

UKRAINIAN VACATION PROGRAM

This Christmas 2011, TDH Canada is offering a 2-week vacation program for children living in orphanages in Ukraine.

History of the program

Thousands of kids in Ukrainian orphanages face a bleak future. These children long for a family experience, even a temporary one. Despite good care in the orphanage, few are prepared to start a life when they leave the orphanage at age 18, as they are provided with neither a higher education nor vocational training which will serve them in finding gainful employment when they are on their own. As a result, many innocent children leaving Eastern European orphanages are co-opted into drug dealing, the sex trade, or organized crime.

TDH, at the request of the Ukrainian government, is for the second year offering a summer vacation program for children from 7 to 13 living in Ukrainian orphanages. We are looking for families willing to host these children during 2 weeks, at Christmas and New Year 2011-2012. **Tentative arrival day for the Christmas hosting program is December 20th 2011.** We would like to offer these children an enriching cultural and educational experience in another country, and are looking for families who will collaborate with us in this innovative program.

This type of program is not unknown in Eastern European countries. In fact, some children have spent summer vacations in several countries over past years - and their lives are enriched for it. The children are pre-selected by the orphanage directors as children who have the qualities that would allow them to benefit from exposure to another culture, including openness, a desire to relate to others, and physical and emotional health.

The cost of the program for the hosting families is 3,800 CAD. It is the cost of bringing the child to Canada (a tax-deductible donation, details about the costs below in this document). You will be also asked to provide the child with a quality experience: spending time with the child, introducing the child to cultural and recreational activities and events, or doing family activities.

The happiness you may bring to a child who has little in his or her life cannot be measured in time or money or effort. However, this is also an enriching experience for you and your family, and an amazing lesson of life you can give your children (in case you have any).

Those who are interested may apply to be a host family **until the 15th of September.**

Requirements for the families and necessary documents

Before you fill in the application form, please make sure that you meet the following basic requirements:

- At least one of the parents or principal caregivers is available full-time during all the child's stay.
- You have a separate bedroom or enough space for the child in your home.
- You realize that the child may not speak any other languages besides Russian and Ukrainian.
- Cheerful disposition is a must!

If you or any other family you know meet these requirements and are interested, follow the next steps:

- Download the preliminary application form [here](#), fill it in (no signatures necessary at that point).
- Make the payment of 85 CAD processing fee. Details on how to make the payment – see below. It is deducted later from the total cost of the program. This fee is non-refundable. Please note that it does not guarantee your participation in the program.
- Have ready several photos of your family and home, including the room destined for the child.
- Send the form, the photos (up to 10 photos) and the confirmation of payment by e-mail Luba Grakhova (luba@tdh.ca), who is responsible for the program. You can also contact Luba at 514 658 49 66 or cell 514 632 23 62 for any questions and details. Shortly after submitting your application, you will be contacted by TDH.

Dates and documents required

Dates of the visit:

December 18th 2011 until January 3rd 2012. They are tentative dates, the exact dates and time may vary 2-3 days and will be defined before signing the contract.

Documents required:

- **A copy of a passport or another photo ID.** You will be asked to present the original at the airport on the children's arrival.
- **A medical certificate from a family doctor.** It is a simple certificate indicating the absence of mental or contagious diseases. You do not have to go to different specialists. (Not included in the cost of the program).
- **A vulnerable sector clearance certificate from the local police** (Not included in the cost of the program). It takes about 2 weeks to receive it and costs 80\$. Please note that you do not need to obtain additionally the Good Conduct Certificate, as it duplicates a part of the Vulnerable Sector Clearance.
- **2 letters of reference** (1 personal and 1 professional)

Schedule for the program:

Application deadline: September 15th

Shortly after submitting your application, you will be called for a 30-min. preliminary interview.

After that, you will be paid a brief visit by a social worker who will make sure that the home is safe for the child and talk to you and your family.

Confirmation of the families participating by: September 30th

After you have the confirmation from TDH, the payment of 50% of the total cost must be made (1.900 CAD)

Starting from that date, the corresponding number of children get their documents prepared (passports, visas, medical certificates, insurance, etc.)

Contracts signed by: October 20th.

At the signing of the contract, the rest of the sum is paid (1.900 minus 85 of preliminary application fee = 1.815 CAD)

Documents received by TDH by: **November 30th.**

Please send us the originals of all documentation (police and medical certificates, letters of reference) **no later than November 30th** to the following address:

TDH Canada
2520 rue Lionel Groulx, 3^e étage
Montréal (Québec) H3J 1J8

Information about the child sent to you by: **December 10th**

You will receive a photo and a brief information about the child that is going to visit you.

Detailed description of the fee:

Total: 3,800 CAD.
85 \$ - preliminary processing fee, non-refundable.
1.900\$ - first payment
1.815\$ - second, and final, payment.

You obtain a receipt for all these payments as a charitable donation.

More information at

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/svngs/clmng1b-eng.html>

The payments are non-refundable if you cancel your participation.

They are refundable in case the program were cancelled by TDH.

The fee includes:

The costs of bringing the children to Canada

- passports, visas for the children
- medical certificates and insurance for the children
- fee of the Ukraine representative
- airplane tickets and transfer to the airport in Ukraine
- a small donation to the orphanage where the children come from
- processing fee
- translator at the airport at the children's arrival and departure
- anytime during the stay you can call the translator's cell in case you need help when communicating with the child. Phone numbers will be provided.
- costs of the transportation and living expenses for the accompanying person that travels with the children. In case you wish to host the accompanying person in your home for a part or the whole period of the program, please contact Luba (luba@tdh.ca, 514 658 49 66 or cell 514

632 23 62) and confirm if it is logistically possible. If yes, the corresponding deduction from your fee will be made.

The fee DOES NOT include:

- the parents' police and medical certificates
- transportation of the child between the airport of arrival/departure and you home
- living expenses for the child in Canada and activities
- a translator accompanying you during the child's stay.

Frequently asked questions and answers:

What do you suggest we do with the child during his/her stay?

- Any culturally and emotionally enriching experience is perfect. It is not only going to museums and exhibitions, fun-parks or theatres: A walk in the park or a family dinner could be also an amazing experience for the child. Be careful not to «overload» the child with activities. As you understand, being in another country, with new people, speaking another language is already a stress for the child, so you will want to take it little by little, depending on the child's personality.

Are you planning any group activities with all the children and families?

- No group activities are planned yet, it will depend on the amount of families from each city that are participating. In case such activities are possible, we will inform all the participants.

If I am not available, can the child be during daytime in a daycamp, daycare or with a caretaker?

- No. A full-time disposition of both (or at least one) principal caregivers is required. The trip to another country is by itself a stressful experience for the child, you do not want to make it even harder by placing him/her in new surroundings besides your family, as adaptation period is always required.

Does the child speak English or French?

- Usually no. Some children have already traveled to Italy, Spain, the US or other countries, so they may have some knowledge of a foreign language. However, be prepared that the child speak only Russian and Ukrainian (as a rule, they speak both).

How can I communicate with the child?

- Young children usually do not have any trouble adapting to a foreign language. If you want, you can learn some words in Russian and Ukrainian (we will give you links to some conversation guides easily available online) and teach the child some English or French. It is an amazing adventure for both the child and the receiving family!

Can I have a photo and the information about the child before I decide to participate?

- No. It is TDH's policy that the information about the child will be given to you after signing the contract, so all the children are treated equally.

Can I receive more than 1 child?

- Yes, in this case you pay the costs of bringing them to Canada, but the same amount for the expenses of the accompanying person. E.g. if the cost of hosting 1 child is 3,800 CAD, the cost for 2 children in the same family will be around 6,000 CAD. Make sure you have enough space for all the children.

Is it possible to choose the sex and age of the child?

- No, although we ask you about your preference in the application, and we try to do everything possible to meet your requirements. However, please note that indicating the desired sex and age of the child in your application form does not guarantee that you will host the child of this sex and age group.

When do I know the exact dates and place of the child's arrival?

- As soon as the tickets are booked, before signing the contract. Be prepared that the exact arrival and departure dates could differ 2-3 days from the planned (December 18th 2011 - January 3rd 2012). The arrival airport is one of the following: Toronto, Ottawa or Montreal, because the majority of the participating families live in this region, so be prepared to travel to one of these places to pick up the child.

Can I / Do I have to host the accompanying person?

- You do not have to do it, as the costs of the accompanying persons' living expenses is covered in the program fee. However, it is possible. In case you wish to host the accompanying person in your home for a part or the whole period of the program, please contact Luba (luba@tdh.ca, 514 658 49 66 or cell 514 632 23 62) and confirm whether it is logistically possible. If yes, a corresponding deduction from your fee will be made.

Can I adopt the child after the program?

- This program in no case has anything to do with adoption and cannot be regarded as a preliminary step for the adoption process, although about 50% of the Ukrainian children travelling to other countries on the vacation program eventually ended up adopted by their hosting families.

I am single. Can I participate?

-Yes, if you meet all the indicated requirements for the hosting program.

Can I keep contact with the child after he/she leaves or invite the child for a new visit next year?

- Yes, you can keep correspondence and send presents any time you wish. Also, many children visited the same family year after year.

Can I have a discount on the fee for the program?

-You may offer yourself to host the accompanying person. In case it is viable, you will get a corresponding deduction from your fee. You also obtain a tax credit (receive back a part of the sum you paid), as the fee is a charitable donation. More information at

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/svngs/clmng1b-eng.html>

Is there a requirement that my younger children must be older than the child that we are hosting?

-No, there is no such requirement.

How to make the payment

1. By credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express).

We are working on the Internet payment terminal. For now, please can make your payment by phone:

Call Jose Garcia at TDH 514 937 33 25 or Luba 514 658 49 66 or cell 514 632 23 62

2. You can also send a cheque on the name of TDH Canada and send it to the following address:

TDH Canada
2520 rue Lionel Groulx, 3^e étage
Montréal (Québec) H3J 1J8