

World Forgotten Children's Foundation

NEWSLETTER

701 E. Chocolate Avenue, Hershey PA 17033-1240, USA
Tel: 717/533-8845 (ext 122); Fax: 717/533-8661; help@world-forgotten-children.org

**We Can Light up Darkness!**

"As I have shared before through other messages over the years, serving on the board of the World Forgotten Children's Foundation is very personal for me. My family and I know intimately what it means to care for a child with disabilities. My son Matthew, now nearly 28 years of age, lives with severe and multiple intellectual and physical disabilities and autism. We are fortunate enough to live in a part of the world where there are services and programs that enable us to continue caring for him in our home, in a loving, safe environment. That support is essential and invaluable for us. Not every child around the world is so fortunate to have the kinds of care and support that Matthew does."

*But every child around the world deserves that kind of care and support.
Every child around the world deserves to see light in the circumstances of his or her life.*

Let me share a story...

"Each year for more than a dozen years, as soon as Halloween is over, Matthew waits for the lights. As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, as the temperatures drop and the leaves fall, he waits for the lights. He knows that they will come.

The neighbors across the street always put up a beautiful, brilliant light display for the holidays and Matthew eagerly waits for them to be turned on, which usually happens right after Thanksgiving. And then, each day between Thanksgiving and until the lights are turned off in January, he waits, excitedly, from mid-afternoon on. Each day he sits by the front windows or the front door in energetic and coiled anticipation, laser-focused, undeterred, intent on the moment of their nightly illumination.

And when each evening's moment comes, you know it no matter where you are in the house. The effervescent squealing. The rhythmic clapping. The excited twirling around the house in his wheelchair. It's pure joy. Pure delight on his face! And it happens every single night.

He waits for the lights. During the darkest days of the year. He sits and he waits. Transfixed by those lights brightening the dim, winter sky.

For all his limitations, in the world's view – his intellectual disabilities, his autism, his two-year-old mind in a twenty-eight-year-old body, his inability to speak – Matthew knows something very profound: that light will shine in the darkness, that no matter how dark, how long the wait, eventually, and without fail, those lights will shine again. No matter how many seasons of the year without them, there will come a season when those lights will shine again. They always do.

Life brings its own seasons of darkness, especially for children who live with disabilities and who have been orphaned. Desperate, at times. Lonely. Painful. Full of fear. But despite those seasons, a new season can come and the light can be seen again.

Every child deserves to have light in his or her life – the light of hope, the light of safety, the light of love.

World Forgotten Children's Foundation helps to make that kind of light possible to shine in some of the darkest corners of the world, in some of the darkest corners of children's lives. I am proud to be part of such a noble and caring effort. I hope that you will want to join me in supporting this effort to enable light to shine.

For me, it's very personal."

Contributed by: Rev. Michael Gingrich, a member of the WFCF Advisory Board

**Executive Director
& President**

Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour
IGI Global

Advisory Board Members

Rev. Michael D. Gingerich
Someone to Tell it to

Mr. Gary James
James, Smith, Dietterick and
Connell, LLC

Mr. Charles L. Kern, CPA
Kern and Company, PC

Mr. Saeed Otufat-Shamsi
NovoTech Software

Help Us Spread the Word

Please forward a copy of this newsletter to your friends and colleagues and make them aware of the WFCF mission.



**Providing Helping
Hands to Less Fortunate
Children of the World**





World Forgotten Children's Foundation NEWSLETTER

701 E. Chocolate Avenue, Hershey PA 17033-1240, USA
Tel: 717/533-8845 (ext 122); Fax: 717/533-8661; help@world-forgotten-children.org

Raising Hope, Ukraine Project

Recently, World Forgotten Children's Foundation has extended its outreach into Ukraine to partner with Raising Hope, Inc., to provide help for children in this war-torn nation who have very special physical and intellectual needs. In this small way, WFCF is offering hope and a better future to those living under a dark cloud of violence, economic deprivation, and severe limitation.

WFCF donated US \$8,000 for the purpose of purchasing ten (10) wheelchairs, at a cost of US \$700.00 each, and two (2) treadmills, at a cost of US \$500.00 each, for the benefit of orphans living with severe physical disabilities. Below, please find the profiles of some of the children at this facility, or who are benefiting from WFCF contributions. For more information, please visit: www.world-forgotten-children.org/projects/raising-hope-ukraine-project.



Bogdan

Bogdan is 9 years old. Bogdan cannot walk on his own and has a difficult time using one of his arms. They have not had a heavy duty wheelchair that they could get to the rehab center in. They have to walk 2 kilometers to get to the center down a steep incline on a cobblestone road. With this wheelchair, they will be able to not only walk to the center daily, but he will have the ability to attend the local village school starting October 1st. Bogdan will also have access to another wheelchair at the center that he will be able to use to get himself around on his own.

Sofia

Sofia is 4 years old. She is partially paralyzed, along with some brain damage and growth defects. Now, she will be able to go to the rehab center every day for physical therapy, massages and education!



Sasha

Sasha is 7 years old. He hasn't had the ability to get around in the city on city transportation without a wheelchair/stroller that is easily collapsible to get on the city buses. Now, they are so thankful to have a means for Sasha to get around!



Stacik

Stacik is 15 years old. He has cerebral palsy. He has an older sister, Nastaya, who is 20 years old that also has cerebral palsy. There is now a suitable wheelchair to carry Stacik to the rehab center that holds his entire body in place!



Martha

Martha is 15 years old. She has cerebral palsy, and cannot walk on her own. Using her new wheelchair, she will now be able to attend the rehab center daily. When we gave her the wheelchair, she did not want us to take her home, she wanted to go in her wheelchair all the way home!



IGI Global recently agreed to provide 5¢ of every dollar generated through their online bookstore as a donation in support of WFCF causes around the world.

Should your organization like to consider a similar arrangement with WFCF, please contact: Help@World-Forgotten-Children.org

A few ways that you can help WFCF:

- Let your friends and associates know about WFCF
- Forward a copy of the WFCF Newsletter to friends and associates
- Encourage friends and associates to inform WFCF about appropriate projects to fund
- Consider including WFCF as a beneficiary in personal wills

