

## Belarus Child Hosting Program

Belarus is a small country in Europe on which 70% of the radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster fell in April 1986. The radiation remains in the soil and water, continuing to affect everyone even many years later. Children are particularly vulnerable.

The American Belarussian Relief Organization – ABRO – brings children to the US for six weeks each summer, usually around mid-June. This gives the children's bodies six weeks of rest from the physical and emotional stress of living in a contaminated environment.



Host families are needed for each of these children, and a family is needed to host their chaperone(s). This is an opportunity for us, Port City Community Church, to show Christ's love by welcoming them and providing caring home environments. In turn, we are blessed with the privilege of experiencing another culture right here at home.

Host families may request gender and age ranges. It is preferred that our host families are married couples. Most host families have children, but that isn't a requirement. It is not our intention that the children be placed in daycare or left to spend time without adult supervision.

The children's primary language is Russian. They may understand and/or speak some English. The chaperone will assist with translation and there are other tools available for help. Group activities and time with the chaperone are planned so the children can occasionally be with others who speak their language.

Host families are responsible for making sure the children get to their scheduled medical check-ups, and that they receive dental and eye exams during their stay. Local doctors and dentists usually volunteer their services for these exams. A medical insurance policy is in place for the children, so that host families do not incur costs for visits related to emergencies or unexpected illnesses.

Medical appointments and group activities help us meet ABRO's requirement that the coordinator sees the children at least once per week during their stay with us.

The cost to host a child is approximately \$2,000.00 (to cover travel expenses) plus any costs associated with the child's normal daily living while here in the US. We encourage host families to invite others to participate in this experience with them. Prayer, financial contributions toward the hosting cost or expenses once the child is here (gift cards are great for groceries, toiletries), or joining you for meals or activities are only a few of the ways others can participate.

To read more about PC3's involvement with this program and view our videos, visit [portcitychurch.org/global](http://portcitychurch.org/global) then click 'Belarus.'

You can find additional information on the ABRO website: [www.abro.org](http://www.abro.org), and on the Wilmington ABRO group's website: Email specific questions to [evans.baggs@portcitychurch.org](mailto:evans.baggs@portcitychurch.org).

**The DEADLINE for application/deposit to host a child in 2017 is February 26<sup>th</sup>.  
(New families must submit a completed preliminary application by February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.)**

## **Your Next Steps:**

**Read** through all this material carefully, and discuss (as a family) the '*Things to Consider*'.

**Pray** about this opportunity as a family; ask your family and friends to pray with you about it.

**Involve Others:** We encourage you to let others know – friends, family, small group – and ask them to consider participating with you by contributing financially (support letter attached).

**Attend the Q&A Meeting** (families who have hosted before will be available):

- **Sunday, January 22, 2017** – 1pm, PC3 Wilmington Campus, Main Living Room

**Attend** required training before you child arrives. Details on this training are included in this packet.

### **Important Deadlines:**

- **February 12, 2017 – New Families Only**
  - **Turn in PC3 Preliminary Host Family Application.**
- **February 26, 2017**
  - **Turn in American Belarussian Relief Organization Host Family Application**
  - **Submit \$500 deposit**
  - **Turn in original/signed invitation letter** (NOTE: please prepare your letter according to the attached 'new' or 'returning' child invitations).
- **March 28, 2017 final payment is due.**
  - You will be notified in advance of this balance, which is dependent on airfare and other travel costs.

**Checks must be written to Port City Community Church (or 'PC3').** DO NOT ENTER ANYTHING IN THE MEMO LINE. A completed DONOR CARD (included in packet) must be submitted with each check; these may be dropped off at What's Next at any PC3 campus. Donations may also be made online at '[belarus2017.portcitychurch.org](http://belarus2017.portcitychurch.org)'.

**Submit all items** to What's Next on Sundays or to the PC3 Wilmington Campus Reception Desk on Weekdays. Please keep copies of everything you submit, including checks. You will receive periodic support updates. The local program coordinator will be in touch with further instructions.

If you have any questions e-mail [evans.baggs@portcitychurch.org](mailto:evans.baggs@portcitychurch.org).

## **Things to Consider when becoming a Host Family**

What kinds of commitments do we have this summer? Are we willing to include someone other than our family in these plans?

Are our finances such that it will place an unusually heavy burden on us to feed another child, take care of their other daily needs, and include them in the activities we've planned? (And/or might we come up with some creative ways to offset the expenses?)

How flexible are we with our time? Will we easily work the medical, dental, and eye appointments into our family's schedule (typically one of each during the six-week stay)? Will we be willing to attend group functions at least once each week (including activities, a Sunday program specifically for the Belarus kids, etc.)?

How flexible are we (really) in regards to the things we like to do? What if the child who comes to visit us doesn't like the same things that we do? How easy (or difficult) will it be for us to find a balance that suits us all?

How comfortable will we be treating someone else's child-like one of our own (including guiding, comforting, disciplining, etc.)? Realizing this will take us out of our comfort zone, are we willing to reach out to and rely on other – more experienced - host parents, to help us handle the emotions of it?

How comfortable will we be answering questions and responding to requests that catch us off-guard and/or seem unreasonable? Will we be able to respond confidently yet with gentleness and love?

Are we prepared to comfort and guide our own children when they become jealous and/or feel less special because of the things planned specifically for the children from Belarus?

The enclosed Info/Q&A document may shed some light on your questions and concerns. To discuss any lingering concerns, please call Yasmin Teter (910-231-4957).

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How are children chosen to come here?**

The ABRO contacts in Belarus reaches out to families that are aware of this opportunity and many want to come. Some sign up to do so. The Belarussian representatives then work with the ABRO representatives here to determine the best fit based on the applicants. You may request a child of a particular age range (from 7 to 12) and gender. The Belarussian children will be a little behind our children, developmentally (socially, maturity), just due to culture, exposure, etc. They start school at 7 years old.

### **How does the language barrier affect things?**

The chaperone that comes here with the kids is available for translating anytime. The children who come typically understand some English, but usually don't speak it well at all. They get some English in school. Some understand more than they admit. This really is much easier than it seems. Through pointing, body language, facial expressions, etc.; it really flows pretty well and with very little trouble.

In the beginning, it will take some getting used to, but within a short while you will have developed your own 'special' language with the child, something that may become sentimental to you. For Sundays, typically a space at Port City (Vision Drive campus) is provided, all the families agree to attend the same service, and someone will host a Sunday program for the children – a time of singing, teaching, and activities – in Russian if we can arrange it. All the kids together in this one class works really well and the children seem to enjoy being together.

There are websites that the children can type (or speak?) in Russian, and the website audio will speak back; and the typing will appear in English, and vice versa.

Beware of fully understanding their limitations – e.g., figuring out whether or not they can swim – before they jump off into the deep end.

### **Do any of the kids know each other before they come here?**

Some have been at the same schools; some are siblings or cousins. Those who have been here previously – in the Wilmington group – will know each other. They have a few meetings together before they come. Some will naturally bond during travel, on the way over. They are caring of each other – if there's a first-time child, the chaperone and other kids will rally around them. These children come from a culture where they are more used to sharing within and among families. They are used to being in summer camps.

### **What if we don't have children of our own in the home?**

It usually works out fine. There are events scheduled: pool parties, movies together, bowling, beach time....so they can spend time with the other Belarusian children. But they also enjoy just hanging out at home, doing what your family typically does. These children also need to just rest some while they're here; so, there's no pressure to keep them entertained/busy. Many come from big families so they actually may be appreciative of having your family to themselves, and the attention that comes with that.

### **May we travel, take vacations, while the kids are here?**

Yes, as long as you have notified Yasmin Teter (the program coordinator) as to where you're going, what dates you'll be gone, and contact information for your destination – in case we need to get in touch with you.

### **May I host a child if I'm single?**

It's really preferable to place the children in families, so they get the benefit of the interactions of that environment. However, single people are encouraged to participate in the group. There are so many ways to help: take the kids on outings, take the kids when the parents need time alone, host events, be available for babysitting, etc. If this is something you're going to do a lot and/or be with the kids alone a lot, we need to know; an application should be completed so that references can be checked, and a background check run.

### **What about the medical/dental visits? What do these entail and who's responsible?**

The children do not have specific medical issues. They are seen for normal, routine check-ups (medical, dental, eye care). The group elicits volunteers to provide these services. The group arranges the medical and eye care; typically people ask their own dentists to see the child once while they're here (and usually they agree). If not, we do know dentists who are very willing to give the children appointments. There is an insurance policy that covers the children while they're here. It's a catastrophic policy that pays the first \$50,000.00. There have been a few trips to the urgent care for

earaches and things of that nature. Payment has never been an issue. A story to share: one child hosted several years ago was hit in the head with a surfboard. Because his skull was so thin (perhaps because of effects of the radiation), what would have been a bump or concussion required a craniotomy and plates being inserted (which will now provide the child some protection as he goes on in life). Even in this difficulty, God's provision was clear – and provided testimony to His goodness throughout the ordeal. The surgeon was an Indian doctor trained in St. Petersburg Russia; so he spoke fluent Russian. The Pediatrician who followed up with the child also spoke Russian. And one of the caregivers was a nursing student who spoke Russian. Through it all, the host family parents were able to communicate with the child's mother and keep her informed and comforted. The child came through just fine and returned to stay with this same host family for several years after the accident. On payment for these medical expenses, although they totaled more than \$50,000.00, the hospital and doctors never asked for more than what the health insurance policy covered.

### **Is this tax deductible?**

Because ABRO is a non-profit organization, and because this is a mission of Port City Community Church that you are participating in, support donations are considered charitable contributions. If you or anyone who wants to help in this mission writes checks to Port City Community Church, and completes a donor card to submit with the check OR if a donation is made online, a charitable contribution record will be issued.

### **Of all the kids in Belarus, how many have helped by this program?**

Over 30,000 left Belarus in 2012 where they visit the US and several other countries.

We must abide by all that's been agreed on so that we do not jeopardize this opportunity for everyone. Anyone who cannot do this should not participate. There are rules that MUST be followed. This program is not for the purpose of trying to change their country or their rules, we are simply trying to plant seeds. We will abide by their rules so that we can continue bringing these kids back.

### **Is this program nationwide?**

There are many different organizations and programs that bring these children over. The group we work with, ABRO, is officed in Winston-Salem, NC. From what we know, ABRO brings children mainly to the Southeast US. Wherever the children are, they must be within a one-hour driving distance of the chaperone.

### **Do you maintain communication with the child after they return to Belarus?**

Some families have computers and you can keep in with them through Skype or Zoom. It all will depend on the family's ability and willingness to keep in touch after they return.

### **What if I work out of the home 2-3 days a week?**

You may be able to arrange ahead with another host family to keep your child and theirs those days, and then you take their child the days you are off. Make the program coordinator aware of this when you apply so that a suitable situation can be agreed upon ahead.

### **How easily do the children fit in?**

They are very sweet and usually mix right in; but remember, each is different – just like our children. And consider what it would be like for your child to go spend six weeks in a country/culture foreign to them, with another family. The experiences of each child and each host family can be vastly different. It may take a little while for the Belarusian child to warm up; but as time goes on, they

become more and more a part of your family. Your children may get jealous – like they do with each other; but they learn to share, and develop such a great understanding that there's more to the world than just us. Typically, homesickness is not a big issue; but it can happen. If a child is particularly homesick, you may want to allow them to call home more the first week or two, and get the interpreter to help. Usually, the children don't expect to get to call their parents. But, it's probably good to have them touch base at some point, especially near the beginning to let them know the children arrived safely.

### **Do you have to provide a separate bedroom for the child?**

Do whatever works in your household. Some have their own rooms here; some sleep with the other children in the family.

### **How much of the child's background will you know ahead of time?**

There is a chance you might get some background, but usually it is very little to none. Especially for new children and new host families, it's good to get the interpreter to spend some time with you so you can get to know the child more quickly.

### **What about clothing?**

They typically arrive with just the outfit they're wearing, maybe one more. They will have very little with them other than gifts they bring for you. For that first night, since you will not know their size, it's great to have a T-shirt or something that they'll be able to sleep in (because they may not bring pajamas). You will probably need to get them some things to wear while they're here – but do not be lavish. Things can be bought at second hand stores or discount stores. Small groups and friends often help out in this way. You can send them back with the things you've bought for them – but **NO MORE THAN ONE** suitcase. It's really better to try to get them some winter things to send back – because it's really cold there.

### **What are other costs while they're here?**

Don't overspend! The cost to get them here is big. This is not about giving them things or having them do all kinds of things while they're here (resulting in lots of additional expense) it's about loving them. It's okay for them to be bored. You're encouraged to swap off babysitting with each other.

### **If siblings come over, are they kept together?**

It's done both ways. You may request two together. Some of the siblings enjoy having a family to their self vs. sharing.

### **When will we know the dates?**

The dates the children are here will be between **mid-June to the end of June; and they will stay exactly six weeks from the date of arrival.** By April, we usually get a close estimate of the date. Within 2 weeks of the visit, we'll get the exact date. They usually arrive on a weekend. They usually fly into a larger city (Charlotte, Washington DC). We prefer to send a couple of host parents to greet them, and escort them back to Port City (Wilmington) by bus. All the families will meet the bus at a central location for the children's arrival.

\*\*\* REMINDER: Give your Small Group the opportunity to share in this experience. Have them commit to pray for you while you are deciding, leading up to when your child arrives, and throughout the experience. Help them know how to be involved in this with you.

**PC3 Preliminary Host Family Application**  
**(first time host families only)**

Names (of both parents): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Addresses (of both parents): \_\_\_\_\_

Ages (of both parents): \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names of family members living in your home, their age and position in the family, i.e. (son, daughter, grandparent, aunt, friend, etc.)


Please provide the occupations of the adults in the home.


Which family member will be spending the most time with or caring for the hosted child?

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Do you actively attend PC3?    Yes            No            If yes, how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you belong to a small group?    Yes    No

If yes, please provide your small group leaders' names. \_\_\_\_\_

AND, how long have you been a member of this group? \_\_\_\_\_

If no, or if you have been in this group less than one year, please provide two references who attend PC3 (and their phone numbers/e-mail addresses – do not submit without contact

information): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you serve in a ministry at PC3?            Yes    No

If yes, specify ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have answered No to all of the above, and/or if you have not known anyone at Port City Community Church for at least one year, please provide names of four people who have known you long enough that they can confidently attest to your personality and character. Please include how long you've known them, your relationship to them, and their contact information (phone numbers and e-mail addresses – do not submit without contact information).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information:**

Please tell us anything else about yourself and your family that you think would be helpful for us to know or would help us know you better. And, please tell us about your family's desire to host a child this summer:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**American Belarussian Relief Organization Host Family Application**  
**The America Belarussian Relief Organization is a Christian based organization**  
Please complete a separate application for each child or chaperone

<b>I. FAMILY INFORMATION: ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETE AND LEGIBLE OR IT WILL RETURNED</b>						
Host Family Last Name	Home Address (Street Address, City, State, Zip)				Home Phone (including area code)  (   )	
Host Father's Name	Occupation	Employer		Driver's License #	Business Phone  (   )	
Host Mother's Name	Occupation	Employer		Driver's License #	Business Phone  (   )	
Child's Name	M/F	Age	At Home?	E-mail Address	Mother's Cell Phone  (   )	Father's Cell Phone  (   )
Child's Name	M/F	Age	At Home?	Have you ever hosted a child through the ABRO Program? <b>Yes _____ No _____</b>		
Child's Name	M/F	Age	At Home?	Are there any others living in the home or any special circumstances! If so, please describe.		
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – Has anyone in your home ever been convicted of a criminal offense? 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – Has anyone in your home ever been convicted of neglect, abuse, cruelty, injury, or impairing the morals of a child, abandonment of children, sexual harassment, or illegal manufacture, sale or possession of drugs? 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – Has anyone in your home ever had his or her driver's license suspended or revoked in any state in the last 5 years? 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – Does anyone in your home currently use illegal drugs? <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Note:</b> If the answer to any of the above questions is Yes, explain on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this application</p>						

<b>II. REQUEST FOR:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Specific Child and/ or</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Specific Chaperone</b>	PLEASE INDICATE BELOW YOUR PREFERENCES FOR THE CHILD YOU PLAN TO HOST. WE <u>CANNOT</u> GUARANTEE ANY SPECIFIC CHILD, CHILD'S AGE OR GENDER, ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO MATCH YOUR REQUEST. <u>IF YOU NAME A SPECIFIC CHILD,</u> YOU <u>MUST</u> CHECK WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL TAKE A SUBSTITUTE CHILD, SHOULD THE SPECIFIED CHILD NOT BE ABLE TO COME. <b>(NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED IF THIS BLOCK IS NOT CHECKED.)</b>				
Child's Name	Substitute if necessary? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Age	Phone Number	Address	
Name of Chaperone	Gender <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Age	Phone Number	Address	
<b>Non-Specified Child:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Either	Are you willing to take a child that has been to the United States before? <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>				
Check age range you would like. (You may check more than one)					
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 - 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 - 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 12					



**American Belarussian Relief Organization Host Family Agreement**

***THIS AGREEMENT FORM MUST BE ON FILE IN THE ABRO OFFICE BEFORE ANY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO BRING YOUR CHILD(REN) TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SUMMER PROGRAM***

**V. HOST FAMILY: If two parents are in the home, both signatures are required**

I agree as a Host Parent participant in the American Belarussian Relief Organization (ABRO) Summer Program that any child(ren) that I host (orphan and/or child living with parent(s) or guardian ) will return to Belarus according to flight arrangement made through ABRO. I will provide to said child(ren) a loving, caring, safe home environment and see that the child(ren)'s needs are met to the best of my ability. I will contact my local Group Coordinator immediately should I observe or have knowledge of any situation involving any Belarussian child(ren) which would be considered not in their best interest.

I further agree that upon the return ticket date, I relinquish all rights to act in the capacity as a Host Parent per the agreement with the American Belarussian Relief Organization (ABRO). I know that if I do not adhere to this legally binding, signed document, legal action will be taken.

Husband's Full Legal Name (Printed)	
Husband's Signature	Date

Wife's Full Legal Name (Printed)	
Wife's Signature	Date

**VI. GROUP COORDINATOR:**

As Group Coordinator, I agree that all the children hosted within the group that I am responsible for will return to Belarus per the agreement with the American Belarussian Relief Organization (ABRO). I will contact the Director of ABRO-US or a member of the ABRO Board of Directors immediately should I observe or have knowledge of any situation which would be considered not in the best interest of any Belarussian child(ren)'s safety, security, health or overall well-being.

Group Coordinator's Full Legal Name (Printed)	
Group Coordinator's Signature	Date

**VII. ABRO REPRESENTATIVE:**

As Director of the American Belarussian Relief Organization (ABRO), I agree to take every possible action to ensure that all children participating in the ABRO Summer Program will be returned to Belarus per the agreed upon time.

ABRO Representative 's Full Legal Name (Printed)	
<b>Kristen L. Hinchman</b>	
ABRO Representative 's Signature	Date

## Sample Letter of Invitation – New Child

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

From: Jarvis & Mary Perry  
2009 Perry Road  
Anywhere, NC 27597  
Home phone: 334-269-7810  
Jarvis's work phone: 334-904-5041  
Mary's work phone: 334-407-3047

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to invite \_\_\_\_\_, *age* \_\_\_\_ to our home to visit us for a six week period in June and / or July. We will pay for all of her expenses from Belarus to Anywhere, North Carolina and back to Belarus, and will pay and provide all her needs while she is with us and during her return trip home. We will return her to her family in Belarus immediately after the six week visit.

Jarvis is currently employed as the manager of Acme Plumbing Distributors, Inc., at the Anywhere, North Carolina Profit Center, where he has worked for 24 years. Mary is a Registered Nurse, currently employed at CVS, Inc., in Anywhere, North Carolina, and has been with CVS for 4 years.

We are stable American citizens, have lived in our current address for 14 years and lived in the same local area all of our lives.

We will gladly provide any other information you desire,

Sincerely,

Jarvis & Mary Perry

## Sample Letter of Invitation – Returning Child

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

From: Jarvis & Mary Perry  
2009 Perry Road  
Anywhere, NC 27597  
Home phone: 334-269-7810  
Jarvis's work phone: 334-904-5041  
Mary's work phone: 334-407-3047

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to invite, *Iryna Rusetskaya* age \_\_\_\_ to our home to visit us for a six-week period in June and / or July. We will pay for all of her expenses from Belarus to Anywhere, North Carolina and back to Belarus, and will pay and provide all her needs while she is with us and during her return trip home.

*We met Iryna many years ago (in 1995) through the American Belarussian Relief Organization, and she has been a guest in our home during the summer of each year.* She has become like one of our family whom we love and miss very much. We will return her to her family in Belarus immediately after the six week visit.

Jarvis is currently employed as the manager of Acme Plumbing Distributors, Inc., at the Anywhere, North Carolina Profit Center, where he has worked for 24 years. Mary is a Registered Nurse, currently employed at CVS, Inc., in Anywhere, North Carolina, and has been with CVS for 4 years.

We are stable American citizens, have lived in our current address for 14 years and lived in the same local area all of our lives.

We will gladly provide any other information you desire,

Sincerely,

Jarvis & Mary Perry

## Support Raising Letter - Example

Dear friends,

Our family has been presented with an incredible opportunity this summer. We're not sure exactly how it will work out and we can't do it alone; we know we need your help. So, we would love for you to consider participating in this opportunity with us.

Each summer, an organization called the American Belarussian Relief Organization (ABRO) brings children from Belarus to the United States for six weeks. The purpose is to give rest and relief to children who live in the area of Belarus that was affected horrendously by the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. The explosion released 90 times more radiation than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. We have been told that the six weeks the children live here in a non-contaminated environment may add at least a year to their lives.

**We have made a commitment to allow one of these children to live with us for six weeks.** While the child is in our care, we will make sure their food, clothing, and other basic needs are met. In addition, we will ensure they receive medical and dental check-ups. We will include them in everything our family does. We want to provide them with a home and family environment where they will feel welcomed and loved.

So, here's our challenge: we need to come up with approximately \$2,000, maybe more, in a short amount of time to pay for this child's airfare and visa (we will not know how much exactly until the tickets are purchased). We are asking everyone we know to participate in this with us. Maybe you will consider making a contribution to help make this happen. Contributions are tax deductible and we will be sending a receipt to all contributors.

If you decide to join with us in this, we thank you in advance. If you can provide financial support, please make your check payable to Port City Community Church and submit it (to Port City or to us) with the attached Donor Card. Please do not write anything in the memo line of your check. Or, if you'd like to make a donation online, go to: [belarus2017.portcitychurch.org](http://belarus2017.portcitychurch.org). Your donation to support this mission is considered a charitable contribution and you will receive a statement from Port City at the close of 2015. If you don't feel led or cannot help us financially, we would really appreciate your prayer support. We can give you ideas for other types of support that are needed.

For more information, visit: [www.abro.org](http://www.abro.org) OR [portcitychurch.org/global](http://portcitychurch.org/global) and then click 'Belarus'

Your friends,  
Mark, Rachel, Jocelyn, and Amanda Smith

## **Belarus Host Program: Required Training**

**Three training modules are required for new host families.** This is the same training required for our short-term mission participants. We feel elements of this spiritual, emotional, and cultural training (modules described below) are necessary to ensure you to get the most out of your experience of hosting a child from another culture. It also will help equip you to give the child their fullest possible experience while here in the US.

- **Spiritual Preparation** – Through an interactive training session, including large and small group discussion, our goal is to help expand your understanding of why we do missions, how our missions activities flow from our relationship with God, how you can take measures to grow in your relationship with God, and how being aware and prepared helps us deal effectively with spiritual warfare.
- **Cross-cultural Training** – Our objective is to simulate a cross-cultural experience that is challenging and revealing, yet also fun and engaging. In this exercise called the Luna Game, you will learn important aspects of cross-cultural communication, ones that help you in a variety of situations – not just in missions but in everyday life, not just in other countries but also here in your own neighborhood.
- **Re-entry** – The purpose of this training session is to make you aware of the different ways people typically process returning home from a short-term mission, or after many other cross-cultural experiences. We hope to equip you not only to be prepared for a wide range of emotions and handle them in a healthy way, but also to be able to then use what you gained from your mission to springboard into serving, sending, learning, sharing, and engaging in community.

**For a current schedule please visit [What's Next on Sundays](#) or to sign up to attend a training session, go to: [portcitychurch.org/global](http://portcitychurch.org/global), scroll down to Belarus and click on 'Sign up for training.'**

Once your registration is received, you will receive an e-mail confirmation and details (location, etc.). Please register at least 48 hours in advance.

**Donor Card Information**

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Donor Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish for this donation to be anonymous? \_\_\_\_\_

To which mission are you donating?       BELARUS 2017      

In honor of (host family name): \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions:

- Please make checks payable to Port City Community Church (PC3)\*
- Please do not write names on the memo line on your check
- Please complete and submit this form with your donation
- You may put your donation (accompanied by this card) in the offering basket, drop it off at What's Next (on Sundays) or Wilmington Reception Desk (weekdays), or mail it to Port City Community Church; 250 Vision Dr.; Wilmington, NC 28403
- *NOTE: the last response may be pre-entered*

\*All contributions made to PC3 will be used at the discretion of this organization to ensure that they are used to carry out its functions and purposes.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Donor Card Information**

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Donor Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish for this donation to be anonymous? \_\_\_\_\_

To which mission are you donating?       BELARUS 2017      

In honor of (host family name): \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions:

- Please make checks payable to Port City Community Church (PC3)\*
- Please do not write names on the memo line on your check
- Please complete and submit this form with your donation
- You may put your donation (accompanied by this card) in the offering basket, drop it off at What's Next (on Sundays) or Wilmington Reception Desk (weekdays), or mail it to Port City Community Church; 250 Vision Dr.; Wilmington, NC 28403
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