

HOPE

HOPE
AND
HOMES
FOR
CHILDREN

30
years



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Sofia*, age three, and Viktoria*, a single mother from Ukraine, have been able to navigate the challenges of the war thanks to your incredible generosity.

Yevhenii Zavhorodnii / Hope and Homes for Children

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This year, our local partners in Nepal have been working with the government to bring children inside orphanages back to family. Thanks to you, it’s working.



Moti* and Kumari*,
Nepal

** To ensure the safety and privacy of the people we support, all the names of the children, relatives and carers featured in this publication have been changed.*



WELCOME

Mark Waddington CBE
Chief Executive of Hope and Homes for Children

Dear friends,

It really is possible to make the world a better place for children to grow up in. Over the last 30 years, we’ve been able to do this because of your support. In so doing, we’ve now benefited over 3.8 million children.

How? By preventing them from being separated from their families. By getting children out of orphanages and back to family. By training thousands of professionals to build new systems of family-based child care, at scale. Yes, this takes time. But it’s delivering sustainable change that will benefit countless children for generations to come.

In Bulgaria, we’ve worked with the government to close nearly all its institutions for babies. Now, we only have four such institutions left to close. We’re almost there.

In Romania, when we began working there in 1998, there were more than 100,000 children locked up in appalling circumstances. That number’s now around 1,300.

When we began in Moldova, there were 14,000 children confined in orphanages. Now, there are just over 600, and we’re laying the foundations to help deliver similar results in Kenya, Nepal, South Africa, Ukraine and India.

At the heart of what we do is developing services that prevent children from being taken away from their families in the first place. These services also help children achieve better educational, health and wellbeing outcomes, even improving their lifelong earning potential. Everybody wins. Parents, siblings, and communities across whole countries.

And here’s the thing. Wherever there are orphanages, there is money. And so much of the financial resources required to run family-focused services are already there. They just need re-allocating.

There’s a growing recognition of the remarkable benefits of getting child care right, and we’re seeing this embraced in a UN Resolution, the

Kigali Declaration – which commits all Commonwealth countries to progressively eliminating orphanages – in policies made by the EU, and in national legislation across a growing number of countries.

As we turn to the next 30 years, I truly believe we can do so in the hope that we will shape the world in a way that no child will have to suffer confinement in an orphanage. Ever again.

It’s your support that allows us to embrace this hope. Which is why I’m proud to welcome you to our 30th Anniversary Edition of Hope Magazine. Thirty years of impact. Thirty years of bringing children back to family.

Thank you. Thank you so very much.

Mark Waddington CBE
Chief Executive of Hope and Homes for Children



30
years

HEALING AND HOPE

Stories from the Teen Mother Project

In Rwanda, your donations are helping to empower the next generation of young mothers. Introducing the Teen Mother Project.

Discrimination against unmarried teenage mothers has become a national concern in Rwanda. Abandoned by their families and shunned by their communities, they're at high risk of dropping out of school, facing unemployment and giving away their own babies. Just to survive.

That's why, since 2022, we've been running the Teen Mother Project, a support network for some of the most vulnerable women in Rwanda.

Thanks to your generosity, we're helping them get back on their feet, back into school, and back into their families – protecting children from being sent to orphanages, while empowering young mothers to thrive.

Family foundations

Working with community leaders, our team tackles the shame, stigma and discrimination against teenage mothers head-on.

At our community hubs, we provide counselling, group therapy and conflict mediation – all serving to help teenage mums reclaim their power and heal their relationship with their families. Then, we help them return to school, find employment, and support their babies as independent young women.

"It's totally linked to our mission," explains Innocent Hafimbura, Country Director of Rwanda. "If we support families at risk of separation, we can end the system of vulnerability that brings children into orphanages."

**“
Together, we're on
a new trajectory.
”**

Intergenerational Impact

Thanks to your donations, 252 young women and 1,764 of their family members have now received support through the Teen Mother Project. And the results speak for themselves.

"When we met them, none of the girls were in school or even getting two meals a day," says Innocent. "Only 15% had family support and 60% didn't have enough money to take care of their children."

**“
Now, 80% are back in school
and 92% have jobs allowing
them to support themselves
and their babies. And most
importantly, 94% have been
reunited with their families.
”**

With the Teen Mother Project, we're creating a better tomorrow where no young woman is forced to choose between her family and her future. A tomorrow where young women can be, and will be, anything they want to be. Young women like Nathalie*.

NATHALIE'S* STORY



**“
I'm able
to love my
daughter
again.
”**

Thanks to our Teen Mother Project, Nathalie is raising her daughter, Austin*, with pride.
Richard Munyaneza / Hope and Homes for Children

Nathalie, 18, was born in rural Rwanda. Estranged from her parents since the age of eight, she spent her childhood moving between foster families, staying late after school just to have somewhere to be. But three years ago, everything changed.

"When everyone was away, a boy came and saw that I was alone. He raped me. I was only 15."

Seven months later, Nathalie went to the doctor with stomach pain. He told her she was pregnant. "My first thought was that I couldn't go to school anymore," she remembers. "Two days later, my foster mother told me to wash my clothes and leave."

Nathalie had nowhere to go. She gave birth to Austin*, a baby girl, on her 16th birthday.

'I was stuck'

With no job, no support, and a newborn baby to care for, Nathalie was traumatised.

"I was so unhappy," she remembers. "My baby reminded me of how I'd been raped. Of how I was stuck in this situation instead of in school. I even considered abandoning her. She never laughed, because I never laughed. She didn't know how."

Nathalie was slipping through the cracks. But thanks to your generosity, the Teen Mother Project was there to catch her.

Helping Nathalie recover

After being referred to our Project by community leaders, Nathalie started receiving financial, psychological and professional support. In group counselling sessions with other mums, she finally found community. We even helped her reach out to her mother after eight years of separation.

"It felt like a family," Nathalie remembers. "After the counselling, I rang my mother and asked for help – could she look after my child so I could do training? Today, she's been looking after Austin for over a year."

That meant Nathalie was able to go back to school, where your donations covered the costs of a mechanics course. She went on to score the highest grades in her class. Twice.

The path to the future

Things are different for Nathalie now. At 18, she's working in a garage, paying her way, and raising Austin, a happy, healthy girl, with confidence and family support.

"I'm so happy with the life I'm living now," says Nathalie proudly. "I'm able to love my daughter again. Together, we're on a new trajectory." We're sticking by Nathalie's side, ensuring she has the support she needs to pursue her dreams and support her daughter. Two generations of strong young women. United.

Teenage mothers attending a group counselling session at one of our community hubs in Kigali – spaces for safety, support and solidarity.

Christian Muhirwa Rudasumbwa / Hope and Homes for Children

WHISTLEBLOWER

Brave former orphanage employee exposes abuse inside baby homes



Ksenia*
Identity hidden upon request.

Decades of research prove how orphanages harm children. But nothing hits harder than eye-witness testimonies like Ksenia's, a nurse who worked inside an orphanage in Ukraine for five years.

"The children were not treated well," Ksenia remembers. "They were hit on their hands, legs and backsides with rods. This made me angry. So I quit."

Now, Ksenia is bravely exposing what goes on behind closed doors, sharing her story to help get children back to family, and ensure the doors to her old orphanage remain closed for good.

The dark reality

Ksenia started working in the orphanage ten years ago. Inside, she found 70 children, all under four. Several had disabilities and needed specialist support. Instead, they were restrained.

"Due to a lack of staff and a large number of children, some would be strapped down," Ksenia reveals. "When they were shouting or crying too much, the children were put under cold water. Or, they'd turn the kids upside down, hold them by their feet and shake them."

Ksenia tried to protect the children, but was silenced every time. "Knowing about the physical, sexual and psychological violence, I felt very bad because I knew I couldn't prevent it. All I could do was leave."

Exposing the truth

Since quitting, Ksenia's become a whistleblower committed to raising awareness about the harms of orphanages.

"It doesn't matter how many toys there are, how clean it is, or how well the children are fed," she concludes. "They'll still lack the support that exists

in any family where children are loved. As a mother, I can't even imagine how it'd feel if my children were taken away and placed in an orphanage. They'd be mistreated, and there'd be nothing I could do about it."

Standing up for change

Fuelled by the bravery of people like Ksenia, our team in Ukraine has been working tirelessly to get children out of orphanages and into safe, family homes.

"During the war, making sure children get into families and receive psychological protection is more important than ever," says Ksenia. "I dream that all children will grow up in families with love, understanding and good treatment."

Continue to the next page to see how your donations are supporting parents who are making that happen. Parents like Oleksandr* and Tatiana*.



“There is no love there.”

Before the war, an estimated 105,000 children lived in orphanages in Ukraine, one of the highest rates of child institutionalisation in the world.
Yevhenii Zavhorodnii / Hope and Homes for Children

Meet the couple fostering children from orphanages through the war

“Even in times of war, we can prevent children from going to orphanages and have them living in families. Happy families.”

Oleksandr* and Tatiana* live in Dnipro, Ukraine, alongside their four foster children: Valeriya*, Dmytro*, Karyna*, and Iryna*, all of them brought out of orphanages and safely back to family.

A growing family

In 2011, Oleksandr and Tatiana decided to become foster parents to Valeriya and Dmytro – siblings who'd been separated into different orphanages.

“They only learned they were brother and sister when they came to our family. Otherwise, they never would've known.”

Seeing how much their love and care helped the children, Oleksandr and Tatiana knew they wanted to foster more. “The kind of love they get in a family is not something they can find inside an orphanage,” explains Tatiana. “If they don't see this love in childhood, I don't think they'll be able to give a lot.”

Soon after, Tatiana gave birth to Olesya*, a little girl. Then, in 2021, the family became seven when they started fostering sisters Karyna and Iryna.

Support in times of crisis

Your donations have been supporting families like Oleksandr and Tatiana's since 2021, when Russia launched its full-scale invasion. Your generosity is helping them keep their children safe through the ongoing crisis, ensuring they have food, medicine, school supplies, clothes and counselling.

By doing so, you're helping to prove that no matter what, orphanages are never the answer. There's always a better way.

“Even in times of war, we can prevent children from going to orphanages and have them living in families,” says Liudmyla Horobets, one of our social workers in Dnipro. “Happy families.”

Looking to the future

Now, Oleksandr and Tatiana's family continues to thrive. The children are happy, healthy, and, most importantly, home. “With everything going on in our country, there are more children in need of a family,” Tatiana explains.

“We want to foster more kids. We have the space.”

“My wife is a very good woman,” says Oleksandr. “The children are like chickens around her. She warms them with her love. And they love her very much.”

“He cares about them all,” Tatiana continues.

“They trust him so much that they're afraid of nothing with him. Not even dentists.”



Pictured here with their five children, Karyna, Iryna, Olesya, Valeriya and Dmytro (left to right), Oleksandr and Tatiana are proving it's always possible to bring children out of orphanages and back to family. Even during a war.

Yevhenii Zavhorodnii / Hope and Homes for Children

30 YEARS OF HOPE

Hope and Homes for Children was founded in 1994 by Mark and Caroline Cook. Thirty years on, it's become a global movement bringing millions of separated children back to family. Always working with children. For children.

30
years

139

Orphanages closed

19,331

Children brought out of orphanages and back to family

77,482

Professionals trained

288,222

Children protected from being placed in orphanages

Ukraine

Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion, we have supported **136,646** people, including **74,091** children through the crisis, including refugees to Romania and Moldova.



Romania

Thirty years after the Romanian orphanage scandal, we've helped reduce the amount of children in orphanages from **100,000** to around **1,300**.



Bulgaria

In 2009, we helped oversee the first orphanage closure in Bulgaria. Now, there's only four left. And they're all set to be closed by 2025.



Moldova

Alongside our partners CCF Moldova, we've reduced the amount of children in orphanages from **14,000** to just over **600**.



India

Thanks to our partnership with CINI, we're set to halve the number of children in orphanages in Jharkhand State within the next five years.



Rwanda

We're helping Rwanda become the first orphanage-free country in Africa, a regional leader trailblazing the path back to family.



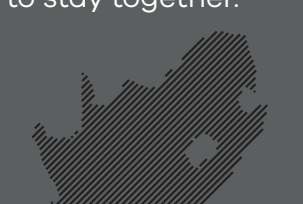
Nepal

Thanks to our partners FMN and THIS, we're working with the government to reunite children with their families and support indigenous communities.



South Africa

We're phasing out orphanages in Gauteng Province, the largest region in the country, while helping struggling families to stay together.



COUNTRIES AND REGIONS PREVIOUSLY WORKED IN OR INFLUENCED

- Albania
- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Eritrea
- Kosovo
- Latin America
- Mozambique
- Sierra Leone
- Sudan
- Uganda

HOPE
AND
HOMES
FOR
CHILDREN



*Figures as of March 2024.

COUNTRIES WE'RE WORKING IN

- **Romania**, since 1998.
- **Ukraine**, since 1998.
- **South Africa**, since 2001.
- **Moldova**, since 2005, in partnership with CCF Moldova.
- **Rwanda**, since 2002.
- **Bulgaria**, since 2009.
- **India**, since 2016, in partnership with Child In Need Institute (CINI).
- **Kenya**, since 2016.
- **Nepal**, since 2019, in partnership with The Himalayan Innovative Society (THIS). and Forget Me Not (FMN).

“
Today, because of your kindness and commitment, we stand together at the forefront of a growing global movement to make orphanages history.
”

Mark and Caroline Cook, Founders.



GLOBAL ADVOCACY

Kenya

After years of advocacy work, last year we advanced into our latest country of operation: Kenya. Now, Stephen Ucembe, Regional Advocacy Manager, writes how we're helping to shape child care across the country, and beyond.



Stephen Ucembe
Regional Advocacy Manager

In 2014, reports of sexual abuse from a British pilot in Kenyan orphanages shocked the world. Sadly, this is just one of many cases of scandalous violations. There's no denying the truth any longer. Care reform is an urgent necessity.

Kenya is one of the most influential countries in the East and Southern African region, and the power of this influence cannot be overstated. It means if we're able to demonstrate we can bring children back to family in Kenya, we can do it everywhere.

The scale of the problem

Kenya is estimated to have over 46,000 children living inside nearly 900 orphanages. Most of these orphanages are privately owned, funded by donors from the north. But the majority of children inside are not orphans.

Concerned about the prevalence of violence, abuse, and corruption in these institutions, the Kenyan government passed a moratorium on new orphanages in 2017. This was a step in a positive direction. In short, a step back to family.



Our work so far

Our advocacy work in Kenya started in 2016. Since then, we've been providing continuous technical support to the government to make their journey towards care reform effective and sustainable.

In 2018, we facilitated a ground-breaking learning trip to meet our team in Rwanda, showcasing our successful model for transitioning away from orphanages. On the last day of the visit, the Kenyan Director of Children's Services said "If Rwanda can do it, Kenya can do it." And they were right.

In 2022, the Kenyan government launched the National Care Reform Strategy – a plan to phase out orphanages and help the 46,000 children living inside find family homes.

Where are we now?

Thanks to your support, the journey towards care reform has progressed immensely. Alongside our partner, Kite Child, we've committed to seeing out our first fully documented closure of an orphanage. We'll use this as a model across the entire country – proving that it can and will be done.

Now that we've officially registered as a charity in Kenya, our work is offering hope for thousands of children in orphanages. Not just here, but throughout the region. Thank you again for your continued support.

♥ Our warmest gratitude extends to players of the People's Postcode Lottery, whose contributions have gone directly to our advocacy work in Kenya.



IN FOCUS

Nepal

This year, our local partners in Nepal have been working with the government to bring children inside orphanages back to family. Thanks to you, it's working.



Moti*, 21, and his mother, Kumari* – reunited after twelve painful years of separation.
Kishor Sharma / Hope and Homes for Children

“There was talk of everyone in the orphanage finally being allowed to go home. They asked me if I wanted to go home too. Delighted, I said yes.”

These are the words of Moti*, 21, who spent twelve years living inside an orphanage in Nepal. Until people like you helped him get safely back to family.

In 2018, our local partners The Himalayan Innovative Society (THIS) and Forget Me Not (FMN) teamed up with the federal and local authorities to work on an orphanage in Nepal's Chitwan District. Living inside were 300 children. 85% had living families they should've been with. Moti was one of them.

“We never got to go outside,” he remembers. “We felt like the world was only as big as the orphanage.”

Torn away from home

After Moti's dad died, his mum, Kumari*, was persuaded to send him to an orphanage to get an education. Moti was only four.

“They took me at such a young age,” Moti says. “When people asked me where I was from, I couldn't remember. I didn't even know I had a family.”

Life in the orphanage

In 2018, the local authorities launched an investigation into the welfare of children in orphanages in the Chitwan District, a popular tourism destination. Moti's was among them.

“We were beaten all the time,” Moti revealed. “I slept in a dorm with 30 other children. Three rows of ten, like sardines. We were forced to sleep completely straight. The slightest movement and we were beaten.”

“Some of the carers were nice,” he continues. “They were like friends. They beat us gently. In my heart, all I felt was fear.” Our partners immediately got to work.

Working together for change

In collaboration with the government, we began tracing, supporting and counselling families to bring their children out of the orphanage.

Moti will never forget the day he heard his twelve years of suffering was over.

“There was talk of everyone in the orphanage finally being allowed to go home. They asked me if I wanted to go home too. Delighted, I said yes.”

Back to family

Thanks to your donations, our team gave Kumari the help she needed to care for her son. That meant Moti finally went back to family. Back to love. Back to home.

“Thanks to the love I've received from everyone here at home, my fear has gradually gone away,” he says. “Here, with my own bed, I am free. I can move and sleep on my own free will. And nobody can say anything about it.”

Thank you

Your support means our partners in Nepal are working closely with the government to transform its child care system – getting children out of orphanages and into safe family homes. Thank you.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

This year, our incredible volunteers have raised over £88,000 for our life-changing work. Read on to get inspired and get involved.

From planning bake sales to book clubs, our fundraisers have gone above and beyond in 2024. And they’ve had plenty of fun along the way.

If you’re looking for ways to bring your community together to raise money for children and families all around the world, get inspired by some of this year’s highlights.

Meet Eva, Elizabeth and Chris

Eva Somerset

Eva and Alice, both in year seven, were having a sleepover when the idea of a fundraising bake sale for children in Ukraine came to them. “We planned it all in the night,” explains Eva, who learned about our work through her mum, Sherri. “Then, we made some cakes and bought some sweets.” Eva’s dad printed fliers and invited everyone on the street. It was a big success.

“Our first time, we raised £100,” says Eva, “Our second time, £200.”

Two of our youngest fundraisers, Eva and Alice’s entrepreneurial spirit helped raise vital funds for children just like them, all around the world. And we can’t wait to see what they’ll cook up next.

Elizabeth Convenor of the World Church Group, Kelso North and Ednam Parish

Five years ago, Elizabeth’s team was searching for ways to unite their parish to fundraise for a common cause. Their solution? Coffee mornings, quiz evenings and sponsored walks through the Kelso countryside. The results? An amazing £4,000. All of which has gone towards getting children out of orphanages.

“It’s such a right thing to do to get these children established with their families,” says Elizabeth. “They need to know that they’re loved.”

Elizabeth’s incredible team continues to demonstrate the power of community spirit and creativity, bringing their church together to bring children back to family.

Chris Wiltshire

Chris has been fundraising for us since 2002, hosting photography classes and seminars near his former home in Wiltshire. Next year, Chris is taking on his biggest challenge yet. A 1,900km walk from Land’s End to John O’Groats.

“I wanted to achieve something memorable for my 70th birthday,” Chris says. “I plan to walk it in less than 70 days and raise more than £70,000.”

“For what it takes to carry out a risk assessment in this country, Hope and Homes for Children can completely transform a child’s life, forever,” Chris continues. “And there’s no other organisation I know of that can make that much difference with the money raised.”

Chris’ inspiring support has huge impact on our work, and we’ll continue to stand by his side – all the way to John O’Groats.

♥ **Get involved**
Feeling inspired to start fundraising? Head to hopeandhomes.org/get-involved/fundraising-ideas or scan the QR code to the right.



Eva and Alice



Elizabeth



Chris



What’s on

Stay up-to-date with our latest community fundraising events.



For tickets, sign-ups and further information, scan the QR code or head to hopeandhomes.org/get-involved/

2024

26
October

Halloween Walk, London

A hair-raising hike around some of London’s scariest streets and historic haunts.

08
November

Swapping Seats, London

The tables are turned at this elegant luncheon in Draper’s Hall, London, where the nation’s top parliamentarians put high-profile journalists in the hot seat.

16
November

The Starlight Ball, Derby

The Midlands Ball committee presents another unforgettable evening of fine dining, auctions and live music. Not to be missed.

03
December

Christmas Concert, London

St Mary Abbots Church lights up with a festive evening of music, merriment and mince pies.

2025

06
April

London Landmarks Half Marathon, London

Raise vital funds for children living in orphanages in London’s favourite half marathon.

27
April

London Marathon, London

We have limited places available to run for Hope and Homes for Children at the 2025 London Marathon. Sign up early to avoid disappointment.

♥ For more information on any of the events and challenges please email info@hopeandhomes.org or call 01722 790111





“
You have the power
to help millions of
separated children
get back to family.
”

Dame Kristin
Scott Thomas

This year, we launched a global movement to get millions of separated children Back to Family. Now, actress and patron Kristin Scott Thomas shares why she's joining the call for urgent change.

I have personally been a supporter of Hope and Homes for Children for nearly twenty years. Over this time, I've seen the power of their work and their commitment to bringing children back to family.

In Romania, from where we all recall seeing harrowing footage inside orphanages in the 90's, Hope and Homes for Children has reduced the number of children living in institutions from 100,000, to 1,300. They aim to close the last remaining orphanages by 2026.

Similarly, in Rwanda, their team has helped to close at least 34 orphanages – finding loving homes for every single child once stuck inside. Now, Rwanda is set to become the first orphanage-free country in Africa.

Make no mistake. **This is a winnable mission with a clear road map back to family.**

As a mother of three, I know the importance of a loving, family home can't be overstated. You have the power to help millions of separated children get back to family. Thank you for your support.

Signed,

Kristin Scott Thomas DBE

♥ **BACK TO
FAMILY**

HOPE GIFTS 2024

This Christmas, give the gift of hope. Order from our festive selection of Christmas cards, calendars and Hope Gifts. Scan the QR code or head to:

charitycardshop.com/HAHFC



The Wylde Valley
CALENDAR 2025

The Nadder Valley
CALENDAR 2025

**CALENDARS
£11.50
PLUS
POSTAGE**

**CARDS
£4.50
PLUS
POSTAGE**

**HOPE GIFTS
VARIOUS
PRICES**



**HOPE
AND
HOMES
FOR
CHILDREN**

Once shut away inside an orphanage in Ukraine, Oleksi*, Artem* and Sofia* are spending this Christmas together thanks to the generosity of people like you.
Halyna Kravets / Hope and Homes for Children

Shalon*, 21, and her daughter, Doris*, six, Rwanda.
Jean Bizimana / Hope and Homes for Children

HOPE
AND
HOMES
FOR
CHILDREN



Start your Christmas with a joyful evening of music and performance.

THE HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN

CHRISTMAS CONCERT / 2024

TUESDAY 3RD
DECEMBER

ST MARY
ABBOTS
CHURCH,
KENSINGTON,
LONDON

FEATURING BRIT
AWARD NOMINEE
KATIE MARSHALL,
AND A HOST OF
SPECIAL GUESTS.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music and mince pies in the beautiful setting of St Mary Abbots Church, the perfect way to welcome in the Christmas spirit.

TICKETS: £25 ADULTS, £10 CHILDREN

ARRIVALS: 6:30PM **CONCERT:** 7:00PM

MINCE PIES AND A FESTIVE TIPPLE:
8:15 - 9:00PM

To purchase tickets, scan the QR code
or head to [go.hopeandhomes.org/
christmas-concert-2024](https://go.hopeandhomes.org/christmas-concert-2024)
or call **01722 790111**



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hopeandhomes.org



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Registered Charity in England and Wales (1089490)