

SHADE FOR CHILDREN

Благодійний Фонд
Тінь Для Дітей

Small Group Home Proposal

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Prepared by:

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Program Statement

Despite the current war with Russia in parts of Ukraine, life goes on. It must. We can't go back, and nothing happens if we stand still. In our way of thinking there is no way to go except forward. To that end, Shade for Children proposes ***to build a private Small Group Home in Western Ukraine for eight to ten children orphaned or deprived of parental care.***

Problem

Institutions (i.e., large, government-operated orphanages) are horrendous for children and decades of research proves it. At Shade for Children, we have a saying about orphanages, *“this is where children are taken to be broken”*. Institutionalized children typically develop *“reactive attachment disorders, developmental delays, and behavioral issues”*.¹ Institutions put children at significant risk² and are often unsafe for children, leaving them vulnerable to neglect, violence and abuse, which often goes undetected and unreported.³ *“Research shows that children in institutional care are more likely to have stunted growth and have a lower IQ because they lack stimulation and attention”*.⁴ They are often not given the life skills and experiences they need to integrate back into their communities. As many as 70% of children who age-out of a Ukrainian orphanage at the age of about 16 will end up dead or trafficked within two years⁵.

Children with special medical needs face especially bleak prospects within the current institutional care system. A 2020 study conducted by Home and Homes⁶ revealed that a staggering 86 percent of infants in Ukrainian orphanages were misdiagnosed with serious

¹ Australian Council for International Development. (n.d.). ACFID Position Paper - Residential Care and Orphanages in International Development. https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource_document/ACFID%20Position%20Paper%20-%20Residential%20Care%20and%20Orphanages%20in%20International%20Development.pdf

² L Sherr (2008) Strengthening Families through HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support, technical report, Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS Learning Group 1.

³ P S Pinheiro (2006) World Report on Violence Against Children: UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children, Geneva: 183-199.

⁴ K Browne (2009) The Risk of Harm to Young Children in Institutional Care, Save the Children UK & the Better Care Network

⁵ One Child. (n.d.). Kids in Ukraine - A Future. One Child. <https://www.onechildinc.org/index.php/kids-in-ukraine/a-future/>

⁶ Hope and Homes for Children Ukraine. (2020). Behind the Mask of Care. Retrieved from http://hopeandhomes.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/zvit_2020_eng-stysnuto.pdf

illnesses. Additionally, the study found that 65.4 percent of these children experienced developmental delays due to the lack of one-on-one care and other constraints within the orphanage environment.

In theory, Ukrainian orphans with special medical needs have access to the essential treatments they require. However, in practice, they often find themselves in a state of limbo, waiting for various authorities to reach a consensus. Unfortunately, those who possess an intimate understanding of the child's medical and psychological condition and are responsible for their daily care are frequently excluded from the decision-making process. As a result, decisions concerning the child's well-being and health tend to follow standardized procedures rather than being customized to meet the child's specific needs. In Ukraine, access to high-quality medical care is often tied to significant financial resources and requires strong parental or self-advocacy. Regrettably, vulnerable children lack the capacity to advocate for themselves, and their voices are frequently ignored, leading to delayed medical care, sometimes to the point where treatment becomes unattainable.

Shade for Children estimates that at least 30% of orphaned children are “legacy-orphans”, that is, they are children of orphaned children, and perhaps 75% of institutionalized children are not the only child in a family to be abandoned. Ukraine's Ministry of Social Policy website, which lists children currently available for adoption or foster care, shows that the overwhelming number of children belong to sibling groups.⁷ Recent research (published July 2023) validates these statements with these three key findings: 1) Institutionalization is harmful across multiple domains of child development, 2) Moving to family-based care can help repair some of the harm done by institutionalization, and 3) Timing is critical, the longer children spend in institutional care, the greater the likelihood of negative impact and the smaller the chance of recovery.⁸

⁷ Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. (n.d.). Search for Children - Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. <https://www.msp.gov.ua/en/children/search.php>

⁸ Lumos. (2020). Invisible Children: Children and Families in the Shadow of the COVID-19 Pandemic. https://lumos.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2020/09/INVISIBLE_CHILDREN_12_V2.pdf

(Part of) The Solution

Shade for Children proposes to build a small group home for orphaned children that will transform their lives and impact future generations.

Ukraine is slowly but systematically dismantling the soviet-era orphanage system and replacing it with a more effective version of social services for families, including plans to eventually close most of the existing 740+ orphanages. One of the steps being taken to align Ukraine's social service system with the European Union is the creation of a foster care system. From a typical American point of view, it's difficult to see foster care as an upgrade, but when compared to large soviet era institutions, and viewed on a spectrum of care options for orphaned and vulnerable children, there should be no doubt that children placed in family-based care is in fact, a significant improvement.

Currently, Ukraine has four family-based forms of alternative care for orphaned children.

1. Patronat Care: Temporary care, lasting up to six months while social services address the issue leading to children's removal.

2. Foster Care: For up to five children, including the foster parents' biological children. Children maintain "orphan status" and can potentially return home or be domestically adopted, although this is uncommon. Not eligible for international adoption.

3. Family Type Orphanage: Not an "orphanage", but a larger family foster home with up to 10 children, including the foster parents' biological children.

4. Small Group Home (MGB): A form for up to 10 children (8 for special needs children), which includes paid staff. It can be fully private or a public entity, with differences in staff funding sources. Private MGBs allow for both domestic and international adoption eligibility, and operators can advocate for adoption. This is the form Shade for Children is pursuing (See APPENDIX A for the official Ukrainian legal description of MGB).

Shade for Children is endorsed by the Transcarpathia Regional Rights for Children and the prominent orphan care ministry, SOS Children's Villages (operating similar homes in more than 100 countries, including two communities with multiple homes in Ukraine). SOS has pledged to completely furnish Shade for Children's Small Group Home. Two U.S. based organizations, A Child's Hope Foundation, and World's Children, have both indicated strong interest in partnering with Shade for Children to provide various sponsorship opportunities to offset operational expenses. Shade for Children acquired 5.5 acres of land from Botfalva village, just outside Uzhhorod, Ukraine and in October 2023 received all the necessary approvals and permits to proceed with the plan illustrated in APPENDIX C.

The small group home will operate under the name of Shade for Children's Blossom Cottage, Квітуча Хатинка (Kvitucha Khatynka in the Ukrainian language). This name conveys the idea of growth and development, capturing the vision of a home that cultivates not only physical well-being but also emotional, social, and educational growth. Like the petals of a blossoming flower, the children in Blossom Cottage are nurtured with love, patience, and encouragement, empowering them to blossom into confident and capable individuals.

Organizational Background

Shade for Children Ukrainian Charity Fund was founded by Clinton and Lena White in February 2019, a US version was founded at the same time and received IRS Determination as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charity in October 2019. The vision of Shade for Children is *No abandoned kids in Transcarpathia*. Our mission is *uniting churches and communities to cherish orphaned and vulnerable children* (in our region).

Lena White is the Director of Shade for Children in Ukraine while Clinton is the Director of Shade for Children-US. Lena has served the Church of the Living God in Uzhhorod, Ukraine as both Administrator and Children's Ministry Director for more than twenty years. She earned a master's degree in finance and a Theology Degree. Clinton has served in Ukraine since 2012 and before that was a local church youth pastor for more than sixteen years in Mississippi. He holds a Master of Divinity degree, an MBA in Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship,

and a Micro-master's degree in social work. Clinton and Lena completed a Ukrainian adoption during the first month of the war in 2022.

Allina Robie, a trusted partner, and Shade for Children's Media Specialist, passionately serves orphaned and vulnerable children in Transcarpathia. Originally from the US, Allina moved to Ukraine just before the full-scale invasion in 2022. Her exceptional marketing expertise helps us spread awareness about our work and its impact. Allina's advocacy for and dedication to these children has built her a formidable personal platform. Her dedication to our cause began when she first served in Ukraine in 2018 with The World Race.

Mirjam Marijs and Marianne Janse, originally from The Netherlands, have made Ukraine their home. They are driven by their unwavering commitment to serving orphaned and vulnerable children, especially those with special needs abandoned in hospitals and orphanages. While they are independent missionaries sent from their home church, Shade for Children is proud to sponsor their Ukrainian Volunteer VISA, allowing them to continue their heartfelt service. Mirjam and Marianne's passion for serving these children aligns perfectly with our mission as they continue to serve as strategic partners with our organization and advocacy efforts.

Goals and Objectives

The tasks and main activities of a small group home, according to Ukrainian law, are lengthy, and admirable (See APPENDIX B - Tasks and Activities of MGP per Ukrainian legal framework). In keeping with our mission, we want to unite churches and communities to cherish these children. That will necessarily include all the care the government expects (and enumerated in APPENDIX B), but so much more. We want to provide these children with a family experience, with love, and with attention to their needs from a trauma-informed perspective. We want to equip them for life after the "orphanage", with relationships that go beyond their residency, and we want to advocate for them to be reunited with family or to be adopted.

Resources Needed

Staff

- **Director-**
- **Accountant/Comptroller-**
- **House Parents/ Primary Caregivers-**
- **Day Helpers-**
- **Specialist/Contract Workers-**

Client Needs (for children)-

- **Trust Based Relational Intervention/Trauma Informed Counseling**
- **Therapy (physical, emotional, speech, etc)**
- **Medical Intervention**
- **Academic Tutoring**
- **Life Skills Training**

Facilities (See APPENDIX C- Site Plan and Building Plan)- The scope of this proposal is to build one small group home, a community playground, one support structure, and the first (of four) guest houses. Long range plans include additional facilities described below.

- **Small Group Home(s)-** Approximately 5400 square feet built to European Union accessibility standards for special needs children/teenagers. The home will include common spaces for living and study, private bedrooms and toilet facilities, commercial kitchen and laundry facilities, sleeping/shower facilities for overnight staff, office and conference room, a doctor's examination room, and as required by current Ukrainian law, a bomb shelter. The long-range site plan for the five-acre property includes two such homes.
- **Community playground.** Shade for Children will construct a state-of-the-art outdoor play area for resident and community children's use. One of the best practices for residential care of orphaned children is to facilitate community

engagement⁹. The playground will attract local families and children and provide outdoor play and exercise for our residents.

- **Small guest homes-** A 600 square foot small home to house parents who visit their children or potential adoptive parents. The homes could also be used to house short-term volunteers/guests and provide respite care for foster and adoptive parents/families in our region.
- **Conference Hall-** To serve adoptive and foster families and others. The conference hall will include kitchen facilities and temporary living quarters for volunteers.
- **Four picnic shelters**
- **Banya-** Can be used for therapy and/or community use.
- **Two maintenance sheds**
- **Social Enterprise-** The site plan includes the construction of a multi-purpose facility that could be used as a produce stand or coffee shop or other enterprise to benefit the small group home and community.

Transportation- 1-2 vans for transporting children to various appointments.

Small Group Home Budget

Estimates are based primarily on conversations with administrators at Happy Home, a private small group home in Kyiv with 8-10 children at a time.

Projected Consumables ~\$3350 per month

Food, utilities, transportation, maintenance, clothing, etc.

Personnel Expenses: ~\$3800 per month

- **Full-time staff wages-** \$2200
- **Part-time staff wages-** \$600

⁹ Mission Excellence Global. (no date). Standards of Excellence in Short-term missions. https://missionexcellence.global/wp-content/uploads/SOE-OVC-Guide_-FINAL-1.pdf

- **Full-time staff taxes/benefits-** \$900

Projected Rehabilitation Services for children: ~ \$600 per month

Estimated Monthly Operating Expenses- ~\$7750 per month.

Non-Personnel Expenses

- **Infrastructure/Pre-building-** Approximately **\$13000** (Extend nearby electrical service \$6000, dig 50-meter water well \$2000, install two septic systems \$3000, install approximately 180 meters of fence \$1800).
- **Facility/Construction Needs-** To ensure transparency and cost effectiveness, we will use a competitive bidding process to select the most suitable builder. Based on current market conditions, the estimated cost per square meter for our small group homes is approximately \$650 per square meter.
- **Transportation Needs-** \$15000 per used vehicle or \$25000 for a new van.
- **CURRENT ESTIMATED FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENTS:** \$385,000.00

Revenue

As a nonprofit organization, Shade for Children's Blossom Cottage is not intended to generate income. However, there are possible revenue streams that can supplement donor funding. Picnic pavilions, small guest homes, the conference hall, and the Banya all lend themselves to potential rental income possibilities. Priority will be given to using those facilities to complement the work of Blossom Cottage. The "Social Enterprise" space could conceivably host a joint-venture business (coffee shop/bakery/produce stand) to generate funds. Potential sources of donor provided funding include our child and organization sponsorship through World's Children, A Child's Home, SOS, and of course fundraising through Shade for Children.

Donor funding from Shade for Children and Allina Robie's Ukraine Orphan Care Project provided approximately \$45,000 to purchase and rezone the land, to commission architectural plans, and to secure required site-plan approvals and permits.

Sustainability

Blossom Cottage is designed as a private small group home with little or no government support. The reason for that is to limit the “strings” that come attached to government funding. That is not to say that Shade for Children will not accept government support initially or in the future. The Ukrainian government is obligated to support such alternative care facilities for orphaned children. Furthermore, both the village of Botfalva, and the larger regional administration have indicated that funds will be allocated from municipal governments to help cover expenses. However, at this point the amount of national, regional, and local government support is simply unknown. Without generous support from various partners, operating a private small group home is not financially sustainable. However, a small group home is a family, not a for-profit enterprise. The return on the investment is not measured in dollars, but in the impacted lives of children.

Program Summary and Donation Options

More than 105,000 children are institutionalized in Ukraine and without drastic and immediate steps poverty levels and fatherlessness will both skyrocket because of the war. Shade for Children and a strong line-up of partners are ready to make a positive and immediate impact on the problem by creating our region’s first small group home, Blossom Cottage. The strength of Blossom Cottage is the ability to provide the best possible care in a home-like environment while advocating for children in our care to be adopted. Our goal is to see 50% of our children adopted every year.

Shade for Children’s Blossom Cottage fundraising launched November 1, 2023. Groundbreaking for necessary infrastructure (electricity, water, sewage, and fencing) is projected before the end of 2023 weather permitting. Simultaneous groundbreaking for the small group home and the first guest cottage is projected in early Spring, 2024.

Shade for Children needs approximately \$385,000 USD to build the first small group home, one support structure, and one guest house, and develop necessary infrastructure. Monthly operating expenses for one small group home are estimated at \$7700 US. We anticipate the monthly operating expenses to be supplemented by existing partners. Your gift is

more than a request for capital, it is an invitation to invest in the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children with a return, not measured monetarily, but in lives changed and young people integrated into society. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

US tax-deductible donations may be made through the online giving portal, <https://give.cornerstone.cc/shadeforchildrenbc>. Checks made payable to Shade for Children with a memo referencing Blossom Cottage may be mailed to: Shade for Children (% John White), P.O. Box 820714, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39182.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A- Ukrainian (translated) Legal Description of Small Group Home

The issue on creation of the small group house regulated by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 31.10.2018 № 926 “On Approval of the Model Regulations on a small group house”. Small group house is a social protection institution designed for a long-term (inpatient) living of orphans, children deprived of parental care, including children with disabilities, in conditions closed to a family, socialization and preparation for independent life, assisting the return of children in the biological family or placement in the family forms of upbringing. These houses provide services in accordance with the needs of the territorial community replacing institutions and organizations with similar functions, which will accelerate the reform of boarding schools established in soviet times and ensure maximum accessibility of children to community services. No more than 10 healthy children at the same time, or 8 children with limited life activities, including those with disabilities, may live in a small group house. Children-orphans, children deprived of parental care with limited life activities, including those with disabilities, are enrolled in a small group house primarily, except those who need palliative care. In case of absence of such children, other orphans, children deprived of parental care, aged ten to eighteen may be placed to a small group house. In order to maintain the family relationships, children from three to nine years of age may be accommodated in a small group house with older siblings, as well as children left without parental care, whose siblings are in a small group house. One of the tasks of a small group house is to ensure the child's education in the nearest preschool, general secondary education institution at the child's place of residence, including ensuring the right of children with special educational needs to inclusive education and educational services according to individual development program. The creation of small group houses shall strength the role and responsibility of local executive power authorities and local self-government authorities for the situation of children and families with children. State maintenance of children in small group houses consists 2.5 of subsistence level for children of appropriate age, for children with disabilities - 3.5 of subsistence level for children of appropriate age.

APPENDIX B- Tasks and Activities of MGP per Ukrainian legal framework

According to Ukrainian law, the **Tasks and main activities of a small group home** are as follows:

1) accommodation, upbringing, care and social adaptation of children in conditions close to family, with the aim of reintegrating the child into the family environment, preparing him for independent life and socialization in the community,

2) determination and satisfaction of the child's individual needs,

3) protection of the rights and interests of children,

4) preparing the child for placement in a family form of education,

5) support (restoration) of relations with parents (if this corresponds to the law and the interests of the child) or persons who replace them, relatives for the purpose of reintegration of the child into the biological family,

6) participation of children in the life of the territorial community,

7) ensuring the child's education in a preschool, general secondary education institution, at the child's place of residence or the nearest educational institution, including ensuring the right of a child with special educational needs to inclusive education and receiving educational services in accordance with an individual development program,

8) implementation of an individual rehabilitation program for the child in case of disability,

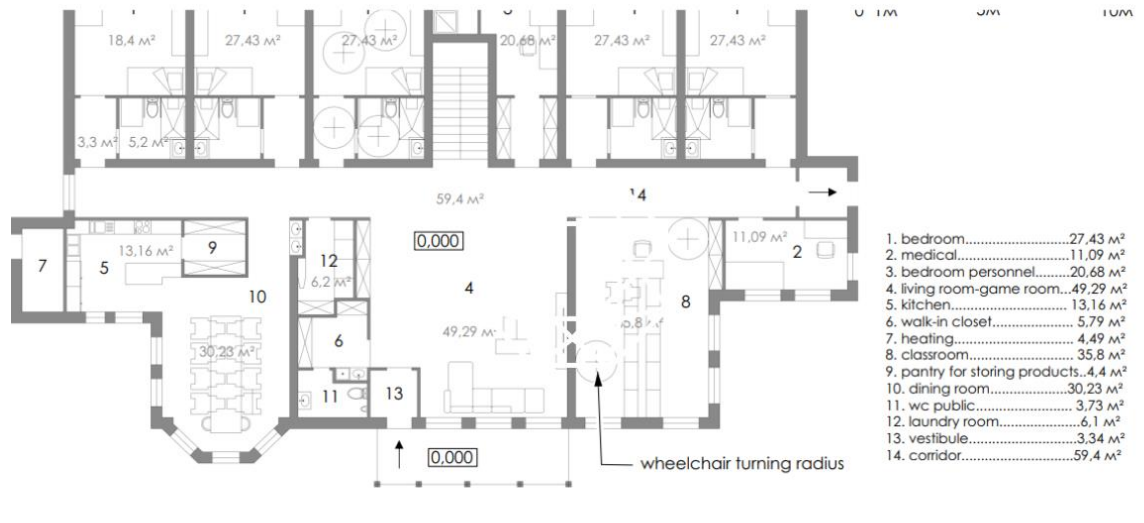
9) formation and support of self-care skills, household skills necessary for organizing independent life, family budget planning and rational use of funds, etc.,

10) psychological support, formation of positive self-esteem, confidence, readiness to bear responsibility, feeling of self-sufficiency, etc.,

11) ensuring the mobility of a child with musculoskeletal disorders, initiating the creation of architectural accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the premises of the territorial community visited by the child,

- 12) *organization of transportation services (if necessary),*
- 13) *assistance in mastering social roles and forming a sense of belonging to a group and territorial community,*
- 14) *carrying out educational and preventive work on issues of valeology and a healthy lifestyle, preventing the formation of harmful habits,*
- 15) *organization and implementation of work on pre-professional training of children, creation of conditions for them to obtain professional (vocational-technical), higher education,*
- 16) *creation of conditions for comprehensive development of the child, including by visiting extracurricular educational institutions, organization of children's leisure time, their participation in various types of educational, scientific, scientific and practical activities, conferences, Olympiads, exhibitions, competitions, etc.*

Artist rendering and preliminary floor plans for Blossom Cottage



600 square foot guest house design from ServusUA

Колібри
типовий проект

53,75м.кв.
загальна площа



впробники-будівельна компанія

Характеристики:
Одноповерховий будинок невеликих габаритів ідеально підійде для розміщення на обмежених ділянках та для проживання невеликої сім'ї.

Технологія:
Фундамент - монолітний з/б
Несучі стіни - SIP панель (164мм)
Перекриття - дерев'яні двутаврові балки.
Покриття - бітумна або металочерепиця.
Зовнішнє оздоблення - штукатурка, природний камінь, дерево.

Габарити будинку:
9,92м. x 6м.





ПЛАН ПЕРШОГО ПОВЕРХУ

1. Ганок 2,60м.кв.	6. Спальня 8,79м.кв.
2. Тамбур 3,34м.кв.	7. Ванна 4,71 м.кв.
3. Комірка 1,45м.кв.	
4. Кухня-вітальня 26,67м.кв.	
5. Спальня 8,79м.кв.	