

RCWS Awards First Scholarships

The Society has inaugurated a scholarship program for orphans and underprivileged youth in Russia. Our goal is to help children who, despite the formidable challenges of their upbringing, are academically capable and emotionally ready to pursue higher education. Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Nika Thayer, a RCWS Honorary Director, the Society has awarded full scholarships, for the first time, to two orphans from the Pskov region — Andrei Loginov and Elena Andreeva.

Andrei graduated from the orphanage in Velikie Lyki and will be attending the Civil Construction College in Pskov. He loves math, history, Russian literature, computer design, and basketball. Andrei's father died and his mother, for personal reasons, was denied parental rights. Andrei's dream is to learn how to design and construct buildings.

He wishes to give people happiness by building houses for families. Andrei would like to make his hometown more attractive and hopes that one day there will be no need to build orphanages.

Elena Andreeva is a graduate of Krasnogorodski Orphanage in the Pskov



Elena Andreeva

region and is currently a student at the Veterinary Department of the Idritsa Agricultural Technical School. Her parents are living. However, they too, were denied parental rights and do not provide any

financial support for their daughter. Elena loves animals, plays guitar and is interested in sports and choreography. After graduating



Andrei Loginov

from the Technical School, Elena hopes to continue her education at the Veterinary Academy in St. Petersburg.

In addition to paying their tuition, RCWS will provide Andrei and Elena with a monthly stipend that will adequately cover their cost of living expenses during 4 years of studies. Also, representatives of the Pskov

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38th Petroushka Ball Dazzles and Sets Records

The Society's major fundraiser, The Petroushka Ball, was held for the thirty-eighth consecutive year on February 7, 2003 at the beautiful grand ballroom of the Plaza Hotel in New York City. Under the leadership of Ball Chairpersons, Lannyl and Serge Ossorguine, the event set records in both attendance and fundraising.

It was an exquisite evening. This year's



Duet — Anna Netrebko and Paul Groves

theme was the Russian fairy tale, *The Magic Goldfish*. Fittingly, each guest received a goldfish lapel pin to adorn one's evening gown or tuxedo. Tanya Tolstoy Penkrat outdid herself with fantastic table decorations with each table having a live goldfish swimming in its own bowl surrounded by a dazzling array of flowers. All the fish survived the evening and were safely taken home.

The entertainment was again superb. Kirov and Metropolitan Opera star, soprano Anna Netrebko, made her second appearance at the Petroushka, enthralling all with her beauty and magnificent voice. Mr. Paul Groves, a leading tenor with the Metropolitan Opera, also sang a solo and performed two duets with Ms. Netrebko. We are very pleased to report that Anna has agreed to become an Honorary Director of the Russian Children's Welfare Society. Deutsche Grammophon has recently released her debut compact disc with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra accompanying.

The President of the Society, Vladimir P.



Misha Dabich, Lillian Booth, and Celeste Holm

Fekula, honored Ms. Lillian Booth for her generous contributions to the RCWS. Her close friend, Misha Dabich, accompanied by the Lester Lanin Orchestra, completed the dinner festivities by dedicating a touching song to Ms. Booth. At the conclusion, Ms. Booth graciously announced that she is pledging an additional \$75,000.00 to the Society.

Dinner was followed by dancing into the wee hours of the morning. The music of Lester Lanin filled the Grand Ballroom while two Balalaika Orchestras played in the adjoining Ballrooms.

Next year's Petroushka Ball will be held on Friday, February 6, 2004.

Society Works Toward Decline in Infant Mortality Rate

In April 2003, the Russian Children's Welfare Society donated a piece of medical equipment, a DASH-3000 Neonatal monitor, to the Filatov Children's Hospital in Moscow. This state of the art equipment allows doctors to monitor children born prematurely or with serious health problems round the clock, registering critical data that will lead to improved diagnoses and timely treatment that will ultimately save the lives of many sick newborns.

RCWS Board member, Dr. Cyril Geacintov, greatly facilitated this project. As President of DRG International, a supplier of medical technologies worldwide, Dr. Geacintov assisted in securing the equipment and ensuring its delivery to the Filatov Children's Hospital. DRG engineers also trained hospital staff to promote optimal usage of the DASH-3000.

The monitor was presented to Professor Vyacheslav Tabolin, the esteemed head of the Filatov Children's Hospital, in a modest ceremony in late April. The seventy five year old doctor and academic is a renowned



Vyacheslav Tabolin and Cyril Geacintov

expert in the field of pediatrics, with a particular interest in neonatal pathologies. Professor Tabolin is a tireless advocate for children's health and speaks plainly about the Russian government's apparent lack of attention to the public health crisis facing children in Russia today. Russia suffers from a high infant mortality rate, where 17 out of every thousand newborns die. According to Tabolin, 2/3 of these deaths occur in the first month of life. The key to lowering the number of deaths is, therefore, the access to basic equipment and medicines that will help keep these sick babies alive.

In his application for RCWS support, Dr. Tabolin wrote: "Newborns cannot wait for the result of correspondences between bureaucrats." While the frustration experienced by such dedicated medical professionals in Russia is indeed sad, we are also inspired to help them address their concerns in constructive ways. RCWS is very proud of its participation in this life-sustaining project.

RCWS Spearheads Treatment of Juvenile Arthritis in Russia

One of New York City's many assets is the number of world class hospitals, medical research centers, and leading health professionals who provide patients with the best care available. Since 2000, the Russian Children's Welfare Society has had the honor of working with one of the leaders in the field of rheumatology, Dr. Thomas Lehman, Professor of Medicine at Cornell University Medical School and the Chief of Pediatric Rheumatology at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Dr. Lehman is the brain trust behind the Society's juvenile arthritis project, giving lectures in Russia and conducting one-on-one trainings with Russian doctors brought to New York through the Society's efforts.

For the second year in a row, a Russian rheumatologist from Moscow was flown to New York to observe Dr. Lehman and his techniques at the Hospital for Special Surgery. In October 2002, Professor Nadezda Podchernyaeva of the Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy came to New York to gain further expertise on treating children with arthritis. As part of an exchange, Dr. Lehman was invited to speak at a prominent pediatrics conference

in Moscow in February 2003, which drew highly respected doctors from Russia and many other countries.

Dr. Lehman's presentation was well-received and sparked much interest and many follow-up questions from those in attendance. Professor Lehman also visited the Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy where he examined the most complicated cases, giving his recommendations for treatment while answering the questions of his Russian colleagues.

Additionally, Dr. Lehman saw patients at the Moscow Institute of Rheumatology which he visited during his first trip to Russia. RCWS recognizes Dr. Lehman not only for his erudition, but for his humanity and willingness to help children a world away regain their health as much as medically possible.

RCWS owes an equal amount of gratitude to Ms. Lillian Booth, whose generous support has underwritten the arthritis project since its inception in 2000. Her keen sensitivity to sick and underprivileged children motivates her active involvement with charities. We are grateful for Ms. Booth's friendship and generosity.

Two Board Members Take Leave

New job responsibilities have resulted in Peter Derby and Serge Schmemann resigning from the RCWS Board of Directors.

Peter Derby has been appointed to the critical job of Managing Director For Operations of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. A condition of the appointment was to resign from all outside Directorships to avoid any possible conflicts.

Serge Schmemann, who has spent almost his entire career with the New York Times, has been appointed the editorial page editor of The International Herald Tribune and has moved to Paris. A 1991 Pulitzer Prize winner for international reporting, Serge has recently won an Emmy for "Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Craft: Writing" in connection with *Mortal Enemies*, a documentary depicting the parallel lives of Yasir Arafat and Ariel Sharon, produced by New York Times Television for the Discovery Channel. Serge continues his relationship with the RCWS as an Advisory Director.

We wish Peter and Serge success in their new responsibilities and look forward to the time when they can rejoin the Board.

New Project Aims to Increase Local Adoptions

The “Inspiration” Rehabilitation Center, located in the Moscow region, is taking a critical step in expanding its mission to serve abandoned children, many suffering from a variety of psychological and/or psychiatric maladies. The Center's founder and director, Father Ilya Dorogoychenko, together with his professional team of psychologists, social workers and teachers, has developed the “Inspiration — Way Home” project in an effort to find adoptive parents for the youngest of his wards.

Father Ilya writes of his deep dissatisfaction with Russia's acceptance of orphanages as an institution: “I don't want to create one more shelter that will just increase the number of abandoned children. Even in our poor little township it is possible to find adoptive parents for our kids.” He believes that even the best run orphanage cannot replace a real home and family setting for a child's development. Father Ilya has therefore been working with the local

Department of Education and regional authorities to seek out families willing to take in these youngsters in need.



Helping abandoned children to find a home

With the implementation of the “Inspiration — Way Home” project, the Center's staff will now take a systematic approach to finding adoptive parents. The social worker will cultivate ties with various social service agencies and try to identify potential families whose health, living arrangements and financial means can provide a suitable placement for orphans. The psychologist will facilitate meetings

between families and the children, helping them get to know each other, as well as train the parents to deal with the youngsters' psychological problems. A lawyer will take care of all necessary documentation and legal issues.

In its first year, the project aims to place at least ten children, from two to ten years of age. In the meantime, Father Ilya tries to enhance the Inspiration Center's offerings to help children cope with their stress and to meet their educational, psychological and medical needs in an atmosphere of warmth and love.

The Society is helping the Center to this end, providing funds to cover the costs of beds, linens, toys, books, tableware and a year's supply of food, medicine and toiletries. Hopefully, successful adoptions by local families will resonate with ordinary Russians everywhere and supplant orphanages as the primary means of taking care of abandoned and lonely children.

RCWS Donates Minibus to Orphanage in Tula

Novomoskovsk is a small town in the Tula region that suffers from the high unemployment and social deterioration that characterizes much of Russia these days. This area bears the additional burden of the on-going health and environmental threats caused by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. According to the administrator's statistics, 74 of the 162 residents at Orphanage and School #2 in Novomoskovsk have lived

in radioactive zones during their lives, the extent of their exposure not yet clear.

For several years, RCWS has helped Orphanage and School #2 purchase educational equipment and supplies to improve its offerings for children. In 2003, using an RCWS grant, the orphanage purchased a minibus that can hold up to 24 children. Orphanage Director Anatoly Ovchinnikov reports that orphans will be able to take trips to ecologically safe and clean destinations during the summer months, as well explore Russia's rich cultural life in the larger cities throughout the year.

Despite the grim circumstances that Orphanage and School #2 must cope with, it is actually a very progressive institution and is highly acclaimed by the Russian govern-

ment. The school has worked with the Tula Pedagogical Institute to test different methods of advancing the development of disadvantaged children and social orphans.

Each teacher at the school implements a curriculum carefully designed to meet the needs of each group of students. The children learn different trades, receive broad instruction in Russian history and culture, and participate in various art projects that are submitted to competitions. Many of them have successfully enrolled in local vocational colleges or have found jobs in the region. The students clearly benefit from the attention of a very committed and professional staff who work by the motto, “Here the sun shines on everybody.”

RCWS Chairman Igor Holodny visited the school, met with children, and was treated to the students' recitation of a few Pushkin favorites. Ovchinnikov and his colleagues at Orphanage and School #2 deserve great praise for their hard work and accomplishments. We know that their innovations will continue as they try to prepare orphans for life in the 21st century. We certainly look forward to hearing about the benefits of the new minivan!



Happy orphans display their new bus

Children's Essays Reflect Positive Results of RCWS Aid

Director of the RCWS Moscow office Ludmila Koroleva visited the Pskov region in early spring of this year to monitor the progress of several orphanages that have been receiving our support for vocational programs. Ludmila was duly impressed with the staff at the Idritsa and Pavsk orphanages, as well as the Oepochka specialized orphanage and the Oepochka state orphanage. Each institution had purchased equipment for various workshops in sewing, cabinetmaking and carpentry, as well as other items, such as fax machines and computers, keeping strictly in line with their application for assistance from RCWS. The Society has also purchased minivans for three out of these four orphanages to facilitate educational opportunities for the children that simply do not exist in their secluded locales.

Orphanage administrators and the



Local media covers RCWS gift

Director of the Pskov's Children's Fund, Tatiana Bodrova, who also serves as an RCWS representative, assure us that our support for vocational training is having a tremendous impact on abandoned children in the region. The Pskov Children's Fund recently held an essay contest called "Children's Eyes Look at the World," inviting 18 local orphanages to participate. Below, we have printed three translations of essays submitted by students at the orphanages the Society supports. Tatiana Bodrova finds evidence of the results of the Society's good will in these writing samples, citing the pride that these youngsters have in learning a trade and their willingness to work hard and acquire skills to survive financially and provide loving homes for their future families. Their stories are both poignant and filled with hope and optimism.

Despite RCWS efforts to bolster education and the acquisition of independent living skills at the Pskov orphanages, there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done. These institutions must cope with poor, non-centralized heating in dilapidated buildings, the lack of proper bathing and laundry facilities, broken furniture and meager supplies.

This summer, the Society disbursed funds to the Oepochka Specialized Orphanage for a washing machine upon receiving Ludmila's report: "I can honest-

ly report that the laundry situation in Oepochka was shocking. I saw piles of dirty linen and clothing lying on the floor of an old brick laundry building and one washerwoman working by hand." It is difficult to imagine one poor babushka doing laundry by hand for 110 children.

Still, with limited means, the Society strives to help build up these orphanages so that the children can be reared in a physically safe and clean environment where they can concentrate on their education. RCWS recently started a scholarship program to help ready orphans for higher



Oepochka Orphanage current laundry facility

education or entry into a vocational college (see article, p. 1) and give them the financial means and guidance necessary to attain a degree. We believe that the resources we are investing in multi-faceted educational initiatives at the Pskov orphanages will reap great rewards for the children. As Pskov celebrates its 1100th anniversary this year, RCWS feels fortunate through its modest efforts to have such a warm connection with the wonderful children in the Pskov region!

How I Can Change My Life and How I Will Accomplish This

My childhood was without joy. My father drank a lot—so did my mother. My younger sister and I were often cold and hungry. We loved our parents a lot, but they didn't care about us, never thought about us. My father was killed in a drunken brawl, my mother completely forgot about us and we were taken off to the orphanage.

We live well at the orphanage—always fed, with clothes on our back and shoes on our feet. I have many good friends here. The school staff tries to make our lives a little happier, but they still can't make us totally happy. All the time I dream

about living in a home with a family, about having a loving mother, one who doesn't drink. It's too bad that realizing my dream is not within my grasp. Our mother doesn't have thoughts about us. She doesn't even write us letters.

Soon I will finish school, which means I'll be living on my own. I have decided to make sure that I am ready for this. I used to smoke, but I quit and will try to not smoke or drink in the future. I now understand that my mother abandoned us for the sake of vodka.

I am trying to do well in school so that I can go on to a trade college and become

a carpenter so that I will be able to provide for myself and my family. Here at school I take classes in the woodworking workshop where we learn to refurbish furniture and make various wood items. I know all of this will come in handy in life.

I am going to get on well with my friends and with all people, take care of my sister, obey my elders. I'm going to read books and exercise. I want to work and live normally so that my children won't have to suffer like my sister and I did.

Dmitri Krasnov, 15 years old
Idritsa Orphanage

MY SPECIAL PLACE

Every person needs a home. The orphanage has become my home. I have been living there for seven years. Here I have found maternal warmth, domestic comfort, love, understanding, and friends. The caretakers here have replaced the mother whom I lost. They've taught me everything you need to know to get by in this life: how to sew, knit, keep things tidy and cozy, cook, interact with other people and many other things. I, as well as many others, call them "Mom." I do, after all, trust them with my secrets and share with them my ups and downs. I am very grateful to our teachers. They patiently teach us to read, sew, embroider, to work with tools.

I cannot even imagine my life if there weren't such people who give all of their love and attention to children. It's a good thing that there are orphanages where any child who hasn't been blessed with a fortunate upbringing can find shelter, warmth,

understanding and everything else he has been deprived of.

I have only one year left at the orphanage. It's sad that I will have to leave my special home and loved ones. But I will try to show my gratitude to those who gave me a happy childhood through my actions. I will forever keep the warmth of my home in my heart.

Irina Sinchugova, 16 years old
Opochka specialized orphanage

I now live in an orphanage that is located in a very picturesque area. All around the scenery is beautiful and there are two nearby lakes where we go fishing and swimming in the summer. We often go into the woods for berries and also go hiking. Everything is taken care of in school by caring and attentive adults. There is a nice group of kids and we do everything together. I have many good friends. We hang out together, play sports and board

games, read and watch movies.

I am happy to be studying in the carpentry workshop where I'm learning how to repair furniture. In my spare time, I am learning how to knit, clean and mend clothing since these are very useful skills to have.

Soon I will finish school and I want to have a good life, not like my parents. I want to have a loving family where the children are happy to be living with us, unlike me and my four brothers who were kicked out of our house.

So, I intend to not get hooked on bad habits, learn self control, get along well with others, and respect elders while not offending those younger than I either. I don't smoke and I will try never to smoke and drink, and then it will probably be easier for me to live on my own. Now, I'm living in an orphanage, attending school and everything is fine. Thank you to my teachers and to everyone else who is trying to make my life a little happier.

Yuri Mokrinski, 15 years old
Idritsa Orphanage

RCWS Awards First Scholarships

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Children's Fund have agreed to assist both students with the adjustment to independent life, help them in planning their monthly expense budget, and will monitor their academic and personal growth.

Usually, orphans come from impoverished and broken homes where parental alcoholism goes hand in hand with physical and emotional abuse. These youngsters are at-risk for falling into the same pattern of poverty and abuse as their parents, and having children of their own whom they later abandon to orphanages.

As a result of poor living conditions and scarce opportunities for education and personal enrichment, many orphans end up either enrolling in the least prestigious educational institutions or not continuing their education at all. According to the Russian Ministry of Education, only 4% of orphans are admitted to universities, 33% stay unemployed, and over 50% of orphans after graduation fall into the high-risk categories of crime and homelessness.

The situation is not, however, hopeless. Despite the rampant social problems among the orphan population, research shows that 1/3 of those children considered high-risk demonstrate an ability to adapt and acquire



Learning IT skills at the newly created
Computer Lab sponsored by RCWS

positive behaviors that will help them break free of the cycle of poverty. RCWS knows firsthand that positive results can be achieved when orphanages are equipped with proper staffing and resources. We have observed many bright children move on to higher education, and have met with many people who tirelessly advocate on their behalf.

As the project expands, RCWS aims to prepare students for college while at the orphanage, helping them to gain admission to various institutions of higher education, and to provide them with the support and resources necessary to successfully complete a degree program. We believe this program will have a tremendous impact on the futures of the scholarship recipients. As one of our Board Directors recently wrote, "It is great to hear of the two kids who are getting a chance

on life via the efforts of the RCWS. This is probably the greatest benefit our organization can provide to the next generation in Russia."

We hope we will have the resources to greatly expand the RCWS Scholarship program. We believe we are off to a good start.

How You Can Help

The Russian Children's Welfare Society is a US based nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status. The Society relies on private donations to support its various programs. Directed funding opportunities are also available. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check or money order to the Society's office. For donations via credit card, please call the office at 1-888-732-RCWS or 212-473-6263.

We are also seeking corporate sponsors to help fund our much needed programs. Corporate sponsorship of the RCWS's initiatives gives US-Russian businesses the opportunity to share in our success. If you belong to an organization with an established or developing corporate giving program, with special attention given to children's charity programs, please let us know about it. Also, you can multiply the size of your gift with a matching donation from your employer. We thank you in advance for your kind support!

Overcoming Obstacles, One Step at a Time

Maria Kaidanovich is a 21 year old woman living on her own in Moscow, who began college last year to become a social worker. Maria worked hard to overcome the physical limitations of cerebral palsy and the emotional difficulties associated with being an orphan to become an independent and contributing member of society. Much of her success can no doubt be attributed to the comprehensive services and programming offered by the "Preodolenie-L" rehabilitation center in Moscow.

Since 1992, the "Preodolenie-L" has helped over 3,000 children suffering from a variety of disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism, Downs syndrome, vision and hearing impairments, and other medical conditions such as diabetes and asthma. In Russian, preodolenie means "overcoming" and is a particularly apt name for such an institution where the aim is to help children, step by



Overcoming disability

step, improve their sociability, physical health, mobility and prospects for employment. When Maria started to attend the center in 1994, one of her legs was shorter than the other. The staff coordinated her medical treatment and arranged for her to have surgery so that she can now walk with more ease using a cane. The rehabilitative process was indeed lengthy and arduous, but Maria's success demonstrates that with the proper care and resources, children with disabilities are quite capable of learning, working, and leading good lives.

The "Preodolenie-L" has been lauded by the Moscow municipal government with good cause. Currently, 340 children visit either of the Center's two sites and receive assistance, free of charge, according to their needs. Children benefit from speech and physical therapy and activities that reinforce socially acceptable behaviors. The students have access to arts and crafts, sewing, carpentry and theatre studies workshops, and are invited on field trips to different cultural and historical points of interest. The Center is also very concerned with imparting work skills to the youngsters, and has the distinction of being the only social service organization in Moscow that trains students to become hair stylists. In 2003, the Center is opening a hair salon, which will be staffed by the students and patronized by people from low-income families and pensioners. Furthermore, the "Preodolenie-L" offers sup-



Celebrating the New Year brings smiles

port to the parents of handicapped children, giving advice on dealing with their child's special needs and how best to integrate them into family life.

With the help of the "Preodolenie-L", the Society held its third annual New Year's Party, or "yelka". The 2003 celebration took place at the Obratsov Puppet Theatre, with over 400 children from orphanages, shelters and rehabilitation centers throughout Moscow in attendance. A production of the *Fairytale of the Tsar Sultan* and a visit to the museum of theatre puppets provided lively entertainment. But best of all was the singing and dancing with Ded Moroz and Snegurochka, who treated these young revelers to candy. The accompanying picture certainly conveys their joy!

RCWS grants have also helped provide children with nourishing food, while participating in programs year round. We commend the center for its humane treatment of disabled children: for viewing them as real people and working to meet their multifarious needs.

It Takes a Russian Village

The Russian Orthodox School in Tutaev is an excellent resource for children in the community, offering a solid education while instilling important values that foster the students' growth into sensitive and honest human beings. The school is accredited and partially funded by the Russian government.

In addition to the regular gamut of subjects, students also study Church Slavonic, the foundations of Russian Orthodoxy and local church history. In all academic subjects, the teachers employ a student-centered approach, relying on the Socratic method to challenge students to improve their thinking skills. Particular attention is devoted to studying classics of Russian poetry and literature, providing material to discuss morality and ethical problems. The

school is particularly proud of its modest folk museum, whose exhibits consist of artifacts gathered by students during expeditions in the Yaroslavl region.

Graduates of the school continue their education at variety of institutions in and



Teaching a new generation

around Yaroslavl as well as in Moscow. All students receive training in practical professions, for example metalworking, since Tutaev's principal employer is a diesel factory and a likely source of jobs for the youngsters.

Since most of the students are from poor families, the school has greatly benefited from RCWS grants. Our funding has helped purchase new textbooks, visual aids, furniture, art supplies and sporting equipment, and provides meals for students. The school has also improved its workshops and made necessary renovations to the facility.

This year, the school was also able to distribute funds to several large families who needed wood to keep warm this winter. By relieving the school of some of its financial worries, the Society allows the staff to concentrate on the educational and spiritual upbringing of the youth in Tutaev, which will certainly help build a better Russia.

RCWS Grants to Russia in 2002–2003

Orphanages & Shelters:

1. **Orphanage #79, Rybinsk** – grant toward renovation.
2. **Idritsa Specialized Orphanage, Pskov region** – grant for a minibus, vocational training program, as well as equipment for sewing, agricultural, painting/plastering and cooking classes.
3. **St. Alexis School and Orphanage, Novoalexeevka** – grant toward a minibus, construction of a brick building and shower facilities for children, washing machines, and dryer.
4. **Pavsky specialized orphanage, Pskov region** – grant for a minibus, farming equipment, winter clothing, and shoes.
5. **Orphanages in Vladikavkaz: Orphanage for Disabled Children “Laska,” Vladikavkazsky Orphanage, Mozdoksky Orphanage, Orphanage No. 1 with Treatment Facilities, Vladikavkaz Republic Orphanage, Orphanage “Solnyshko”** – grants for general support.
6. **OPOCHKA Specialized Orphanage, Pskov region** – grant for a minibus, vocational training and rehabilitation program.
7. **Baby Orphanage, Kaliningrad** – direct contribution for rehabilitation equipment and food for children.
8. **Novomoskovsky School and Orphanage #2, Tula Region** – grant for a minibus, physiotherapy and sporting equipment.
9. **Svir Stroi Orphanage, Leningrad region** – emergency grant.
10. **Children’s Home “Pavlin”, Moscow** – grant toward furniture, washing machine, computers, copy machine, office supplies, and well.
11. **Shelter “Way Home”, Moscow** – direct contribution for equipment and renovation expenses.

Medical Programs:

1. **The Department of Pediatric Facial Surgery at the Moscow Medical Stomatological University** – grant for specialized equipment to improve patient’s treatment.
2. **Assistance to children with cleft lip and palate** – sponsored over 280 cleft surgeries and conducted a Training Symposium for 250 medical professionals (Smile Train grant).
3. **Filatov Children’s Hospital** – grant for a DASH-3000 monitor.

Rehabilitation Centers for Disabled Children:

1. **Center “Vita” for Children with Disabilities, Velikiy Novgorod** – grant for blood-glucose monitoring equipment and supplies for 50 kids.
2. **“Krug” Rehabilitation Center for disabled children and their families, Moscow** – grant toward supplies for vocational workshops, exhibitions, textbooks, food, and medical assistance.
3. **“Preodolenie-L” Center for Vocational and Creative Rehabilitation of Disabled Children, Moscow** – grant to cover food expenses for 65 children.
4. **“Inspiration” Rehabilitation Center, Nicolskoe Gagarino** – grant for equipment and supplies for workshops, transportation expenses, furniture, clothing, toys, books, and food for children.
5. **Charitable Foundation “Our Help,” St. Petersburg** – grant for educational and cultural outings for orphans and disabled children to various museums, parks and palaces in the St. Petersburg region.
6. **Rehabilitation Art Center “Maria’s Children,” Moscow** – grant for vocational and independent living trainings, art supplies, and food.

Schools:

1. **Russian Orthodox School, Tutaev** – grant for supplies and equipment for art, sewing, and cabinet making workshops; food; and renovation of school facilities.
2. **St. Nicholas Classical School, Kislovodsk** – grant for computer equipment, renovation expenses, textbooks, medication, vitamins, and food for 218 students.
3. **Pushkin School, Novomoskovsk** – grant for renovation of the school facilities, computers, textbooks, and office supplies.
4. **Scholarships for 5 students talented in music, Scriabine Museum** – courtesy of Ms. Raisa Scriabine.

(List incomplete)

RCWS Welcomes New Board Members

Raisa Scriabine was born in Germany and raised in New York. Among other activities, Raisa was a program officer for the U.S. Department of the Interior coordinating wildlife and protected area programs under the US-USSR Environmental Agreement; was head of public affairs of the World Conservation Union in Switzerland and was Associate Editor of *Ambio*, the environmental magazine of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. She has also served as Deputy Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Raisa later became a senior program officer at the Academy for Educational Development where she helped manage polio and diphtheria eradication efforts in Russia and former Soviet Republics.

She is presently an international development consultant working on international public health issues for Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and UNICEF. She also helped found WorldlinkTV.

Raisa is on the board of a number of organizations including Internews, Initiative for Social Action and Renewal in Eurasia, Earth Policy Institute and St. James School. She resides in Washington, D.C.

Peter A. Basilevsky is a partner of Satterlee Stephens Burke & Burke LLP. He earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Columbia University.

Peter was a young boy when his family arrived from Europe and settled in Sea Cliff, Long Island, New York. The grandson of General Baron Peter N. Wrangel, last Commander-in-Chief of the White Russian forces, Peter and his family have been very active in the Russian community. His late sister, Helen, drew the emblem of the first Petroushka Ball, which has subsequently been used in every invitation and Ball program.

Peter and his wife, Bette, reside in Cos Cob, Ct. They have two grown children.

Lannyl Stephens Ossorguine, born in Louisiana, received a B.A. from The University of Texas and a M.F.A. from The American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. She has appeared both on and off Broadway and in numerous television shows and films.

For the past three years, Lannyl has served as Chairperson of The Petroushka Ball. She and her husband Serge, reside in New York City with their two young children, Michael and Georgia Anne.

Nadia Lipsky was born and grew up in Russia. She graduated Cum Laude from The Moscow Central Institute of Physical Culture. In 1989, she won the Mrs. Russia contest, which led to an invitation to host a women's program on National Television. While serving as a public relations director at the information agency PARI, Nadia co-authored the Divo Series of books on Russian Culture and History. In 1994, Nadia emigrated to the United States. She became involved with the RCWS on the Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis Project, for which she helped raise funds. Nadia resides in New York, with her husband Dr. Richard Lipsky, with whom she has founded the Opiate Detoxification Institute to study and treat addiction. Her daughter Julie attends Stanford University.

Two Retire from Board

After many years of valuable service, the Society regretfully accepted Kir Karouna’s resignation from the Board of Directors. Kir served unselfishly as Chairman of the Audit Committee. We will miss his measured advice and input as “archivist”. The Society also thanks Drew Tiajolloff for his generosity and enthusiastic support while a member of our Board. We wish both Kir and Drew the best and look forward to their continued involvement with the RCWS.

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RCWS NEWS

Vol. 8 Fall 2003

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RCWS NEWS is published by the
 Russian Children's Welfare Society

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