

Miloserdnye Ruki

(Hands of Mercy)



April
2022

Anna's cat died. He was old. After his death the babushka looked wilted. Often pets become a family member, and it is hard to lose them. Zhanna tried to visit the babushka as often as she could so that Anna did not feel her loneliness. Someone brought her a new kitten for a while to distract her from sad thoughts. Later they left the kitten with Anna for good, and now he lives with the babushka. He runs & jumps around making Anna a little happier. The babushka is 94 years old. She still tries to look good, uses lipstick, and wears bright color clothes.



Anna

Nelly worked as a sanitary epidemiologist doctor. She is 85 years old, a widow. Her only son passed away. Now she has a lot of diseases and suffers with many pains. She always looks tense and very "closed". We did not see her ever smiling. She does not tell anything about herself. Recently her record player stopped working. It was a stress for her because she used to listen to music only on records. She loves classical music and old songs of 1960-70s. The master repairer found that one small item was broken. As the music player is very old, about 50 years old, and now such players are not produced, he gave the advice to buy another music player in order to take the needy item for fixing Nelly's. Elena looked at sale sites for two weeks, and finally found a very old one. She went with the babushka on a bus for two hours to buy it and then carried the heavy, dirty record player all the way back. Nelly seemed truly glad.



Nelly

Babushka Valentina (86 years old) was so thankful for the bath seat. To take a bath is a big deal for some elderly, and they need someone to help them. Because of hypertension & dizziness, Valentina is afraid of falling. We bought for her and for a few other babushkas bath seats so that they could take a shower safely. Elena helps her to take a bath, and then cuts her toenails, smooths her body with cream and helps with dressing. Then the babushka says: "Now let's have tea and talk. I love talking with you."



Babushka Damira is 85 years old. As all babushkas, little by little she was collecting things for her apartment: furniture, dishes etc. Now that all looks old and unmodern but the babushka so appreciates them. Dishes in her sideboard were covered with a thick layer of dust, but she did not allow us to touch them. She was afraid that we would break them. It took time but she began to trust us, and finally, Zhanna washed up the "precious" tableware under the attentive eye of the babushka.



Damira

Zhanna