



Tsvetan Petrov

Mimi interviews Tsetsi on his final day at
The House of Opportunity, Skravena
(House of Joshua)

Joined: June 13 2008

How do you feel today Tsetsi?

I feel very good. I am accomplishing one of my long-term dreams - I am going to University. I have work experience in one field, and getting a degree in another field will give me better chances for employment in the future.

Tell me more about your degree.

I am doing Management and Marketing at the European Business College in Sofia. Part-time mode will allow me to continue to work, and do university at the weekends. I have talked to my employer and he is OK with my decision. I did very well on the admissions test - 3 mistakes out of 120 questions.

How did The House of Joshua help you get where you are now?

Most precious thing that I got was the advice. The people in HOJ were always good to consult with. Also, I felt secure; there was someone to hold my hand while I was making the first step towards independence. I got a lot of support.

What does it feel like when you leave the orphanage?

It's tormenting. It's a real shock to come out of one environment to a completely different one. You are suddenly surrounded by strangers and expected to have a very different lifestyle.

How do you find life in House of Joshua?

I thought it would have been harder. It's actually easier than I thought. I still find it hard that I cannot share my sadness and trouble with anyone. No one would understand what it feels like inside me.

How do you see yourself a few years from now?

Once I am up on feet, I will be helping this house like it helped me.

How do you think House of Joshua helped you?

Well, very obviously, it helped me not end up in prostitution or crime. I never had to steal in order to eat. I have seen this happen to other young people and I don't blame them. They didn't have other choice.

How do you think you can help House of Joshua?

I want to be an example to the young people who come here. I want to tell them this is a PALACE. [What do you mean by 'a palace?'] Well, don't you see? It's a palace. I have seen other places and this is luxury. Young people should know how good this is compared to other options.

