

On August 31st the Harbor hosted its third graduation party for our graduates by renting a boat from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m. for a banquet with shish kabobs and fun games. They sailed from Krestovskiy Island to Nevskiy Park. Luba, our program director, is thanking God that everything went smoothly, everyone enjoyed the party and the graduates were happy. Of course, afterwards Luba was squeezed like a lemon. A lot of work, health and energy were put into this event. Our graduates Anna and Lena presented to the Harbor office with a coffeemaker and Tanya and Nadia presented an iron as gifts.

Tanya and Nadia presented a postcard:

“To all who believed in us, loved us, changed us, gave us faith in ourselves, showed the way and gave opportunities! Dear Harbor, we have no words to express our deep gratitude for everything that you have done. We are grateful that you have shown us an unlimited level of love, warmth and care. Thank you!!! We wish growth for this ministry and that you will continue to fill the hearts of the needy ones with hope for the future. With great appreciation and warmth. Yours truly, Tanya and Nadia (graduates 8/30/2007)”.

This poem was written by two of our graduates Igor and Andre:

“We lived here for two years as friendly family, we wish to live for one more year, but it is enough the time has come! The adult life has begun and “mom” has said, “Boys stay on course and be strong! I wish you all the best in everything you do, but remember the Harbor-is your home.” God is with us, he is in every one of us, and he is in your heart. Love people and remember us. Thank you for everything: love and care, happiness and tears, pain and warmth. Thank you to our mentors. You are in our hearts forever!!! Igor and Andre (graduates 8/30/2007).

On September 1, we opened the door for the new group of 7 ladies and 7 guys. We are in the process of getting two more. We are trying to solve some issues and hope that we will have 8 of each. Here is the list of new Harbor residents:

Ladies

Nastya
Natasha
Yana
Lena
Lena
Luda
Zhanna

Guys

Ura
Oleg
Sergey
Sasha
Dennis
Igor
Misha



Graduation party Aug. 2007

The Harbor rented an apartment for post adaptation independent living for 5 graduate guys. Vadim, one of the Harbor's former mentors, along with his family, are living with them. We decided to include Vadim's

family with our graduates to model the family concept. It is very expensive apartment, but in a good location and close to the girl's residential apartment. This allows our graduates to participate in the follow-up program without traveling for a long time.

We did not want to rent an entire apartment just for three girls who were going into post adaptation independent living; thus, we decided to keep two of them, Nadia and Katya, with Luba until we find Christian families. This is our goal in the long run instead of their living in a post adaptation apartment. In addition, Nadia is weak and needs more individualized attention. Living with Luba until Christian families are found will assist this process for her. Our third graduate, Tanya, is living with her sister and a friend of Tatiana, our assistant program director.

We are continuing to develop relationships and friendships with our graduates so that they are encouraged to serve at the Harbor. For example, Tanya will be teaching chemistry, Nastya will lead a class working with beads and knitting, and the graduate guys will be teaching carpentry and remodeling. Basically we are raising and training the new generation of mentors, counselors, teachers and directors for the Harbor. Our two year graduate, Nastya told Luba that she wants to be the next director at the Harbor. Thus, as soon as Luba can train and teach her everything that she needs to know then Luba can retire. However, there are some challenges that we constantly face and we ask for your continuous prayer support. Without it we cannot do or accomplish anything. Our graduate Tanya said that she could be a good mentor or psychologist for the Harbor in the future.

Recently I (Alex) asked Luba how many of our graduates have made a commitment to follow Christ besides Gosha. Nadia is growing in her faith and actively serving at her church. Sasha, Sasha, Vanya and Tanya are visiting church all the time, but have not yet made a commitment to follow Christ. The process is moving and they are changing.

Whoever has come to the Harbor has changed, but unfortunately, our staff invests more energy and strength than our residents. Frequently the staff is willing to give their life for our residents, but only a few have a desire to see it and value the labor that is being invested. Transformation is long and challenging process that requires a lot of faith, patience, and perseverance. Luba understands that we are doing it for the Lord, but at times our residents are unable to show their appreciation for it.

We have invested a lot of energy and strength into creating and opening our Vocational Training Center. Now we have basic hair styling, cutting and coloring beauty salon, ceramics designing, computer class, sewing and carpentry. In addition, to the Vocational Training Center we have an educational program for teaching drawing, music, visiting the baby orphanage, remodeling, and working with the counselor and pastor.

**“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she had borne?
Though she may forget, I will not forget you”. ~ (Isaiah 49:15)**

The Harbor is deeply grateful that you are helping us to bring the gospel to Russian orphans so that they can find faith, hope and love. We would not be able to do what we are doing today without your prayer and financial support. Thank you!

Love, the Harbor & Alex

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