children in need seminars funded fully by the Embassy of Finland in Kiev
- Help to the Jewish orphans and elderly (survivors of Holocaust) in cooperation with the Jewish Council of Ukraine
- Haver – charity organization in Bobrovitsa region helping primarily guardians and people in need

The key goal of Children's Embassy is to help children off the streets, place them in care of a responsible guardian or in the Friends' House, provide children with food and clothes and other material help. But this all is an aim to eventually give the children the chance to grow up in a safe, home-like, non-violent, drug-free environment; to give them love and future through education and upbringing as a fully functional individual in order to allow them to live independently later, find work and lead a life we call normal.



# Donors that help Ukrainian Street Children

## Sweden & Finland

- World Childhood Foundation - Queen Silvia's charity fund
- Embassy of Finland, Kiev
- Barnens Hopp (through this organization we received help from Radiohjælpen and Reseindustrins barnfond)
- Nordisk Ostmission
- Barnens Ambassad
- Kiovan Katulapsi Tuki R.Y.
- Israel Apu
- Staden pa Berget
- Guldman company (sponsoring a child fully)
- And hundreds of Swedish and Finnish individual donors contributing regularly

## Partners in Kiev:

- Information portal about Kiev and Ukraine [www.go2kiev.com](http://www.go2kiev.com)
- Scholz & Friends Kyiv, The Advertising Agency
- Hash House Harriers, expatriate club

THE QUESTION IS: **Where are the Ukrainian donors?**



# Mechanics of help

The first and foremost condition to improve the current situation is that charities and NGOs work together with the government and local authorities. Without coordination of work of these entities, there is little or no progress, time losses, disorganization.

The cooperation with government can make the work of charities and NGOs easier through reducing bureaucratic demands. The cooperation also brings more trust and thus the chances of finding contributors and sponsors are much higher.

Children's Embassy has several programs to support street children including sponsoring of the child if placed in care of a responsible guardian or sponsoring children living at the Friends' House. These programs appeal to individual contributors which is extremely important.

There are however larger projects that need to be carried out such as establishing offices where children at risk can contact trained staff for help, reconstruction of Friends' House, developing new programs focused on further future of the street children in order to assimilate them into society – education, trainings and courses to give them a chance of employment and many more. These projects have to be funded by larger organizations to collect the necessary financial amounts and they have to be prepared very carefully with specialists.



# First Steps

You have already made the first step. You listened and participated or read this brochure. For that, we thank you. But there is already a little more you can do right away:

There is a limited number of the brochures that you have received. Due to limited funds, there is no possibility for Children's Embassy to print thousands of copies and distribute them massively.

Therefore, we made the brochure available online where it can be downloaded. You can help us by printing and distributing the brochures at your office or working place. The more people get involved, the better results we will achieve.

The brochure is available in Ukrainian as well as English languages on:

[www.barnensambassad.se](http://www.barnensambassad.se) (Swedish language)

[www.haver.info](http://www.haver.info) (Finnish language)

[www.go2kiev.com/charity.html](http://www.go2kiev.com/charity.html) (English language)

**We hope you will join us on the way to brighter future for street children in Ukraine.**

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The best Kiev guide

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Thank you for your  
attention



With love to God and the children of Ukraine.