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Winter Newsletter 2026

ARE YOU A BUFFALO?



They have been described as awesome. Magnificent. Practical. They roamed the Great Plains, nurturing life and providing warmth. We are talking about the buffalo.

Buffalo go headfirst into a storm. Twenty years ago, a small group of friends decided to go into the storm. NASHI launched a charity that most Canadians were unaware of, addressing a reality not recognized as a local and global travesty of the 21st century: human trafficking.

While human trafficking is a large and complex puzzle, we were, as Bob Seeger's famous song says, "**Against The Wind**". To face challenges. To overcome obstacles

You know what else buffalo do? They surround their young when danger is lurking. They represent a sacred code of respect for others.

We are also bound by this code of respect. What you do to a child, you do to the community. We chose a proactive approach to difficulties: to face challenges head-on, in order to overcome them quickly and efficiently. Our children, no matter where they live, need our protection and action.

Cheers to all the donors and volunteers who have chosen to face the wind! That's what this NASHI Action is all about! It's life-changing to be involved, too. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in.

Let me answer the question for you – Are you a buffalo? Yes! You are a buffalo, with its wonderful characteristics, and you make a difference!

ALWAYS KEEP THE WIND IN YOUR FACE

OLENA VISITS CANADA

Olena, the daughter of our director Maria, grew up in the Maple Leaf House from the age of seven. She was raised at MLH and became the older sister to all the girls. As she grew older, Olena often took on the roles as an assistant director and a live-in tutor, teaching English, Mathematics, and Sciences. Olena has a wonderful command of English, Polish, German, and Ukrainian.

On NASHI's invitation, Olena who is a 4th year medical student, is exploring her options to do a residency in Canada. In her words:

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to be in Canada and to be given the privilege of experiencing the Canadian medical system. Entering my 4th year at the Krakow Medical University, my interest is in the area of neurology, dermatology, and emergency care. Thank you as I experienced some of my NASHI family in Canada.”

Many of our NASHI family who met with Olena concluded that Olena is totally dedicated to the girls at the Maple Leaf House. Our second action was to encourage Olena to consider Canada as her destination to practice medicine. What Canadians need are dedicated doctors!



THEY'RE BACK - Our girls are now back in Ukraine

For three years, our girls were welcomed in Poland, but they are grateful to be back at the Maple Leaf House/MLH. The girls achieved good grades while learning Polish and they continued their lessons in English. In the future this could be beneficial for employment. Six of our girls are now in post-secondary courses in the city of Lviv. They are living in a student residence but are in constant contact with Maria our director of the Maple Leaf House. The other girls are still at the MLH but soon we will be adding more girls.

This is the profound impact of your support! Donors like you are making this possible!



Our girls are always properly fed, clothed and taught the skills that will enable them to lead successful and independent lives once they leave the Maple Leaf House. It has been and will be home for these girls who call themselves sisters.

MEET ANGELINA...

Angelina came to Maple Leaf House in 2019 at the age of 7. She was worried as she was unable to read. She was afraid to go to school as she thought she would not succeed. She excelled in school and while she was in Poland, Angelina graduated with honors in the Polish language. In her karate class, she took first place in her age category. Her goal is to achieve great success in the future.



Glimpses of Nashi's Summer Events

Educating Our Youth for the Future

NASHI, as part of our mandate, believes that presentations on human trafficking is vital to all Canadians, no matter the age, but especially to teens that are most susceptible to being trafficked. Young people need to know what human trafficking is and how it happens so they can stay safe. Education is the key and greatest weapon to preventing human trafficking.

Throughout the summer months we were actively leading workshops to make Canadians aware of this crisis and measures that can be taken for prevention. We always stressed that it is happening in our backyard.



St. George's Youth Group



St. Vincent's Orthodox Church



Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church
View youtube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9exTABIWy6Q>



St. Volodomyr's Villa

NASHI's Workshop - THE PRICE OF SILENCE

The October 4th workshop entitled The Price of Silence, was able to expose our 100 attendees to the travesty of human trafficking and inform them on how they could play a significant role in dispersing knowledge to their family, friends and community. They learned from RCMP and City Police that human trafficking is happening in our backyard. Our attendees were from varied backgrounds, genders, age and demographics.

Our presenters also included Cathy Peters from B.C., author of *Child Sex Trafficking in Canada*, who provided valuable insights into the issue and how to prevent human trafficking; Kathy King from Edmonton, who shared a moving personal testimony in tribute to her daughter who was trafficked and lost her life; and Joseph Gurnay, a student originally from Ethiopia and now living in Saskatoon, who spoke of the tragic fate of many children forced into military service and how he narrowly escaped being taken as a child soldier.



Canadians have a responsibility to protect those most at risk and hold accountable those who exploit them. We must become educated, vigilant and attentive especially to our youth. **Thanks to SIGA and the Worobetz Foundation** for helping to sponsor this event.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS

Human trafficking is the fastest growing organized crime activity in the world today. We live in a world where 35 million women, men and children are held as slaves. We call this modern-day slavery.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

\$ 200 Billion – illegal profits PER YEAR made from human trafficking

\$ 50 Million – people caught in modern day slavery

12 Million – children trapped in this slavery – some as young as 5 years old

2 Million – children exploited in the global commercial sex trade

30,000 – victims of sex trafficking die each year from abuse and torture

QUESTION? *How many persons are trafficked today?*

These are slaves used for forced labour, sex trafficking, pornography, child soldiers and organ harvesting.

ANSWER: The equivalent of the entire population of Canada!

🌀 VOLUNTEER CORNER 🌀 *A Personal Note from Hannah*

I began volunteering for NASHI about 4 years ago starting with their annual fundraising event. I immediately loved the strong sense of community within the organization. It also felt meaningful to be connected to my Ukrainian heritage.

As I learned more about the Maple Leaf House and the girls it supports, I felt a deeper connection to NASHI's mission, and I knew I wanted to continue being a part of making a difference in the girls' lives. One of my favourite events is helping each year at Perogy Paradise a fun event and making our participants aware of how these girls could have been taken into human trafficking. It is also fun to pinch perogies for this event....and maybe taste a few along the way!



Was Hannah rolling in the dough?

Note from NASHI

Hannah is a reliable, energetic volunteer willing to take on any task. She loves to bake and craft and often bakes wonderful creations for our events. She is currently in her first year of university studying education. We can learn so much from our youth.

**IF YOU SAVE ONE LIFE....
TOUCH ONE SOUL...
YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING IMPORTANT
IN YOUR LIFE.**

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your generosity has built more than programs. It is building lives and healing girls and given NASHI the ability to give presentations to various youth groups, organizations and churches. Donors and volunteers have literally saved many girls from a life of despair and given hope and love.

BECAUSE YOU CAN...LEAVE A LEGACY...

By giving even, a small portion of your estate to charity, you can make a significant impact. Creating a legacy gift is a personal choice. Use part of your estate to make a lasting difference in children's lives. Think of a legacy gift as planting a seed for the future. NASHI has been very grateful and appreciative to those who have left part of their legacy to our charity. Tending to tomorrow starts with thoughtful actions today.

MAKE A DONATION: Transform Lives Today

Donations through:

Cheque

E-transfer – admin@nashi.ca

Pay Pal

Canada Helps

Monthly Giving

Credit Card – phone: 306-653-4646

Mailing address: 535 8th Str. E., Saskatoon, SK. S7H 0P9.

Follow NASHI on:



WEBSITE: www.nashi.ca



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**YOUR DONATIONS HELP YOUR GIRLS HEAL FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD
TRAUMA AND BUILD HEALTHY INDEPENDENT FUTURES.**

****Please Note: In case of postal disruption please send your donation either
through e-transfer or by phoning: 306-653-4646**

MESSAGE TO DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR GIRLS

“We like to watch the documentary ‘ONE PEROGY AT A TIME’ to see ourselves as children. We like to talk how we spent time with you while you were in Ukraine and the trips you organized for us. We are waiting to see all NASHI again as we are back in Ukraine!”



First supper back in Maple Leaf House Ukraine

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NASHI is a totally volunteer-run organization addressing the issue of human trafficking. Our goal is to raise awareness about this travesty of the 21st century while maintaining our Maple Leaf House for at risk girls in Ukraine.