

Train up a child
in the way
he should go;
even when he is
old he will not
depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6



JULY 2014 REPORT

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

My dear friends,

On behalf of Lighthouse staff and volunteers, I want to thank you for all help and support you have been giving us. Thank you for all of your prayers that lifted our needs to God, for all the financial help that you have given to us.



We pray God to multiply what you have sown to this soil. We had a fruitful year, full of challenges and delight. We had seen God moving through lives of mentors and their mentees, through lives of our staff members. We are more than excited to see what He has prepared for us in the future. Our vision is getting more and more detailed. We have many exciting projects and plans ahead. I invite you now to learn more about them, about the things that God accomplished through the work of Lighthouse so far, and about our plans for the future. We are glad that you partner with us in this thrilling endeavor!

Anton Putilin
Managing Director
Lighthouse Kyrgyzstan



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VISION

Lighthouse is a nonprofit organization based in Kyrgyzstan. We seek to prepare orphans and children that are deprived from parental care and placed into boarding schools, orphanages and similar institutions, for independent life (after their graduation from an institution). We use mentoring program as a primary tool in achieving this goal by helping children in their studies, social and vocational development by considering the individual needs and personality of each child.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To draw attention of the society to the social and psychological needs of children placed into boarding schools, orphanages and similar institutions
2. To select, train and accompany a mentor for each child that will:
 - a. Be a trustworthy and caring friend
 - b. Be a positive role model
 - c. Share his/her life experience
 - d. Guide through development of mentee's personality
 - e. Advice on important life decisions
3. To help children to develop their potential by discovering their strengths and talents, and cooperatively define their individual life goals and the ways to achieve them
4. To foster the formation of independent life skills and competences (norms and ethics of communication, behavior, responsibility, autonomy etc.), positive social roles of men and women, father and mother
5. To cultivate the positive motivation and attitudes towards the creation of own harmonious family, self-determination in vocational and life choices

WHY MENTORING?

In the much of the world today, there's a large void in the lives of young people when it comes to healthy, forward-looking adult input. Especially at risk are young people who are residents of institutions such as protective homes, orphanages, or rehabilitation centers. While their daily needs are provided for by the government and Non-governmental organizations that support them, many of them are left without the soft skills, resources, and relevant input when it comes to transitioning to adulthood.



Even though it is nearly impossible to find homes for all these kids, (and numerous circumstances may rule out adoption as an option for them) a mentorship provides an opportunity that can involve almost all young people in the target age group as well as an enriching and lower-level commitment for adults who would like to help, but maybe don't know how to construct a mentoring relationship. Our hope is that through mentoring and trainings, we can provide these young people with some of the connections, hope, vision, and love they need to successfully transition into productive, successful, giving citizens of their country.

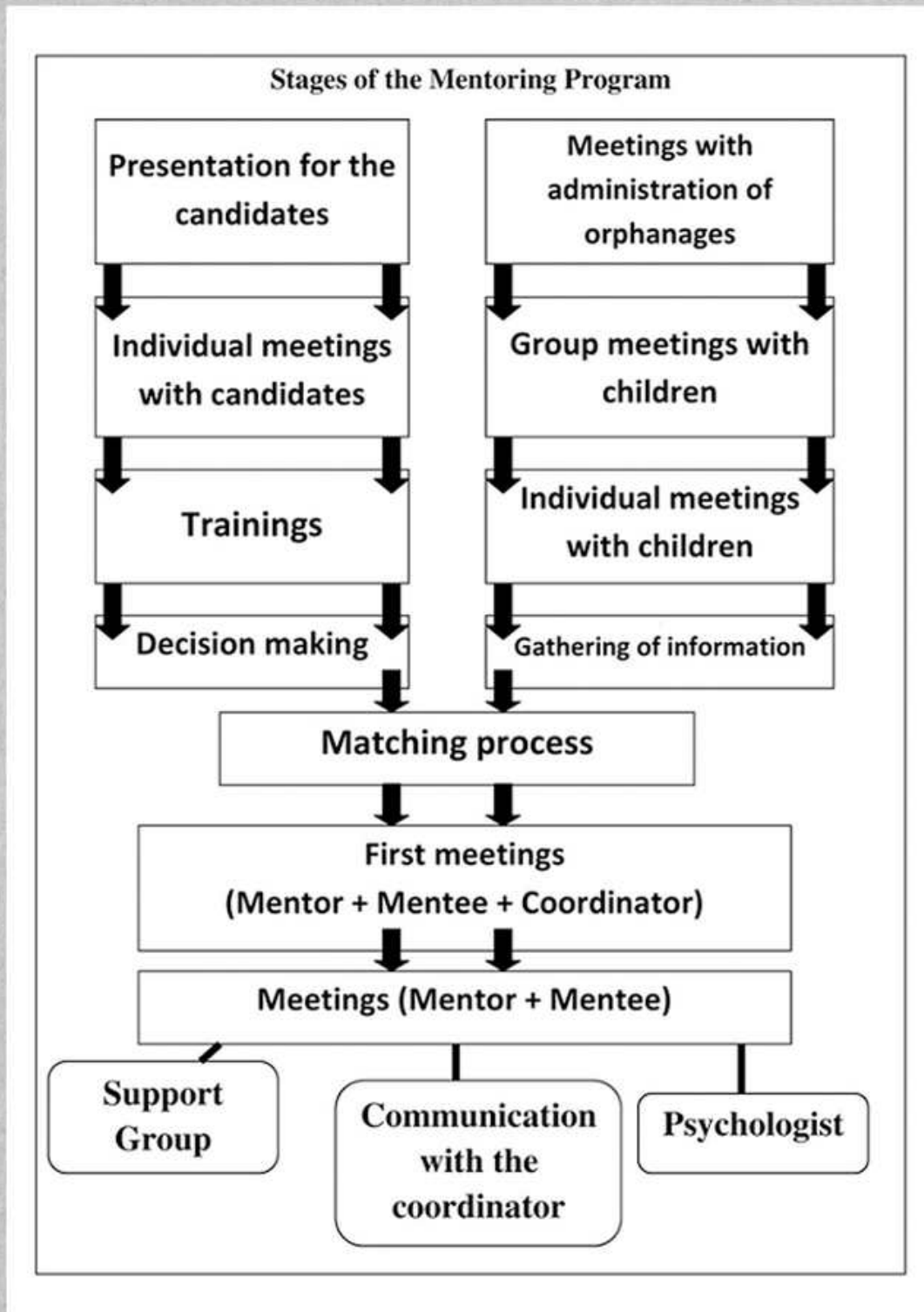
While Kyrgyzstan receives a lot of funds for orphanages and the like, this gap is immensely important, especially in a country where most people see going abroad as the only way to "make it." Teens from institutions, of course, don't have the resources and connections to make such ventures possible, and need creativity and focus to succeed right here and now, without an extended family network. We want to help. The structure of the program also provides accountability, a consistent structure, and focus for volunteers, who while visiting orphanages often, are often at a loss how to get involved, spread themselves too thin, or have to work long and hard to build a relationship with institutional staff and youth, perhaps only much later to find out which youth needed their help. We want to stand in the gap for these young people, provide structure and training for effective, consistent mentors, and make our country and lives richer through the interactions and relationships forged.



MAKSIM&MISHA



OUR PROGRAM





PRESENTATION FOR THE CANDIDATES

As Christians, we decided that we will gather our candidates for mentorship from local churches. We start with presenting our project to the pastor and leaders of a church. Then, we give a short presentation during a Sunday service where we briefly talk about the mentorship project and invite those who are interested to our full presentation. Finally, at our full presentation we explain the project in details, take questions, and give people an opportunity to sign up to be a candidate.

MEETINGS WITH ADMINISTRATION OF ORPHANAGES

In between the presentations for candidates we also present the project to the administration of orphanages. The main goal is to provide maximum information for them, gain their trust and support, and ensure the success of future relationships between Lighthouse and this particular institution.

INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH CANDIDATES

After we have our approximate group of candidates, we start the process of accessing their motivation and ability to be in the project. That part consists of a few individual meetings with our psychologist and other staff.

GROUP MEETINGS WITH CHILDREN

Meanwhile, we hold a group presentation for children in the orphanage. The idea of the mentoring program presumes that all the teenagers that participate in the program will participate in it voluntarily; thus, the goal of the group presentation is to tell them about the program and encourage them to sign up.

TRAININGS

We want to be as careful as possible not to do harm instead of help. That is why one of the most important parts of our program is the training that we organize for future mentors. Training consists of ten sessions (each is one hour and a half long), and covers different topics both in theory and practice.

INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH CHILDREN

Teenagers that are willing to participate in the program are meeting with our staff. The goal of these meetings is to get to know them better, learn about his\her personality, character, dreams. In the future this information will allow us to find the best match of mentors for each child in the program.



DECISION MAKING

This is the final time when a mentor makes a commitment to participate in a project, and our staff reassesses his\her readiness. If both, mentor and our staff, believe that the mentor is ready, he\she sign a contract for a year (minimum participation time).

GATHERING OF INFORMATION

We want to learn more about our future mentees, so we communicate and gather information from the employees of the orphanage and ask to access the personal file of a child. We want to learn maximum information about each child in order to provide them with the best match of mentor, as well as to provide specific training for each mentor.

MATCHING PROCESS

The time when the team of Lighthouse analyses all the information about mentors and mentees, and makes decisions about which mentor to match with which child.

FIRST MEETINGS (MENTOR + MENTEE + COORDINATOR)

During the first two-three meeting, coordinator is present as well. That is done in order to observe how well the mentor is prepared and ready to carry on.

MEETINGS (MENTOR + MENTEE)

When coordinator steps back, mentor meets his\her mentee at least once a week. They together develop a plan for their time together.

Lighthouse wants to ensure the continuity of the relationships between mentors and mentees and offers a variety of support and feedback

SUPPORT GROUP

A gathering that is held once per one-two months where mentors gather and share about their experience, success and failures, ask questions from coordinator and other staff and support each other. The importance of such meeting shouldn't be underestimated since one of the main reasons why so many people burn out while working with children – is the feeling of being alone with your problems. Realization that others also have similar struggles and sharing ways to overcome them can significantly improve the wellbeing of a mentor.



COMMUNICATION WITH THE COORDINATOR

Coordinator is constantly communication with mentors and mentees via phone and sometimes via personal visits. Mentor can always call coordinator if he\she is struggling with a particular problem and cannot solve it.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Psychologist also can consult mentors and coordinators on especially hard topics, as well as to work directly with a child if there is a great need and permission from the orphanage.



ZARINA&AIGERIM



SOME HISTORY

It all started as an idea at the summer 2012. One of the co-founders, Anton Putilin, was praying and asking God to show him what he should do in his life. God responded by showing the great need in Kyrgyzstan – orphans that were leaving the orphanages weren't prepared to their independent adult life. During the next year God made dozens of small and big miracles giving to this idea people, program, registered organization, connections, resources. The official work started on September 1st with the arrival of Ieva Akulevičiūtė from Kiev where she was receiving training from a local nonprofit – One Hope.

Since September 1st we started to adopt and adjust for Kyrgyzstan the mentoring program that was given to us by One Hope – organization in Ukraine that also runs a mentoring program there.

For almost two months we were processing all the materials and information that One Hope was working on for the last 4 years. We adjusted it to the cultural difference in our country, added more emphasize on our Christian values and goals.

In the end of October 2013 we launched the program and by the end of November already had our first group of mentors trained.



Two more groups of mentors were trained in **March and May 2014**. Since then they have been meeting with their mentees from the Rehabilitation Center for Street Children in Bishkek.

In June 2014 we launched our mentoring program in a small town at the south of Kyrgyzstan called Kyzyl-Kyya. We held a training there, and mentors from local church already visit children in the orphanage close to the town.



WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW

Right now, we had held three trainings in Bishkek and one in Kyzyl-Kyya. Twenty-one pair of mentors and mentees are meeting on weekly basis. All pairs have different stories and different levels of success. We also had a few pairs that could not continue their relationships for different reasons. Sometimes kids run away from an orphanage and stay on the run until it gets cold in the fall. Yet, there are many small and big success stories that we hear from our mentors. We were planning that we will grow faster in number of mentors, but every training we had 6-8 people. Nevertheless, we see fruit from the work of these mentors and that's the most important. We've learned a lot during this year about different aspects of the program and trainings.



Also, we are very excited that we were able to start a group in Kyzyl-Kyya. It is a town with high level of drug trafficking, addictions, prostitution and criminal activity. South of Kyrgyzstan is also a place where radical Islam is very active. All that really does influence lives of orphans who graduate from the institution and often don't have where to go. That's why we are glad that through the mentoring program people from local church can influence lives of these children.



Lighthouse now have 5 full-time employees: main program coordinator in Bishkek, coordinator in Kyzyl-Kyya, psychologist, director, development officer, and an accountant who works part-time.

We partner with 4 churches and 2 institutions for children.

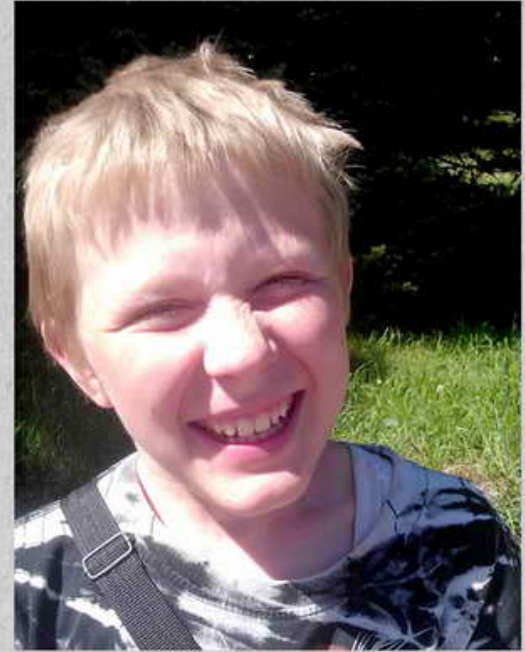
We decided to use July and first half of August to go through our program again, improve and develop it and work on some printing materials for our staff and mentors. Our staff is working hard to prepare for a new season that we will start this Fall.



THE STORY OF IVAN

Ivan is twelve, and although he is very young, he is one of the smartest in the rehab center. His parents are gone. His grandmother is still alive, but she is too old to take care of him. His mentor, Elena, came to the program among the first group in November 2013. Since then they were meeting with Ivan every week. They spend a lot of time together working on Ivan's school work, talking about life and his future. Ivan dreams that one day he will run a farm, and it is not only a dream. He is reading books about it, experimenting, drawing plans of his future farm. Sometime ago he even built an incubator for chicken eggs where successfully grew a few chickens.

Sometimes, Ivan and Elena visit different places in the city: parks, galleries, museums. Ivan's favorite is the cinema theater. Once after the cinema they were walking in the park and Ivan decided to buy ice-cream for his mentor. Elena was very impressed and didn't miss the chance to teach Ivan something. She noticed to Ivan that it was a great gesture and that in a healthy



friendships both people contribute according to their means. A week pasted and Ivan called Elena asking if they can go to the cinema again. Elena replied that it is not cheap to go to the cinema too often, but Ivan said that he sold his first offspring of chickens and want to pay for the tickets himself. After the movie both of them were happy, Ivan was proud that he can invite his mentor to a movie and pay for it, and Elena was so glad that Ivan is learning how to give and not only take.





OUR SHORT-TERM GOALS

- This Fall we plan to start a mentoring group for orphans with hearing problems. We have contacted a small community of believers in one of our churches who also have hearing disabilities, and they are excited that they will have an opportunity to mentor these kids.
- Before the end of the year, we want to hold one more training for people in Kyzyl-Kyya and a few more in Bishkek.
- We want to increase the number of our mentees to at least 50 by the end of year.
- We need to employ more coordinators in Bishkek as we continue to grow.

OUR LONG-TERM VISION AND PROJECTS

Lighthouse is a long-term project for Kyrgyzstan. It has to be long-term in order to be successful in its' developmental work with orphans. Even though on this early stage the future of the project is flexible, there are already certain strategic questions that need to be addressed.

Excellence and Effectiveness of the Programs

Lighthouse aims continually develop and reevaluate its' programs and activities. The organization will keep constant record and detailed descriptions of how things are done in order to illuminate dependence on any particular staff member. In August, we will finish the complete handbook for our staff and another handbook for our mentors. This will allow us to be more effective and consistent with our work.



ERLAN&TIMUR



Regional Presence



The capital, Bishkek is the best place for a social start-up as the Lighthouse due to the availability of resources, communications and, most importantly personnel. Also, Bishkek and the suburbs have a high number of orphanages with many children in need of developmental work. However, we recognize that more remote regions of the country have orphanages as well. Moreover, remote regions are often more neglected by the government and social organizations since the need is usually less concentrated.

Our plan in 5 years is to have three regional offices in Kyrgyzstan. One in Bishkek that will be coordinating the program in the north-west part of the country (green area on the map), second will be located in Osh, coordinating the program at the south of Kyrgyzstan, and the third located in Balykchy that will coordinate the program in the eastern part of Kyrgyzstan. All three centers will have a regional coordinator, psychologist and coordinators that will work with mentors.



Financial Sustainability

We seek to insure financial sustainability of the organization for long-term. At the beginning few years we expect that bigger part of our budget will be financed from abroad. However, we believe that increasing the share of domestic support and donations over the years will be the first step to more sustainable organization.

We also recognize a great need for future graduates from orphanages to have job opportunities. That is why we plan to start small businesses that will provide funds for the organization and jobs for the youth that leave orphanages. Right now, we have two business projects that we are developing:

Bakeries in Bishkek

Bishkek is a big and fast developing city. Many people in Bishkek appreciate good food and convenience of getting it fresh and fast. There is an open niche in the market for fresh pastries and sweets. There are only a few bakeries in the city that produce sell fresh bread and pastries. All of them located in the city's downtown. There are also a few bakeries that are very high-end, and most of the people cannot afford to buy from them. There is a need for small bakeries, conveniently located close to the living districts of Bishkek, which will offer a new variety of products at reasonable prices.

It is a great opportunity to give jobs to our graduates since many of them have a chance to attend professional schools for cooks and confectioners. We want to focus on a few smaller bakeries in different areas of Bishkek, and later open more of them. Right now, we are developing a business plan for this idea and looking for funds.





Food processing factory in Kyzyl-Kyya

The town is located in fertile Fergana valley and big part of its' economy is based on growing vegetables and fruits, and selling them to the northern part of Kyrgyzstan and other countries such as Kazakhstan and Russia. The difference in prices for vegetables and fruits between Kyzyl-Kyya and Bishkek is very high – 3-4 times, for Kazakhstan and Russian – even bigger.

Unfortunately, great amount of profits doesn't go to the locals, but to different wholesalers, retailers etc. It is important to move from exporting raw food to processing this food in Kyzyl-Kyya and export final products. We want to start in Kyzyl-Kyya a small factory that will process tomatoes and some other vegetables into canned sauces and similar products. We already found great premises near the local church. We plan to start by the end of spring 2015, so we can prepare it to the season that starts in July.



A place to live

Another great need for orphans in Kyrgyzstan is lack of places to live after their graduation from orphanages and similar institutions. Kyrgyz government does very little to ensure for them a place to live. There are some non-governmental organizations that provide temporal transitional living facilities. Nevertheless, such organizations can cover only a small fraction of the existent need.

We realize that it is a huge investment to run facilities for transitional living, but we hope that with the developing of our business projects, we will be able also to launch some transitional housing projects.





CONTRIBUTE

We thank you for taking your time to get to know us better and kindly invite you to support our project. There are many ways through which you can help us run this project in Kyrgyzstan. Here are a few of them

Volunteer or Work

If you are willing to invest your time into our organization, we have different options for you. Full time work in Kyrgyzstan, different volunteering opportunities both in Kyrgyzstan and remotely from abroad.

Partner With Us

If you represent an organization and believe that we can be helpful to each other, we invite you into partnership.

Pray For Us

Our main provider and the best connection is our God. Thus, your prayers will be a great contribution as well. You can pray for:

- **For wisdom.** We want our leadership, staff and volunteers to make right decisions
- **For our mentors.** We want them to be led by God in their work and make a difference in lives of children
- **For good relationships with authorities of Kyrgyzstan.** We want to be an example and testimony to the governmental officials by respecting the law and avoiding corruption (which is a challenge here in Kyrgyzstan)
- **For our financial support.** We want to pay our workers decent salaries and provide them with good work conditions. We want our volunteers and mentors to be fully supported in what they do
- **For people.** We need more people working and volunteering with us.

Tell Others

In our modern age the information can spread very fast. Contribute to us by sharing our website or telling about us on FB, twitting it, posting on your blog.

Become One of Our Volunteer Fundraisers

Our primary source of financial funds comes from fundraising activities. Our model is a network of volunteer fundraisers around the world. These are simple people who want to dedicate a little bit of their time to tell about us to people in their area (work, church, friends) and to fundraise for us among them.

- We provide these volunteers with materials about us (presentations, booklets with short info)



- Since there is a network of people, the organization doesn't depend on one or few sources only. That puts less pressure on a single fundraiser while ensures financial sustainability of the organization
- It doesn't take much time from volunteers
- The network is growing fast

If you are interested contact us at info@mentorkg.org to learn more.

Donate

We need financial resources to pay our staff, train mentors, develop the program and keep it running and expanding.

You can support us financially by making your contribution online with your debit\credit card here: www.mentorkg.org/donate

You can also donate via check:

Please make check payable to Joy to the World Foundation and put "**Lighthouse Kyrgyzstan**" in the memo.

Send checks to:

Joy to the World Foundation
4570 Hilton Pkwy Suite 203
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Or you can send funds directly to our bank account in Kyrgyzstan:

OUR BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION FOR WIRE TRANSFERS:

OO "Youth Group"

Tynystanova str., 14-15, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Phone: +996-772-517280

Taxpayer's code: 00310200810446

BANK ACCOUNT:

"Optima Bank" OJSC, branch #1

Abdyrachmanova str., 105, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Phone: +996-312-661491

Account Number: 1090820248370125

BIC code: 109008

SWIFT: ENEJKG22



ON WHAT DO WE SPEND OUR MONEY

Lighthouse doesn't provide any material help to orphans. There are other organizations and individuals who do that. We focus on nonmaterial help, development and support. As a result, the primary expenses for the organization are salaries that we pay to our employees, rent of the office and related expenses, trainings for future mentors, marketing and program development.

We want to calculate our expenses on a per-child basis. There are expenses for preparation and support of a mentor for each child. There is also a coordinator for every 25 pairs of mentors and mentees who receives salary. There also will be regional coordinators in the future. Finally, there are some core expenses that don't really change much with the number of children: rent, marketing, salaries of director, accountant etc. As a result, as we will have more kids in the future the organization will be more efficient.

For example, when we have 25 children in the program the cost will be around 100 USD per child, per month. However, when we will have 75 children, the cost will be less than 50 USD. Cost per child will continue to decrease, and we project to keep it around 30-35 USD in the future.

We put a lot of emphasize to our integrity. We want to be honest with our donors, and every donor will have a right to know on what the money are being spend. We want to be honest with our government and pay all the taxes and comply with all regulation, which is very rare in Kyrgyzstan due to high level of corruption and availability of different loops in the law.

Once again, thank you for taking your time to learn about us. If you have any questions or want to get involved contact us

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