

# PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**

UKRAINE  
EDITION

Hope on the  
**Front Lines**

A family's story of  
perseverance



# Hope on the Front Lines

In the last year, the war in Ukraine has affected the lives of millions of families. As we pass the one-year anniversary of the devastation, we wanted to share with you how your partnership with Orphan's Promise is continuing to offer lifesaving hope for children and their families even in the midst of the war.

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





## More than 12 million people have been displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Wartime in Ukraine means electricity is supplied only for a few hours a day. At these hours, Ukrainians try to charge their devices, take a shower, boil water, and call their loved ones.

On the eve of Christmas, previously cozy, beautifully decorated Ukrainian cities, in which you could hear children's laughter and good music resounding from shops and cafés, turned into cities where darkness prevails, the loud rumble of generators is heard, and the smell of exhaust from their work spreads.

## A YEAR OF WAR

From the first day of the war in Ukraine, the Orphan's Promise team came to the aid of people in critical need. Our staff on the ground continued fulfilling our mission of serving at-risk and vulnerable children throughout the country but also took on crisis response, doubling and in some cases tripling their workload, to respond to the urgent needs of displaced, traumatized children and adults.

In the first months of the war, most of the Orphan's Promise educational and transition centers in Ukraine and Moldova were converted to serve as shelters for tens of thousands of people who were fleeing. Classrooms were quickly reconfigured into dorm-style rooms, additional showers and toilets were installed so that safe sanitation and hygiene practices could continue, and restaurants worked around the clock to help provide meals. We also helped refugee families with basic necessities like clothes, shoes, medicine, transportation services, psychological support, and spiritual assistance.

More than 12 million people have been displaced by the war.<sup>1</sup> And over the last year, Orphan's Promise volunteers have helped evacuate children, families, the elderly, and people with disabilities from the front lines. Thousands of lives were saved, thanks to their timely evacuation and fearless dedication.

The reality of a war robbing so many children of their childhood, leaving gaping wounds of lost loved ones, and bringing a wake of devastation to an entire nation can be overwhelming. Instead of just looking at the statistics or being paralyzed by grief in the reality of life for so many people, we want to invite you to hear the story of one brave woman named Valentyna and see how hope is alive even in the darkest times.

1. <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/ukraine/>

## VALENTYNA'S COURAGE

Valentyna grew up as an orphan in Ukraine and has worked hard to provide for herself her entire life. She dreamed of having a loving family of her own one day, and when she had her first child, Anna, she was hopeful that dream would become a reality. But instead, circumstances left her raising Anna on her own. Later, she got married and had a second daughter named Yana. Again, Valentyna was hopeful that their family would stay together and she could give her children the stable home she never had. Her husband struggled with an alcohol addiction, but Valentyna tried to support him as best she could. A few years later, she found out she was pregnant and, at 24 weeks, discovered that her baby had a heart defect and would need immediate surgery after he was born.

### **Valentyna was 34 weeks pregnant when the war broke out in February 2022.**

Living conditions became more difficult with each passing day. After the bombings began, electricity, gas, and mobile communications were soon unavailable. Families hid in basements and bomb shelters, trying to keep their kids safe. Valentyna's doctors advised her to escape to unoccupied territory to give birth and try to get the surgery her baby needed in safer conditions. Valentyna was forced to make the impossible choice to leave her two daughters and husband to save the life of her unborn baby. She made the journey to the capital city of Kiev and delivered her son safely by C-section. He was then rushed to a children's hospital for a successful heart surgery.



***UNICEF reports: “Millions of children are in need of humanitarian assistance as they continue to suffer the deadly consequences of a brutal war not of their making. The war has sparked displacement on a scale and speed not seen since World War II—with far-reaching impact across the region and beyond.”<sup>2</sup>***

2. <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/war-ukraine-poses-immediate-threat-children>



But after recovery, Valentyna was scared and did not know where to go. She could not go back to her home because her city was still occupied, and her baby needed medical supervision and basic necessities like water, electricity, and heat. The winter in Ukraine is bitterly cold, with temperatures hovering between 15–22 degrees. Valentyna became friends with an Orphan's Promise volunteer at the hospital and heard about our home for single mothers.

**Valentyna made her way to the home and found a safe place to stay while her son Dmytro grew stronger. The home for single mothers is equipped with comprehensive help for women in need.**



They offer assistance with legal needs, humanitarian aide, and spiritual and psychological support. Valentyna was grateful for the safe, stable environment, but she was desperate to get back to her family. Unfortunately, she could not return to them without going through the front lines and facing enemy troops. So, she waited and prayed every morning for her family's safety and that she would be able to go home to them soon.

She finally got the news that Ukrainian troops had liberated her town, and the Orphan's Promise team helped her navigate the journey home.



## 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](https://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.**



## FINDING A FUTURE

When Valentyna arrived, she found her daughters had lived most of the time in the basement due to the bombing. They were struggling to survive, and the fear and despair had made her husband's addiction resurface to the point where he was not able to care for the little girls. Fortunately, their grandmother lived nearby and helped them from time to time. But when Valentyna saw how poor the living conditions were—homes destroyed, no electricity or heat, no running water, and shelling within earshot every day—she escaped with her children and came back to the Orphan's Promise center, where the team was waiting to help them.

At the center, Valentyna's family is able to get help with material needs like clothes and food, as well as holistic care. The little girls

are working with a psychologist to help them process the traumatic conditions they experienced, and Anna is back in school, catching up on what the war forced her to miss. It isn't easy for Valentyna, but she is finding support from the staff and plans to start a new life here since she has no home to return to. As the war continues, she prays for peace and for her family's future.

"I have never seen such kind people in my life of 32 years," she shared about the team.

**As we remember this past year and all that has happened, we are so thankful for Orphans' Promise partners like you, who are making it possible for mothers like Valentyna to take care of their children even during a horrific war. Because of you, there is still hope on the front lines.**





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 may be tax-deductible.

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