



THE YOUNG MOTHERS PROGRAM

Breaking the cycle of orphanhood in Russia by teaching orphans how to become better moms.

Today, nearly 40% of current Russian orphans are the children or grandchildren of orphans. In Russia, orphans “graduate” from the orphanage at the tender age of 15 or 16 and are forced to make their way in world for which they are ill equipped. At this juncture, they become critically **vulnerable**. In fact:

- 70% of girls enter the sex trade
- 40% become drug users
- 40% commit crimes
- 15% commit suicide

Little is in place in Russian society to stop this trend. That’s where Children’s HopeChest steps in.

HopeChest has provided care and support for over 4,000 orphans in western Russia for nearly 16 years. Our programs serve children living in orphanages and teens who have left the orphanage. All HopeChest programs serve to lay the groundwork for future success in fulfillment of our mission: *That every orphan has the right to know God, experience the blessing of a family, and have the opportunity to develop independent living skills. Amongst the older orphans we serve are teenage girls who find themselves pregnant and alone.*



GOAL

Provide **training, counseling, and healing** to young orphan mothers as they establish life outside of the orphanage and transition from orphan to parent. We offer one-to-one mentoring to reduce the rates of suicide, prostitution, and alcoholism among Russian orphans and to instill Christ-like disciplines and qualities in the mothers as they make this paramount change.

PROGRAM

The Young Mothers Program is comprised of several elements designed to create a framework for successful family life, including:

1. Teaching Skills

HopeChest provides **group classes** for young mothers each month. These classes promote a better understanding of parenting, as well as key topics in legal rights, life skills, and job opportunities.

2. Meeting Needs

We provide **direct assistance** when a young mother experiences a physical need, such as a baby stroller, diapers, formula, assistance with medical care, toys, books, or baby clothing.

3. Fostering Community

Mothers are required to attend a participants “**support group**” each month. This helps the girls connect with each other and build community. It is a tremendous help to know they are not alone, that someone else understands and will share their journey.

4. Creating Accountability

Every mother meets with her case worker each month for a **one-on-one counseling** session. Additionally, the case worker conducts a home visit once per month to ensure the mother and child have suitable and healthy living conditions. Through this relationship, the young mothers can access services for specific issues.

“Children who grow up in Russian orphanages are ill equipped to participate in society.... With little education and low social competency, orphans are under prepared for the job market, and many are lured into lives of crime and prostitution. . . Russian girl orphans have a high risk of becoming victims of trafficking. Nearly 70% of Russia's orphans are girls, and are vulnerable and unprotected due to the lack of family and social support systems.”
-Stop Violence Against Women

Results of all meetings and sessions are reported to HopeChest program staff in Russia. Based on the results, HopeChest adjusts the mother’s plan to create the greatest impact. Every mother’s situation is a little different, and our program is suited to adapt to changing needs on an ongoing basis.

PROGRAM RESULTS

Children’s HopeChest is proud to serve 45 mothers in this program. To date, 100% of these children have successfully kept their babies, established a family life and a safe home, and have avoided crime, prostitution, and suicide.

These results are directly tied to HopeChest’s investment in long-term care, one-to-one mentorship, and community-building initiatives amongst older orphans.

Through these outreaches, our staff can demonstrate the love of Christ in action, and use it as a tool to instill Christian qualities and disciplines in the girls and their children.

Today over 45 young children—the children of orphans—now have **healthy parents** and are not abandoned to the orphanage themselves. Our Young Mothers Program is breaking the trend of orphans producing more orphans.

PROGRAM TESTIMONIALS

Nadya: Young Mother

“I’ve been at the program for the second year already. Within the time of my participation I’ve given birth to a second child. I like the program very much. I often come to the HopeChest Ministry Center. They can always help me with a piece of advice, practically or financially. They often give me gifts. The Ministry Center has clever, kind and responsive staff who are always ready to help. I enjoy spending time with Americans. My

husband is also an often visitor at the Ministry Center. He's especially interested when Americans are visiting. He talks to them, asking them questions about their life in America.

“Advice of the women working at the Ministry Center helped us to keep our family. I once left my husband; he was treating me and the kids badly. Our relationship has become better now. He has become kinder and more considerate. Thank you all for your help!”

Elena: Program Manager

“None of the program participants was ready for a family life, had any ideas about healthy relationships within the family, realized what parents' responsibility is. Single mothers are psychologically traumatized what is reflected on their attitude to the kids. Some of them try to get away from their kids sticking to out-of-family interest. They couldn't interact with the kids, were unable to understand real needs of a kid and to satisfy them.

“The Ministry Center staff are carrying out complex work on reinforcing the program participants' responsibility for raising and educating their kids. We help young mothers to realize their parental duties, understand the role of the family and the importance of raising the kids, introduce them into up-to-date experience of raising kids and try to teach them building relationships between parents and kids.”



OPPORTUNITY

Children’s HopeChest provides services to 45 mothers in this program at any given time at a cost of \$106,425 per year. This funds the entire program for 45 young moms and their children living in three different regions of Russia. All programs are conducted at one of our HopeChest Ministry Center facilities in the cities of Ivanovo, Kostroma, and Vladimir. We use these funds as follows:

Program Expense	Per Mother/Year	45 Mothers/Year
Program Staff Expenses (9 staff members)	\$ 840	\$ 37,800
Direct Assistance to Mothers (supplies, food, clothing, etc.)	750	33,750
Facilities/Ministry Center Expenses	320	14,400
Monthly Tea Parties / Community Building Events	150	6,750
Emergency Fund	150	6,750
Program Oversight by Russia/US Leadership	105	4,725
Transportation (public transportation fares)	50	2,250
	\$ 2,365	\$ 106,425

To make a gift to support the Young Mothers Program in Russia, select the “GIVE” button on the top right corner of our Web site: <http://www.hopechest.org>. Please put “Young Mothers Program” in the note. Or, you can mail a gift to Children’s HopeChest, P.O. Box 63842, Colorado Springs, CO 80962-3842. Thank you.