

This Child Here - Odessa, Ukraine

A 501c3 non-profit Helping orphans, children without parents and children at risk in the region of Odessa, Ukraine
<http://thischildhere.org>

Olya



This girl on the left is Olya. She was ten or eleven in that picture. The next image is her at thirteen.

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That's when she left the shelter called The Way Home where she was staying in Odessa, Ukraine and disappeared along with another girl and a boy. That was 2007. A month passed, then I remember an all night train ride to a city called Vinnytsia and an early morning bus ride to remote village half an hour away, where we found her in a cabin with less room inside than your normal living room. The kids came back with us.

This third picture is her today, eight years later.

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If you want the full story, it's an 8 min read, click on [Train To Vinnytsia](#) on Medium.com.

It was a remarkable moment in my ten years of directing the work of This Child Here in Ukraine, one that taught me how the right kind of love and attention can help someone grow into adulthood. Without the effort we put forth, you might be looking at a very different face, not so hopeful and full of joy.

Robert Gamble

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