



# Report on activities of Kherson Regional Orphans' Ministry "My Home" for 2016



## Information from the Commissioner of the President of Ukraine on children's matters Nikolai Kouleba



### UKRAINE

105 783 children  
751 orphanages

100-300 children per institution

1,5 % of children's population

SERVICES IN COMMUNITIES DO NOT EXIST

### EU COUNTRIES

Orphanages are places of unfreedom

6-12 children in alternative care institution

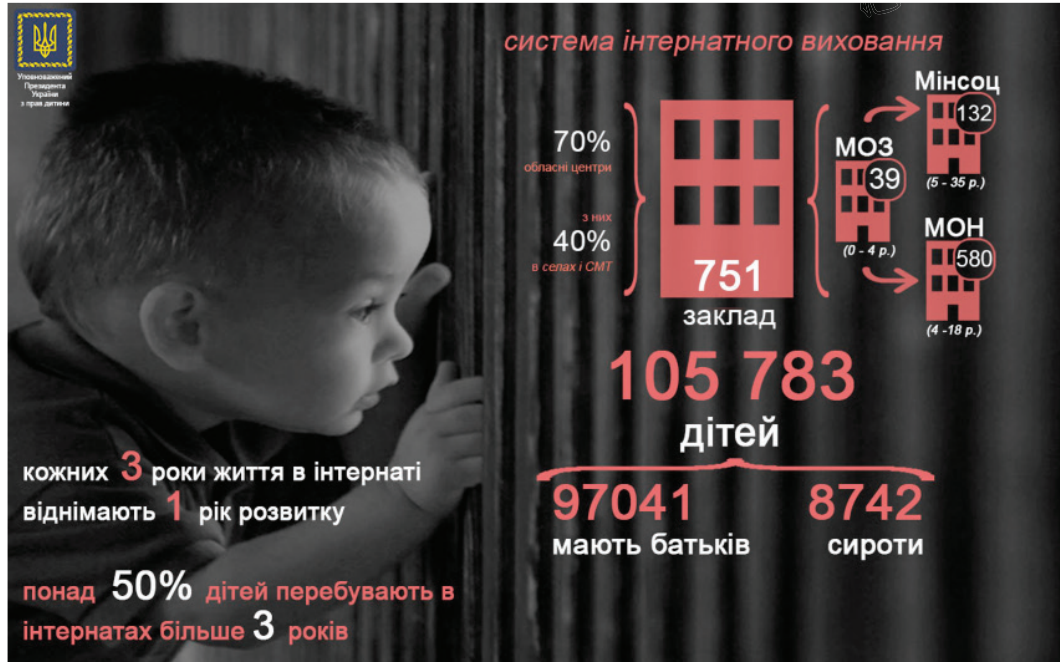
0,2-0,5 % Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova

0,1 % Austria, Norway

SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN COMMUNITIES



"MY HOME"  
Orphans' Ministry



System of institutionalized upbringing

70 % regional centers  
out of them  
40% in villages and urban-type settlements

Every 3 years in an orphanage  
Take away 1 year of development

Over 50 % of children are in  
Orphanages over 3 years

132 Ministry of Social Policy (5-35 y.o.)  
751 institutions  
39 Healthcare Ministry (0-4 y.o.)  
580 Ministry of Education and Science (4-18 y.o.)

105 783 children  
97 041 have parents 8742 orphans



System of institutionalized upbringing

**CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES**

- 18 % have a disability
- 50 % have special needs
- 90 % have health and developmental disorders
- 100 % are isolated, deprived of right for a family, experience abuse and humiliation

90 % are not capable of living independently or creating a family

Territorial communities

**ORPHANAGE GRADUATES**

- 50% commit a crime
- 20% become homeless
- 14% attempt suicide
- 1% get higher education



"MY HOME"  
Orphans' Ministry



The team of “My Home” Kherson Orphans’ Ministry started the New Year of 2016 with prayer for peace in Ukraine, harmony between people and for good family life for all orphans.

Analysis of last year’s activities led us to believe that we are trying to solve problems of consequences, helping orphans, not preventing children from ending up in orphanages.

Therefore, the dominant activity in 2016 was preparation for regional conference “By healing family we build the future”, the purpose of which is to unite the whole community in struggle for a healthy family for children and for harmonious development of every child in biological family. Over the past 15 years in Ukraine huge work has been done on adoption and providing family care for many thousands children left without parents for different reasons. Orphanages continue to fill up with children and cripple their souls and hearts.

Ukraine has 600 000 families in difficult circumstances, they are the source of filling up orphanages with children, social orphans.



**In 2016, five adopted children got good loving families. One child with special needs found love and understanding of a foster family.**

Promoting adoption as the most effective form of family upbringing, just like in previous years, was the major focus of “My Home” team.

83 foster families, in which 153 children are raised, were receiving help and support of the Ministry throughout 2016



In 2016 260 people took part in the events of training and educational activities of the Ministry. All of them were aimed at support and methodical assistance to parents in matters of parenting, preservation of harmony in family relations, promotion of adoption as the most effective form of helping orphans.

Coaches of the Ministry's team held twenty-one days of training by the program

"Key aspects of helping orphans", training called "Adoption secret - to be or not to be" for foster parents, adoptive parents, professionals of child protective services and volunteers. Seventy-three parents got methodical help. Two groups of candidates for caretakers and foster parents were trained, three advanced trainings for foster families and caretakers in FTH (together with the Regional Center of Social Services for Families, Children and Young People) were held.



From April 9 to June 25 2016 the team of "My Home" had a real marathon with the training program of International Leadership Development Center (ILDC) called "Key aspects of helping orphans and children deprived of parental care" in Kherson and Nikolaev regions. Psychologists and social teachers of



Nova Kakhovka schools, foster parents who are under the care of "My Home" Orphans' Ministry and who are registered in Kherson Center of Social Services for Children and Young People, mentors of children in orphanages from "One Hope" project, teachers of Christian ethics for orphans from «AGAPE» mission, pastors and ministers of many local churches took part in the trainings.

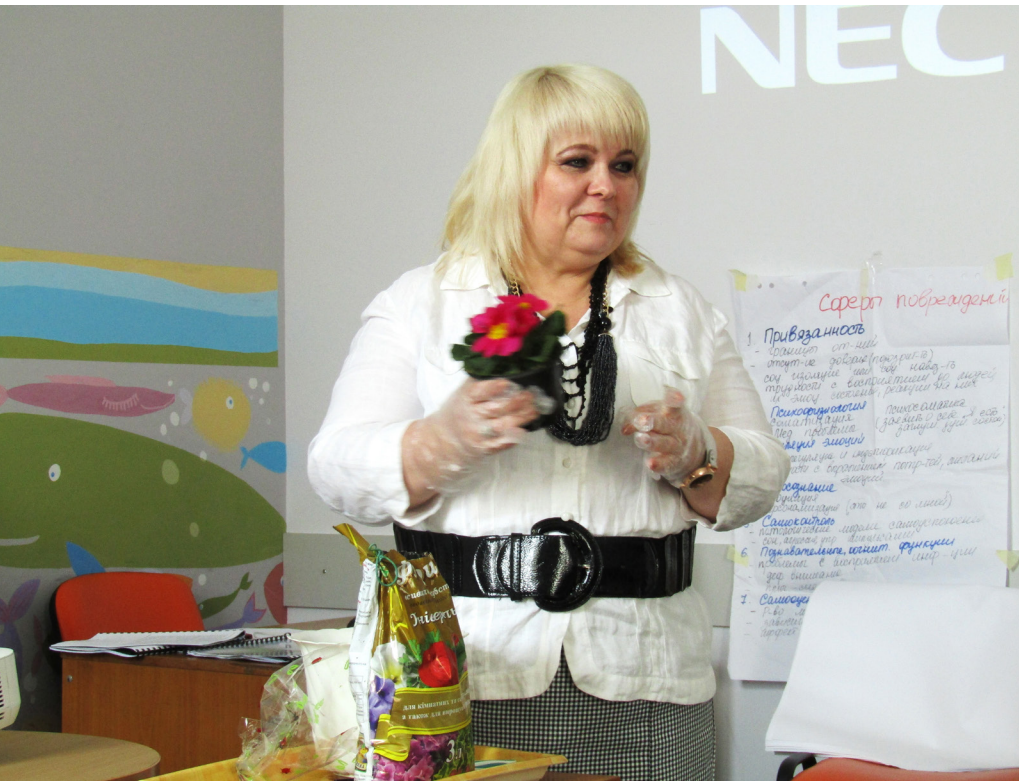






Practical exercises with the speaker, national coach and expert in childhood protection Victoria Melnichenko helped foster parents understand the “Crisis and stresses of foster families”.

Parents heard answers to questions about the causes of problematic behavior of children and adults in foster families.





Neuropsychologist Olena Yakovenko revealed the root causes of problems in upbringing and education of biological and adopted children during a seminar, which hosted 90 participants, including adoptive parents, parents of foster families, volunteers and professionals of Social services for Children, Center of Social Services for Children and Young People and educational institutions. Two days of active communication inspired professionals and parents of children with special needs and developmental disabilities to a higher level of understanding of how to work on their children's development and education to overcome difficulties and problems.





From position of a coach and adoptive father, international speaker, renowned coach, adoptive parent, representative of Texas Institute of Child Development, who gives lectures on raising children and the specifics of raising foster children, David Little, revealed the subject of establishing trust relationships with foster children.

76 participants attended the seminar, including experts of various structures related to work with orphaned children and parents who opened their hearts to orphans.

Vladimir Zubenko, pastor and adoptive father from Kramatorsk, held practical seminar for parents on upbringing and development of foster children in light of the Bible.



Foster parents and team of the Ministry became participants of the conference "Strengthening Families 2016" in Kyiv.





In 2016 we established cooperation with the Ukrainian Diaspora in China, which is united in organization called "Community". Representatives of the organization sent big stuffed toys to children raised in Oleshki orphanage for Children's Day. Also, with their participation we implemented a project called "Christmas Dream" based on the

children's letters. The children drew their dreams. Dreams were different: bicycles, clothes, toys, shoes, roller skates and so on. There was so much joy when long wished for gifts from the children's dreams were delivered by mail from China to 30 children from families in difficult situation and children raised in orphanages!



In 2016 we continued fruitful cooperation with the mission “Light of Resurrection”. Last year, 30 children from the most vulnerable families received financial assistance for medical issues, provision of living conditions, health improvement and development. Four families received assistance from China in the form of clothing, shoes, sports equipment, toys and other necessary items for children. Cooperation with many businessmen who helped solve many important issues has become fruitful. Canadian businessman, Alexander Tsedryk, supported three families financially during the year, helping with building materials, solid fuel, liquefied gas, food and other necessities for families and children.

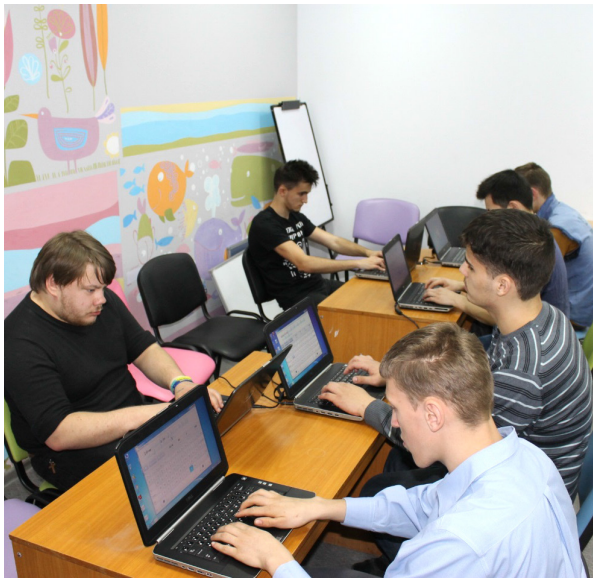




“Christian Center of Family and Parenthood Development”, center of social integration for graduates of orphanages continues to function and develop for two years. During the year boys and girls had the opportunity to study based on training program “Healing trauma” led by American missionary Rene Flory.



Training Courses of touch-typing method or ten-finger method of typing on the computer using Christian Program “Scripta” helped graduates master the newest technology of computer literacy.

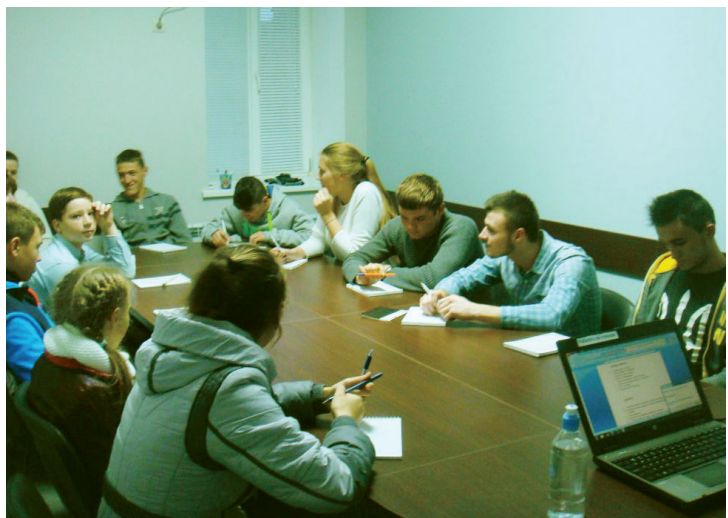






A whole range of socialization events useful and necessary for future life was developed for the graduates. And one of them is training on financial literacy led by Dmitry Ostapenko. The first training, which was entitled “Picture of the World” made it clear to the graduates that not only artists can paint pictures, but every person can. And he or she does it, whether they realize it or not. Picture of the world is a set of beliefs about our country, finance and environment. And it is

this picture that determines the life of everyone. Our fortunes are determined by our thinking and beliefs. The limits of our world picture depend on them. Girls and boys got something to think about. Subjects of the block “Personality development”, “Time and planning” became the basis for financial literacy for students of the Center.





With participation of residents of the Center, students of Oleshki orphanage and Teaching and Educational Complex # 1 named after T. Shevchenko we organized a friendly youth meeting “Love. Infatuation. What is the difference?”, tennis tournament, as well as “ Open Door Day” in order to acquaint future graduates of orphanages with living conditions of the Center.





Presentation of the Center's activities was held in Tavria orphanage and two orphanages of the village Stara Zburevka.

Future graduates of orphanages had an opportunity to assess their desires for further planning of their life in the society. The Center of social adaptation offers a way to revive the faith of orphans in a good future as fully valid person in the society.



Involvement and participation of graduates in activities of the Ministry and the Center has become an effective tool for socialization: there were numerous workshops on cooking, taking care of housing and personal belongings and joint trips with families of the Center, as well as evening conversations and watching movies. Students of



the Center took an active part in organizing Christmas celebrations for families in difficult situation and gave good mood to families who heard Christmas story about the birth of Christ and its significance for every life for the first time. About 270 New Year's gifts and the best wishes of peace, health and God's blessings were given to children during the celebration and family visits. Residents of the Center were invited to churches of Kherson and the region with a Christmas program.



In 2016 we changed the format of “Birthday child day” for students of Oleshki orphanage. Children with special needs had the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays in “McDonald's”, where administration is open to cooperation and charity on order to fulfill the dreams of orphans.





In 2016 we organized six trips to Oleshki orphanage with participation of volunteers, residents and students of the Center, had Easter celebration together with students of Tavria Christian Institute and handed out “Samaritan's Purse” gifts in the amount of 125. Children with special needs have the opportunity to communicate, share their cherished dreams and find a mentor and friend.





“Mentorship” project, which was implemented in conjunction with the team of AGAPE mission helped many children in orphanages find a senior friend who will help, guide and support in life. In 2016 we had eight presentations of the project in various churches of the region to encourage people to become caring mentors for an orphaned child.



In 2016 a local TRC “Scythia” invited project participants to share experiences and encourage residents of Kherson to become mentors through a TV program called “Give light”.

Camp at sea for the project participants became a significant event, it gave mentors the opportunity to

spend three full days with their mentees, become better friends and further improve relationships, as well as reveal new qualities in each other through joint activities and leisure.

16 children raised in foster homes (FTO, fostered or adopted) with participation of “My Home” were able to relax and improve their health in a summer camp held by the ICF “Time to minister” in the woods outside Poltava.







In 2016 children and families who are in difficult circumstances became the area of special attention and care. It is from these families mostly children come to orphanages. The problem of huge number of such families is becoming a huge challenge for our society. Only Kherson region and only according to official data, has almost 4 thousand families like this, they are home to more than 7 thousand children.



The main objective of this project is to help keep biological family for a child and prevent the child from going into orphanage institutions.

Throughout 2016 twelve families who are in difficult life circumstances received various kinds of assistance. Some families are families of orphanage graduates. They are single-parent families, where 18 children aged from 7 months to 11 years old are raised. During this time in the



form of legal assistance packages of documents were prepared for four families to get state social assistance and for registration of members of three families. One child was placed in pre-school educational institution specializing in speech therapy. All families received financial assistance.

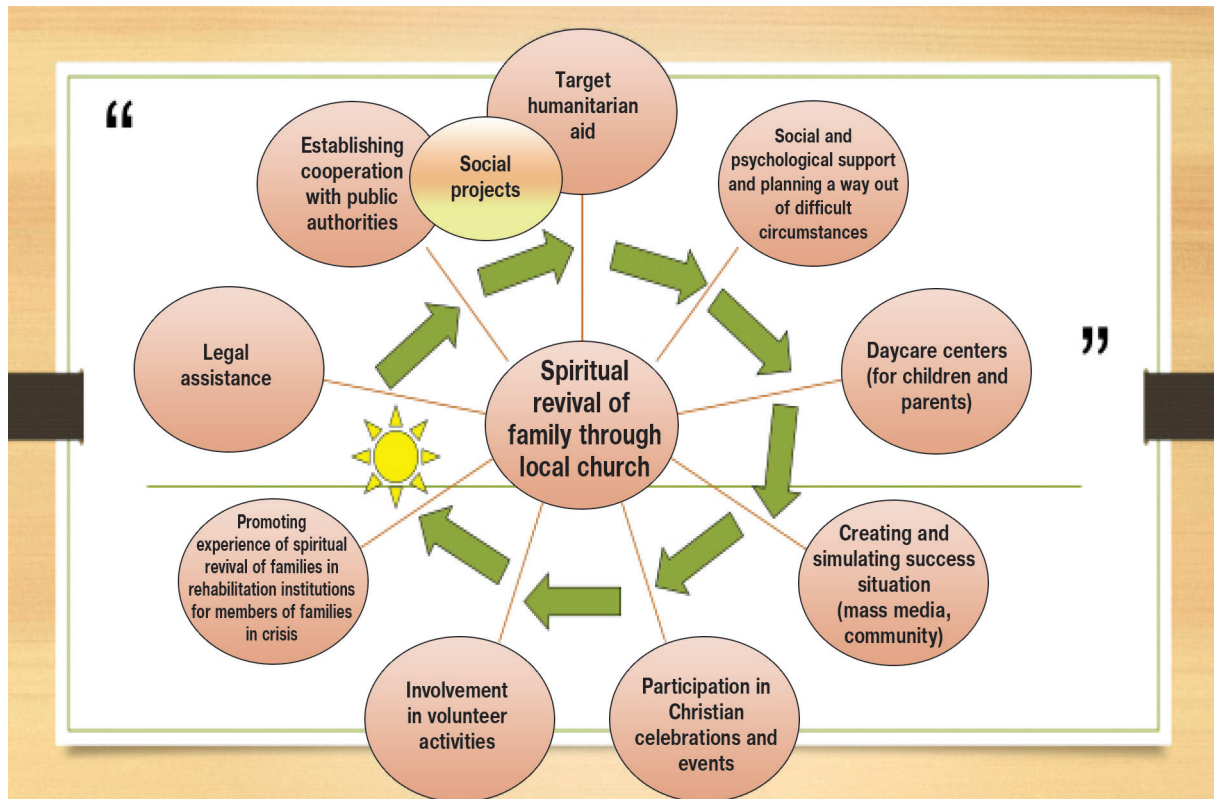




Financial support of the Ministry gave four children with disabilities from families who are in difficult circumstances the opportunity to go through rehabilitation. Target patronage over families with many children was established. Two mothers got jobs. During our cooperation families received solid fuel, gas, medicine, clothes, shoes, building materials, school supplies, children's furniture and food.

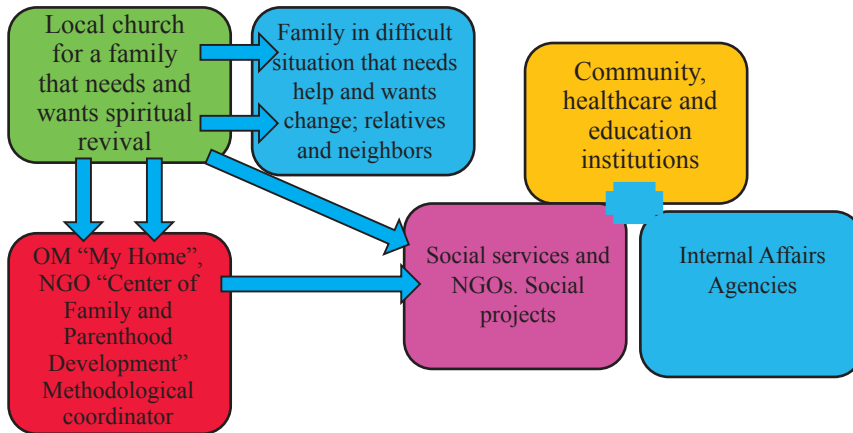


## Types of assistance and support for families in difficult circumstances





## Resources for cooperation with a family in difficult situation



We created an algorithm to support families who are in difficult circumstances. The main goal is to unite public authorities, business and religious communities in spiritual revival of parents of these families and help in recovery from the crisis. In order to implement state policy on social protection of children, prevention of child neglect and homelessness, im-

plementation of measures to protect the rights, freedoms and lawful interests of children, encourage citizens to adopt, to implement and develop cooperation on social protection of children, including the implementation of state policy for protection of families in difficult circumstances, cooperation agreements with Kherson Regional Centers of Social Services for Children and Young people and with Social Services for Children of Dnieprovsky district in Kherson were initiated and signed.

Cooperation with social services and local government has acquired partnership character through joint trainings and seminars. 20 professionals from these structures have been trained and certified by the International Center of Leadership Development.



Throughout 2016 the Ministry's team visited churches of Kherson region in order to encourage and inspire the congregation to new ministry projects. Projects of assistance to families in difficult circumstances, mentorship for children living in orphanage institutions, Center of Adaptation for orphanage graduates were presented. Also the importance of creating daycare centers and centers of early intervention in Kherson for children at risk for social improvement of situation in the region and the country as a whole was emphasized. In 2016 we prepared presentation materials "Every child needs a family" and they were demonstrated in Dniepr, Odessa, Irpin, Kyiv and churches in Kherson and Kherson region.





On November 9, in the city executive committee, there was a working meeting between the mayor of Nova Kakhovka Vladimir Kovalenko and adviser to mayor Yuri Kobtsov with the Chairman of the Board of KROM “My Home” Yuri Marynchak and bishop, pastor of Church of Nativity Sergei Voznyuk. The meeting was dedicated to

issues of social work with the most vulnerable groups, such as orphans, children with disabilities and families in difficult circumstances. During the year, similar meetings with pastors of churches of different denominations, heads of village councils and community leaders took place in order to unite efforts to rescue children from families in difficult circumstances.



The issue of healing families concerns all Christians of Kherson region.

Joint survey “Against abortions”, conducted among residents of Kherson by volunteers of Svyato-Kastorivsky Temple, team of OM “My Home”, as well as students of “Christian Center of Family and Parenthood Development” and graduates of orphanage institutions became proof of effective-



iveness of this form of cooperation. The survey confirmed the importance and necessity of such events among young families and young people for the benefit of future real paternity and maternity.







In 2016 psychologist of the Ministry Nadezhda Kim was trained and received a certificate of national coach on training and development of patronage families (Partnership “For Every Child”) and received a Certificate of honor from the Head of Kherson Regional State Administration “For many years of hard work, considerable personal contribution to the establishment and functioning of foster families and family-type homes, patronage families, prevention of child abandonment and on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day”.

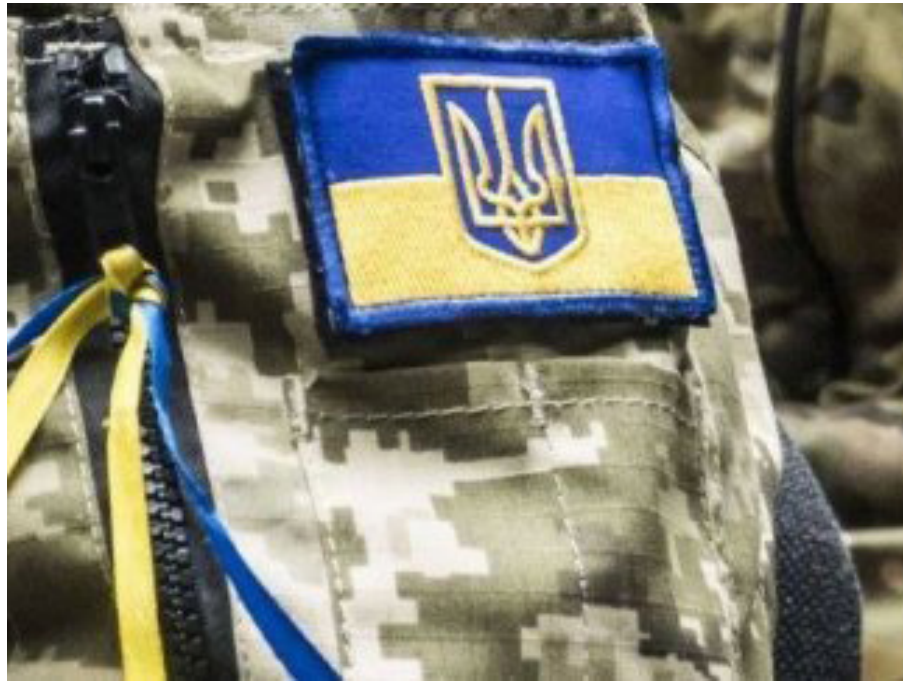
Today Patronage of a child is a very important area. It is a comprehensive service that provides temporary care, upbringing and rehabilitation of children in a family of patronage caregiver until the child, the parents overcome difficult circumstances and/or decision is made on the child getting status of orphan or child deprived of parental care and the form of the child’s further placement is determined.



Over 2016 the Ministry's employees were trained in ICLD on the following subjects: "You and your team. How to identify and reveal potential", "Trust-based relationship intervention in work with graduates of orphanage institutions", "From Risk to stability. Working with families in crisis". Two employees from the team started their education in Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and major in "Basic Social work with families and children". Two coaches from the Ministry's team Facility got training to improve their knowledge and skills of coaching skills on the subject "Development of training programs" (ICLD).

Employees of the Ministry participated in a conference organized by the Alliance "Ukraine without orphans", where a new project called "One church - one family" was presented, All-Ukrainian conference "Alternative forms of care in the "Family Home Pokrova", organized by the Charitable Foundation "Lviv Education Foundation", "Orphanhood in the face of life" in Irpen organized by NGO "In circle of friends". During all these events presentations of OM "My Home" were held. In 2016 based on agreement with the Center of Social Services for Families, Children and Young People, employees of "My Home" Orphans' Ministry got the right to train and improve skills of foster parents in Kherson region.





Throughout 2016 the Ministry provided financial assistance to participants of ATO that protect Ukraine from Russian aggression in the amount of 10 000 UAH.



Preparation of regional conference “By healing family we build the future” became the conclusion of “My Home” Orphans’ Ministry activities. In 2016 we created non-governmental organization “Center of Family and Parenthood Development”, which has become a partnership platform to joint efforts of the community, government, churches and business to save the future of children and families in Kherson region.



Since family is recognized by the international community as the best condition for survival, protection and development of children, the basic unit of society and natural environment for people, it determines what our future will be like. It is under these circumstances, when there’s a tendency in the society when the number of families in difficult circumstances, where children are raised, is increasing, attention and willingness to help, ability to regulate negative processes in families to preserve biological family for the child, prevent children from ending up in orphanages are required from us.

It is through attitude towards our neighbor that our spirituality is judged.

We are open to cooperation.





All the events of 2016 were conducted with prayer to the Lord and for His glory. We thank everyone who is with us in prayer, in work, and in joy.

God's blessings to you and your families in 2017.

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