

## The Lifebuoy

Anna has four wonderful children: the eldest daughter Katya, the middle son Kostya, and the youngest 6-year-old twins Maxim and Kirill. Maxim and Kirill suffer from infantile cerebral palsy. They are unable to move independently and constantly require help and support of adults. Before the twins were born, Anna had a loving husband, but when the father of the boys learned about their disease he freaked out and disappeared from the family life. He is not helping and not interested in it anymore.



After her husband has left, Anna's mother moved in with her to help with the children. Anna devoted all her time to her kids – the twins have different stages of cerebral palsy and need different rehabilitation programs, which greatly complicates their care.

On one of the particularly difficult days, Anna's chronic condition exacerbated due to constant stress, frustration and feelings of hopelessness and she had to be hospitalized. The children stayed with their grandmother, who contacted our organization and asked for help.



***"When I was admitted to the hospital, I just didn't know what to do. I had no idea how my mother was going to care for four grandchildren by herself. Maxim and Kirill had to continue their rehabilitation program, and Kostya just started his first year at school ... The support of our host mother Marina, at that time, was a life saver for our family. I am so grateful that there are people ready to help. I am very grateful to Marina and the "Respite" program for helping my family!"***

Anna spent 3 weeks at the hospital, and the whole time our host mother – Marina – was taking twins to the rehabilitation center, taking them to the necessary procedures, and reading fairy tales to the boys and playing with them at home. The twins quickly bonded with their host mother and eagerly waited for her next visit.

***"I was very pleased to work with this family. Max and Kirill are wonderful children, very***

***emotional and friendly boys. I very much hope that this family will be ok,"*** said the host mom Marina.

Anna got better and found a job. Now she works hard to provide for her large family. She is confident about her future and believes that there are no hopeless situations. The family continues to receive help from the "Respite" program – Marina visits them several times a week and helps taking care of the kids.

