Our Mission
The College/Young Adult Mission Trip to aid orphanages in Ukraine, is a ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. We hope to bring aid and comfort to special needs orphans and orphanages in a country that currently does not have the means to do so. By our actions, we hope to show the face of Christ to these children, their caregivers, their administrators, our host families and all we come in contact with and by doing so reaffirm the Holy Orthodox Faith amongst the people of Ukraine. We pray that by offering daily prayer services, as well as our love and works, that we will bring not only ourselves but all involved closer to Christ our God.

For more information about the trip or to make a donation please visit our website at www.uocyouth.org or contact us at:

UOC Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
412-977-2010
uocyouth@aol.com
or
UOC Office of Christian Charity
imahlay@yahoo.com

College Student Mission Trip to Ukraine

Showing the Face of Christ

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Our History

In 2001, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA was blessed to adopt two special needs orphanages in Ukraine with the help of Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund. In that same year the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Office of Christian Charity endeavored to provide an opportunity for college students to experience short term missionary work. These two events brought about the first college student mission trip to the orphanages in 2003.

Since 2003 over 100 students have travelled to work with and love these beautiful children in three orphanages in the towns of Znamyanka, Zaluchya and Puhachiv.

Our Program

The simple commission of the team is to “show the face of Christ to all they meet”. The children in the orphanages range from 3 - 18 years of age, living with varying degrees of disability.

The team’s main activity is to spend time with the children in whatever capacity is afforded to them - this may be as simple as sitting by a child’s bedside and holding their hand to helping conduct field trips.

Additional activities may include:

- Aiding in physical therapy sessions
- Teaching fine locomotor craft skills
- Taking children for daily walks
- Helping with physical improvements to the facility
- Taking children on field trips
- Teaching basic life skills such as gardening
- Singing, conducting plays, and dancing

Team members are provided a few days in the capital city of Kyiv (and its surrounding areas) to experience the culture, visiting the local markets and the Chornobyl Museum, as well as participating in pilgrimages to sites such as the Percheska Lavra Monastery and St. Michael’s Cathedral.

Getting There

Applications are available on-line beginning in November of each year.

The cost of the trip includes all travel, accommodation, food, and project costs.

Fundraising packets are provided to each team member. Community is a key element to the trip and your family, parish, local business and organizations are a part of that community. Allowing them to be a part of the journey broadens the greater awareness of these children and their circumstances.

The trip takes place in either late May/early June or late July/early August each summer.