

Yulia's Luck

IS ABOUT TO CHANGE

BY DORRI OLDS



LITTLE BABY FACE
FOUNDATION 

Yulia Shyrko is 14 years old and has lived in an orphanage in the Ukraine most of her life. She was born with a severe facial deformity on her face and neck known as massive cavernous hemangioma. Her left eye and mouth were malformed as were the blood vessels in her brain. Her condition causes numerous neurological problems such as weakness, headaches, personality disorders, and even seizures.

Yulia's family could not find any qualified doctors in the Ukraine who were willing to operate. At two months old she was taken to Moscow for her first surgery. She had a second surgery at nine months. These early operations saved her life but left Yulia badly disfigured.

Her parents gave her up and sent her to live in a government-run orphanage that has barely enough funds to cover the children's most basic needs. Yulia would've benefited greatly from additional surgeries but they are not available to her.

She has grown up an outcast. Other kids

point at her and laugh. They call her "The Scar." Her future is very bleak. It is illegal for her to leave the orphanage to work so she will "graduate" from the orphanage unprepared for life, with no opportunity to rise above poverty level.

A nonprofit organization, Help Us Help the Children—USA, dedicated to helping children in Ukrainian orphanages, heard about Yulia's plight. One volunteer, Nina Mazurenko, took a personal interest and has become her advocate. Mazurenko has appealed to the Little Baby Face Foundation (LBFF) for help. LBFF is an organization that provides free corrective surgery and covers all related expenses for children worldwide born with disfiguring facial deformities. The founder of LBFF, Dr. Thomas Romo, III, is a world-renowned facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon who has assembled a talented team of doctors who provide all their services to LBFF patients free of charge.

Dr. Romo and the LBFF board of directors have taken on Yulia's case. She

will be brought to New York City to receive comprehensive pre-operative exams to evaluate her vision, hearing, facial nerves, soft tissue and bones. A pediatrician, pediatric dentist, and cranio facial plastic surgeon will all participate in her examination and treatment.

Her surgery and follow-up treatments will take up to six months and will drastically improve her scars and deformed features. She will receive a cheek implant, eye and nose surgeries, all gratis. Yulia's life is about to change and her future will finally look brighter!

The Little Baby Face Foundation relies strictly on donations to cover the high cost of these transformative surgeries, as well as each patient's transportation to New York City, housing, and all related medical costs. To make a donation please go to littlebabyface.org. You will transform the life of a child!

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