

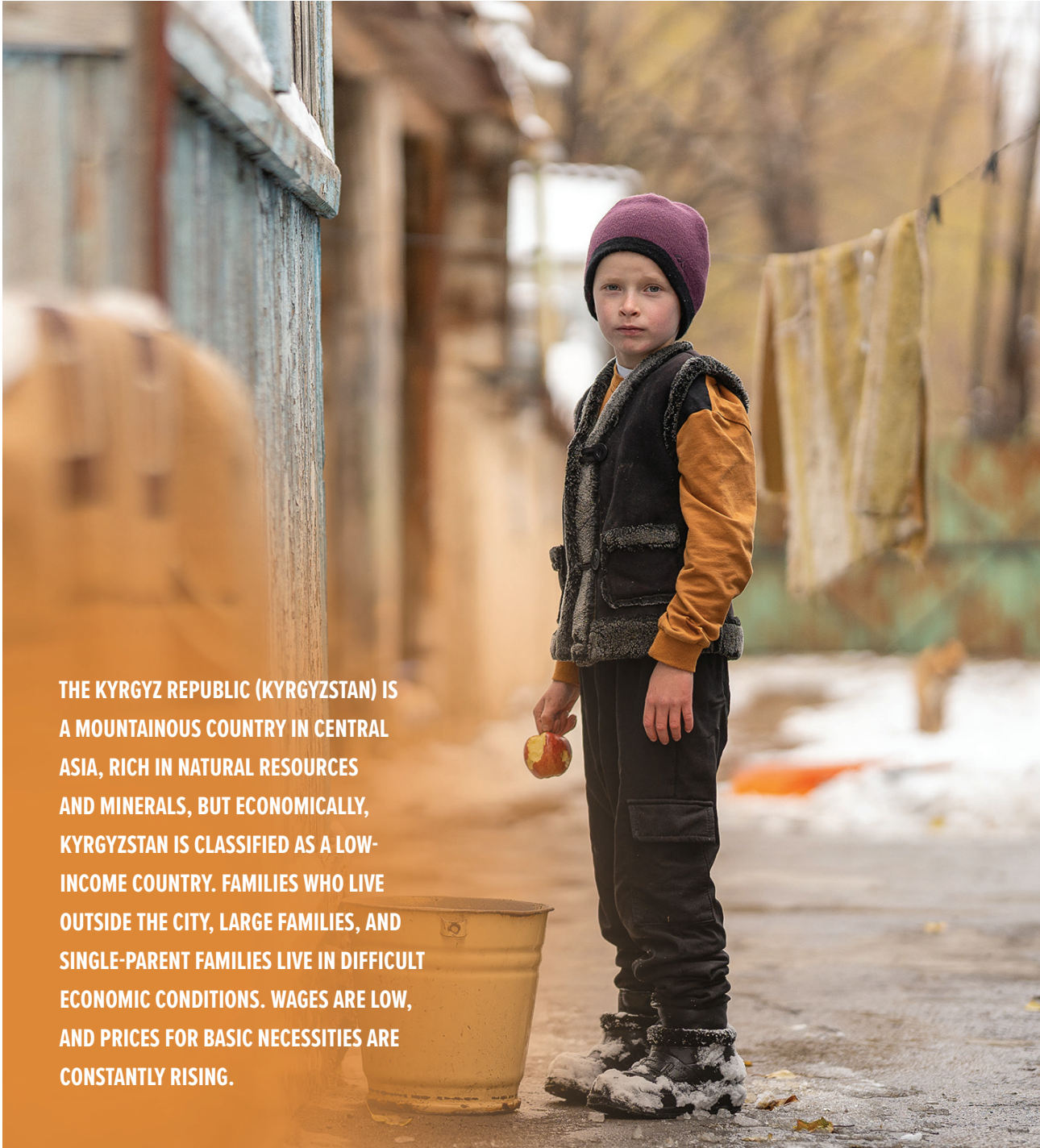
PORTRAITS OF
PROMISE

A Safe Place for Sasha

Sasha is 7 years old and lives in Kyrgyzstan. This country in Central Asia is rich in natural resources and natural beauty, with incredible landscapes and stunning mountain ranges. It's also a place where a lot of children face an uphill battle of safety and survival. Come with us around the world to see how your partnership is giving kids like Sasha hope for a better future.

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





THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC (KYRGYZSTAN) IS A MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRY IN CENTRAL ASIA, RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINERALS, BUT ECONOMICALLY, KYRGYZSTAN IS CLASSIFIED AS A LOW-INCOME COUNTRY. FAMILIES WHO LIVE OUTSIDE THE CITY, LARGE FAMILIES, AND SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES LIVE IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. WAGES ARE LOW, AND PRICES FOR BASIC NECESSITIES ARE CONSTANTLY RISING.

A MOTHER'S STRUGGLE


“My children like to drink milk, and sometimes I had to choose: buy bread or milk.”

It's a simple statement that points to a lifetime of the kind of decisions a mother never wants to make.

**WHICH DO YOU CHOOSE?
HOW DO YOU SURVIVE?
BREAD OR MILK?**

As a single parent living in a small suburb in Kyrgyzstan, Sasha's mother has been forced to make choices like this for her family. There is not a lot of opportunity for steady work, and it is especially difficult with two little ones to care for. She would take any job she could find in order to feed her family.

They live in a small rented house that has running water but no indoor plumbing. **With average temperatures hovering at about 25 degrees during the winter, it's difficult to keep the house warm.** They have an electric heater and when they are able to afford wood or coal, they use the stove. They use the furniture that belongs to their landlord, but the only thing Sasha, his mother, and 4-year-old sister Safina can call their own is their dishes.



MANY WOMEN LACK ACCESS TO THE EDUCATION AND NECESSARY SKILLS TO GET CONSISTENT JOBS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

MILK AND BREAD

We first met Sasha and his family during the pandemic when our team was delivering humanitarian aid to families in need. During that time, work was increasingly difficult to find and the effects of the pandemic affected women specifically.

UNECE and UN Women reported: “The pandemic and measures to prevent its spread have deepened the pre-existing gender inequalities in Kyrgyzstan and have resulted in disproportionate and lasting effects on women’s work and livelihoods. Women face compounding burdens: they are leading the health response, face a high risk of job and income loss, shoulder much of the responsibility for unpaid care work in households, and experience increased rates of sexual violence and abuse.”¹

Sasha’s family was in dire need when we met them. But with your help, our team provided emergency food assistance and continued to bring groceries and supplies to Sasha’s family during the pandemic.

A SAFE PLACE TO GROW

In June of 2021, with COVID-19 subsiding and restrictions lifting, Sasha’s mother started to bring her children to our Orphan’s Promise partner Country Without Orphans kids club. Here, Sasha participated in the classes with great excitement! But his mentors and teachers noticed that he was still in a lot of pain from his father leaving the family. He felt rejected and internalized the abandonment, which led to struggles of fear and insecurity. He often blamed himself and was worried about holding on to his mother’s love. He was scared she would leave him too.

So caring team members started the complex yet crucial work of helping Sasha process his family’s history. A psychologist worked with Sasha individually, and his mentors at the club conducted lessons in the classroom on parental love and talked with Sasha one on one about his family. Sasha’s mom also received help with showing her love for Sasha and talking with her son about his dad. Slowly, Sasha started to accept the situation with his father and realize that the choices his dad made are not a reflection of him.

1. https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Childcare_WE_Covid-19_Kyrgyzstan_en.pdf

“Thank you for the opportunity to attend classes in this project,” Sasha said. “We have fun there. We learn a lot of interesting things in the classes, and I made a lot of friends.”



HOLISTIC HELP

Beyond the classroom, we also helped Sasha with medical needs. Sasha's teachers noticed he often suffered from nosebleeds and severe headaches. They gave Sasha's mother some money so that he could see a doctor. She took Sasha into the city and after an initial examination, her son received the care he needed.

INCREASE YOUR GENEROSITY!

The most effective way to give and maximize your gift is to give a recurring monthly gift. If you'd like to become a monthly partner with Orphan's Promise, please fill out the enclosed "You Pledge, We Pledge" form and return it in the Business Reply Envelope. We'll count on you to ensure our commitment to these children is fulfilled!

If you'd like to give a special gift to Orphan's Promise, there are four easy ways you can give:

Give online by visiting OrphansPromise.org/Promise

Text **PROMISE** to **71777** and give from your mobile phone

Call **1-800-818-4016** to give by phone

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.

We look forward to making a difference together.



“You help us so much. Thank you! Now I know that my children are healthy,” Sasha’s mother said.

In the spring of 2022, we discovered that Sasha’s mom dreamed of having a garden so that she could grow vegetables for her family.

But there wasn’t a pump to get water from the well, and she did not have the money for seed potatoes to start the garden. Orphan’s Promise helped install a pump near the family’s house so that they had easy access to water for the plants and provided seed potatoes for

their first crop. All throughout the summer, they tended to their vegetable beds and in the fall, they harvested enough potatoes to last them through the winter! Sasha’s mother also preserved vegetables for the winter, including pickles, jams, and compotes. Having the opportunity to grow their own food is key to building a sustainable future for their family and gives her better food security for her kids.

“YOU HELP US SO MUCH. THANK YOU! NOW I KNOW THAT MY CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY.”

“Thank you for taking care of our family. Without your help, I would not be able to provide the children with after-school activities. I would not

be able to take Sasha to the doctor. And I would not be able to grow crops. I really appreciate your kindness!” Sasha’s mom expressed.

Sasha and his family are just one example of how your support is bringing holistic help to families in need. At the end of the day, our goal is always to empower parents to be able to provide for their children because we believe families belong together. Whether that is through emergency groceries, access to education, parenting classes, or helping a parent like Sasha’s mother grow food for her family, your faithful generosity is making a daily difference in the lives of little ones like Sasha.

Now Sasha has the ability to dream big. He says he wants to explore space one day. “I learned about space at a lesson that we had at the club. Space is so big. I would like to look closely at black holes and at the planet Uranus. And now, while I’m little, I would like to visit Luna Park and look at the stars through a telescope,” he shared.

Instead of being stuck in the pain of his past or worrying where his next meal will come from, Sasha is looking toward the future and can dream again, like a child should.

Thank you for helping provide a safe place for Sasha to grow, learn, and heal!





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

orphanspromise.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 

strong families 

anti-trafficking 