



## **FAQ: New Day Center Facility**

For years, we've been praying about a new Day Center facility. Our work with orphaned youth and those affected by war keeps growing, and our current facility is overflowing!

God provided just the right building at the right time. On August 8, Director Andrey Pankyeyev signed the final paperwork.

### **How is the current Day Center used?**

The Day Center is a hub for many Last Bell services and activities:

- All offices and meeting rooms, including bookkeeping, counseling, and trainings
- Drop-in days for orphaned students, including crafts, cooking, and game days (currently 2-3 days/week), and big youth group-style gatherings on special occasions
- Laundry facilities and hot meals
- Tutoring, guitar and English lessons, and men's and women's evening small groups
- Storage and distribution of clothing, shoes, hygiene supplies, and groceries; storage of supplies for visits to trade schools and dorms

### **How was the building paid for?**

Thanks to YOUR generous giving, for the last couple of years we were able to set aside funds from general operating. Two designated gifts from anonymous friends completed the purchase price and provided funds for a large slate of renovations.

### **When will it be ready?**

We plan to open the doors in August 2025. The facility requires about a year of renovation. Contractors and our Restoration Project crew have already begun the work.

## **How will the new facility better meet the needs of orphaned youth?**

This purchase was not made lightly. It was guided by prayer, thoughtful conversation among Last Bell's leadership, and our core values for serving orphaned youth:

### **1: Healing relationships**

The current Day Center rooms are crowded, which means youth are packed in tightly and staff often need to set up and tear down. The new facility will be easier to manage, opening up more time for one-to-one mentorship and more space for youth (3x the current capacity). An easier space means we can open the Day Center 4-5 days/week instead of 2-3 days! The center will be warm and accessible even for our biggest holiday gatherings.

### **2: Holistic care**

The layout of the new facility will make it easy to care for each aspect of our youth's lives. For example, teens will be more comfortable trying on clothes because the clothing pantry will have its own room. Mentorship will take place in specialized counseling spaces.

### **3: Dynamic community**

This will be a gift for our community in so many ways! The simplified storage and meeting spaces will make behind-the-scenes tasks easier for our staff, who are our most central partners in this work. We also look forward to inviting ministry friends in Zhytomyr to use the space and join us for important trainings and events.

## **Why this building?**

The new property has many advantages:

- Accessibility & safety: It's in a central location near all public transportation and has easy public parking; it has a high-quality bomb shelter and dedicated elevator.
- It's in an attractive cultural center, close to a church, hotel, and shopping, with a new mall coming soon.
- The building is well-made with a property manager who will take care of many of the logistics, freeing up time for our directors.
- Because it's in a business building, there are no residential neighbors who might be disturbed by the high traffic and noisy youth activities.

## **Does a new facility mean new possibilities?**

A new, much bigger facility means we're dreaming about new ways to serve our youth and the community! These are just a few of the possibilities:

- Giving youth the option to invite their friends to movie nights and other events
- Welcoming colleagues from social services and other NGOs to join us for bigger trainings and seminars
- Broadening our definition of youth who need our services
- Adding services for more people affected by the war

