

# Summer Camp



*where dreams come true!*



*"I had a wonderful time at Summer Camp. I forgot about all the problems I face everyday. We all felt special and important, a strange but wonderful feeling!" - Aliona, Moldova.*

**Mission Without Borders Australia**



# A blossoming Princess...



## at Summer Camp

**Do you remember our little princess from a dark and cold cellar- the cellar that used to be the place of protection and self-defence from heartless, abusive parents?**

*Lonely and defenceless in a dark, cold cellar, with humid walls that never dry, and a gnawing hunger that never goes away... these are the first memories of little 5 year old Oksana from Ukraine... Locked out by her alcoholic parents, the police finally discovered her living in conditions not fit for human habitation... This abuse and neglect left scars, and even some time after she arrived at a Children's Home, she did not speak...*

***(Summer Camp Appeal, Focus News June 2007)***

Last year, Oksana's life took an amazing turn; she attended a Mission Without Border's Summer Camp!

This "Fairytale", where the main character is not played by a "good fairy", but by Mission Without Borders, has a wonderful, happy ending!

At Summer Camp Oksana found herself in comfortable surroundings, a strange but wonderful feeling! Because of a generous sponsor's heart, her rags were turned into a beautiful pink outfit, fit for a princess that she loved and dared not take off; even to sleep! Following her life in a

humid, cold cellar, Oksana found it strange to get used to a soft clean pillow at Summer Camp. To Oksana, three course meals, three times a day, combined with morning and afternoon tea, were inexpressible miracles! For the first time, she heard that someone loves her and cares about her. She was told, somewhere far away, people prayed for her.





During the first three days, Oksana did not speak at all. And then, when Tetyana, her group leader, asked "How's it going, Oksana?" she replied, "I am finally starting to forget my mother!" The emotional scars of abuse have left their mark, but this sweet little girl began to heal. Looking into Oksana's big, brown eyes, no one could deny that Oksana no longer saw herself as a princess from a dark cellar, but now, she saw herself as a real Cinderella! She also heard about God for the first time. The Bible lessons were one of her favorite activities. As the camp progressed, this silent sad girl opened up and even started to express her own opinion – something she has never experienced before and intends doing from now on!

One month after camp, the Coordinator visited Oksana. The change in this young girl was remarkable. She was no longer silent, but sang from morning till night! She was happy and chatted away about what she had enjoyed at the Camp, including all she had learnt about her Heavenly Father.

***Please would you help us send more children like Oksana, who have experienced immense grief and suffering, to Summer Camp this year – for fun, food, counselling, care and support? I am sure you, like me, want to see vacant, sad eyes sparkle like Oksana's – priceless!***

***If you would like to contribute toward this wonderful ministry, we would love your support. The cost of camps differs in each of our field countries, but the average cost is \$15/day per child. The camps range from 7- 12 days.***

**Thanks for your partnership,**

**Michelle Dorey  
National Director  
MWB Australia**



**Your support in prior years has put smiles on the faces of thousands of children...  
There are many more waiting for their turn...**



## Tetyana's emotional scars begin to heal...

Tetyana lives in Mezhyrychy Children's Home in Ukraine. This is her home as her mother is an alcoholic and was deprived of her parental rights.

Tetyana has very dark and painful memories of her mother. One memory that is etched in her mind is of a bitterly cold winter's day. Tetyana was pushed outside by her drunken mother at 2a.m. without any clothes. It was punishment for a grammatical mistake made in her homework. Tanya explains: "There was no electricity that evening. I was waiting for the power to come back on, but fell asleep waiting. At two in the morning, Mum woke me up and told me to do my homework. I was sleepy and could barely see with the little candlelight we had. I wrote a "b" instead of a "d". For that

mistake in my homework, I was slapped and pushed outside". Tetyana ran to her nearest neighbour for help, but this was some distance away as they lived in a small, remote village.

Last year Tetyana and her siblings had an opportunity to attend the Mission Without Border's Summer Camp. Her joy at experiencing this time of a lifetime is hard to describe in words...

**"When I first arrived at Summer Camp I saw the wonderful swings and playground and thought they can't be real! But then, I went to touch and sit on them and I realised that they were real! We had so much fun! I can't thank everyone that made this possible enough!"**

# Summer Camp is a Dream Come True



**“At Summer Camp no one is ever hungry. They put a lot of sausage on the bread, not like at the Children’s Home – where they put one little slice of sausage that you can see through!”**

Coming to the camp was like a breath of fresh air in Tetyana’s troubled life and gave her the opportunity to discover how precious she is in God’s eyes. Summer Camp is a great opportunity for kids like Tetyana to strengthen their health, make new friends, get emotional support, be encouraged, begin the healing process, and most importantly - become friends with Jesus.



# Summer Camps for kids from poverty stricken families are just as vital!



For the Dervishi brothers of Albania, they only know abject poverty. Social assistance and the minimal employment their father can find is never enough to

buy food for the family, let alone provide the housing and school needs of the family. Their father resorts to alcohol and domestic violence to numb the pain he feels when he cannot provide for his family. The boys have never ventured beyond their village, and can only imagine the wonder of Summer Camp and the sea. Despite the abuse, the boys and their mother cling to their Heavenly Father and His Word for their comfort and strength. "I love the Bible so much because it is a Living Book which speaks to our hearts and directs us to Jesus," said Mariusti (7).

Many children, who are part of MWB's big 'Family-to-Family' family can't wait for Summer Camp! They too will also find solace, lap up the love, care, attention, food and fun at Summer Camp this year. Abuse and neglect leave permanent scars. Pray we can minister to the children, to begin the healing process.

*Please give generously so children from poverty stricken families can also attend Summer Camp. Help where you can!*

Mission Without Borders is an international Christian organisation, founded in 1960, dedicated to serving the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those suffering the effects of poverty or persecution in Eastern Europe. By involving those it serves, Mission Without Borders recognises the dignity of the individual and strives to help build capacity for self sufficiency. People are served without regard to their religion or ethnic background.

**Mission Without Borders Australia**

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