

Mykola's Story: Life Under Occupation and Recovery Through Support



In 2022, Mykola was a first-year student at the Institute of Radioelectronics in Kharkiv. When the full-scale invasion began, he had been visiting his family in Enerhodar, a city in southern Ukraine. Due to its strategic importance and the presence of Europe's largest nuclear power plant, Enerhodar was among the first cities to fall under Russian occupation. As the fighting rapidly escalated and control over the city was seized, Mykola found himself unable to leave – trapped in occupation from the very first days of the war.

During the assault, Mykola and his family hid in their apartment. The windows and doors were tightly shut to at least partially shield them from the sounds of war. Columns of Russian military equipment – armored personnel carriers, tanks, and military vehicles – moved through the streets. Gunfire was heard almost constantly, and local residents were intimidated through demonstrations of force.

Mykola's stepfather worked as a mechanic at a nuclear power plant. After the facility was seized, Russian forces began gathering employees and demanding that they continue working. For many, this became a difficult and dangerous choice. To refuse meant exposing oneself to pressure and persecution. To agree meant living under the constant control of the occupiers.

People in the city lived in fear. Representatives of the FSB came to some homes, conducting interrogations, searches, and issuing threats. At the same time, everyone understood: if the power plant was left without maintenance, it could lead to a nuclear catastrophe.

Life under occupation became increasingly difficult. Public utilities stopped functioning – centralized heating and hot water disappeared. Russian forces jammed mobile communication and internet access in order to isolate people from the outside world.

Mykola's younger brother, only 12 years old, was forced into a school run by the occupation authorities, where the Russian curriculum replaced everything that had existed before. The education system was quickly reshaped – Ukrainian history and identity were erased, overwritten by a narrative that denied Ukraine's existence altogether. Children were told that Kyivan Rus was Russia, that Ukraine had no independent past. Some were taken to camps in Crimea, where this worldview was further imposed.

During the pseudo-referendum, Russian soldiers went door to door, searching homes and questioning residents. Mykola had to encounter such groups several times, but he miraculously managed to avoid interrogations. Around him, life was steadily breaking down under the weight of occupation. People lived in constant fear, never knowing who might be taken next.

He saw it happen to those closest to him. The father of one of his friends was abducted and detained, where he was tortured during interrogations, deprived of sleep, and exposed to gas. Their home was searched, and their property confiscated – a warning of the consequences of defiance.

Mykola spent three years in this environment. Despite the danger, he continued studying online at a Ukrainian university. In order to be able to move around the city and receive medical care, Mykola was forced to obtain a Russian passport. However, internally, his sense of resistance and aversion toward the occupiers only grew stronger.

In the summer of 2025, despite all the difficulties, Mykola completed his studies online at Kharkiv University and obtained a Bachelor's degree. At that point, he finally realized: there is no future for him under occupation.

He began looking for ways to leave. Teachers who had already managed to get out shared contacts of organizations helping people to leave the occupation. Eventually, he reached out to the Save Ukraine team, which organized a rescue mission and safely brought him out of the occupied territory.

When he arrived at the Save Ukraine Hope and Healing Center, Mykola carried with him years of fear and uncertainty. The first weeks were devoted to restoring a sense of stability – processing documents, adjusting to a new reality, and receiving psychological support. He attended individual sessions with a psychologist, as well as art therapy and group meetings.

At first, he remained withdrawn. But over time, something began to shift. He slowly started to open up, taking part in workshops, creative activities, concerts, and educational events. Through creativity, connection, and new experiences, he gradually regained a sense of safety and began to believe in the future again. Surrounded by others who had gone through similar experiences, he found new friends and began to feel that life could be different.

Step by step, he came to understand: he was no longer alone.

For a while, he was thinking about going abroad. But over time, his perspective began to shift. Mykola chose to stay in Ukraine and build his future here. He began actively searching for a job. Although his first experience did not meet expectations, he did not give up – refining his CV, attending interviews, and continuing to pursue new opportunities.

In February 2026, a significant moment took place in his story. Mykola was offered a position as a system administrator at the Save Ukraine Center – the same place where he himself had once received support after his rescue.

Today, Mykola configures equipment, assists with software, and supports the functioning of the Center. Yet, his role is much greater than technical assistance.

He is now part of the team that rescues others.

Having lived through the occupation himself, Mykola understands those who have just arrived – their fear, their uncertainty, and the long path ahead. Now, he helps lead others out of the darkness he once had to navigate himself.

Serhii: From Fear Under Occupation to Safety and Healing



Serhii was only twelve when the war separated him from his mother.

In 2022, as Russian forces occupied parts of Kherson, southern Ukraine, Serhii remained in the occupied territory with his grandparents, while his mother, Nadiia, was unable to return for him. What was meant to be temporary quickly turned into months of uncertainty and fear.

Life under occupation changed everything. Armed soldiers became a constant presence in the streets. One day, while walking with his grandmother past a cinema

in Kherson, Serhii saw occupation authorities registering children under the watch of uniformed FSB officers. One of them began to behave aggressively, frightening the boy.

Another time, near the regional administration building, a Russian soldier suddenly cocked his weapon right in front of them.

“Just in case,” he said.

For adults, it was a demonstration of power. For a child, it was a moment that stayed.

Even after parts of the Kherson region were liberated, Serhii remained in occupied territory. His mother still could not reach him. Then, one night, the war came even closer.

A powerful shell hit a neighboring house just meters away. The explosion tore out window frames, sending shards of glass and metal into the apartment. Serhii was lying on the sofa when the fragments struck his left arm.

He was injured. And there was nowhere safe to go.

Taking him to a hospital was too dangerous. Without proper documents, his grandparents feared that the occupation authorities could take the child away. Instead, they arranged for treatment at home. A nurse came regularly to clean and dress the wounds.

Around them, the war did not stop. Russian forces placed artillery nearby, fired toward neighboring areas, and quickly withdrew. Each explosion echoed through the neighborhood – loud, unpredictable, and terrifying.

For a time, Serhii was forced to attend a school run by the occupation authorities. But the family soon made a decision: it was too dangerous. To avoid attention, his grandmother kept him at home, effectively hiding him.

Meanwhile, his mother waited.

Eventually, the Save Ukraine team learned about the family’s situation. After careful preparation, a rescue mission was organized. Serhii was brought from the occupied territory and finally reunited with his mother.

When they arrived at the Hope and Healing Center, the boy was quiet and cautious. Loud sounds made him flinch. His injured arm still reminded him daily of what he had lived through.

On the very first day, he was taken to the hospital.

Doctors examined his injury. For some time, the family moved between the Center and the hospital daily. An operation had to be postponed at first. Yet, gradually, his condition began to improve. The wounds slowly healed. Over time, it became clear that his body could recover without additional surgery.

But healing was not only physical.

Step by step, Serhii began to open up. With the support of psychologists and through participation in activities at the Center, he started to reconnect with the world around him. He found comfort in art classes and creative workshops, where drawing and making things with his hands helped release what he could not yet put into words.

Step by step, he returned to learning at the Day Care Center, spent time with other children, and began to feel something unfamiliar again – a sense of normal life.

For the first time in a long while, he was simply a child again.

There was even a moment when Serhii and his mother took part in a meeting with the President of Ukraine. For him, it was unexpected – to feel that his story mattered.

Life did not change overnight. But it began to move forward.

Serhii became more open, smiled more often, and started making small plans for the future. His mother, too, began to regain strength.

Their path of recovery is still ongoing.

But today, they have something that once seemed out of reach – each other, safety, stability, and the possibility of a new beginning.

Andrii: Learning to Be a Child Again

Andrii was only four years old when armed men came to his home.



He watched as his parents, Oleh and Oksana, were taken away. There was no time to understand, only to react – to cry, to scream, to hold on. Each time he saw them again, even briefly, it ended the same way: in fear, in hysteria, in separation. Andrii was unable to understand why they were being taken away.

For about three years, the family did not obtain Russian documents and did not register their farm in the Kherson region under Russian legislation. At their own risk, the father continued to sow the fields; he was repeatedly threatened by soldiers and ordered to stop, as they claimed the area was their base.

Oleh and Oksana lived under constant surveillance. Soldiers searched their house, planted fabricated evidence, and carried out interrogations. Phones and the laptop were taken away. Around them, violence became routine. Neighbors were killed for refusing to cooperate.

When Oleh was taken away, Oksana tried to follow – chasing the vehicle in desperation – but the occupiers were faster. She was left alone, with a child in her arms, facing uncertainty and a fear that never fully went away. During Oleh's detention, Russian forces tried to break her by telling that her husband had abandoned her and placed all the blame on her.

Oksana herself was abducted twice to basements, with groups of up to 10 armed soldiers in balaclavas and with search dogs breaking into the house. There, Russian soldiers beat her, tortured her using electric current, and committed various forms of violence, including rape, filming it on camera, and threatening to kill her. These actions were carried out by different units, ranging from military police to the FSB and Wagner special units.

Oleh was detained and threatened with a sentence of over 20 years. Security officers forced him to sign confessions to crimes by sending him photographs of the torture of his wife. All relatives were kept under constant pressure and repeatedly subjected to interrogations.

After surviving abduction twice, Oksana made a decision: she had to leave because staying could cost her life.

The Save Ukraine team helped organize their rescue from the occupied territory.

When Oksana and Andrii arrived at the Hope and Recovery Center, the exhaustion was visible. Oksana lived in constant anxiety – for her husband, for relatives who remained behind, for what might come next. Andrii, quiet and withdrawn, needed something even more basic: just to feel safe.

Support began immediately.

Doctors examined them. Oksana received psychological support, essential for a person who had experienced persecution, fear, and loss of stability, helping her slowly begin to process what she had lived through. For Andrii, speech therapy sessions and rehabilitation activities were important, but recovery started differently – through play, drawing, and short moments of interaction with other children. For a while, Andrii remained distant.

With time, through games, creative activities, and daily routines, he slowly opened up. He began to communicate more, to engage, to respond not with fear, but with curiosity. Step by step, the tension that had become part of him started to ease.

The Center's team also helped Oksana address the practical realities of their situation, restoring documents, submitting reports about her husband's disappearance to law enforcement bodies, and navigating an uncertain future.

Step by step, chaos began to turn into a plan. During their stay at the Center, the family also participated in the stabilization program "Five Steps to Resilience." This program helps people who have experienced occupation regain a sense of control over their lives, learn to cope with anxiety, and restore internal resources.

One of the most important and joyful events for the family was the news about housing. After all the losses, displacement, and uncertainty, the issue of having a safe place to live remained one of the most painful. That is why the Save Ukraine Center team advised Oksana to apply for accommodation in Hansen's Town – a safe space for families forced to leave their homes due to the war. And a real small miracle happened: the family's application was approved very quickly.

For Oksana, this news became a moment of great relief. For the first time in a long time, there was a sense of stability and calm – an understanding that they would now have a place where they could live without fear, without having to think every day about where to find shelter.

There are still many challenges ahead – uncertainty about her husband's fate, life far from home, and the need to rebuild everything from scratch. But now Oksana has the most important things: a safe place, support, and a chance for her son to grow up without fear. And while Andrii is learning again to laugh, play, and dream, their family's story is becoming not only a story of loss – but also of recovery.

A Family Protected: Olena's Choice to Save Her Children



For Olena, the war became another test of a responsibility she had taken years before.

Since 2014, she had been the legal guardian of Ania and Anton – children she had raised as her own. She gave them a home, stability, and a sense of family. But when the occupation came, that sense of safety began to collapse.

One day, representatives of the FSB came to her house.

They ordered her to send the children to a school 40 kilometers away. If she refused, they threatened a heavy fine and the removal of the children. There was no real choice.

Soon after the children began attending the school, seventeen-year-old Anton was taken, without warning, to a military enlistment office. Olena only learned about it when Ania called her, frightened, trying to understand where her brother had been taken. That evening, Anton was returned – but now with a military registration document.

He was told to come back again. To complete further registration. To align documents with Russian legislation.

For Olena, it was a signal.

If they stayed, she could lose them.

Life in the village was becoming more dangerous by the day. Ukrainian satellite television was banned. Armed soldiers appeared regularly. The school principal was taken away – she returned, but her house was blown up the same day. Soldiers came to Olena's home as well, searching for weapons.

Even basic needs became uncertain. When Ania complained of severe abdominal pain, she was denied an ultrasound at the hospital – they had no Russian documents, and therefore no access to medical care.

At school, Anton described “lessons” that went beyond education. Students were taught how to behave during a “terrorist attack” or a seizure of the school. Then came the practical part: armed soldiers entered the classroom, ordered the children to raise their hands, and led them through the corridors as part of a staged drill.

The line between learning and fear had disappeared.

At one point, a large fragment hit the family's house.

That was enough.

Olena made the decision to leave.

As part of a rescue mission, the Save Ukraine team helped the family to leave the occupied territory and reach a place where they could receive the necessary support – the Hope and Recovery Center. Behind them were experiences of fear, uncertainty, and a large number of practical problems that had to be resolved literally from scratch.

The first days at the Center were dedicated to stabilization. Olena was worried about the children, their future, and her own health. The children also needed time to adapt to the new environment and feel safe again. The Center's team began comprehensive support for the family.

One of the first important steps was the restoration of documents. These were necessary steps that helped the family gradually regain stability.

At the same time, significant attention was given to health. The family underwent medical examinations at the "Manufatura" clinic. Olena received consultations and additional examinations, while the children visited specialists who assessed their health condition and provided recommendations for further monitoring.

An equally important part of recovery was psychological support. Olena participated in individual consultations with a psychologist, and the whole family attended the stabilization program "Five Steps to Resilience" at the Save Ukraine Center. These sessions help people who have experienced loss of home and forced displacement gradually restore emotional balance and regain a sense of control over their lives.

For the children, creative activities and art therapy were especially important. Through drawing, communication, and shared activities, they were able to express their experiences and find new friends. Small moments of joy – gifted toys, participation in cultural events, and shared activities – helped them rediscover their childhood. Step by step, life began to stabilize.

Together with a case manager from the Save Ukraine Center, Olena searched for opportunities for stable housing. Eventually, the family was approved for accommodation in Hansen's Town in the Kyiv region – a safe space for families forced to leave their homes due to the war.

This became an important new beginning. Now the children have a place where they can grow, study, and dream about the future.

And although many challenges still lie ahead, this family has already taken a significant step forward – from uncertainty and loss to stability and hope.

Inna's Story: Between Separation and Return



For more than three years, a mother and her daughters lived on opposite sides of the war.

In the first months of the full-scale invasion, the family remained under occupation, living in constant fear of searches and pressure. There was not enough money for everyone to leave the dangerous area. Eventually, unable to endure it any longer, the mother made a decision.

On August 24 – Ukraine's Independence Day – Katia fled the occupied territory and joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

But her children stayed behind.

The younger daughter, Inna, remained with her father, while the older daughter, Diana, stayed with her grandmother. The mother wanted to take the children and was searching for a way to leave, but the father did not give permission for their departure and remains in the occupied territory to this day.

At the same time, the risks were growing.

Russian authorities opened a criminal case against Katia, accusing her of being a sniper. Soldiers moved into her home and confiscated her property. Russian services attempted to contact Katia and sent her messages, but she was afraid to respond, and her command also advised her not to. At the same time, guardianship authorities demanded that relatives be appointed as guardians of the children. Russian authorities remotely deprived Katia of her parental rights.

Due to the mother's military service, relatives in the occupied territory were constantly threatened with negative consequences. Once, Russian forces broke into her husband's home for interrogation and demanded information about Katia. Later, Russian soldiers entered the grandmother's home, even naming specific military units and brigades, and demanded all information she had, bluffing in the process.

Meanwhile, life for Inna, the younger daughter, was changing in another way. She attended a school under the Russian system, where the environment was shaped by a different narrative of the war. In class, children drew weapons and scenes of violence. The influence was so strong that Inna began repeating what she was told – even arguing with her mother, insisting that Ukraine was to blame for the war.

Outside of school, she was involved in activities at the local House of Culture. At the same time, a militarized youth organization, "Berdyansk Spit," was also operating in the region, training teenagers in handling weapons, tactical skills, and military preparation.

The line between childhood and militarization was gradually disappearing.

Then, another threat emerged.

Social services visited the father, with whom Inna was living, and threatened to deprive him of parental rights due to his alcohol dependency. They wanted to take Inna to an orphanage.

For the mother, this became a turning point.

The risk of losing her child was no longer theoretical.

She began urgently preparing a plan to bring her daughters, Inna and Diana, back. She hoped to take both of them. But in the end, only one agreed to leave. Diana decided to stay with her grandmother.

With the support of the Save Ukraine team, a rescue mission was organized. Inna was brought out of the occupied territory. After more than 2 years of separation, she was finally reunited with her mother.

When they arrived at the Hope and Recovery Center, the reunion was not simple.

Inna was quiet, observant, and reserved. The last years of her life had passed under occupation, under particular attention from the occupation authorities due to her mother's service. Inna had been through more than many adults, and it showed. She spoke little, carefully watching the people around her, as if constantly trying to make sure that it was truly safe.

The first days were about adjustment. To a new place. To new people. To the absence of constant tension.

Step by step, support began.

Medical examinations ensured that her health had not been affected. Specialists helped restore her documents and plan her return to the Ukrainian education system. Psychological support became a key part of her recovery – through conversations, she slowly began to speak about her fears and experiences. Over time, she learned to trust people again and to feel that her life was no longer dependent on threats or inspections.

Special attention was also given to her education. The Center's specialists provided consultations on her further studies so that she could continue her education within the Ukrainian system and catch up on what had been lost during the years of occupation.

With each passing day, Inna became more confident. She began to communicate more with other children, participate in activities at the Center, and gradually feel that her life could be different – without constant fear.

Her story is the story of a child who experienced pressure and intimidation but did not lose hope. Thanks to the support of the Center and caring people, Inna was given a chance to reclaim her childhood, continue her education, and build a future in a safe environment.

And today, the most important thing for her is to know that there are people next to her who are helping make this journey – from fear to confidence – possible.

Artem's Story: Life After the Drone

That evening began like any other.

Artem was walking with his four-year-old son to the garden, where his partner was waiting. It was late. Quiet.



Then they heard the drone.

In that moment, instinct took over. Artem sent his son to the summer kitchen, trying to keep him safe, while he stayed behind with his partner.

The drone did not leave. It continued flying above them and eventually dropped an explosive. From that moment, Artem stopped feeling his body, realized that he could not stand, and lost consciousness. The only thing he remembers from that terrible day is that after dropping the explosive, the drone continued flying over them for some time.

When Artem regained consciousness days later, reality came in fragments. Only two weeks later did he learn the full truth.

A Russian drone left him without his lower limbs. His partner – the woman he loved, the woman he planned to marry – had been killed. They had been preparing for their future together. Now, everything was gone.

Their young son, Volodymyr, was left without a mother. He still asks where she is. Whether she will come back. The family still cannot find the strength to tell him the tragic truth.

The drone had taken one life. And forever changed the others. It took Artem's loved one and left him without his legs. And it left little Volodymyr without a mother, who had simply gone out to the garden and never returned.

Artem's sister and mother reached out to Save Ukraine to organize a rescue mission for him and his son to government-controlled territory.

When Artem arrived at the Hope and Recovery Center, he barely spoke or made any eye contact. The pain was constant – not only physical, but something deeper, heavier. Even more painful was something else – the silence that fell every time his son asked, "When will mama come back?"

There was no easy answer.

Recovery began slowly. Artem started the long process of rehabilitation. There were plaster casts, fittings, and the first attempts to stand on temporary prosthetics. Each step was difficult. He fell. He grew frustrated. Sometimes, he withdrew into silence.

But he kept trying.

Again and again, he stood between the parallel bars and attempted another step.

Doctors discovered fragments that required further treatment. Specialists worked with him patiently, helping him relearn movement, helping him trust his body again.

Gradually, something began to change. Helplessness gave way to determination. Despair – to purpose.

For his son, little Volodymyr, recovery followed a different path. Consultations with a pediatrician, vaccinations, and a surgery that finally relieved physical discomfort. Daily sessions with early intervention specialists – a speech therapist, psychologist, and art therapist. Hippotherapy, children’s railway activities, and interactive performances.

He woke up less often at night. He began to play again. He no longer held onto his grandmother’s hand all the time.

The grandmother, too, was learning how to live in this new reality – supporting both her son and grandson, while carrying her own grief. She attended the “Positive Parenting” group, where, through counseling and group sessions, she began to find strength not only for them, but for herself.

Step by step, the family began to rebuild.

At the same time, the Center team assisted with documentation and social benefits – ordinary paperwork that, for this family, meant stability and the right to protection. This was an invisible but important part of recovery – restoring a sense of control over their lives.

Artem was later hospitalized for further rehabilitation. Ahead of him is a journey to the United States for permanent prosthetics.

When he speaks about it, something new appears in his voice. Not certainty. But possibility.

This family did not regain what they lost. But they regained something else – the feeling that life did not end that evening under the sound of the drone.

And today, despite everything, their story is no longer only about that evening – but about the strength to keep living after it.

Yevhen's Story: Growing Up Under Occupation — and Choosing Freedom



Yevhen is seventeen. Until recently, his life was similar to that of an ordinary teenager from a small town – a place where everyone knows each other, where in summer boys go to the river to swim, play football outside, and ride bicycles.

Yevhen lived like that too: helped his mother around the house and sometimes earned a little money from neighbors – carrying things, helping with repairs. It was enough for small things: ice cream, sweets, something of his own.

He also had dreams. Yevhen loved swimming and wanted to seriously pursue sports – swimming and boxing. At the local cultural center, he attended a checkers club, and trained using a punching bag with his friends. He even dreamed of one day meeting the famous Ukrainian boxer Oleksandr Usyk.

But everything changed when, at the beginning of the full-scale invasion, occupation came to his once peaceful town.

One day, Russian soldiers entered their yard. They wore body armor, helmets, and carried automatic weapons. They said they were searching for weapons. They checked the shed, the attic, and walked around the yard. They wanted to enter the house, but his mother asked them not to – saying that there were children inside and they would be frightened.

This was the first moment when Yevhen truly felt fear. Later, such moments became more frequent.

One time, he was sitting at the computer when explosions suddenly began. A shell hit the neighbors' yard – windows were blown out, and the roof was damaged. In Yevhen's house, the windows were also shattered. The family hid behind a wall near the basement, because the kitchen had large windows that could break into fragments. Shells were falling very close to their home.

After the shelling, people would go outside – looking at damaged roofs, broken windows, and debris in the yards. Neighbors helped each other repair the damage.

Such shelling occurred several times a week. And then Russian soldiers would arrive with cameras and film news reports, claiming that it was the Ukrainian army shelling civilians. Yevhen knew this was not true.

Over time, another fear appeared. In the town, people began to say that seventeen-year-old boys were being issued summonses by the occupation authorities and forced to work for the Russian army. Some teenagers had already been called to the commandant's office.

Yevhen tried to appear on the streets as little as possible. He only went out to the shop or to visit friends. He was afraid that he could be forced to join the so-called “Yunarmiya” or taken to serve in the Russian army.

Even school became a source of pressure. The occupation authorities announced that all children had to attend Russian schools. People were warned that if children did not study there, parents could be deprived of parental rights. So many families, including Yevhen's, chose another strategy: to remain unseen.

The last year under occupation was the hardest. Shelling intensified. Explosions came closer and more often. At some point, the decision became unavoidable. He had to leave.

The road to freedom did not lead directly to Ukraine. It went through Russia. At a checkpoint between Mariupol and Rostov, Yevhen and his friend were stopped. FSB officers checked their phones, questioned them, and demanded to know where they were going.

The boys were afraid to tell the truth – that they were trying to reach Ukraine. They lied and said they were going to relatives in Rostov.

The officers did not believe them. One of them pointed a gun at Yevhen's friend, demanding the truth. Then he turned to Yevhen and struck him in the stomach.

Boys admitted everything: they were trying to reach Ukraine through volunteers. Those minutes felt like an eternity. But they were lucky – they were allowed to pass.

The Save Ukraine team remained in constant contact, helped prepare their departure, and supported them throughout the rescue mission, which enabled them to finally leave the occupied territory. For him, it meant one thing: he was free.

When Yevhen arrived at the Hope and Healing Center, he looked older than his seventeen years. War, occupation, and the difficult journey to freedom had left their mark on him. He was reserved, carefully observing people around him, and for a long time could not believe that it was now possible to live without constant fear.

The first days at the Center were not easy: a new city, new people, new rules. But the team immediately began working to ensure that he felt stability and support.

One of the first challenges was documentation. Due to the complex life circumstances, this proved to be complicated and required coordination with the child protection services, collecting documents, and even submitting an official appeal to the Commissioner for Children's Rights to protect the teenager's rights.

At the same time, the team helped Yevhen address other important issues. His documents were submitted to an educational institution so that he could continue his studies. Specialists also helped him apply for state benefits available to children in similar life circumstances. Additionally, the process of placing him on the housing register in Kherson was initiated.

However, restoration is not only about documents and legal procedures. It is also about returning to normal teenage life. At the Center, Yevhen received everything necessary for daily life: food, clothing, hygiene items, a tablet, and other simple things that, for a teenager, meant the ability to study, stay connected, and feel cared for.

A special day was his birthday. The Center organized a celebration with a cake, warm wishes, and friends around him. For the first time in a long while, he felt like an ordinary teenager again.

Gradually, more and more ordinary, peaceful moments appeared in his life. Yevhen began attending creative activities: drawing workshops, cooking sessions, and art therapy. Together with others, he walked in the park, went on excursions, attended events, and even went to a concert.

An important part of his recovery was regular meetings with psychologists. During individual and group sessions, he learned to talk about his experiences, let go of fears, and build new plans for the future. He also started attending Ukrainian and English language classes to continue his education and prepare for adult life.

His path to recovery is still ongoing. But today, he is already a very different young man from the one who arrived at the Center a few months ago. Now he has support, stability, and the ability to dream.