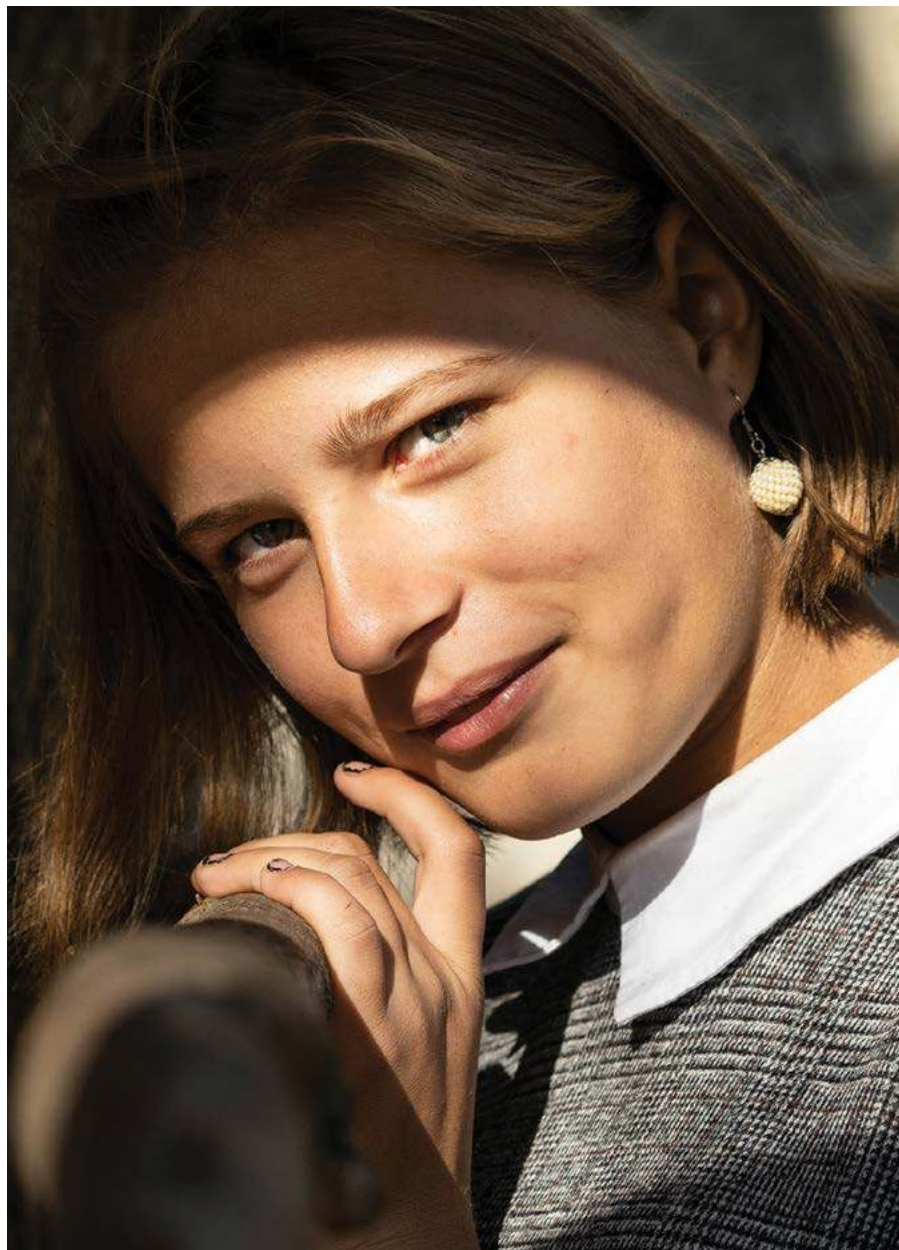


PORTRAITS OF
PROMISE



NO LONGER CLOTHED IN SHAME

BY DREW FRIEDRICH,
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

In this month's edition we share Alyona's story. After suffering through the death of her mother and eventually being abandoned by her father, Alyona has struggled to escape the trenches of poverty. Take a look inside at how Orphan's Promise is meeting the need, and how Alyona is finding hope.

**These are the stories.
These are the souls. These
are the portraits of the
lives we're changing.**





But regardless of the symptoms, at its very root the disease we are fighting is poverty.

Children are poverty's greatest victims. Unable to care for themselves, provide for themselves, or defend themselves, children are often swept up by the effects of poverty and then spit out, far worse for wear and unsure of how to even begin rebuilding their lives. Many of the more than 140 million orphaned and at-risk children around the world remain in that place of confusion and despair, never moving past the pain and trauma they've experienced.

Children are poverty's greatest victims.

THE FACELESS ENEMY

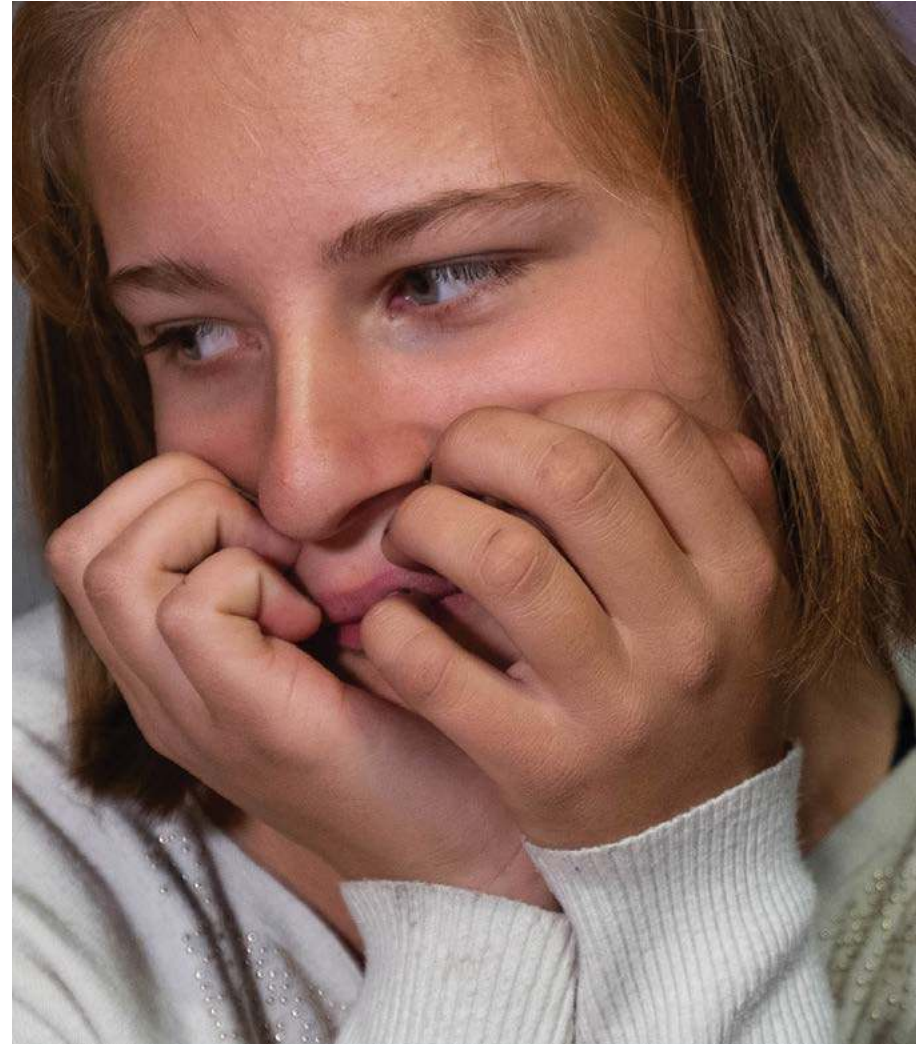
In all the work we do at Orphan's Promise, there is a common thread woven into nearly every story we see and hear: Poverty is the problem. In some cases, it's financial pressure from unemployment that leads to substance abuse as a coping mechanism for parents; in others, a lack of education results in sustained financial hardship. Perhaps poverty resulting in empty plates on dining room tables—or young children sold into slavery for a small profit—are the symptoms we see.





BUT, GOD...

But, God sees these children. He hears these children. He loves these children, and He raises up heroes like you to step into the story and offer these precious young people a hand up out of the muck and the mire. Your generosity is the tool God uses to rebirth dreams in their hearts. Because of you, He sets their feet on clear, straight paths and uses your love to begin untangling them from the ties of their painful pasts.



Alyona is a girl who felt the shame of poverty. Her empty stomach was a constant reminder of the fact that she'd lost her parents. Her mother passed away when she was just 7, which was heartbreaking enough, but shortly after that Alyona's father abandoned her and her three siblings. The children were left with their grandmother, who loved them very much but had a hard enough time providing for herself, much less four growing children. It was a constant challenge. The children didn't have nice clothes, and they often wore hand-me-downs from each other and from people in the village who took pity on them.

They didn't have the money they needed to buy supplies for school and, worst of all, sometimes they would go a day or two without eating. "This isn't how it was supposed to be," Alyona often thought to herself.

Over time, the children began to care for themselves while their grandmother went looking for work in the fields nearby. She would help out farmers but only made a few dollars a day, and in

the winter months, when there was no harvest, her income dried up. She felt terrible for her grandchildren and knew they were hurting, so she reached out to a local pastor from a nearby church and asked him to pray for her little family. He agreed to pray, but he knew he could do far more. The church had a partnership with Orphan's Promise, which provided help to children and families who were in desperate situations.

They didn't have the money they needed to buy supplies for school and, worst of all, sometimes they would go a day or two without eating.

THE GIFT OF BELONGING

When our staff on the ground heard how Alyona's family was struggling, they jumped in to help. First, we showed up with bags of food. We've found through the years that if we address external needs, like clothing, but fail to address the immediate physical needs, like hunger, of those we're helping, we've missed the mark. The family thought the food was a kind gesture but admitted they didn't expect our team to come back. Having lost one parent and been abandoned by the other, the children weren't used to experiencing a love that shows up in tough times and sticks around for the long haul. Not only did our team come back, but we also took the kids shopping, bought them new school clothes and school supplies, and made sure they had everything they needed to go to school feeling prepared to learn.

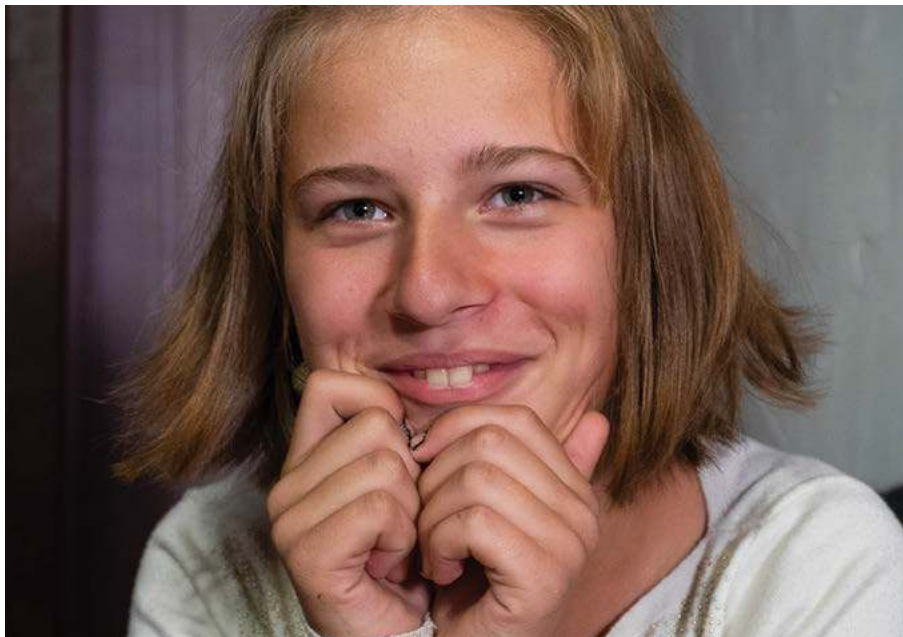
You know, there's just something about putting on new clothes that gives us all a sense of pride and excitement, isn't there? The first day of school, an Easter or Christmas church service, maybe a wedding ... whatever the occasion, everyone wants to look beautiful and feel like they fit in. This is never truer than with children, who are painfully aware of how their peers view them.



For kids like Alyona and her siblings, you are the difference between shame and hope.

If kids feel like their clothes aren't in style, or they are wearing third generation hand-me-downs, you can see it on their faces and in their eyes. They want desperately to be "normal." For Alyona's family, you've given them this gift. You've allowed them to feel like they matter, to feel like they belong, and that sense of belonging will impact them for years to come.

For kids like Alyona and her siblings, you are the difference between shame and hope. Your decision to act on the compassion you feel holds incredible significance and truly does impact children, families, and communities for years to come. In this case, it was food, clothing and school supplies, but in other cases, it may be school fees that allow children to attend school, or discipleship programs that bring healing to children who are hurting. Regardless of how or where your generosity is making a difference, the impact you're making cannot be overstated. We couldn't touch the lives of so many children in such a profound way without your support. **Thank you!**



LET'S FINISH STRONG

We're counting down the final days of 2019, but there's still time for you to make an impact! Give a special year-end gift before the new year, and let's head into 2020 with momentum!

There are 4 ways you can support Orphan's Promise:

- 1 Give online by visiting OrphansPromise.org/OP2019
- 2 Text **OP2019** to **71777** and give from your mobile phone
- 3 Call **1-800-818-4016** to give by phone
- 4 You can **mail a check** made out to Orphan's Promise to:

Orphan's Promise
977 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463

Thanks for your generosity over the last year. We look forward to making an even bigger difference together in the year ahead!





give us a call: 1-800-818-4016

orphan'spromise.org


Orphan's Promise, a children's ministry of The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc., serves orphans and other vulnerable children around the world, taking them from at-risk to thriving through the transforming power of God's love. CBN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contributions to our ministry are tax-deductible.

education 

nutrition 

discipleship 

community transformation 

family care 

anti-trafficking 