

2018 autumn newsletter

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! (Eph. 3:20)

We believe that God brought Teresa to us one and half years ago; almost a year ago he brought Sophie, Martha, and Nadia in Eagle's Wings home. The three newer girls came just after Elizabeth and Rebeca left for independent life and a while after Debora and Tamara moved to another organization which specializes in working with trafficked women. Now, we can look back and try to remember all our four girls at the day one they came in our home.

When Teresa came to us at the end of October 2011, she was afraid and not confident for what was before her, for what was this new environment. During her two first months in our home, she often asked to go back to state orphanage. We met with the state orphanage officials to discuss her "issues," and they suggested moving her back to the orphanage. We did not believe that was in her best interests, and we shared that situation with prayer supporters and our friends so they could join us in praying for her. We were greatly concerned that by returning to the orphanage, she would enter in an unpredictable and dangerous situation for her future life.

By God's grace, Teresa changed 100% by early in 2017! She settled in to the home and began developing relationships with the staff and other girls; she also began attending church and became a Christian. She has progressed in her devotion to the word of God, and after finishing her schooling and completing a hairdresser course, she started to look for a job. In December, Teresa got a job at a restaurant and is doing very well, according to her employer.

After her first month on the job, Teresa started to send some money to her mother and her siblings. Let us remember her family situation during her childhood; she told us that her family was very poor and her father frequently sent her to the cemetery regularly to collect bread and other items that people left at the graves. Recently, she told our staff that when she was 11, her father forced her to marry a man, adding that those hard times are hard to forget.

But now, thanks to God and her time with us, she is completely changed and in much better situation. She is a real lady, she is employed and knows how to trust her life to God; she has hope for a bright future!

Our newer girls are currently working through some tough issues; Sophie has been struggling with self-esteem, Nadia with rebellion, and Fatima with her desire to drop out of school and get married. Although they are in the middle of their journey, we have seen great progress, and they are not the same persons as in the beginning. Fatima is going to finish the school while being so concerned and broken hearted for her older sister who have a little boy of four years old. Her mother and her grandmother and her friend refused to continue to help her therefore Fatima's sister with her child will try to convince her father (which lives with another women) to open his door for her and her little child.

All of the girls are attending a local church; this involvement has impacted their lives. We thank God for all he is doing in girls' lives!

Rebeca has visited our home recently and stayed for a night and a day. Some months after she decided to leave our home Rebeca made an important step for her life. She decided to live together with a young man of her age (22),from the same Roma community. He is not a believer though seems to be as good as her expectations were. We have taught her to make this important step according God's Word and guidance but she have not thought twice nor asked advice. After some months she got pregnant and so, she is entering in a new season for her life. It seems that both of them are not ready to be parents and Rebeca advised the girls that it is for their own good to obey our staff and to ask counseling from the staff even after they will leave. She advised them to not make poor decision as she did.

Anyway she and her fiancé (they are not formally married) have decided to not abort the baby and to continue to live together despite of their challenges. We continue to support her on counseling, encouraging her to go to local church and supporting financially as well (through a church from UK).

Great need

God has miraculously provided for us financially during last four years. We are thankful to God and to people who faithfully have donated (are donating) to this ministry in order to help vulnerable girls in Tirana. However, our monthly support has not kept pace with the expenses of maintaining the home in full operations; we need an additional \$ 2500/month in monthly gifts to cover current expenses. We are greatly concerned that we may need to reduce the number of staff in order to keep the home open; if we resort to that step, our ministry cannot deliver the best care for the girls. We want to continue to give them the best care possible. We're thankful to a church in Tirana which is providing some short-term assistance with food. The Church here is growing, and although Albania is a poor country with high unemployment, we are hopeful that other Albanian churches will join in supporting this ministry. More ever one of our Albanian board members will support with the rent of the home (short term) .However, our need remains great.

Please join us in praising God for our girls' progress, and please pray with us about these challenges. Also, please share about our ministry and our needs with your friends and churches who may be potential ministry partners.

Thank you for helping our ministry.

Blessings!

Eagles Wings Albania