

How are Oksana, Maxim and Alisa doing!

Oksana says the children are doing well at Cedar Grove Christian School near their home on West Carter's Valley Road. It could not be any more convenient than for Maxim and Alisa to walk to and from school each day. Also, as the schedule changes for snow or any other reasons, they both have the same schedule changes and can adapt very quickly. They enjoyed the snow days in January as you can see from this photo!



Oksana and her dear friend Yelena are still working at The Blake. They both say it is physically and emotionally demanding work. Oksana works in general housekeeping mostly in residential rooms and common areas, while Yelena works in memory care areas. These two ladies have strong work ethic and do their jobs to the best of their abilities, always striving to meet or exceed resident's expectations. They are especially committed to keeping their areas well organized and clean for family visits and weekend guests! Oksana says she comes home tired every day, but she is very thankful to have that job!

For lots of reasons, they have not found time for Oksana to practice road driving lately. It sounds like she may be losing ground on that, but she recently got word from TN DMV saying that her driver's learner permit has been extended one year to February 8, 2025. I hope she will get back to that in the Spring so she can become more independent in that regard.

Abigail Peterson, the attorney who prepared and submitted the asylum application for Oksana, recently called to let her know that Abigail is leaving her current firm to open a new practice. She will continue doing immigration law at the new firm, and Abigail was asking Oksana's permission to take her case to the new firm. Of course, Oksana was happy to go with Abigail. There has been no correspondence from USCIS on the status of her application or when it might be adjudicated. Just trying to be patient!

As news reports show how Russia is ramping up assaults on Ukraine, I am even more thankful that Oksana, Maxim and Alisa are safe here in East Tennessee. Whenever I communicate with Oksana, she repeatedly tells me how much she appreciates all that First Presbyterian has done for her and how much it means that we are "staying with her". Please keep Oksana, Maxim, Alisa and Yelena in your prayers!

(Bob Stoots 2-23-24)