

KIDSAVE

UKRAINE



Ukraine is implementing an Institutional Childcare System Reform Strategy to deinstitutionalize approximately 106,000 children who live in full-time and long-term facilities. Moving these children into family-based care is challenging as many of the kids are disabled, older, and part of sibling groups.

Kidsave supports this effort and is working as part of the Ukraine Deinstitutionalization Reform Group organized by the Ombudsman for Children. Kidsave's focus is to use the Family Visit Model to support older children and teens, ages 7-17, transition into families through adoption, guardianship, and long-term foster care. When family placement cannot be made, Kidsave supports long-term mentoring of institutionalized youth.

Kidsave is implementing a pilot in Kherson and Mykolaiv to test the model among 35 children over a period of 12 to 18 months. Working with three local partners, Kidsave is working to develop systems whereby social workers and citizens collaborate to move children into families. Our partners include:

- The International Leadership and Development Center (ILDC)** who adapted the Family Visit Model to the Ukrainian context. They will also support training of professionals and lay partners.
- Moi Dom**, a child-serving NGO in Kherson is leading the implementation.
- Ukraine Without Orphans** who will support family recruitment, hosting and advocacy through the faith-based community.



Mentoring Makes a Difference!

Kidsave is a co-founder of the National Mentoring Association in Ukraine. Its goal is to provide an institutional foundation for connecting older, at-risk youth with caring adults and high-quality mentoring relationships. For children who have no adult connections, mentors can help put them on track for education and employment. Kidsave operates the Employment Pathways to Success Program supporting individual and corporate mentoring. This program helps Ukrainian orphans and at-risk youth develop workforce readiness, improve economic self-proficiency, and find internships and job opportunities.



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