



Eagle's Wings Flyer

August 2012
Networking in the
Community

Working with other NGOs

The last several months have been full of discovering opportunities to network with other agencies interested in the care of at-risk teenagers in the country. Over and over again in meetings we are encouraged to continue pursuing our vision and are told. "No one else in Albania is prepared to take these teens and work with them in practical teaching for life skills in a family setting."



There are agencies in country who take girls AFTER they have been trafficked and try to rehabilitate them, help them find a job and offer housing. However, only 1-2 agencies in country will receive the teens who are at-risk before they are trafficked. Even private orphanages are not prepared to keep the girls or boys after they reach 15.

Recently two of the NGOs working in rehabilitation, Different & Equal, (D&E) and the Prison Ministry invited Eagles Wings to help them once a week with a group of 10 girls under 18 who have been abused and are struggling being in a shelter with much older women.

Alda Dogani, EW Executive Director, and another volunteer, Gretchen, began meeting every week doing crafts and sharing with the girls. Some of them have come to youth meetings at a church now and are meeting other teens their age. During one of these meetings, Alda met a 15yr. old girl, Lola * (not her real

Lola's Story When Lola was three years old, her mother abandoned her and two younger sisters. Lola's father sent the youngest two to a state-orphanage but Lola he kept for himself, putting her on the street to beg. She never went to school or had any natural family life. When her father died two years ago from alcoholism, Lola was sent to the same orphanage where her two sisters are, and she was enrolled in school. She has just finished the 2nd grade of elementary school but really likes it and wants to continue.

In March of 2012 she made an appeal to the orphanage to be moved somewhere else and the state moved her to D&E. (see article on left). She is in their shelter now and is safe, however she is younger than the other women and longs to be in a family. She has asked the Social Workers to please find her another place.

When EW and D&E and the Prison Ministry began coordinating efforts, D&E approached Alda with the idea that she might find a home for Lola. Alda agreed to try at once, knowing that finding a Christian home would be a good fit with EW vision. D&E offered to financially support Lola with medical, educational and daily needs. EW would then be able to offer some support in training the parents.

Please pray that God will use EW to facilitate this important placement for Lola, and perhaps for other girls and boys who face similar situations, until we are able to open another group home.



Mission Statement

To provide a culturally sensitive, safe and nurturing home where at-risk youth can reach their potential spiritually, intellectually, physically and relationally.

Goal

To see each resident finish high-school and/or vocational training and be equipped to live independently.



Community Training is Well Received

Approximately 45 representatives from World Vision, the Albanian Ministry of Social Work, Bethany, Different and Equal (anti-trafficking organization), House of Grace orphanage, Prison Ministry and several other organizations were represented at a training day in mid-June in Tirana which Eagles Wings helped organize.

The training was provided by Children and Families Together, the ministry of Fred and Claudia Tahan, who work closely with Eagles Wings. There were two main goals for the day: 1. to bring together Albanian organizations and the Ministry of Social Work, and 2. to offer practical training for the social providers in the community. Basic principles about the family model that Eagles Wings has used and will use in the future were explained with many examples. This training is similar to what Eagles Wings will be able to offer once it is certified by the Teaching-Family Association.

Some of the responses from the training day included "It was a very practical day." "We need more trainings like this that will go deeper in these issues." "Please invite us again when you do more". "Fred was an excellent and knowledgeable communicator who related well, even at the breaks." Alda Dogani, Eagles Wings' Executive Director, will be approaching the Ministry to offer continuing education certificates for this and other similar trainings for Social Workers".

We are thankful for:

- Faithful supporters and pray-ers who have helped us continue the Foundation
- Liza's good health, finishing the 11th yr. well
- Aida and Biku, our house parents
- The new policies and procedures are complete, in order and ready for translation.
- The Board has decided to register as a "Developing Member" of the Teaching Family Association and will move forward with certification when a sponsor site is found.
- In September a group of 10 women from Rome, GA will visit Albania to understand more about Albania and EW ministry.

Rosa's Story Several days ago a child advocacy worker from one of the largest NGOs in the country asked to meet with us. In working in a Roma (Gypsy) community they had come across a 14 yr. old girl, Rosa *who asked them for help. Rosa's mother is mentally disabled and her father is abusive and an alcoholic.

Rosa's two older sisters, ages 16 and 18 are both in prostitution, one in Italy and one in Albania. and the same men who took them are taking Rosa to night clubs in the city at night. She is desperate to have a different life but knows her dad may give her over for money if she does not find another place soon. The police know about the traffickers but have done nothing to provide protection. Rosa also has an 8 yr. old sister who is beginning to be flirtatious and Rosa is afraid for her also. The organization has heard of EW and is asking if we could try to find a place for them. This NGO has offered to help with a SW and financial assistance .

We agreed to pray with them and to look for a home for them. Also we recognize that these traffickers need to be stopped. The Advocacy worker shared that prosecution is extremely difficult to win. **Please pray for protection and placement for Rosa and her sister.**

Prayer Needs in addition to those above:

- Pray that the house in Priske would sell. We have a foundation interested which will make a decision in September.
- Another Albanian Board member.
- For a sponsor-site for Teaching Family
- Pray for regular supporters. This will help us meet our goal of opening 1-2 homes in 2013.

Eagle's Wings is a registered US charity, and depends entirely on contributions. Tax-deductible gifts may be sent to :

Eagle's Wings Foundation
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Oakley, IL 52501

Our web site is coming soon!
Email: eagleswingsalbania@gmail.com