

Helping Children with Arthritis in Russia

In 1998 Mrs. Nadia Lipsky's niece in Russia was struck with a potentially debilitating disease - juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA). In the U.S., there are 250,000 children afflicted with this disease; figures for Russia are not available but are estimated to be even higher.

The little girl's condition was deteriorating rapidly. The child could not walk or

even crawl. Several doctors in Moscow that the family turned to were not able to help. Nadia and her husband, Dr. Richard Lipsky, invited the child to the U.S., while searching for a specialist in treating this devastating illness.

For six months Dr. Thomas Lehman, Professor of Medicine at Cornell University Medical School and the Chief of Pediatric Rheumatology of the Hospital for Special Surgery, treated the little girl. As Mrs. and Dr. Lipsky witnessed the improvement of the girl's condition, they were shocked to find that the medication required was inexpensive, and better still, available in Russia. Their niece's recovery inspired the Lipskys to help thousands of children in Russia who are suffering from JRA.

They shared these thoughts with their



Patients at the Rheumatology Institute of the Russian Academy of Medicine

good friend, a well-known philanthropist and humanitarian whose extraordinary generosity touched many lives - Mrs. Lillian Booth.

Mrs. Booth is known to be a generous patron of many causes: Ferris Booth Hall at Columbia University, Pascack Valley Hospital in Westward, NJ, Christ Hospital in Jersey City, the Cathedral of St. John the Theologian in Tenafly, Greek Children's Cancer Fund, Michael's Home

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Mrs. Lillian Booth, Dr. Richard Lipsky

Petroushka Ball 2000



Mrs. Beatrice Fekula

After a two-year, well deserved break, board member Mrs. Beatrice Fekula returned to chair the 35th Annual Petroushka Ball, held on February 4, 2000.

Over 500 dinner and dancing guests were treated to a glamorous evening at the Grand Ballroom and Baroque Room at the Plaza in New York City. \$35,000 was raised at this year's event. This success will make the Society's ambitious fundraising goals that much more attainable this year.

Emulating the great tradition of the winter balls in St. Petersburg of Old Russia, Petroushka stayed true to form and delivered a memorable evening of fine food, music and dancing till the wee hours of the morning. The Syzokryli Dance group, a Ukrainian Folk Dance ensemble, thrilled guests with exuberant renditions of traditional folk dances full of acrobat-

ic leaps and superb spins. Barynya, a Russian Folk group, also performed pieces from the familiar Russian folk repertoire skillfully and professionally. The beloved Balalaika Russe delicately tickled the ear with a Cossack gusto. The Lester Lanin Orchestra, a New York treasure and Petroushka orchestra for many years, motivated even the most reserved to take a spin on the polished Grand Ballroom parquet. Upon departure, guests received gifts which were donated to the Society by friends of the Ball.

The Board of Directors join the President of the Russian Children's Welfare Society, Dr. Igor Holodny in



Dr. & Mrs. Cyril Geacintov and Princess Tatiana Galitzine

expressing its deepest gratitude to Mrs. Beatrice Fekula for her tireless work in making the Petroushka 2000 such a resounding success. Assisting Mrs. Fekula this year were board member Alexandra Oorusoff in the capacity of the ticketing chairperson; Mrs. Fekula's daughters Lisa Zemann and Natasha Fekula assisted her in planning and organizing the Ball and the raffle.

The Society's gratitude also extends to the many patrons of the ball who organized tables and introduced new friends to Petroushka. The Society looks forward to Petroushka 2001, which will be chaired by Mrs. Lannyl Stephens Ossorguine and will take place on Friday, February 2, 2001.

...so SAVE THE DATE!



Petroushka Ball Volunteers



The Russian Children's Welfare Society is proud to announce its recent induction as a member of America's Charities. This organization has brought the most well known and most important charities in the country to giving campaigns in the workplace. America's Charities members strive to meet the human service needs in thousands of communities nationwide.

This year marks America's Charities' 20th anniversary. In September of 1980, four charities embarked on a fundraising project, which has since become a great success story. This group of four began their first workplace campaign season as a federation that was eventually to become known as America's Charities. In the twenty years since their beginning, they have grown from raising \$500,000 for the original four charities in 1980 to providing over \$20 million in 1998 in support of its nearly 100 members today. America's Charities is now a recognized leader in the Combined Federal Campaign, as well campaigns in state and local governments

and the private sector.

Over the past twenty years, organizations like The Russian Children's Welfare Society, have chosen America's Charities, and entrusted the federation with the task of representing them to 10 million employees in the American workplace. Every year federal employees, state and local workers, as well as the employees of some of the most successful companies have the choice of America's Charities in their workplace giving. It is a great honor to be considered among those choices, and we at RCWS look forward to an enduring and successful partnership with America's Charities.

“Inspiration”: Rehabilitating the Most Needy

One of the most important projects helped by the Society is the Children's Rehabilitation Center "Inspiration" in Nikolskoe Gagarino near Moscow. The idea to create the Center came to Father Elias Dorogoychenko, while working at the nearby Children's Psychiatric Hospital. He realized that the hospital's methods of treatment - mainly medical, consisting of drug administration - were not sufficient to cure “problem children” or prepare them for independent life. This hospital is the only one of its kind in the entire Moscow region. The chronic lack of elementary facilities at this very run-down hospital does not allow for effective treatment for the children.

In March 2000, the Society approved

a second grant totalling \$3,800 for reparations of the facility, including furniture, kitchenware, art therapy supplies and food. Several times a week, groups of children are taken from the hospital for two-hour lessons on the premises. Although this is a positive start, the lessons are too infrequent to provide a healthy, long-term treatment for children with disabilities. On top of having mental or physical disabilities, the children are often orphans or runaways from abusive homes, with serious behavioral problems, and therefore they require permanent and steady care. The sporadic and radical change of climate - physical and social - between the hospital and the Center can be detrimental to the children.



Patients and their Guardian Angel

According to Father Elias, the purpose of this project is to provide children with permanent professional help and attention in order to bring about a fundamental change of behavior. The project places particular emphasis on the cozy and loving environment of the Center.

With the help of Father Elias, the Russian Children's Welfare Society, and most importantly, the dedicated and professional staff, the children will receive a moral upbringing and well-rounded education. The ultimate purpose of the program is to restore and to awaken altruistic principles in the children, to cultivate a positive attitude towards work, and thus to prepare them for independent life.

Currently, about 100 children a year are helped in this way at the Rehabilitation Center “Inspiration”. The Center will require continual financial assistance to care for the large population of needy children.



Father Elias Dorogoychenko and orphans

The St. Alexis School and Orphanage

These fields and forests are the stuff of Russian dreams. A gently rolling landscape gives way to vast swatches of birch and pines. The domes and steeples of old churches dot nearby landscapes. Brooks and streams lace gentle valleys, and the mooing of cows and bleating of sheep waft in on a gentle breeze.

What is different about St. Alexis is the sound of children's voices, shouting in glee over a game of *horovod*, sort of a Russian Ring-Around-the-Rosy, or emitting exclamations of excitement over a game of *salki*, tag in Russian. But these



Church of the Holy Spirit

are special children. This is an unusual farm.

The Saint Alexis School and Orphanage was established 65 miles northeast of Moscow nine years ago by Father Alexei Vasilenko to provide the downtrodden with food, shelter, a full education, and overall, a decent chance at life. It is on the site of the former St. Alexis convent, which was looted and destroyed during the Soviet period.

Established originally as a refuge for a handful of homeless children or youngsters from unstable homes, the settlement grew and currently provides care for some 50 children from age three through high school. Some of the children have been abandoned or abused by a parent, others have come here to reside with their destitute and sometimes battered mothers.

Counting the children, the community now consists of 150 people, including four

priests, seven nuns, 18 teachers, laborers and other volunteers. Until 1996, children attended the local village school, but now they have their own school where they receive a substantial religious, humanitarian and scientific education.

A sprawling school constructed of logs and finished wood offers a spectrum of classes in science and the humanities -- including classes in Greek and Latin -- taught by 21 teachers and tutors. A library housing thousands of books, one dating back to the 16th century, is available to all in the community.

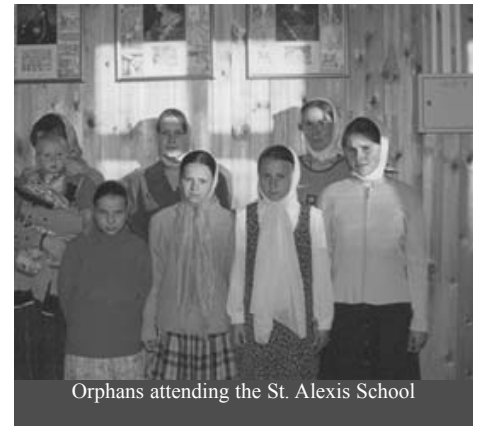
The school has four departments, under the guidance of headmaster Constantine Chebikin, comprised of liberal arts, mathematics and science, apprenticeships in farming, carpentry, mechanics and a department for the physically handicapped.

The first two departments provide a full classical education for children with adequate abilities. Apprenticeship programs provide less gifted children with a trade which can support them later in life. The department for mentally handicapped children is devoted to teaching children with mental disorders. However, there is no member of the community with a formal training in this field. As many of the children are "social orphans", (children of alcoholics, etc.) there is a child psychologist to help these children.

While the school can accommodate some 150 students, the number is limited by insufficient housing on the farm. Most of the adults at the center are volunteers. They include relatives or friends of those living there. Operating without formal outside financing, the center survives on products from its own farm, outside



Students at work



Orphans attending the St. Alexis School

volunteers, and occasional help from private benefactors.

RCWS responded to the need of this most worthwhile cause by awarding a grant to endow the school's chemistry and physics laboratory with the hope that they will further expand their extraordinary achievements.

The main text of this article was written by Michael McGuire, Staff Writer, "The Chicago Tribune".

Mrs. Tatiana Holodny Continues Her Work in Moscow

After ten years of dedicated work with the Society in New York City, Mrs. Tatiana Holodny has moved to Moscow, where she will serve as a Candidate Director of the Moscow Advisory Committee of RCWS.



Mrs. Tatiana Holodny

Tatiana's work as Program Planning Coordinator took her to Russia and South America, where she met with families and managed volunteer representatives around the world in helping needy children apply for funding. Tatiana always showed great concern and kindness towards the families supported by the Society.

We look forward to a continued partnership with Tatiana and wish her and her family all the best in Moscow.

Russian Children Living in South America

A recent (June 2000) visit to Chile and Argentina by Ms. Anna Sergeeva-Gross, proved that the assistance provided by RCWS made a big difference to Russian children suffering from malnutrition.

The Russian emigre families supported by RCWS continue to live in extremely poor conditions. The Stankovsky family of Santiago, Chile, live in a desperate situation. Three mothers (all sisters) with their families (a total of 18 people), live in the grandmother's house in four tiny rooms. One of the children recently had



Stankovsky family children
(Chile)

meningitis and was isolated from the rest of the family. Furthermore, one of the mothers has cancer, and the family cannot afford the necessary medical treatment. Two of the sisters' husbands have abandoned their families and pay no child support.

According to statistics, in Chile and Argentina it is extremely difficult for women to find a job, since more than 70% of the workforce are men. To further illustrate the cost of living, an average monthly salary in Chile is equivalent to \$200 USD; tuition for public school is approximately \$50 USD per month/ per child. That means that such staples as milk, meat, cheese, and juice are unaffordable.

The situation is equally bleak in Buenos Aires, Argentina where the Reshetnikov' family lives. They emigrated from Russia in 1997. The Russian Orthodox Church in Buenos Aires, provided the family with free housing. The family is very grateful for the assistance, but living conditions are catastrophic: they live with water damage and mold on the walls, no heating, and beds on the floor. The father is unemployed, he speaks only Russian, no Spanish, and from time to



Reshetnikov' family
(Argentina)

time he has minor temporary jobs. The family is so poor that the father and two children are forced to go to the local diners and restaurants to beg for food. His children are deprived of their mother, who remains in Russia, and the family is struggling to raise some money for an airline ticket.

RCWS would like to thank our devoted volunteer representatives, Mrs. Eugenia Matveenko from Chile and Mr. Sergio Belikow from Argentina, for the on going hard work of helping these needy families.

Natural Disaster in Chile

The residents of Chile's capital, Santiago, and surrounding areas recently experienced the worst flooding in the last 100 years. Houses and roads were flooded under one meter of water, and people struggled trying to save their children and property. The region was declared a catastrophe zone. More than 60,000 people are homeless and 17 are dead.

The flooding left thousands of people with property damage, among them Russian emigrant families. In some homes, the roofs collapsed after three weeks of heavy rains. It is winter in Chile, and most homes have no heating. In order to help Russian emigre families to cope with the consequences of the flooding, RCWS provided natural disaster relief.

The funds will be spent for heating supplies, warm blankets, and home renovations.

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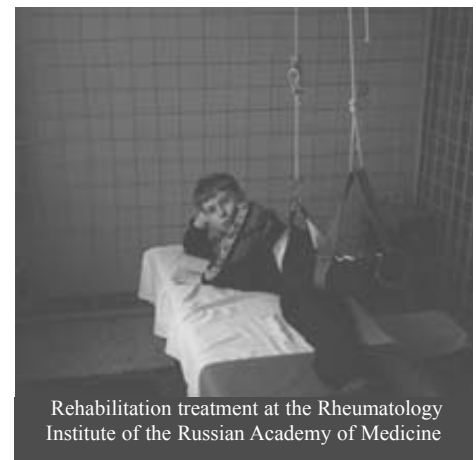
for the Elderly, and "Hole in the Wall" Charity. All have come into being by her support and devotion.

The idea to organize an advanced training program for Russian pediatric rheumatologists became a reality a year ago with Mrs. Booth's generous contribution of \$25,000 to RCWS.

In April 2000, Ms. Lipsky traveled to Moscow and visited the Rheumatology Institute of the Russian Academy of Medicine. Although she was pleasantly surprised by the dedication of Russian physicians to their young patients, it was clear that the doctors were lacking knowledge and experience in advanced treatment practices.

As a result of multilateral discussions between Dr. Thomas Lehman, Professor Kuzmina and Dr. Medyantseva, Chief of Clinics at the Rheumatology Institute of the Russian Academy of Medicine, a plan

was developed to upgrade care procedures for Russian children suffering from JRA. The plan includes obtaining necessary medical equipment, training the doctors, expanding fundraising efforts in the US, and creating a fund to help Russian families obtain medication and treatment for their ailing children.

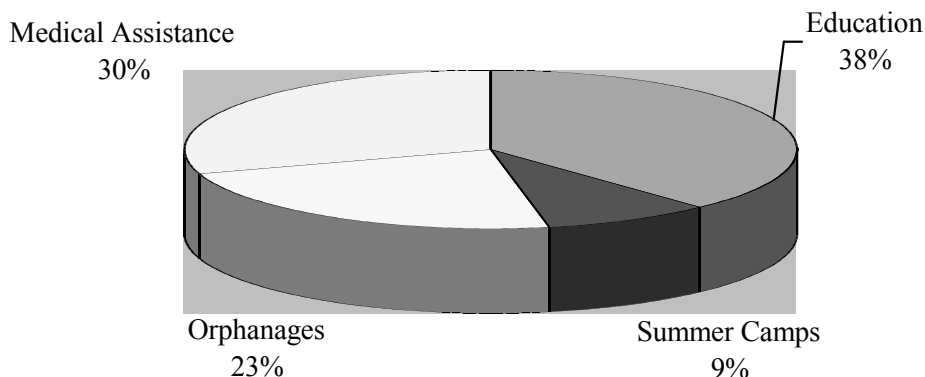


Rehabilitation treatment at the Rheumatology Institute of the Russian Academy of Medicine

RCWS Grants to Russia in 2000

1. **Social & Creative Rehabilitation Center for Disabled Children and their families "Krug", Moscow** - grant for summer camp for disabled children
2. **Kindergarten "Avrora", St. Petersburg** - grant for renovation
3. **Five Orphanages in Vladikavkaz** - grant for food, children's clothes, shoes and blankets
4. **Social Rehabilitation Center "Strana Zhivikh", Moscow** - grant for renovation
5. **Children's Rehabilitation Center "Inspiration", District of Ruza, Nikolskoe Gagarino** - grant for renovation, equipment, furniture, food, and art therapy supplies
6. **Moscow State Medical Stomatological University, Children's Hospital for Reconstructive Facial Surgery, Moscow** - initial grant for medical supplies
7. **Special Bording School for Orphans #2, Novomoskovsk** - grant for children's clothes, shoes and coats
8. **Russian Orthodox School, Tutaev** - grant for food, equipment for classroom, school supplies and repairs
9. **Cadet Boarding School #69, 2nd Moscow Cadet Corps, Moscow** - grant for renovation of bathtubs, winter clothing and medicine
10. **Orphanage at the Marfo-Mariinsky Monastery, Moscow** - grant for medical equipment/ medicine, food, clothing, and books
11. **Svjato-Uspenskiy Women's Monastery, Shujski Region, Dunilovo** - grant for medicine, food, clothing and coal for heating
12. **Orthodox Scout Center, Moscow** - grant for renovation of walls and porch, tools and building materials
13. **Voschikovskaya Special Boarding School, Poshechonskiy Region, Voshikovo** - grant for heating equipment, vehicle for patient transportation
14. **Kaluzhskaya Diocese Russian Orthodox Church "Zlatoust", Kaluga** - grant for summer camp
15. **Orthodox Center for Spiritual Revival, Tula** - grant for educational activities for adolescents
16. **Nonprofit Partnership "Promotion of Social Initiatives", Moscow** - grant for transportation of orphans to a sanitation center
17. **Children's Home, Uglich** - grant for the building of a farm to provide therapy for orphans
18. **Ivantejev City Youth Nonprofit Organization "Island" and scouts brigade "Moscow City", Moscow** - grant for educational programs and summer camps
19. **Kindergarten "Dolphin", South Sakhalin** - grant to support the children of low-income families
20. **Nonprofit Partnership "Clemency-Joy", Chernigovka** - grant for medicine and food for disabled children
21. **St. Nicholas Classical High School, Kislovodsk** - grant for medicine and food
22. **Rheumatology Institute, Moscow** - grant for medical equipment

RCWS Grants in Russia



RCWS Welcomes New Board Members

Mr. Vladimir (Wally) P. Fekula graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1958, and after a brief stint with the US Marine Corps Reserve, he joined Chase Manhattan Bank. He has worked on Wall Street throughout his entire career. Mr. Fekula spent seven years at Goldman, Sachs and Co, and established the Credit Review Department at Salomon Bros. He retired from Credit Suisse First Boston after 15 years as Director of the Credit Review and Risk Management Department.

Mr. Fekula and his wife Beatrice (Pat), have been active in RCWS for over 34 years. Mrs. Pat Fekula has served as Chairperson of the Petroushka Ball for many years and has been an invaluable asset to the Society. Mr. Fekula has served on the Boards of the Tolstoy Foundation and the Pearl Theater Company.

Dr. Cyril Geacintov, is CEO and President of DRG International, Inc. in New Jersey, and its subsidiaries overseas. In addition to founding DRG International, Dr. Geacintov has also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce at the US Commerce Department and as Director of Bureau of East-West Trade.

He holds a BS Degree in Science and Engineering as well as a Ph.D in Physical Chemistry; and has served in the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Dr. Geacintov serves on the Board of Directors of the Council for Trade & Economic Cooperation and is on the Board of the Russian Nobility Association of America. He is a member of the NY Academy of Sciences, the Society of Nuclear Medicine, the American Association of Clinical Chemistry, and the NJ District Export Council.

Andrew L. Tiajolloff, Esq., is a Partner at the law firm Whitman, Breed, Abbot & Morgan LLP, NY. Prior to joining this firm Mr. Tiajolloff served as Counsel and Associate Attorney with Fulbright & Jaworski in New York, and as an attorney with Myers and Erlich in Chicago.

He holds a B.S. in Math as well as a Law Degree from DePaul College of Law in Chicago.

Announcements

PETROUSHKA BALL

The annual Petroushka Ball will be held Friday, February 2, 2001 at the Plaza Hotel. Please contact the Society for sponsorship, tickets, or additional information.

THANK YOU

The Society would like to thank **Marie Kotschoubey** for her volunteer work during the Spring 2000.

INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

Please call us about internship positions and join a very worthwhile cause.

*The Society would like to thank **Jennifer Kaplan**, our former Executive Director, for all her hard work and accomplishments. We wish her the very best in her new endeavors.*

NEW STAFF AT RCWS

The Society welcomes Anna Sergeeva-Gross, Program & Development Director and Pamala Plummer-Wright, Director of Leadership Giving & Strategic Planning, who joined the organization in the Spring of 2000.

REMEMBER THE SOCIETY

As so many have done in the past, please remember the Society in your Will. Our legal name and address are:

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200 Park Avenue South, Suite 1617
New York, NY 10003

Your attorney may contact us at:

(212) 473-6263



Russian Children's Welfare Society, Inc.

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