



Frontier Horizon, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4429  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

**RE: Frontier Horizon Travel Program**

Dear Potential Host Families:

Thank you for your interest in opening your home to a Ukrainian orphan! We are very excited about your potential involvement in the Frontier Horizon Hosting Program!

This handbook was designed to help host families become better acquainted with the Frontier Horizon Travel Program. Our hope is that this Handbook will serve as a guide for you and your family so that you can have a better idea of what to expect and anticipate from both your hosted child and from Frontier Horizon.

If you have any questions about the material that is included in this packet, please feel free to call or email Frontier Horizon staff (all our contact information is in the handbook!) Our desire is for Potential Host Families and Orphaned Children to be equally prepared for the Hosting Program experience.

Throughout the program, we encourage you to make notes about your experiences.

Thank you for taking the time to read through the handbook. We hope that you find it useful and informative!

Thank you for partnering with Frontier Horizon to help meet the needs of orphaned and underprivileged children in Ukraine! Have a wonderful experience!

Sincerely,

Vincent T. Rosini  
President

# Frontier Horizon Travel Program Information

## Ukraine

Frontier Horizon is a faith-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization that strives to meet the needs of orphaned and impoverished children living in Ukraine, Nicaragua and Kyrgyzstan. In 2000, Frontier Horizon President, Dr. Vincent Rosini, started a Hosting Program through which orphaned children are sponsored and hosted by US American families. The program occurs twice each year—once in the summer and once in the winter. The summer program offers two or three sessions—a long session of approximately nine weeks and a shorter session of approximately three to four weeks in length. The winter holiday program runs from mid-December into early January, and it is approximately two to three weeks in length. We invite you to read through this handbook prior to hosting a child through our program.

**Why a Hosting Program?** Frontier Horizon created the program in order to raise awareness of the needs of orphans throughout Ukraine, Nicaragua and Kyrgyzstan. Our goal and desire is for families to connect with orphaned children in order to have a better understanding of the children's lives and needs. **Frontier Horizon's program is a *travel program*—not an adoption program.** While **Frontier Horizon is *not* an adoption agency**, many families do decide to adopt the children whom they host. While this is a wonderful bonus to our program, our program is not an adoption program and adoption is not the goal of our program.

**What is a Hosting Program?** The Frontier Horizon Travel Program is an opportunity for orphaned children to have a cultural and educational experience visiting the United States. Families sponsor, and host orphaned children for four weeks and provide the children with the unique opportunity of having a family and friends who care for them in the United States.

## Information All Potential Host Families Should Know

### Financial Requirements:

**Cost:** Frontier Horizon's Travel Program costs \$3,250 per child *plus* a \$150 Application Fee. There are discounts for hosting more than one child. (*Note: If funding is an issue for your family, please see "Scholarship Family Information"*);

**Payments Due:** The \$150 Application Fee is due with your application. The Hosting Program Fee is due by *April 15<sup>th</sup>* (Summer Program) or *October 15<sup>th</sup>* (Winter Program).

- ♦ **What does the cost include?** The Frontier Horizon Travel Program Fee includes the cost of passports, emergency medical insurance, visas, transportation from Ukraine to JFK/ NY airport for all children and translators, and a donation to your hosted child's orphanage. All families must pay the domestic airfare from JFK, New York to their local airport. The children must travel with the host family or an orphanage guardian. Please contact us for further details.
- ♦ **How do I make the Travel Program Payment?** All Frontier Horizon Travel Program Fees are tax deductible. The Travel Program Fee can be made via check or via credit card. Please make all checks payable to FRONTIER HORIZON and mail them to the address below. If you prefer to pay via credit card, *please note that there is an additional 3% credit card fee that will be deducted from your payment. Therefore, families paying via credit card will be responsible for an additional 3% fee.* Credit card payments can be made in maximum payments of \$2,000. For information on making credit card payments, please visit the Frontier Horizon website and click on the button marked "donate." The Frontier Horizon website is: [www.frontierhorizon.org](http://www.frontierhorizon.org). The Frontier Horizon mailing address is:

FRONTIER HORIZON  
P.O. Box 4429  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

- ♦ **Can I fundraise to off-set my costs?** If families are interested in hosting and do not feel that they can afford the Program Fee, we encourage families to seek donations for their sponsored child from friends, families, churches, or businesses. Because Frontier Horizon is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, all donations over \$250 will be receipted and all contributions are tax deductible.

*Note: If you do raise money for your hosted child:*

- *ALL FUNDS are due on the Travel Program Due Date.*
- *Please be certain that all checks are made payable to Frontier Horizon, and please mail ALL checks TOGETHER in one envelope.*
- *Please mark YOUR name and YOUR HOSTED CHILD'S name in the memo line of the check.*
- *Please have all donors mail checks to you, and then mail all checks TOGETHER to Frontier Horizon.*

### Host Family Responsibilities

#### What are my responsibilities—financial and otherwise—as a Host Family?

All host families (and *not* Frontier Horizon) are responsible for the following:

- ♦ Providing hosted children with all meals;
- ♦ Providing hosted children with clothing; (*Note: please see the “How to Prepare for your Hosted Child” section for more information.*)
- ♦ Paying for any activities in which you choose to participate;
- ♦ Paying the Hosting Program Fee and \$150 Application Fee;
- ♦ Arranging the connecting flights for children traveling to airports beyond JFK/NYC; the children cannot travel alone
- ♦ Providing all transportation to and from the airports to your home;
- ♦ The cost of a Full Home Study or a “Short Visit Report,” which must include Criminal Background Checks and Sex Offender Checks (*Note: Please see “Background check information”*);
- ♦ If your hosted child is late to be dropped off at the airport for their return flight, the Host Family will be responsible for covering *all* incurred costs. The costs may include, but are not limited to, the change-of-ticket fee for the child and an orphanage guardian/translator, purchasing a new airline ticket (if necessary), and for paying for the hotel fees for children and guardian/translator prior to their departure;
- ♦ If your hosted child has an accident or emergency medical situation, the Host Family is responsible for presenting all information to Frontier Horizon to process the claim with the Medical insurance agency. If this is not done, then the Host Family will be fully responsible for all medical bills. (*Note: Please visit <http://www.missionarybealth.net/Daytripper.pdf> for more information on the policy and <http://hccmis.cmn-global.com> to look up doctors and hospitals that participate in the PPO for the Hosting Program.*)
  - Please note: *this insurance is for medical emergencies only* and cannot be used for general care clinics, hospital visits or physician appointments. Families may choose to take their children for a check-up at their own expense; often a doctor or dentist will do the work free or give a discount if they know the children are international orphans.

### **Important Financial Updates to the Frontier Horizon Travel Program Deadlines, Flights, and Procedures:**

- ♦ **Hosting payments and Deadlines: April 15/October 30:** The cost of hosting one child through the Frontier Horizon Travel Program is \$3,250.00. The deadline for the summer program is *April 15* and the deadline for the winter program is *October 15*. No children will be permitted to travel after those dates have passed. All families are required to pay \$3,250.00 by the deadline (April 15/October 15). If full payment is not received by the 30th of the month, your child will be removed from the list.
  - **What if my hosted child does not receive a visa from the government?** If a child does not receive a visa the host families will be reimbursed the hosting fee minus \$500 which will be used to cover the expenses of the visa appointment, cancelled airline ticket and local travel fees.

- ♦ **Host Families/Children requiring Connecting Flights:** All connecting flight families (families who are not in driving distance to JFK airports) are financially responsible for the connecting flight fees for their hosted child and the guardian/translator's connecting flights. We will send children to any state within the United States. All families must pay the domestic airfare from JFK, New York to their local airport. The children must travel with the host family or a guardian. Please contact us for further details.
- ♦ **New Passport Policy:** Frontier Horizon will not be handing passports out to families, because the children do not need passports for domestic travel within the US. If you feel that you need some type of identification beyond the insurance document, Frontier Horizon will provide a photocopy of the first page of the child's passport and email it to you. Please contact Frontier Horizon staff to request this.

## Information All Potential Host Families Should Know Before You Host:

*Please read this page very carefully—it is the responsibility of the Host Family to understand the following information:*

- ♦ **Committing to host a specific child:** Once you commit to hosting a child there is *no guarantee* that the child you chose will be able to come to America. In the past, Frontier Horizon has had cases where a child chosen by a family has become sick or injured and has not been able to travel. There have also been cases where local Ukrainian government officials changed their mind and refused to allow children from their specific city to travel. Finally, there is the potential for a child to be adopted before they travel on our program. While these situations do not happen often, these situations are possible, and you need to be aware of this before you decide to host a child (or have your heart set on hosting a specific child). Frontier Horizon staff will do everything we can to offer another child for you to host. We will not send a substitute child to you without your prior knowledge, and you will be refunded the main portion of the hosting fee minus the Ukrainian document fees, visa application fee and local travel expenses (\$500) if you decide not to host.
  - If a child does not travel due to illness or a change of legal status based on the Ukrainian government, the host family can either select another child to host *or* they will be refunded the main portion of the host fee minus the Ukrainian document fees (for visa application, travel expenses, etc.)
  - If a host family changes their mind and decides not to host, the family is still liable for paying the FULL Travel Program fee (\$3,250) *or* finding a substitute family to host and pay the full amount. We cannot take the child off the list once they are confirmed to travel.
  
- ♦ **Frontier Horizon is NOT an adoption agency.** There is no guarantee that you will be able to adopt the child you host. Frontier Horizon is NOT an adoption agency, nor do we have anything to do with the adoption process. We try to have accurate information on the availability of the children but any information that Frontier Horizon can provide is *not* OFFICIAL information. If you are hoping to adopt a hosted child, it is recommended that you research the adoption process and/or contact an adoption agency or Ukrainian adoption facilitator familiar with the Ukrainian adoption process. Again: Frontier Horizon is NOT an adoption agency, and Frontier Horizon does not facilitate adoptions.

## Required Paperwork

**What paperwork is required?** (*Note: Please see “Frontier Horizon Background Requirements” for more information*)

- ♦ **Preliminary Application and \$150.00 Application Fee:** This fee is used to help cover the costs of local program expenses such as printing, postage, and phone calls.
- ♦ **Frontier Horizon Full Travel Program Application:** The Frontier Horizon Full Travel Program Application is attached in the Travel Program Handbook. Please fill out all the information and return the Full Application to the Frontier Horizon mailing address with your Hosting Program Fee, which is due in full by *April 15* (Summer Travel Program) or *October 15* (Winter Travel Program). *Note: If your payment is not received by the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month, your hosted child will be removed from the list and will not be eligible to travel.*
- ♦ **National Criminal Background Check:** If you will be doing a “Short Visit Report” or Home Study, you can ask your social worker to do a National Criminal Background Check, or you can contact a national agency to do your report. We suggest the FBI background Check: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks> National Criminal Background Checks **must** be provided for all persons in your household ages 18 and older.
- ♦ **National Sex Offender Check:** When you apply for your National Criminal Background Check, please also apply for a National Sex Offender Check. Note that the FBI check covers both the National Criminal Background check and the National Sex Offender Check. The All persons in your household ages 18 and older must present Frontier Horizon with a National Sex Offender Background Check.
- ♦ To obtain proper background checks go to: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/background-checks>
- ♦ **Host Family Agreement:** The Frontier Horizon Host Family Agreement is included in the Travel Program Handbook. Please be sure to fill in the necessary information and sign this form. It must be returned to Frontier Horizon with the Full Travel Program Application.
- ♦ **Background History Affidavit:** The Background History Affidavit is included in the Travel Program Handbook.
- ♦ **Note: These requirements are only for first-time Frontier Horizon host families:**
  - Completed and unexpired Full Home Study OR “Short Visit Report”: Details about the “Short Visit Report” are included in the section entitled “Background Information”
  - A copy of the Licensed Clinical Social Worker’s License or Agency’s License: This is paramount and must be presented with the Home Study or “Short Visit Report.”
  - The Frontier Horizon Authorization for Release and Exchange of Information Form: Please be certain that both parties sign this form releasing Host Family information to Frontier Horizon.

## Timeframe

The Frontier Horizon Hosting Program occurs twice each year—once in the summer and once in the winter. The summer program offers two sessions—a long session of approximately nine weeks and a shorter session of approximately three to four weeks in length. The winter holiday program runs from mid-December into early January, and it is approximately two to three weeks in length. There is a great deal of planning and organization that goes into our Hosting Program. Some things are beyond our control. For example: Because the children who travel to the United States are all orphans, their paperwork must be processed through the Ukrainian government on the local and national levels before it can be presented to the United States Embassy. As a result, Frontier Horizon will not be able to provide you with exact travel dates until closer to the travel time. Because we are dependant upon the Ukrainian government and the United States Embassy (as well as the availability of the airlines), we do ask for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as we organize the exact dates of each program. Please rest assured that we will provide you with accurate and up-to-date information about the program dates and times as soon as we possibly can.

*Note: We ask all host families to seriously consider their personal and work commitments prior to committing to hosting children. It is the responsibility of all host families to recognize the timeframe of the Hosting Program and to reorder their schedules as appropriate to host and care for children. Frontier Horizon does not permit babysitters or child care programs for Travel Program children. All care givers other than host families must be screened and approved by Frontier Horizon staff. Please contact us if you need more information about this.*



## Frontier Horizon Policies

**Policies:** Frontier Horizon must have received the following from all Travel Program Host Families.

- Preliminary Application with \$150 Application Fee
- Full Travel Program Application
- \$3,250.00 Travel Program Fee
- Connecting Flight Fees for your hosted child and guardian/translator, if applicable
- Signed Host Family Agreement Form
- Signed Background History Affidavit
- Completed National Sex Offender Check for all persons 18 and over in your home
- Completed Criminal Background Check for all persons 18 and over in your home
- **All New Frontier Horizon Host Families must submit:**
  - Full Home Study OR Short Visit Report
  - Authorization of Release and Exchange of Information
  - Copy of License of Home Study/Short Visit Report agency or LCSW

## Frontier Horizon Regulations

- ♦ **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU PERMITTED TO KEEP YOUR HOSTED CHILD PAST THE TRAVEL PROGRAM DATES.** Frontier Horizon CANNOT allow families to host or keep children past our travel program dates. Doing so is ILLEGAL and doing so would jeopardize our entire program with the Ukrainian government, the United States Embassy, and the orphanage staff with whom we work. YOUR CHILD MUST BE AT THE AIRPORT AT THE DESIGNATED TIME ON THE DESIGNATED DATE OR LEGAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.
- ♦ **Hosting children:** Families are not permitted to host more than two (4) children in their home per program. Please contact Frontier Horizon staff if you have questions about this.
- ♦ **Guardians:** The Ukrainian government requires Orphanage Staff and Guardians/Translators to accompany children traveling to the United States. We are always looking for guardian housing. Please let us know if you are willing to host a guardian or translator.
- ♦ **Arrival and Departure:** Host Families are responsible for picking up **and** dropping off their hosted children at the airport. If your hosted child is late to be dropped off at the airport for their return flight, the Host Family will be responsible for covering *all* incurred costs. The costs may include, but are not limited to, the change-of-ticket fee for the child and an orphanage guardian/translator, purchasing a new airline ticket (if necessary), and for paying for the hotel fees for children and guardians/translators prior to their departure.
- ♦ **Flights:** Children will either fly into JFK/NY or possibility WAS/Dulles airports. Frontier Horizon must work in conjunction with the Ukrainian government as well as the U.S. Embassy and various Ukrainian and U.S. airlines PRIOR to purchasing the airline tickets. THEREFORE, FRONTIER HORIZON CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT YOUR HOSTED CHILD WILL FLY INTO AN AIRPORT NEAR YOUR HOUSE. When you agree to host a child, you are agreeing to take responsibility for their arrival and departure—regardless of whether they will fly into an airport nearest you.
  - **Host Families/Children requiring Connecting Flights:** All connecting flight families are financially responsible for the connecting flight fees of the child they are hosting.
- ♦ **Responsibility:** It is the responsibility of host families to serve as the guardians of the children at all times. Therefore, hosted children may not spend the night at other people's homes without their host families. Frontier Horizon must abide by strict rules that prohibit anyone who has not been approved through our program for hosting. If you have a friend or family member who you would like to have approved to help you host your child, please contact Frontier Horizon staff.
- ♦ **Insurance:** Frontier Horizon insures all Travel Program children, guardians, and translators.
  - **Disclaimer:** Please note this insurance is for medical emergencies only and cannot be used for general care clinics, hospital visits or physician appointments. Families may choose to take their children for a check-up at their own expense; often a doctor or dentist will do the work free or give a discount if they know the children are international orphans.
- ♦ **Punishment:** Corporal punishment is forbidden. If families are discovered using corporal punishment, their hosted child will be removed from the home.

## Frontier Horizon Travel Program Background Requirements

*\*\*Please Note: All Frontier Horizon families new to the program must complete a “Short Visit Report” in addition to their National Criminal Background Check and a National Sex Offender Check. All Frontier Horizon host families who have not submitted a full home study or a “Short Visit Report” will be required to do the “Short Visit Report” \*\**

Frontier Horizon requires all host families to present the following information:

- ♦ **National Criminal Background Check:** If you will be doing a “Short Visit Report” or home study, you can ask your social worker to do a National Criminal Background Check, or you can contact a national agency to do your report. National Criminal Background Checks **must** be provided for all persons in your household ages 18 and older. **All National Criminal Background Checks must be mailed directly from the Background Check Agency or Social Worker to Frontier Horizon. Frontier Horizon does not accept Background Checks via email or fax or via Host Family.**
- ♦ **National Sex Offender Check:** When you apply for your National Criminal Background Check, please also apply for a National Sex Offender Check. All persons in your household ages 18 and older must present Frontier Horizon with a National Sex Offender Background Check. **All Sex Offender Checks must be mailed directly from the Background Check Agency or Social Worker to Frontier Horizon. Frontier Horizon does not accept Sex Offender Checks via email or fax or via Host Family.**
- ♦ **Background History Affidavit:** Please fill in the necessary information, and please sign the enclosed form.
- ♦ ***These requirements are only for first-time Frontier Horizon host families:***
  - Completed and unexpired Home Study OR “Short Visit Report”: Details about the “Short Visit Report” are included in the section entitled “Background Information.”
  - A copy of the Licensed Clinical Social Worker’s License or Agency’s License: This is paramount and must be presented with the Home Study or “Short Visit Report.”
  - The Frontier Horizon Authorization for Release and Exchange of Information Form: Please be certain that both parties sign this form releasing Host Family information to Frontier Horizon.

## Frontier Horizon “Short Visit Report” Information

All new host families must present Frontier Horizon with a “Short Visit Report” or with a completed and valid Home Study. Families can contact a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or an Adoption agency to do their report. In the “Short Visit Report,” we ask LCSWs to meet with the host parents and their children as well as review the Host Family’s home. The LCSWs then present a report and recommendation to Frontier Horizon detailing their experience. Enclosed is a letter to the LCSW detailing the report. Please contact Frontier Horizon if you have further questions about this process.

**Guidelines for the Short Visit Report:** The LCSW should address the following issues and questions during the Short Visit Report:

1. Please interview all family members regarding their interests and hobbies as individuals and as a family. Please discuss the type of profession and the individual work schedules with the adults.
2. Please ask Potential Host Families how they heard about the Frontier Horizon Travel Program and ask them why they are interested in the program.
3. Please ask: What do you, as a family, expect of the Travel Program? What are your expectations of your hosted child? Why are you interested in hosting a Ukrainian/Nicaraguan child?
4. Please ask if the family is aware of some of the behaviors that can be associated with children who have lived in orphanages (abuse, neglect, abandonment, bed-wetting, etc.)
5. Please ask: Have you participated in any other adoption or foster programs? Have you read any materials about adoption or foster care children? Please explain.
6. Please ask: What are your experiences with children? Are there children currently living in the household? Do you have adopted children? How do current children feel about the Frontier Horizon Travel Program?
7. Please discuss methods of discipline used in the home, and please explain that corporal punishment is not permitted regarding their hosted child.
8. Please ask: What types of support systems does the family have? (extended family members, friends, church groups, etc.)
9. In terms of the physical home . . . Where will the hosted child/children sleep? Will hosted children share a bathroom with other family members? Are dangerous objects and medications safely stored out of reach? Are there pets, and are there rules regarding the pets? Is the home sanitary and appropriately cleaned? Are there any safety concerns that need to be addressed?
10. Are there any unresolved loss issues that may complicate a family hosting a child? (i.e.: recent death of a child, etc.)
11. Are there any “red flags” or concerns that you have about the family’s participation as host parents for the Frontier Horizon Travel Program? Are there any issues of which our staff should be aware?

*Note: Frontier Horizon recommends that each question is answered during the interview and then discussed in the LCSW’s write-up/report. Please include your recommendation and professional opinion, as based on your interview with the Host Family. Please print the Short Visit Report on letterhead and mail it directly to: Frontier Horizon, P.O. Box 4429, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454.*

## About your Hosted Child

For both legal and personal reasons, Frontier Horizon is not authorized to provide personal information regarding the children, their medical history, their family history, etc., to families who are hosting children. We will do our best to provide families who are interested in adoption with information regarding whether their hosted child is available for adoption.

*Note: Frontier Horizon cannot guarantee that a child's paperwork is accurate, up-to-date, or that it will not change. Paperwork is the responsibility of the Ukrainian government, and not of Frontier Horizon. We cannot guarantee availability of "adoptable" children. Frontier Horizon's Travel Program is not an adoption program. We do not work with only available and adoptable children. We cannot provide you with any medical, psychological, or personal information about your hosted child. Any information provided by Frontier Horizon is UNOFFICIAL information. If you are interested in adoption, these are things that you can pursue individually and independently through your Ukrainian Adoption Facilitator and the National Adoption Council in Ukraine.*

All hosted children come from an orphanage system. It is of paramount importance that all host families recognize and understand the vital difference between growing up in the United States and being raised through the Ukrainian orphanage system. While we cannot tell you specific information about your hosted child, we can tell you general information about the children with whom we work in orphanages in Ukraine:

- ♦ Children in Ukraine are orphaned for many of the same reasons that children are placed in foster care within the United States: child abuse, neglect, sexual or emotional abuse; drug and alcohol usage and abuse; incarcerated parents; etc. In addition, many children are placed in orphanages because their parents have abandoned them or because their parents (or guardians—grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, etc.) cannot financially afford to care for them. Poverty plays a significant role in why children are often orphaned.
- ♦ Many children do not have any relatives, other than a sister or brother, and many children have lived their entire lives in the Ukrainian orphanage system. Children have been placed in orphanages since birth and they have moved from orphanage to orphanage as they have grown older.
- ♦ Some children who live at the orphanages do have a family member who has remote contact with them. Usually this is a parent, an aunt or uncle, older sibling, grandparent, or a distant family member who cares about them from afar. Depending on the different situations, the children can visit with their relatives while living at the orphanages. While some children with relatives are not adoptable, we have not found this to be the case with all children.
- ♦ Life in the Ukrainian orphanage system is dramatically different from the "typical" American lifestyle. Many of the orphanages where we work have between 400-500 children living in them. As a result, the children who live in these orphanages do not have people caring for them day-in and day-out, as a parent would care for a child. Therefore, many of the children carry emotional and psychological baggage with them. Some children have difficulty in learning to be loved and to love in return.
- ♦ Problems may include general disobedience, lack of interest in activities, withdrawn personality, anger issues such as yelling and screaming, stealing, and a host of other issues related to bad behavior. Orphaned children often lack social and hygiene skills since no one has ever taught them to "use their manners" or "say please" or shower daily. While these issues are not a problem for every child, it is important for all host families to recognize the impoverished and undereducated background that orphaned children are raised in for the entirety of their lives. Do not expect the child to behave properly because you are giving them an opportunity that an adult would clearly comprehend. They are wounded children and have little or no understanding of a loving family.

## How to Prepare for your Hosted Child

Frontier Horizon recommends that all host families do the following:

- ♦ Visit your local bookstore and purchase a Phonetic Russian/English dictionary. Having a phonetic dictionary will help you pronounce Russian words when speaking to your child. Having the Russian-English portion will enable your child to show you words (in English) that they are trying to say in Russian.
- ♦ Please sit down with your family prior to your hosted child's arrival and compile a list of rules for your family and your household. Please prepare to share these rules with your hosted child from their arrival on forward. Please *do not assume* that the children will “know how to act” or “use their manners.” If a child does not understand your rules, they cannot possibly obey them. Most children are visiting the United States for the first time, and they will need time to adjust to a new culture, a new language, a new time zone, and a different family. Please be specific in your expectations for your hosted child: May they “help themselves” in your kitchen? Can they call their friends who are staying with other families? Do they need to ask before leaving the table; making a phone call; riding their bike; leaving the house to play outside, etc.? Please also take the time to show your hosted child around your home so they can understand what is “off-limits,” etc. There are many online resources available to help in translation of house rules from English to Russian. We encourage families to use these for a clear and crisp communication. Disciplining the children is necessary. Frontier Horizon cannot be responsible for the behavior of your hosted child—especially when the child does not understand the rules or expectations within his or her new home.
  - One example of an online translator is: <https://translate.google.com/>
    - *Note: Please translate from English-Russian and then back again from Russian-English to be certain that you are getting the clearest translation possible. Some words are difficult to translate!*

## Other Cultural Differences:

- ♦ **Food:** Frontier Horizon Travel Program children come from orphanages throughout Ukraine; therefore, their diets vary. However, all orphanages are poor, and the children do not eat as well as they could. Popular Ukrainian foods include potatoes, cabbage, and soup. Starchy foods are also popular and common in Ukraine.
  - Children may not like American food when they initially arrive. Please be prepared for this, and do not be offended. Sometimes, American food can upset the children's stomachs. Most of the time, children do seem to enjoy pizza, chicken, french fries, and ice cream.
  - When offering food to the children/guardians/translators, please be patient. They child may be shy. We recommend placing food in front of your host children and encouraging them to "eat up!"
- ♦ **Temperature:** During the summer months, orphanages do not have the luxury of using air conditioning. Be prepared for your hosted children to be cold while the air conditioning is running. In the winter months, Ukraine is typically very cold, and the children are somewhat resilient to it. Nevertheless, please be sure that your hosted child is comfortable and has the necessary coats, gloves, blankets, etc., that he or she may need.
- ♦ **Communication:** Many Ukrainians are very decisive and sometimes seem stubborn or abrupt to Americans. The Russian language uses many harsh tones and commanding phrases. Please note that this is a cultural difference and not a personal infraction. You may notice that some Ukrainians seem to be screaming at each other when speaking in Russian. This is a commonly accepted way of communication in Ukraine.
- ♦ **English:** The children who participate in all of Frontier Horizon's Travel Programs come from orphanages throughout Ukraine. These orphanages are impoverished and some of their staff is undereducated. While all children are supposed to take English classes in school, many of the children do not speak *any* English at all. The Ukrainian government does not pay for English education for the children. Please do not expect children to speak more than a few words of English, if that. Additionally, if children do know some English, they are often embarrassed that they may say a word wrong or sound funny. Please understand that it takes time and patience for many children to speak what little English they know.

*(Note: Frontier Horizon has an English Sponsorship program through which stateside families can sponsor orphanage children to attend English classes. Please let us know if you would like more information about this program.)*

- ♦ **Hygiene:** Due to limited hot water in the orphanages, some children may be unfamiliar with hot water, and may be unfamiliar with bathing on a daily basis. These are important things to explain to hosted children. Please also reinforce the importance of the children brushing their teeth twice daily; washing their hands after using the restroom; and, washing their hands before eating meals. In Ukraine plumbing is also very different from the United States: therefore, children are accustomed to disposing of toilet paper in the trash can instead of in toilets. This is a hard habit for children to break. Please encourage children to flush all toilet paper, and please be aware that some toilet paper will still end up in your family's trash can. Additionally, Ukrainian children tend to wash their undergarments and socks while showering. Please be aware of this.
- ♦ **Clothing:** Because hosted children are coming from orphanages, they often come to the United States with only the clothes they are wearing. This is not an exaggeration. Many children visit the United States without bringing a single piece of luggage or even a small bag. If children do bring a bag, we encourage all

host families to go through the bag with their sponsored child, so you can be aware of the clothing needs of your hosted child. Because many orphanage children share their clothes, they do not bring *any* clothes to the United States. Frontier Horizon encourages orphanage children, staff, and directors to help children separate clothing to pack for their trips to the United States; but, this rarely happens. Please realize that it is the responsibility of the Host Family to provide clothing to hosted children. Clothing can be hand-me-downs, purchased from consignment shops, or purchased new. Please feel free to collect clothing for you child from your church, friends, or business.

- ♦ **Gifts:** Because children often arrive with no more than the shirt on their backs or a small plastic bag of belongings, many families shower the children with gifts the moment they arrive. However, this gives the child the impression that their family is rich, and it often creates a spoiled child for the bulk of the visit. PLEASE do not spoil your child. Physically visiting the United States and staying in a home is a great experience for the child in itself!

### **Travel Program Shopping Advice:**

- If you must spoil your hosted child, please do not spoil him or her during the first week of the visit. Frontier Horizon host families have found that the first week of the visit often sets the pace for the entire stay in the United States.
- You may buy your hosted child a few necessities when they arrive, but it is important to say “No” (or “Nyet!” which means “no” in Russian) if or when they start asking for shopping trips, CD players, and iPods!
- It is up to the discretion of host families to make “want-based” purchases for your hosted child; however, it is advisable to wait until the last week of the children’s visit so that you are not setting a standard for their time in the United States.
- Please be mindful of the orphanage staff and the hours that they spend working with the children and teaching them both before and after their visits. We do not want to create more work for the staff once the children return.
- In the past, children who have returned to Ukraine with an exorbitant number of gifts have had many of their things stolen. Please keep this in mind when making purchases for your hosted child. Do not buy cell phones or electronic equipment that can easily be stolen.
- All families and host families are different. Therefore, children will inevitably arrive back to Ukraine with different gifts, clothing, etc. Please be aware that many of the children will discuss their activities and purchases with each other both during and after their stay within the United States. As all children do, hosted children often compare their schedules and their gifts. Please keep this in mind and please feel free to discuss such differences with your hosted child.



## Important Information about Orphanage Children

Children who have been living in orphanages or who grow up in “institutionalized care,” often present the following concerns which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Learning disabilities
- Developmental delays
- Delayed growth and development
- History of trauma, loss, physical and/or sexual abuse, neglect and/or abandonment
- Speech and language delays
- Emotional and behavioral problems
- Nutritional deficits
- Attachment problems
- Undetected health concerns

*Note: The Ukrainian government places children with severe delays and/or disabilities in separate orphanages from “mainstream” children. Currently, Frontier Horizon is only working with children from such “mainstream” orphanages. If you have an interest in hosting a child with a significant need, please contact Frontier Horizon staff.*

## Frontier Horizon Recommends . . .

- ♦ **At the airport:** When you arrive at the airport to pick up your hosted child, feel free to bring a sign with his/her name on it. Please also pack a small meal or snack or be ready for a trip to McDonalds for your hosted child, as children are often hungry as they arrive to the airport.
- ♦ **Other Host Families:** Please contact other host families in your area so that children can play together, and host families can share stories. Frontier Horizon has found that children enjoy being able to speak Russian and relax with their friends during their visit to the United States as well.
- ♦ **When Hosting Guardians/Translators:** Please give guardians/translators/children their schedule in advance. Frontier Horizon has found that children and guardians like to be able to be prepared for the next day's activities.
- ♦ **Weekly Activities:** Please plan at least two activities each week for your hosted child and/or guardian/translator. Activities do not need to involve costs: you could go sightseeing in the car, visit a park, attend the story-hour at a nearby library, tour the Christmas lights in your city, etc. Having planned activities gives the children and adults something to look forward to and it also enriches their experience, education, and understanding of our culture and nation.
- ♦ **Community Gatherings:** Since one of the main purposes of the Frontier Horizon Travel Program is to increase awareness of the needs of orphaned children living in Ukraine, we ask host families to consider hosting a picnic, dessert party, or gathering with friends and family from church, work, or the neighborhood. Frontier Horizon staff are willing and available to come to your city to speak about the needs of our Ukrainian friends as well as Frontier Horizon's programs. Please contact us if you are interested in more information about this.

## Frontier Horizon Conflict Resolution Plan

If you are having trouble with your child, or if you feel like you need help, Frontier Horizon Staff ask you to please contact a translator *first*. Frontier Horizon believes that it is very important for hosted children to be able to express themselves clearly as well. We strongly encourage all host families to contact a translator to help with conflicts or communication difficulties. Communication and understanding between the hosted child and Host Family are key components of our program. We ask all host families to be aware of the difficulty of the time, language, and cultural differences that the children experience upon arriving to the United States. Please provide your hosted child with time to adjust to his or her new surroundings.

**Re-placement of child in a different home:** If you are having trouble with your hosted child and you would like your child to be placed with another family, please follow the Frontier Horizon Conflict Resolution Plan:

*We ask all host families to give their hosted children a minimum of three or four days to adjust to the new time difference, their new surroundings, and their Host Family **before** contacting Frontier Horizon about re-placement . . .*

*Note: If your child must be removed from your home and re-placed in another home in a different city, the original Host Family is responsible for the cost of airfare for their hosted child and guardian/ translator to relocate.*

### 72 Hour Conflict Resolution Plan:

- ♦ **STEP 1:** Please contact Frontier Horizon Staff immediately to explain your situation and to express your concerns.
- ♦ **STEP 2:** Frontier Horizon Staff will immediately contact a translator to intervene in the situation. The translator should intervene within 24 hours of the initial complaint phone call. Frontier Horizon prefers intervention to be done in person, but if a translator cannot get to your home, the intervention can be done via telephone. *After the intervention, we ask for all host families to please wait 24 hours.*
- ♦ **STEP 3:** If the Host Family, after 48 hours from the initial contact, still desires for children to be placed in another home, the family must immediately call Frontier Horizon Staff, and re-placement plans will be made within the next 24 hours. All host families must understand that they will NOT receive a refund or reimbursement for children who families choose to have removed from their home and placed with another Host Family.

## **Frontier Horizon Translators**

Many families feel uncomfortable with the idea of trying to communicate with a child who speaks Russian for two or three weeks. As a result, Frontier Horizon hires translators to travel with the children and to help families communicate with children throughout the duration of the Frontier Horizon Travel Program. All families will have telephone access to translators here in the United States, and all families will become very experienced in communicating through drawing, facial expressions, charades, and “talking with their hands”!

Frontier Horizon will provide information with translators’ phone numbers as soon as we have it. Additionally, families who are interested in hosting a translator in their home for the entire Travel Program or for a portion of the travel program are welcome to do so.

### **Families who host translators are expected to do the following:**

- ♦ Provide food and housing for translators
- ♦ Pay for activities for translators (i.e.: trips to a museum, amusement park, etc.)
- ♦ Understand that other host families may be calling for translation assistance. (Please be willing to share your translator!)

*Note: Translators are not to be used as babysitters. We respect our translators and are grateful for their hard work. Please do not expect them or ask them to watch your hosted child for more than one hour or so.*

### **Translators attend Frontier Horizon training, and they receive a small stipend from Frontier Horizon. Translators are instructed to:**

- ♦ Purchase their own clothing, gifts, and souvenirs;
- ♦ Translators are *not* permitted to send emails to the Host Family list;
- ♦ Translators are *not* permitted to make long distance phone calls without permission from the Host Family;
- ♦ Translators are *not* permitted to initiate calls other host families for information.

## Translators: Frontier Horizon recommends:

- ♦ When explaining your “house rules” to your hosted child, please also be specific with your translator: Can your translator “help him/herself in your kitchen”? Do you mind if the translator cooks for the children? Can your translator use your phone? Can your translator make long distance calls? What things are “off limits”? What can they do and what should they not do?
- ♦ Please be clear about your expectations of the translator up front to avoid confusion later.
- ♦ Please read the “How to Prepare for your Hosted Child” section of the handbook, and please note the following:
  - Communication: Many Ukrainians are very decisive and sometimes seem stubborn or abrupt to Americans. The Russian language uses many harsh tones and commanding phrases. Please note that this is a cultural difference and not a personal infraction. You may notice that some Ukrainians seem to be screaming at each other when speaking in Russian. This is a commonly accepted way of communication in Ukraine.
- ♦ Please try to give translators an idea of their schedule at least a day in advance. Translators like to be able to prepare and know what to expect.

*Note: If you have a problem with your translator, or if an issue arises, please contact Frontier Horizon staff immediately. Please be honest and open with your translator about the problems you are having. If you do not contact Frontier Horizon staff about translator-related issues, we cannot help you resolve them. If you are interested in hosting a Translator in your home, please be sure to note your interest on the Frontier Horizon Travel Program Application. Many families are interested in hosting translators, and there are not always enough translators to stay with all the families who request them. Please let us know of your interest in hosting a translator as soon as possible.*

## Orphanage Guardians

Per the request of the Ukrainian government, each orphanage selects guardians to accompany the children who travel. Guardians do not have to stay with host families. They could stay with neighbors or friends, but the guardians must be hosted. Please let us know if you or a family friend can host a guardian. The guardians may periodically check in on the children from their orphanages who are being hosted by families throughout the US.

## Adoption

**Frontier Horizon is not an adoption agency.** Frontier Horizon staff specifically tells hosted children that they are NOT traveling to the United States to be adopted. All hosted children do understand that this program is for cultural and educational purposes only. Despite this, orphanage children see American families coming to the orphanages to adopt children, and they automatically assume that children are being adopted by families they visited in the United States. It is impossible to completely distance ourselves from adoption in the minds of our Travel Program children.

Many host families are interested in adoption. We discourage families from openly discussing adoption with Travel Program children. Above all, DO NOT make any promises to your hosted child. The adoption process is lengthy; and, unfortunately, we have seen potentially adoptive families change their minds about adoption while in the process. The children you are hosting have been abandoned and many have been through much more difficult experiences than we will ever face. We do not need to provide them with false hope of adoption. Please be respectful and mindful of this.

**Availability:** Frontier Horizon feels that it is important for all host families to know that there are four potential options regarding a child's availability for adoption:

1. *Available Now:* The child is currently registered in the National Adoption Center and is immediately available for adoption.
2. *Available in the Future:* The child's paperwork is in the process of becoming "available." In Ukraine, the paperwork takes a *minimum* of fourteen (14) months to complete.
3. *Possibly Available:* Children who are potentially available are children whose status is unknown because their relatives/guardians have never been asked if the children are available, the relative/guardian cannot be found or located, or the relative/guardian is in jail or homeless. Oftentimes, children in this circumstance can be made available for adoption once their relatives/guardians are located and meet with the orphanage directors.
4. *Not Available:* Children who are not available have families or relatives who have custody of them and who do not want the children to be adopted.

*Note: Please remember that our goal is to raise awareness of the needs of all orphaned children; therefore, children who are and are not available are welcome to be hosted through our Travel Program. The Frontier Horizon Travel Program is not an adoption program.*

**Disrupted/Dissolved Adoptions:** Unfortunately, not all foreign adoptions work out as planned. Sometimes an adopted child causes such problems that the family finds it necessary to remove the child from their home. While this is very rare, it does happen. Although the child cannot return to Ukraine, another US family can adopt the child. Fortunately, there are organizations that can be contacted in order to help you handle this situation, if necessary: [https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/s\\_disrup.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/s_disrup.pdf)

## **Resources for Host Families and Potentially Adoptive Families**

**Restaurants:** Frontier Horizon encourages host families who are interested in experiencing a taste of their hosted child's culture, to look up Russian, Ukrainian, or Eastern European markets or restaurants. We recommend families to visit the restaurant, talk to the staff, and taste their food. Hosted children may enjoy this experience as well.

*Please let Frontier Horizon staff know if you find restaurants or markets in your area that you would like us to recommend to other host families.*

**Reading in English:** [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com); website for helping children learn to read

### **Center for Adoption Support and Education, Inc. (C.A.S.E.)**

8505 Arlington Blvd., Suite 420

Fairfax, VA 22301

703.573.3701; [www.adoptionsupport.org](http://www.adoptionsupport.org)

**FRUA (Families for Russian & Ukrainian Adoptions):** [www.frua.org](http://www.frua.org)

There are many similar organizations online. If you search for "Ukraine Adoption" on any online search engine you can find other available websites and organizations.



## Scholarship Family Information

At times, Frontier Horizon has partially sponsored children. If you are interested in hosting a partially sponsored child, please contact Frontier Horizon. Applicants must understand that they will have a much smaller sub-section of children to select from, and there are not any guarantees that any of the Scholarship Children will be available for adoption. In addition, full sponsorships may not be available until the last minute.

*Note: All "Scholarship Families" are still responsible for the \$150 Frontier Horizon Application Fee as well as all the necessary paperwork, Background Checks, etc. The "Scholarship Families" do **not** have to pay full program Fee.*

## Helping Frontier Horizon

*Resources:* If you or your family comes across helpful resources, please let us know! For example, if you find a good translation website, a great “about Ukraine” site, or a tasty Russian restaurant nearby, please make a note and provide us with your resources so that we can pass information on to other families.

*Medical Donations:* If you know medical professionals in your town who are willing to donate services to Frontier Horizon’s Travel Program children, please let us know. We would also love to be able to properly thank all doctors, dentists, etc., who help our Travel Program children. Please provide Frontier Horizon staff with the name of your hosted child, the service provided, and the name and address of the medical professional who helped you.

*Photos and Videos:* If you have pictures or videos from the Frontier Horizon Travel Program that you would be interested in donating to Frontier Horizon, please let us know. We are a very small organization, and we would love your help!

*Volunteers:* Frontier Horizon is extremely grateful for our volunteers who help our programs grow and expand. If you are interested in helping in any of the following areas in your town or state, please let us know:

*Publicists:* Volunteers are needed to help promote Frontier Horizon’s Programs within the community. If you are interested in helping with press releases and spreading the word about our programs in your area, please contact us.

*Fundraisers:* If you are interested and available to solicit donations, merchandise, or in-kind donations (i.e.: services), please let us know. We would love to be able to provide Host Families with the services available to them, and the more funding we raise, the more children we can help! If you are interested in helping us coordinate fundraising or speaking efforts in your area, please contact Frontier Horizon staff.

*Area Event Coordinators:* If you are interested in organizing local events in your area for the Travel Program children, please let us know! For example, having a pot luck dinner one evening with other host families or organizing a group trip to the zoo could be a tremendous hit for the children and families. If you are interested in helping us coordinate fundraising or speaking efforts in your area, please contact Frontier Horizon staff.

*Volunteer Translators:* If you speak Russian or Spanish and are willing to hand out your phone number or help translate during trips to the zoo or Travel Program outings, please let us know. This service is of great importance to our host families!

*Travel Program Partners:* Volunteers who have a solid understand of the challenges that our hosted children face as they transition from life in an orphanage to life in the United States of America, are welcome to be “Travel Program Partners.” TPPs will provide friendship to hosted children and support to host families. We prefer these volunteers to be former host families or adoptive families.

*Back-up Host Families:* If you and your family have experience hosting and would like to become a “back-up family” for future travel programs, please contact Frontier Horizon staff. “Back-up families” are called in to volunteer when Frontier Horizon host families decide that a child must be removed from their home and re-placed with another family. Although “back-up families” do not have to pay the Travel Program Fees, they are responsible for the food, clothing, and activities of hosted children. All “back-up families” are also responsible for submitting the necessary background information to Frontier Horizon before a child can be placed in their home.

## Frontier Horizon Ukrainian Travel Program

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Can I adopt the child I host?**
  - Many families are interested in adopting the children they host or meet through the Frontier Horizon Travel Program. There are many children who are already adopted and living in the United States as a direct result of the program. You may want to experience having an older child in your house before you adopt, or you may simply want to give a child a vacation away from the orphanage for a few weeks. The advantage of the program is that it affords several life-changing opportunities for both your family and the child. Regardless of your reason to host, please be aware that Frontier Horizon is a humanitarian aid organization and *not* an adoption agency. The main goals of this program are ultimately to improve the health, education, and general welfare of orphan children in Ukraine. While we are excited about the potential of adoption for these children, Frontier Horizon is *not* an adoption agency. If you choose to adopt please be aware the process is handled separately from our organization, and we do not have any control or influence over the adoption process, nor do we have any affiliation with adoption agencies.
- **Are all the children that come on the program available for adoption?**
  - This Frontier Horizon Hosting Program is primarily a Travel Program, therefore, we cannot and do not choose all adoptable children. Many children are available or are in the process of becoming available for adoption, but we cannot guarantee the availability of every child.
- **Can I host a child even if I do not want to adopt?**
  - Yes, please do! We encourage and welcome individuals and families to host children even if they are not interested in adoption. Our primary goal of the travel program is to raise awareness of the children's needs to foster the improvement of the health, education, and general welfare of all orphan children in Ukraine. Therefore, the travel program itself raises funds for that purpose. You help us achieve such goals by hosting a child.
- **Is it unfair to host a child that you are not going to adopt?**
  - Absolutely not! Many of the children to travel to the United States through the Frontier Horizon Travel Program would never could visit America or stay with a family if people only interested in hosting did not participate in our program. Our program is a Travel Program, *not* an adoption program. Our goals are to raise awareness and to provide orphaned children with a cultural and educational experience in the United States. The Travel Program has a 50-60% adoption rate, so there are many children who participate in the program and are not adopted. We strive to help as many children as possible, and there are numerous ways in which Frontier Horizon tries to help the children. Donations for basic needs such as food, clothing, medicine, and education as well as short-term humanitarian aid trips and grants for self-sufficiency projects or building repair all help to meet such needs. This program is just one more resource to improve the lives of the children with whom we work. Often, families who do not adopt still take a vested interest in their hosted child's future by funding that child's basic needs and/or future education.
- **Can we buy the child gifts while he or she is in the US?**
  - Oftentimes, the children come with just the clothes on their back and a small plastic bag of personal items. Any gift giving is optional, but our advice is to moderate your giving over the three weeks that the children are in the United States. Families often make the mistake of giving their child anything they want during the first week of their stay, and this leads the child to believe you have an endless source of income in addition to creating a spoiled and confused child for the remainder of the child's stay.

- **What are the ages of the children traveling?**
  - The ages of the children traveling to the United States are between the ages of 6 and 17.
- **Who decides which children come to visit the United States?**
  - Frontier Horizon staff in the United States and Ukraine work closely with the orphanage Directors and orphanage staff to select children who have good behavior, positive attitudes, and good grades in school. Children are selected with the intention of the Travel Program and trip to the United States as a reward for them. Despite our process, children do end up traveling to the United States who have behavioral and emotional issues. Please be aware of this when hosting.
- **Can the child stay longer than the prescribed time of the program?**
  - **NO!** This is a strict rule that we cannot change. It is the requirement of the Ukrainian government and the US Embassy that the children return to Ukraine at the prescribed time. Any violation of this rule is breaking the law and it endangers the future of the whole program as well as the future of the child you are hosting. If necessary, legal action will be taken.
- **If I host a child that I want to adopt, can I reserve that child for my family alone?**
  - No. Having a child in your house as part of the Travel Program does not mean the child will be reserved for you to adopt. Older children are not adopted as frequently as younger children, but there is still a possibility that your hosted child may be adopted by another family. Thus far, almost every Host Family that has wanted to adopt the child who they have hosted has been able to do so. In the past, there have been a few families who have not been able to adopt the child they hosted because the child was adopted by another family.
- **Can I find out personal details and information about the child I host?**
  - The children involved with the Frontier Horizon Travel Program come from different orphanages within Ukraine. The orphanage director usually chooses the children based on good behavior and good grades. We do not have any family or medical history on the children. However, we do know that any children with serious diseases are housed in separate orphanages. Among the children that do travel, the orphanage director cancels the trip for a child who has any minor illnesses. If you do decide to adopt the child you are hosting, you will receive all the child's family and medical background information from the National Adoption Center.
- **Is it possible to obtain a student visa for the child I host?**
  - Some families who do not want to adopt want to bring their child to the United States to go to school or college. This option is possible, but extremely difficult. As with adoptions, this process must be handled apart from Frontier Horizon. You may contact a local lawyer in your city that specializes in student visas. You may also refer the lawyer to Frontier Horizon if he has questions you cannot answer.
- **Do you send children to any state in the US?**
  - We will send children to any state within the United States, but we request that interested families ask friends or relatives to host and try to bring at least five children to each host city.
- **Can I keep in contact and/or financially support the child I hosted if they remain in Ukraine?**
  - Many host families want to keep in contact with the children they host to help them with basic needs and/or their education. This is one of the main goals of the program and it is strongly encouraged. You may keep in contact with the child you hosted through e-mail, and you may send money and/or packages to the child as often as you please. You will receive the e-mail of a translator, upon request, who will translate letters and ensure that your gifts get to your child for a nominal, monthly fee.

- **Can I visit the child I hosted in Ukraine?**
  - Yes! Frontier Horizon runs three or four short-term service trips each year that you may join. The children absolutely love having their host families visit them in Ukraine and seeing the orphanages and the children in their “homes” proves to be a life-changing experience for our teams. Please contact us if you are interested in traveling on a team or if you would like to organize a team to travel to Ukraine through Frontier Horizon.
- **I am a single woman; can I host a child?**
  - If all the application materials are included, single women can host children as well. Singles cannot adopt from Ukraine, but they can adopt from Kyrgyzstan.
- **Are the children insured during their stay in America?**
  - All the children who travel to the United States are insured. Please note this insurance is for medical emergencies only and cannot be used for general care clinics, hospital visits or physician appointments. Families may choose to take their children for a check-up at their own expense; often a doctor or dentist will do the work free or give a discount if they know the children are international orphans.
- **Can my hosted child travel with me?**
  - Frontier Horizon, through our insurance policy noted above has all children insured throughout the United States. Travel Program children may **not** leave the United States.
- **Can my hosted child attend a sleep-over?**
  - It is the responsibility of host families to serve as the guardians of Frontier Horizon Travel Program children at all times. Please contact us for more information on our policy regarding this.
- **Can I travel outside of the United States with my hosted child?**
  - No, host families are not permitted to take their hosted children outside of the United States. Neither the children’s visas nor their insurance will allow the children to leave the United States.
- **Can we contact families who have hosted in the past for program references and advice on adoption?**

Yes! We encourage you to contact families who have had experience hosting in the past. Please contact us directly for information on previous host families.

## Communicating with Frontier Horizon Staff

**Cell Phones:** Frontier Horizon strongly recommends that all host families carry cell phones with them to and from the airport as well as during outings with children. It is of paramount importance for our staff to be able to reach you. In the past, host families have been caught in traffic or have had emergencies and have not been able to contact our staff. Communication is of the essence with the Frontier Horizon Travel Program. Please be sure to always carry our staff's numbers with you, and please be certain that your (and your spouse's, if applicable) cell phone numbers are on record with our organization.

**E-Mail:** Host Families will receive program information, updates, and contact information for other host families via email.

Please feel free to contact Frontier Horizon Staff with any questions that you may have:

Dr. Vincent Rosini, President 757.749.3921; [vincent.rosini@frontierhorizon.org](mailto:vincent.rosini@frontierhorizon.org)

Maggie Scobie, Hosting Program Coordinator 301-675-2970; [maggie.scobie@frontierhorizon.org](mailto:maggie.scobie@frontierhorizon.org)

### Mailing Address:

FRONTIER HORIZON  
P.O. Box 4429  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

Frontier Horizon web address: [www.frontierhorizon.org](http://www.frontierhorizon.org)

## Frontier Horizon Travel Program Notes

Dear Host Families,

Please use the following pages to jot down any Travel Program-related notes or recommendations. Frontier Horizon will send you a Travel Program Survey at the end of the Travel Program, and you can use this page to jog your memory and complete the survey. Frontier Horizon depends on its Host Families to help us strengthen and develop our programs! We encourage you to tell us what works and what doesn't!

Please remember to record any in-kind medical (or other) donations that your child receives. Frontier Horizon needs the doctor's name and address, the child's name, and the type of service provided to appropriately thank donors for their services!

Thank you for your time and help!

Sincerely,

Frontier Horizon Staff

## Frontier Horizon Travel Program Notes, Continued



## Frontier Horizon's Crash Course in Russian

Hi—Priviyett	What do you like--Shto tebe niravitsya?	I love you—Ya loo bloo tibya, or Ya tibya loo bloo
How are you?—Cock de la?	We like you--Tee nam niravitsha	Shower—doush
What is your name?—Cock tibeya zovoot?	Let's go-- idiome, or poshlee	Beach—plagge
My name is—Me nya zovoot	Yes—Da	Pool—baseyin
How old are you? —Skolka tibeya leeyet?	No—Nyet	Lake—arica
Please and Thank you—Pajalsta	Don't touch that—netrogoi eta	Park—park
Okay/Good—Kadashaw	Come here--idi suda	Store—mogazina
Very good--Ochen horosho	Good morning—Dobrea utra	Drink—peet
You're welcome—Spaseeba	Good afternoon—dobray den	Juice—sok
Good bye-- paka (familiar), Dos vadanya( formal)	Do this—ezdilay eta	Yuck or eww—foo
Do you want to eat?—Tee hoechesh kooshet?	Do you need to go to the bathroom?—Tee hochish iti v toiliet?	One—a deem
Go to sleep—idi spat	Would you like to play—Tee hochish egrat...?	Two—dva
What do you want to do today?—shto tee hoechesh sevoednya dielit?	Stop—Pierestan, or astonavees	Three—tree
What's wrong?—shto takoye?	Would you like to go swimming?—Tee hochish kupatza?	Four—schiteery
Do you need anything—Tee hochesh shtoto?		Five—peeyat
		Six—scheest
		Seven—seem
		Eight—voseem
		Nine—a dievet
		Ten—diezcit