

NASHI SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2020

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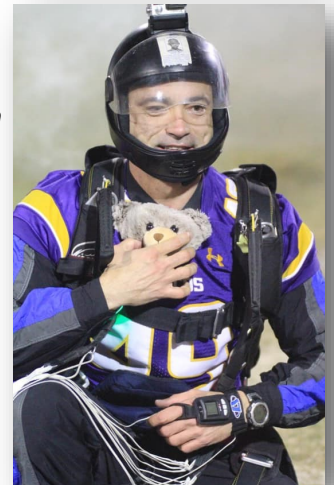
SKYDIVER DELIVERS COURAGE BEARS TO MAPLE LEAF HOUSE

I have been a professional skydiver since 2014. Children often look at skydivers as if they are courageous. Or maybe just crazy. A skydiving teddy bear is courageous. They never show fear or complain. They inspire others to be brave. I take them with me on jumps as a source of courage. After the bear has made a jump, it is given to special children who are also brave. I have given my bears to special needs children, children who are fighting cancer, and children of fallen law enforcement officers.

A happenstance meeting in Ukraine resulted in finding a group of brave girls in the village of Stoyaniv. Me and some friends got together and jumped with three bears into a stadium at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. I wanted to meet the girls and deliver the bears personally. It was a life changing experience.

My fiancé and I hope the girls can look to the bears for courage when they are sad or scared. From my perspective, the bears are a symbol of courage but not the real source. The source of courage is the girls. When I think life is hard, I am scared, or I need courage to jump, I think of them. If they can persevere in the face of such hardships, whatever I am dealing with becomes an insignificant hurdle. They may look at me as an inspiration to be brave but in reality, they are the inspiration. The Maple Leaf House will be in my heart forever.

W. Steve Thompson



Steve Thompson is a criminal justice professor of McNeese State University in Louisiana and a former state trooper and was a guest speaker at NASHI'S ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: Awareness to Action Day held in Saskatoon on September 2019. He visited our girls at the Maple Leaf House in December 2019 when he delivered the special bears and is planning to join NASHI'S **Volunteer Tour in 2021.**

NASHI is an entirely volunteer non-profit organization who is addressing the issue of human trafficking locally and globally. NASHI has 2 primary goals. The first is to educate people about human trafficking by providing forums and workshops nationally and internationally. The second goal was the building of a safehouse for at risk young girls in Ukraine. The Maple Leaf House is a live-in facility that provides shelter, food and the environment of a home for up to 20 girls. Our commitment is to educate these girls until they can become productive members of their society.

NASHI'S motto is : DO SOMETHING

Maple Leaf House Directors Message



This year people from all over the world found themselves in a crisis they were not prepared for. I think, nobody or no country was ready for this, but we need to adjust to new living conditions. All of us, including staff and the girls at the Maple Leaf House needed to learn how to spend time in a new way. As the schools shut down in Ukraine, there were so many unknowns that we hardly knew what to do. How to re-organize our time and to teach our girls all levels of classes and all subjects. We had to live together 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and most importantly we needed to live in peace and harmony.

All my thoughts ended in one thought: what happiness that these precious girls live here, with us, they are safe, healthy. They are with people who love and take care of them. We are so glad the girls can come home and tell us about their successes. I am personally happy as the girls begin to understand the need to study, set and achieve their goals. They were pleased when they were successful at embroidering as a hobby or putting a big puzzle together. In their free time we play different games, go outside in our yard and watch films. We have already planted the garden, new flowers and blueberry bushes. All of these activities the girls enjoyed doing together. We will soon be eating fresh vegetables and fruit from our trees.

The staff are so happy to see how the girls have grown and how grateful they are living at the Maple Leaf House. The change in the girls has been miraculous! I want to say that everything they have is all thanks to you, thanks to our large family from Canada and even some from the United States. We are united through your kindness and concern for us. Thank you for being in our lives. We wish we could be closer but you are always welcome at our home.

From our big family to our big family in Canada, wishing you peace, love and all the very best. We wish we could put our loving arms around each one of you.

Maria Bilas
Director of Maple Leaf House



15 Amazing Years

The past 15 years has been an amazing journey. Each year brought unique events and different challenges. Through all these years there have been too many stories to tell – often terrifying, heartbreaking and difficult but we kept on our journey. NASHI is a profound partnership of people changing the lives of our girls. We look to the future with hope and inspiration. Within the past months we have been challenged in our personal lives as well being concerned for our neighbours and our global family. In the words of Albert Einstein “In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity.” We continue to upkeep our Maple Leaf House in Ukraine that is now home to 16 girls and continue to make Canadians aware of human trafficking. We have never strayed from our mission.

One of the most amazing components of our NASHI Family is the composition of our volunteers and donors. To the donors, we thank you for entrusting your money with us and helping us achieve this 15 year history. Some were here when we took our first steps and I am so thankful that you remained faithful to NASHI. Some have only been with us for a year or two and please understand you are now part of an amazing family. Like a good wine, I hope you become more committed and more passionate with every passing year. The tasks of NASHI are varied and exciting.



Savelia Curniski

The Maple Leaf ...

The Maple Leaf is a strong symbol of tolerance, unity and beauty and flies high above Canada. An enduring symbol – Canada’s maple leaf – at home and internationally. Here is a very brief glimpse of a single maple leaf that occupies a unique place in the hearts of many. And it’s a leaf, verdant and alive connecting people thousands of kilometers across the globe with each other.



This emblem is the focal point of the Maple Leaf House – found in the Ukrainian village of Stoyaniv. Here the maple leaf is a symbol of saving and caring for lives, one life at a time. This 12,000 sq. ft live-in facility has a particular purpose. It offers a home to young vulnerable girls, plucked from an environment rampant with dangerous piranhas known as traffickers often taking girls as young as 5 years old into the international sex trade.

The Maple Leaf House stands in stark reality of the life of these girls aged 5- 15 years who now live here. They come from broken, impoverished homes or corrupt orphanages that never cared for them or from no home at all. These girls, who are now turning into good students, becoming creative, thinking people who can plan and dream of a future. Their laughter can be heard inside and out. They are learning to play possibly for the first time in their lives. NASHI will provide the girls with an education that will successfully integrate them into productive members of a global community.

Katya Szalashnyj

This Is Your ...



TODAY

NASHI gives thanks
To Everyone who is
Part of our **JOURNEY**



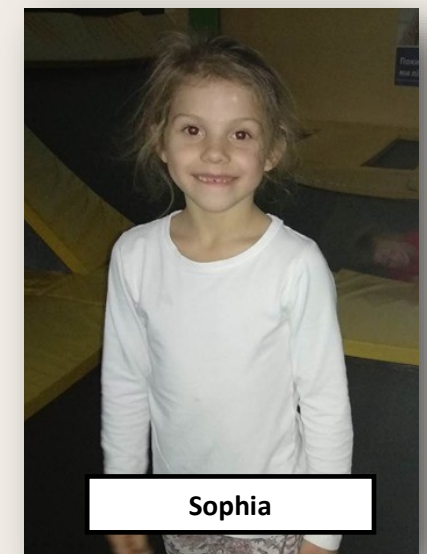
...Family of Girls



Please watch our latest
23 minute Documentary

**ONE PEROGY AT A
TIME: THE SEQUEL**

**YouTube Search:
Nashi our Children**





DESPITE THE PANDEMIC, HUMAN TRAFFICKING PERSISTS

The corona virus has created more people vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers and revealed the world's unpreparedness to protect them. This was something completely new. For traffickers around the world, each disaster signals a sudden availability of prey. Victims are being forced to participate in even riskier activities to earn money for traffickers. They are also facing higher levels of violence.

The corona virus is working its way into advertising for women and children being sold for sex. "If you put yourself in the minds of people advertising for sex, it's more about making money than ethics. They will do whatever it takes to make money", says Brian Gander FBI Special Agent.

One area where this has quickly become evident is the world of porn. The coronavirus is affecting not just the amount and type of porn being produced, but also how much porn people are consuming and what they are searching for on major sites. However, people are not just watching more porn right now – they are also watching more coronavirus-themed porn. In the last 2 months, more than 9 million coronavirus searches have appeared on Pornhub. There are also now more than 1,000 videos that pop up on the site when you search coronavirus. What does coronavirus porn look like? It involves a lot of people having sex while wearing masks, surgical gloves and hazmat suits. This industry often preys on young underage people that undergo unthinkable abuse that is severe and harmful. Porn use is up thanks to COVID-19. We need to speak out to this morally bankrupt business.

You are Making the World a Better Place

We all have the opportunity to use this unique moment in history to make our world a better place. Your support is vital to continuing our commitment to our girls. For all of you receiving this newsletter, we applaud you. You can immediately see how your donation is helping.

We have almost reached our goal of \$20,000 for a second van for the girls. We currently have a 9 passenger van but are in need of another to take the girls to medical, dental and eye appointments as well as to school and other activities. A second van is a must for our large and growing family. Please contribute to this Van Fund as we are hoping to purchase it for the next school year.

DONATE

Through PayPal

Through Canada Helps

Through Monthly Giving

Mail-in Donations

Phone: 306-281-9877 or 306-653-4646

There are links on our web page – www.nashi.ca for donating online through PayPal, as well as forms for monthly credit card or Pre-Authorized monthly donations.

Support NASHI through monthly donations directly from your chequing account. Complete this form, attach a blank cheque marked "VOID" and mail to the address below. A contribution each month translates to an effective form of giving.



Monthly pre-authorized debit
(minimum per month is \$15)

- \$15 per month (50 cents per day)
- \$30 per month (\$1 per day)
- \$60 per month (\$2 per day)
- \$90 per month (\$3 per day)
- Amount of your choice \$_____

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PEROGY PARADISE 15

Is Tentatively Rescheduled for

FRIDAY, OCT. 23RD

NASHI is pleased to announce that we have successfully rescheduled Perogy Paradise for Friday Oct. 23 at the Holy Family Cathedral (our usual venue) on Nelson Road. Your existing ticket is valid. We will call those of you who have existing tickets by Sept. 15 to confirm your attendance. Of course, we will not proceed if we think it is not safe or the ban on large public gatherings has not been lifted. We are cautiously optimistic that by October we will have the 'green' light to host our event.

We hope you are still able to come and enjoy the evening.



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