

Masha and Misha Shurov have four boys

Sasha, Anton, his little brother Maxim, and their natural child, Lubamir.

Sasha is 15 now and has been with them since 2006. He loves, adores little Lubamir, and takes care of him as if he was his own. He dresses him and watches out for him, plays with him and comforts him.

When Sasha came to us, he was a courageous boy, but very wary, defensive yet clearly wanting to make a connection. Soon after, Anton and Maxim came to live with Masha & Misha. Sasha closed like a clam shell and literally turned his face to the wall. Masha patiently sat with him for hours, until he dissolved into tears and finally admitted that he was terrified that these new arrivals would steal all his new mother's affections and he would be alone yet again.



It took the birth of Lubamir for Sasha to acknowledge that the heart can love more than one.

He's growing, like a stringy adolescent, but strong. We have learned that this physical growth is a clear sign of the inner growth, the confidence, the belief in ones self. "I AM, so make room for me." It's hard to convey just how joyful it is to see this building of self, this wonderful young man nurtured from the fearful child who had lived on the street with his drunkard mother; the little boy sat in the corner with his far-away eyes. Does he want to see his mother again? "Not yet." He will grow into understanding and forgiveness, but 'not yet'.