



Ukrainian Children's Aid and Relief Effort, Inc.
Приятели Дітей

Scholarship Project

Summer 2011

Celebrating Another Year of Changing Lives!

A grand "Thank you" to all UCARE sponsors and donors for your generosity, kindness, and desire to make a difference in the lives of Ukrainian youth!

During the 2010/2011 academic year your generous donations enabled 85 students-orphans to participate in the UCARE, Inc. *Scholarship Program* and gain or maintain enrollment in universities, colleges and vocational establishments throughout Ukraine.

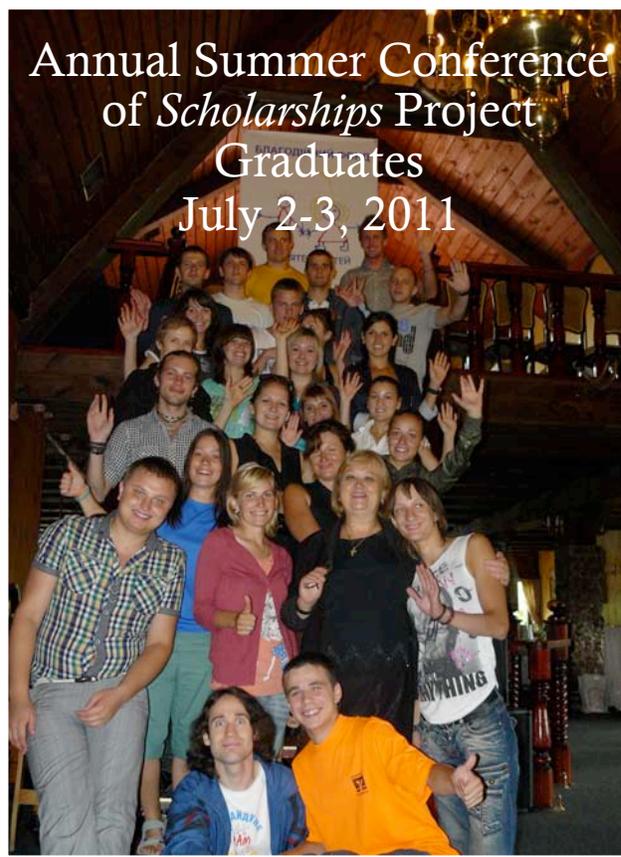
December 2010 Conference

Senior and freshman *Scholarship Program* participants attended a UCARE, Inc./Pryyateli Ditey sponsored student gathering held on December 11th and 12th, 2010 in Kyiv. Seniors shared their experiences on "life after the internat/orphanage", participating in the *Scholarship* and *Students to Children* (see page 2) *Programs*, working with younger orphans at the UCARE/Pryyateli Ditey summer camps, and European Union youth exchange programs. Conference participants also enjoyed a visit to the National Academy of Ukrainian Theater.

March 2011 Conference

March 11th to 13th, 2011, all *Scholarship Program* participants were invited to meet with their peers, other *Scholarship Program* participants, discuss job opportunities, and learn about new tax laws impacting Ukrainian orphans. Scholars also visited the National Philanthropic Society where they marvelled at beautiful architecture and artwork.

Annual Summer Conference of *Scholarships* Project Graduates July 2-3, 2011



19 graduates and several alumni participated in the annual year-end UCARE/Pryyateli Ditey *Scholarship Program* graduate conference in Kyiv. Proud of their accomplishments— their graduations from various colleges, universities and vocational establishments - and eager to enter the work force students participated in a variety of training sessions. Of particular interest were the sessions conducted by Ernst and Young staff members, which focused on resume writing and preparing for job interviews. After the training sessions all conference participants engaged in meaningful discussion about career opportunities and job-related experiences. To celebrate the graduation after the training session, the group visited the Kyiv Museum and concluded the two-day event with the annual commencement dinner.

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Students to Children Program



During the 2010 - 2011 school year, ten current UCARE scholars and seven *Scholarships Project* graduates volunteered/took part in the *Students to Children* program. The program is designed to assist orphanage upperclassmen with setting "life after the orphanage" expectations, encourage them to pursue higher education and provide them with resources and tools to accomplish these goals once they leave the orphanage. Project Manager Dmytro Samarsky and our volunteers organized and led 20 group discussions with 150 children living in orphanages. The volunteers and children have similar backgrounds and shared experiences, which provides for a level playing field for open dialogue. In addition, the young scholars serve as role models for the children demonstrating to them first hand that a happy, healthy and honest lifestyle can be achieved

What Do UCARE Scholars Say?

"Most importantly, somebody believed in me. I am almost graduating from the vocational school and now planning to enter the university. At first, I was not sure about joining the project. Now I have gained self-confidence. Even though it is just a small victory, it is still a victory! Thank you!"

– **Khrystya Hluhova**, 4th year student at Ivano-Frankivsk Professional Polytechnical School

"Participation in this project provided me with an opportunity to improve my studies and gain new skills. In addition, I came to know people who encourage youth to get involved in important and urgent issues and decision-making process."

– **Pavlo Zadyrko**, 5th year student of Interregional Academy of Human Resources

"Thanks to the project 'Scholarships,' I am given new opportunities. The assistance is very valuable and useful. It brings financial stability into my life."

– **Lesya Bodnar**, 4th year student at Prykarpatsky National University

"Participation in this project is a valuable experience. It has become a part of our life due to the support we receive from other scholars, from our friends, and most importantly from the volunteers who support the project and the charitable fund. Thanks to the project, can provide and receive moral support, engage in dialogues to resolve issues."

– **Ihor Shafran**, 2nd year student of Lviv Polytechnical University

Scholars Engage in Blogging

Blogging has become a new and fun way for scholars to stay connected, share information and ideas amongst themselves and *Scholarship Program* staff. Although many pages on the blog are valuable students tend to visit The Questions and Answers page most often, followed by the Our Talents, My Career, and Birthday pages. Tania Hrytziv, UCARE Scholarship Program coordinator in Ukraine utilizes the blog to post announcements, upcoming events, assignment reminders and blog discussion topics. Students learn about job opportunities, share tips on looking for a job and seek legal counsel. The blog gives students a chance to experience the benefits of engaging with others and the staff as they make decisions in their young lives. Students share.

For more information about UCARE or to make a donation, please visit www.ucareinc.org