

# Working Locally for a Better World

By Terry Saunders



Olga Funk and Yulia Boozer are co-founders and CEOs of Nova Spark Foundation and Funk and Boozer Events & Design, LLC. These women are working locally to accomplish their mission to enable orphan children worldwide to reach their full potential through mentorship and education, to encourage their continuous growth, and to prepare them for success in

society, work, and life.

“Olga and I are both from Ukraine,” Yulia shared, “but we have lived in Colorado for over 18 and 20 years (respectively). We met while volunteering to help Ukraine in February 2022. Immediately we recognized in each other, very strong and resilient women. So we decided to combine our efforts in supporting

Nova Spark encourages local teenagers to get involved to make a real difference in the lives of children around the world. Teenagers can organize teams for fundraising and run their own projects with oversight and assistance from Nova Spark. This helps them build leadership skills and allows them to be creative while also learning the importance of helping others.

Ukraine and created Nova Spark, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.” Their current focus is on the children in Ukraine that have lost their parents, but their hope is to grow and continue their efforts worldwide.

The first step in accomplishing their mission is ensuring that Ukrainian orphans' basic needs are being met during the Russian-Ukrainian war. The organization is working with small-scale and family-style orphanages, and those caring for disabled children. Many of these orphanages currently struggle to provide bare necessities for the children in their care due to the conflict in the country. They do not always have access to the humanitarian aid sent by big non-profit organizations. When their houses sustain damage from the attacks, the responsibility and cost of repairing the residences fall on their shoulders alone. Children end up living in rooms with holes in the walls from grenades and bullets and using bathroom facilities that are not functional.

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The two are working on their next design collection and hoping to host a Fashion Show of their own this coming Spring. Stay tuned

Yulia and Olga are working closely with well-established Ukrainian non-profit organizations to provide food, clothing, medicine, and school supplies for the orphans. They also provide funds to orphanages to repair damaged buildings.

“We have been working tirelessly on multiple fronts to support our native country in times of war and devastation.” Yulia continued, “Through the work we do with Nova Spark and engaging the local community; sharing the opportunity to get involved in and contribute to helping children and managing Funk and Boozer.”

Funk and Boozer Events & Design, LLC is an online clothing and home décor store created to generate income for Nova Spark. All profits are donated to Nova Spark. And Olga and Yulia do not get paid from either organization. They both have other full-time jobs. Olga is a HR Recruiter, and Yulia is a Data Warehouse Architect.

The next big project Yulia and Olga are working on is an educational and developmental



Funk and Boozer participated in a couple of fashion shows; Festival of Color Colorado and ZeLimited Fashion Showcase. The collection featured fabrics with images from the paintings of Ukrainian artist, Olga Ottenheim. The garments were designed and made by the Funk and Boozer design team (Olga, Yulia, and Yulia’s mom, Svitlana Horodna who hand-made all the outfits). All the beautiful pieces are now available to order online: [www.funkandboozer.com/Store](http://www.funkandboozer.com/Store). As always, all profits from the sales will be donated to Nova Spark and provide humanitarian aid and educational support to children in Ukraine.

program that would allow orphaned children and teenagers in Ukraine (later in other parts of the world) and children and teenagers in the United States (local schools) to work together on projects with mentorship oversight. The teams would work together to achieve a common goal in STEM or Art projects. Professionals from related industries will mentor the students as they work through challenges. There are opportunities to have friendly competition and will allow students from Ukraine and the United States to learn how to work with people from different cultures and

various backgrounds to achieve a common goal. It will help them gain international experience and prepare them to live and work in a global community while gaining new skills in a fun and interactive environment. They are planning to launch a couple of pilot programs next year.

*You can learn more about the work being done by the Nova Spark Foundation including upcoming events, current and past initiatives and thank you letters from some of the orphanages that have been helped by visiting [www.novasparkfoundation.org](http://www.novasparkfoundation.org).*

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