

Joy of the 4th Yelka Party in Moscow

This past winter, the Russian Children's Welfare Society was delighted to host our fourth annual Yelka ("Christmas Tree") Party at the renowned Yuri Nikulin Circus in Moscow. The event, which continues to be one of our most rewarding projects,



Blind children performing for patients at the Moscow Institute of Rheumatology

delivered holiday cheer to more than 300 hundred children from orphanages, shelters and rehabilitation centers in and around Moscow, Yaroslavl, and even Pskov. In addition, youngsters from Novomoskovsk arrived to the party in a colorful new van provided by an RCWS grant.

The Yelka celebration did indeed give children a true taste of the big top, complete with acrobats, clowns, a camel and a friendly elephant. Ms. Oxana Fedorova, former Miss Universe and a member of our Russia Advisory Board, graciously helped to distribute gifts to the children, many of whom excitedly recognized her as hostess of a popular children's television program. The boys and girls received not only chocolates and presents provided by the Society, but also building kits donated by the LEGO



Oxana Fedorova distributes presents

company in Russia. The festivities without a doubt filled all in attendance with the Christmas spirit.

Since some children are sadly too sick or disabled to travel, RCWS brought the New Year's party to them. The Society organized an additional Yelka at the Moscow Medical Institute of Rheumatology, making sure boys and girls

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Gala Petroushka on the Hudson Yacht Cruise Sets New Records

The 4th Annual "Petroushka on the Hudson" cruise took place on Thursday, June 10th, 2004. The weather held up as the World Yacht "Princess" sailed around the Statue of Liberty, up the East River to the U.N. and back to Pier 81.

Started by the RCWS in 2000 to raise muchneeded additional funds for children in Russia, the cruise has quickly grown into a highly-anticipated summer event, this year attracting 240 guests. Petroushka on the Hudson has gained popularity among young professionals residing in the New York area, many of whom were born and raised in Russia and are fully aware of the plight of



Marina Arsenijevic

Photo credit: Dimitri Sherman

those less fortunate.

The guests danced to both popular tunes and hits from eras past as a silent auction was being held on the main deck. All had an opportunity to bid on unique gifts, including a sports jersey signed by New York Islander All-Star Alexei Yashin, a week's stay at Jupiter Island Golf Spa in Florida, Anna Netrebko's newly released DVD, and samples from a beautiful collection of amber jewelry presented by amber design studio Valerio 888.

One of the evening's highlights was a performance by concert pianist Marina Arsenijevic. Born and raised in former Yugoslavia, Marina will return to Carnegie Hall for an encore performance on October 14, 2004.

Party guests were invited to take small gift bags with Russian chocolates and Jewel of Russia Cranberry Vodka souvenir bottles home as mementos of the evening. This was possible thanks to the in-kind donations of A. Korkunov Chocolatier, Inc. and BMC Imports, Inc. Also sponsoring the event was NTV America, a premier



Carol Alt, Alexei Yashin and Vladimir Fekula

Russian-language broadcasting channel that provided coverage for the event as well as a generous donation.

We would like to thank Carol Alt, Mrs. Veronica Atkins, Count and Countess Nicholas Bobrinskoy, Dr. Donald Bronn, Michael Jordan, Nadia Lipsky, Mr. and Mrs. Konstantin Pio-Ulsky, Tanya Sarandinaki, Marina Troshina, Edward Romanov, Alexei Yashin and many other friends of the Society for making our 4th "Petroushka on the Hudson" such a success.

First Year of RCWS Scholarship Program A Great Success

One of our most promising accomplishments in 2003, thanks to the support of Mrs. Nika Thayer, was the implementation of a scholarship program for orphans demonstrating academic potential. Two students, Andrei Loginov and Elena Andreeva, were our initial aid recipients. A recent donation from Mr. Kent Dunlap allowed RCWS to add a third student, Eugenia Neznaikina, to our list. Here is a brief update on their progress during their first year of college.

Andrei Loginov attends the Civil Construction College in Pskov. He is earning solid grades as he acquires the necessary academic background and practical skills to become a builder and already plans to further his education at an institute once he completes



Andrei Loginov (center) with his peers



Eugenia Neznaikina doing her homework

his college program. Making the most of his experience, Andrei has also joined the basketball team.

Elena Andreeva is enrolled in the Veterinary Department of the Idritsa Agricultural Technical School. She is doing exceptional work, earning 4's and 5's across the board. In a letter to the Society, Elena was clearly impressed with her teachers. The teaching staff has characterized her as diligent, ambitious and receptive to constructive criticism. Even though adjusting was difficult at first, Elena has settled down and approaches schooling with determination and enthusiasm.

Eugenia Neznaikina is studying in the Pharmaceutical Department of the Khrestianskii State Institute. Though some-

what shy and reserved, she is doing well in all of her subjects and is noted for her analytical mind and ability to master material quickly. Before receiving support from the Society, Eugenia had to work a variety of jobs just to earn enough money for food. Now she can focus instead on her studies.

The Pskov Children's Fund has been very earnest in monitoring and reporting on our scholarship recipients. They have made sure the students use their stipends for food, proper clothing, and educational materials. They also stepped in to make sure the housing situation for the students was acceptable and conducive



Elena Andreeva at her kitchen

to learning. They have furthermore done a laudable job giving moral support and advice to the students in their new environments. RCWS is very pleased with the progress of the scholarship program!

Petroushka Ball 2004

Nika Pleshkova-Thayer Receives John Engalitcheff Award

The excitement of the circus filled the Grand Ballroom of the Plaza Hotel on Friday, February 6th, as the 39th annual Petroushka Ball continued a long tradition of Russian merrymaking and entertainment. Attended by over 700 beautifully dressed dinner and dancing guests, the Ball was a fitting finale for an especially productive year. Co-chairpersons Lannyl and Serge Ossorguine demonstrated once again their dedication to the Society's main fundraiser and overall mission.

Following an inspiring performance by a variety of Russian performers courtesy of Acrobats. Inc., guests witnessed the second-ever presentation of The John Engalitcheff, Jr. Award. This honor is given to either a volunteer, representative or major donor who has been instrumental in assisting the Society in its work. President Vladimir P. Fekula was proud to announce RCWS patron Nika Pleshkova-Thayer as the 2004 recipient. An active philanthropist and generous supporter of the Society's recently inaugurated scholarship program, Mrs. Thayer has



"Mnogaya Leta" chorus

been a valued friend of the Society for well over a decade. The ceremony ended in a spirited "Mnogaya Leta" ("Many Years") dedicated to Mrs. Thayer, sung by a chorus of male volunteers drawn from among the dinner guests and conducted by Nicholas Schidlovsky, a relative of the late Mr. Engalitcheff.

Seasoned Petroushka Ball-goers were delighted to see that Tatiana Tolstoy Penkrat outdid herself as usual with a lovely array of flowers at each table. Dinner guests were treated to boxes of confectionary delights provided by Korkunov Chocolatier as well

as red and white California wines donated by Michael Jordan of Aton Securities. Popcorn bags of goodies completed the circus theme and lightened the spirits of our patrons.

A dazzling assortment of raffle prizes, graciously organized by Beatrice Fekula, was also on display. The grand prize, donated by President of the Fabergé Collection Mr. Michael Ruddy, was a reproduction of the sparkling "Coronation Egg," created by Fabergé and presented to Empress Alexandra Nikolaevna as a Coronation gift in May 1896.

Following dinner, dancers were greeted by the strains of The Lester Lanin Orchestra in the Grand Ballroom and Balalaika Orchestras in the adjoining ballrooms, and waltzed well into Saturday morning. As always, the Petroushka Ball showcased an exquisite diffusion of Russian and American cultures. The Society is proud to have the continued support of so many outstanding members of the Russian community, including Count and Countess Bobrinskoy, who ensure that this important and much-anticipated event will continue many years into the future.

Our 40th Petroushka Ball will be held on Friday, February 4th, 2005.

Assisting the Gagarinsk Orphanage

Might the Next Famous Russian Cosmonaut Be Among these Children?



The town of Gagarinsk, located in the Smolensk region, bears the name of its most famous son, Yuri Gagarin, the first man to orbit the earth and a symbol of the Soviet Union's Cold War era technological prowess. Despite this source

of pride for Russians, the town is also home to the Gagarinsk Specialized Orphanage and School, a dilapidated facility that has not been renovated since its construction in 1947. The orphanage currently serves 169 children from 7 to 17 years of age with slight learning disabilities. In April 2004, the Society decided to cooperate with Severnaya Korona, a children's charity founded by the wife of Russia's Finance Minister, Irina Kudrina, to help restore the orphanage to a standard of decency.

During a site visit to Gagarinsk, RCWS Moscow Director Ludmila Koroleva was stunned by the appalling poverty and decay that plagues the orphanage and the surrounding community. Ludmila reported that the classrooms and dormitories were very poorly furnished and that children had the opportunity to bathe only one day per week in a dank, cold basement with dangerously decrepit piping. The children's recreation area consisted of a

cramped room with a broken couch and small television.

RCWS determined that the best use of our resources was to renovate the laundry facility and equip the orphanage with an operable industrial sized washer and dryer. Before the Society's distribution of a \$15,000 grant in May 2004, two elderly women would wash linens



Gagarinsk orphanage
(in need of repair)

by hand in ice cold water, clearly a less than optimal way of ensuring a clean and hygienic environment for the children. Severnaya Korona has been working to negotiate discounted prices for the materials and supplies necessary for the renovations in order to stretch grant dollars as far as possible. In addition, a smaller portion of the grant was



Gagarinsk orphanage laundry facility

used to purchase televisions and a VCR for recreational and educational purposes.

Despite the horrid conditions and limited resources, the staff at the Gagarinsk Specialized School and Orphanage really does try to provide the best academic and extracurricular offerings and medical care possible. Since its opening, the orphanage has managed to raise youngsters who have become world class amateur rowers, teachers, doctors, conservatory graduates, and farmers.

Unfortunately, the premises have fallen into such capital disrepair that it becomes difficult to know how to prioritize a whole host of other needs, including medicine, sporting equipment, school supplies, clothing, classroom furniture, more nutritional food, etc. RCWS believes that a new laundry room is a solid step towards helping improve the health and wellbeing of these children.

Letter to the Editor

RCWS invites you to share your comments, feedback and other items of interest with other newsletter readers. Please send or e-mail letters to the New York office. *Letters are subject to editing.*

Dear RCWS,

A few years ago, when Artem Ivanov was a young teen, he was completely housebound. Suffering from crippling cerebral palsy since birth and considered hopeless by Russian doctors, he could not walk, sit up easily in his wheelchair, or go out to school. Yet Artem, who is now 24, has attended classes and completed his university degree in social work.

Artem and his therapists credit therapeutic horseback riding provided through the Preodolenie-L Center for handicapped children in Moscow with his amazing transformation. His time on horseback gained him a considerable amount of mobility and helped move him out of the wheelchair and onto crutches. According to the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association

(NARHA), hippo-therapy is a special form of physical and psychological therapy facilitated by the movement of the horse.

Artem is determined to provide a similar experience to other disabled children at the Preodolenie-L Center. To that end, he has become a certified horse therapist himself and conducted an experimental pilot project called "Victory" this past spring. Fedor, a blind three year old, rode the horse with great excitement, and his hand and leg coordination showed improvement as a result. After participating in "Victory," Vika, a young girl with cerebral palsy, has improved



"Victory" project participant

her balance and is in better spirits.

NARHA explains the results: "Because horseback riding gently and rhythmically moves the rider's body in a manner similar to a human gait, riders with physical disabilities often show improvement in flexibility, balance and muscle strength. For individuals with mental or emotional disabilities, the unique relationship formed with the horse can lead to increased confidence, patience and self-esteem."

Preodolenie needs help locating partners and sponsors for this project. The program aims to begin in fall 2004 and assist as many as 60 low-income children. If anyone, especially a horse lover, can contribute either advice, money or contacts for this project, please contact RCWS in New York. The Society has assisted the Preodolenie-L Center over the last several years with grants supporting their staple rehabilitation programs, which serve approximately 200 children.

Toni Russin, Volunteer at Preodolenie-L

Contact the Society for additional information regarding this project.

Shelter "Vera" in St. Petersburg Finding a Home for Less Fortunate Children

For the past twelve years, I have monitored the development of social services for neglected children in St. Petersburg. Within the city, there are currently over 30,000 children who need some sort of social assistance. At the "Vera" shelter, opened in 1996, we do all we can to help needy children. Our operation is small, serving a maximum of 31 children at a time. By law, children can remain at the shelter for up to a year, during which time our staff must work swiftly to either reunite the youngsters with their biological families, or place them in orphanages or foster homes.

Unfortunately, some orphanages are unable to give children the supervision, guidance and care that they need. I remember Andrei and Jana Vilkye, a brother and sister, who came to our shelter after the death of their parents. After a period of psychological counseling, the children were placed in a children's home, where they again met with tragedy. Shortly after their arrival, the 16-year old girl jumped to her death from the ninth floor.

On a brighter note, in 2003 three girls named Sasha, Nastya and Dasha arrived at the shelter. While we prepared to send the children to an orphanage, we were lucky enough to find a foster family for them. Dasha and Nastya have already settled in and await



Sasha's arrival after treatment for tuberculosis. Our shelter will monitor the integration of these young girls into their new family for a year before turning the task over to the government.

At the "Vera" shelter, we believe that our method should resemble that of a jeweler who carefully cuts a stone -- with care, precision and love. The government must recognize the importance of caring for vulnerable children and offer us the support we need. Otherwise, neglected children will once again crowd our streets, and the idea that "every child has the right to a family and to a dignified life" will remain another empty slogan.

By Georgii Sharkov, Director "Vera"
Children's Shelter, St. Petersburg

In an effort to help homeless children escape life on the streets, the "Vera" shelter, under the leadership of Mr. Sharkov, drew up a plan to establish "group homes" for teenagers. Approximately 5-7 teenagers who have completed a program of rehabilitative counseling would then live together in a fully equipped apartment under the close supervision of adults. The goal of the project is to help teens from 14 to 18 years of age in the process of socialization, while teaching them independent living skills useful in constructing a future.

The Russian Children's Welfare Society supported the shelter's efforts with a \$10,800 grant in early 2004. The city administration was apparently very impressed with the concept of the program, and very embarrassed that it took foreign sponsors to help implement it. As a result, the local government has agreed to allocate funds for an apartment for the group home, while RCWS funds will instead be used for renovations and other costs related to making the program a success. We are thrilled that philanthropic efforts originating in the U.S. have been able to exert pressure on the Russian government in some small way to take an active role in tending to the lives of unfortunate children.

Inspired by Aleksandr Pushkin: A School in Novomoskovsk

Russia's most revered poet, Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin (1799-1837), continues to stir the Russian soul, instilling a love of beauty and Russian culture in a new generation of schoolchildren. For the last seven years, the Pushkin School in the town of Novomoskovsk has attracted over 400 children annually to participate in a curriculum devoted entirely to the study of Pushkin and his era. The school is the only one of its kind in Russia and has earned recognition



from the Ministry of Education as well as the International Pushkin Fund. The teachers are trained in the latest Pushkin scholarship, and students have won numerous awards for their research, recitation of poetry and participation in various Pushkin-themed competitions.

The Pushkin School is a bright spot within Novomoskovsk, whose environment was contaminated by the Chernobyl disaster and suffers additional damage from the abundance of chemical factories. Unfortunately, while the school offers a unique supplemental educational opportunity, it relies totally on donations to operate. The students by and large come from families of very modest means.

RCWS offered several grants to the Pushkin School to renovate the premises, enhance their library, purchase a computer and sponsor student participation in national and international competitions. We applaud the school's efforts to help youngsters be a part of Pushkin's lasting cultural legacy.

Art Therapy for Blind Children in St. Petersburg

The Art Therapy Studio for Blind and Visually Impaired Children in St. Petersburg is providing a great service for a highly underserved population. The organization's goal is to help children to move more freely, naturally and confidently, despite the limitations of their disability. Kids of all ages, including toddlers, are welcome to take the free classes. While most rehabilitation classes for the blind focus on music or aural arts, the Art Therapy Studio focuses on improving grace, balance and confidence through dance, gymnastics and improvisation of movements. The students learn to perform and have participated in dance festivals alongside children with normal vision.

RCWS is supporting the Studio's efforts to expand the project, which now involves 80-100 children. Funds to renovate the studio, as well purchase equipment and a piano, will enable 50 additional children to take part in the art therapy lessons. It's wonderful that visually impaired children can engage in physical activity in such a protected and productive environment!

A Productive Year in Pskov

RCWS Funds First Regional Orphanage Network

Life is changing at the Pskov orphanages! The Society's support of vocational training programs and college prep programs is helping children prepare for the world outside the orphanage. Students now have opportunities to compete for RCWS sponsored scholarships, and the purchase of minivans has helped open up opportunities for excursions, minimizing the isolation of orphanage life. New washing machines, gardening tools, kitchen utensils, wash basins...all of these most basic of items have raised the standard of living at the orphanages. Here are some more highlights of RCWS grants so far in 2004!

The Idritsa Specialized Orphanage and School realized its longtime dream of purchasing a tractor. By increasing the amount of land under cultivation, the orphanage can grow more food and devote more money on necessities such as medicines or school supplies. They



RCWS tractor creates new opportunities

now also raise livestock. It is important that the children are learning husbandry skills, which might help them find employment in such a rural area. Sergei Petrov, a graduate of the orphanage writes: *"My friends and I really like working on our farm. We love the animals, especially the calves and piglets. Thanks to RCWS, I know how to take care of them better; I respect other people's labor more and I have begun to have a more serious attitude toward responsibilities I am given."*

The Pavsk Orphanage continues to upgrade its sewing, home economics and carpentry workshops. It has also improved its facilities by purchasing furniture for the recreation rooms, new sinks for the bathrooms and new bedding and towels. They have acquired a number of gardening tools, such as buckets, shovels, rakes and axes to help clean up the outdoors and cut wood for heating.

The Opochnka Specialized Orphanage is pleased to now have the proper equipment to run its plastering and painting workshop. The students are learning how to plaster, paint walls and ceilings and hang wallpaper and will use their skills to fix up the orphanage. The orphanage has also planted apple trees, currant bushes and potatoes and intends to plant more extensive vegetable and flower gardens. In the



Students at the Opochnka Specialized Orphanage

words of recent orphanage graduate Oksana Atlasova: *"It will be great to return for a visit and see the fruits of our labor...The day we planted the garden was a real holiday!"*

The Opochnka Orphanage has established a fully furnished two room apartment where training of foster families is conducted and visits between family members and orphans can take place. The children can also come here to relax and watch television. The Orphanage sends its thanks for its new computer and washing machine.

In addition, RCWS provided firsttime support to two other orphanages. A RCWS grant helped equip a three bedroom apartment to be used as a group home for graduates of the **Bel'sko-Ustenskii Orphanage**. **The Bobrovskii Orphanage** received a small grant for the purchase of warm coats so that the children are not stuck inside all winter. We look forward to sharing the accomplishments of the Pskov orphanages in the coming years!

Joy of the 4th Yelka Party in Moscow

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in the pediatric department also received gifts and sweets. Disabled children from the Preodolenie-L rehabilitation center, brightly clad in carnival costumes, eagerly arrived at the hospital to entertain the little patients suffering from arthritis. "I can hardly describe to you," RCWS Moscow Director Ludmila Koroleva wrote of this event, "how touching it was to see blind kids nicely singing and playing flutes, dancing, and performing in small plays. Many doctors were unable to suppress their tears." Ludmila also noted that the debilitated children at the Institute greatly benefited from seeing that disabled children can lead an active life and realize their creative potential.

Our third Yelka party took place at the Filatov Children's hospital. A very realistic Ded Moroz, performed for free by actor Konstantin Ignatkov, elicited shouts of admiration from children too sick to leave their beds. Ludmila was deeply affected by watching the sheer happiness on the faces of kids battling serious illnesses and moved



Ded Moroz visits the Filatov Hospital

even more by their most sincere expressions of gratitude. She fully intends to organize more Christmas visits to hospitals next year.

The continued enthusiasm and cooperation of our Moscow office ensures the expansion of the Yelka tradition for years to come. The accompanying photographs show that Ded Moroz was able to bring smiles and hope this year to the children who really need it most. We thank each and every one of our guests, volunteers, organizers and donors for their role in these joyous occasions, which reached out to over 500 children in total.

RCWS Welcomes New Board Member

We are pleased to report that Mr. Thomas McPartland has joined our Board of Directors. After law school, Tom joined the in-house legal staff of RCA Corporation. Three years later, Bertelsman Media Group recruited him, where over the next 7 years he advanced to become the worldwide head of Business Development and Deputy General Counsel. He then formed his own company, Liberty Digital, which focuses on new technology initiatives in the media sector. Within four years, the company went public and achieved one of the greatest percentage market cap increases in the history of NASDAQ.

Currently, Tom is a member of the Board of Moscow Cablecom, which owns the city of Moscow's cable television and he also sits on several other commercial Boards. His philanthropic activities include sitting on the Boards of the Green Vale School, The Russian Gift of Life and Old Westbury Gardens.

A longtime resident of Sea Cliff, Tom's wife Ellen is very active in the Church of Our Lady of Kazan. Their two sons, Peter and James, attend local schools.

Building Bridges in St. Petersburg A Special Program Working with Parents

Official statistics from Russian state agencies, as well as from international child advocacy groups, show that the 15,000 graduates of orphanages each year are at high risk for homelessness, suicide, unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, and involvement in crime. At the same time, the orphanage system in Russia is absorbing more than 100,000 new children each year, preparing a new generation of orphans for a dismal fate. Perhaps building newer and better equipped orphanages throughout Russia is not the answer to the scourge of child abandonment. The highly regarded Parents Bridge Fund in St. Petersburg has pursued an alternative course that goes to the root of the problem, preventing children from becoming orphans in the first place.

Parents Bridge operates four comprehensive projects to achieve their mission. The first is called "From Despair to Hope," and offers emergency support to families undergoing some sort of crisis, whether financial, emotional, or both, to help keep the family intact. Approximately 90-95% of abandoned children in Russia still have one living parent. In many of these cases, a child who is born with an illness or some sort of disability seems to be an unthinkable burden for a parent or family already living in poverty. By giving the family financial support, helping them acquire necessary medicine and offering psychological counseling, the Parents Bridge Fund has aided more than 600 families since 2000. In so doing, they have reduced the possibility of hundreds of children of being turned over to orphanages.

One striking example of the assistance that Parents Bridge has provided is accident victim Ksenia Kunichka. The 11-year-old girl resides with her grandmother, her only living relative,



who is battling cancer. Tragically, Ksenia was hit by a car, languished in a coma for weeks, and is now undergoing a long recovery to learn how to walk, talk and write again. She managed to speak her first words, however limply, on a hot summer day: "I want ice cream." Ksenia's grandmother is worn out from taking care of her on top of her own health problems, but is profoundly grateful for the support of Parents Bridge, whose sponsorship is paying for expensive medicines to help Ksenia restore her health. Without the friendship and care of the Fund, who knows if this family could have endured this unforeseen crisis.

In an initiative called "Angels with Broken Wings," the Fund also seeks out adoptive and

foster families for orphans, arming them with different strategies to make the new arrangements work as well as possible during the initial placement. To help build cohesive families, however, is a long process that requires additional training for parents, psychological counseling and the provision of necessary medical support. This phase of the program is called "Together Step by Step" and is currently supporting 256 families and 560 children as they build bonds and lay the foundation for a new family life.

The final component of the Fund's efforts is the dissemination of information about the problem of orphanhood within Russia and around the world. "Bridge to Russia's Children" uses various media outlets, including a web site, press conferences and the publication of a journal, to share solutions that ease the plight of abandoned children based on the research and experiences of Russian and foreign social service agencies. Publicizing the problem also draws potential sponsors and foster families to the Fund's attention.

RCWS Moscow Director Ludmila Koroleva met with the staff of Parents Bridge, including its President, Marina Levina, and characterized them all as consummate professionals and tireless advocates for children. Most of them were raising large families that included both biological and adopted children. When the Fund was founded in 1987 in St. Petersburg, the adoption of Russian orphans, especially those disabled or sick, was virtually unheard of. Clearly, through education, sheer determination and enthusiasm, this organization sets a wonderful example for the future of child welfare agencies in Russia. RCWS is proud to have supported their efforts with an initial grant to purchase medicine and specialized equipment for sick children, and for direct assistance to families considering abandoning sick newborns.

Hats Off... in Pskov

Hats off to Moscow businessman and philanthropist Dmitri Mineev, owner of the Chrestoff trademark in Russia! In October 2003, Mr. Mineev donated 10,000 high quality lambs' wool hats to orphans in the Pskov region at a value of \$35,000. Delivery was sponsored by Alexei Mikhailuk, head of the Customs House company and member of the RCWS Russia Advisory Board, saving us \$1,000 in trucking fees for the heavy cargo. The Pskov Children's Fund distributed the hats to a variety of different children's institutions, including 68

orphanages, schools, shelters, schools for the hearing impaired, and juvenile detention centers, as well as to children in poor families.

The chronic shortage of proper winter clothing in orphanages throughout Russia presents particular problems given the harsh climate, and the gifts that these gentlemen have provided should not be overlooked. On behalf of the thousands of children who will stay warm during the cold winter months, we express our warmest thanks! RCWS Moscow



Director Ludmila Koroleva deserves special mention for her excellent work in coordinating this project, and Mr. Mineev has kindly offered to donate even more hats in the future.

RCWS Grants to Russia in 2003 - 2004

Orphanages and Shelters:

1. **OPOCHKA Specialized School and Orphanage, Pskov region** - grants for the purchase of carpentry and plastering equipment & tools; sewing machines; farm equipment (tractor, mower, etc.); computer, modem, printer, copy machine; and vocational training literature.
2. **St. Alexis School and Orphanage, Novoalexeevka** - grant to complete the construction of an addition to the education facilities.
3. **School and Orphanage #2, Novomoskovsk, Tula region** - grant for the purchase of a minibus seating 24 children.
4. **Svir Story Orphanage, Leningrad region** - emergency grant.
5. **OPOCHKA Orphanage, Pskov region** - grant toward the purchase of furniture for a social rehabilitation center and kitchen; kitchen utensils; carpentry and cabinetmaking tools for vocational training and renovation purposes.
6. **Pavsky Specialized Orphanage, Pskov region** - grants to cover winter clothing, shoes, and linens for 115 children; pump, washstands, electric meat grinder, stove, microwave, refrigerator, vacuum, furniture; sewing and farm equipment.
7. **Idritsa Specialized Orphanage, Pskov region** - grant to purchase a tractor to increase the orphanage's agricultural output and to provide agricultural training for the children.
8. **Orphanage "Solnyshko," Vladikavkaz** - grant for linens, towels, and blankets.
9. **Nonprofit Organization "Dom Miloserdia"** - grant to cover food expenses at an orphanage in Saraktash, Orenburg region.
10. **Belsko-Ustenskiy Specialized Orphanage, Pskov region** - grants to equip and maintain a training center where children are taught independent living skills; dental equipment; speech therapy and psychological development tools; tutoring for entrance exams.
11. **Shelter for Children and Adolescent Teenagers "Vera," St. Petersburg** - grant to establish group homes for 5-7 teenagers/street children.
12. **Children's Home "Pavlin," Moscow** - grant for cabinets, shelves, night tables, and beds for 25 children; washing machine; office supplies.
13. **Gagarinsk Specialized Orphanage, Smolensk region** - washing machine, 11 TV sets and VCR, shoes for 169 children, and vitamins.
14. **Orphanage #2, Novomoskovsk, Tula region** - grant to cover art supplies, furniture, computer, and sightseeing tours for 175 children.

Hospitals and Rehabilitation Centers:

1. **The Department of Pediatric Facial Surgery at the Moscow Medical Stomatological University** - grant to purchase a Naso-Faringo-Laryngoscope tube (diameter 2.4 mm, length 535 mm) to diagnose and treat patients who are 1-2 years old.
2. **The Filatov Children's Hospital, Moscow** - grant to purchase a DASH-3000 Neonatal Monitor.
3. **Institute of Rheumatology, Russian Academy of Medical Science, Moscow** - grant for diagnostic and medical equipment that has increased patient treatment by 20%; purchase of furniture.
4. **Pediatric Department, Sechenov Medical Academy, Moscow** - grant for medical equipment.
5. **Center "Vita" for Children with Disabilities, Velikiy Novgorod** - grant to provide 50 children suffering from diabetes with blood-glucose monitoring equipment (glucometers) and needles; education program for diabetic children and their parents on insulin injections and using glucose tests.
6. **St. Petersburg Public Charitable Fund "Parents Bridge"** - grant to purchase medication and special equipment for 7 seriously ill children; support for families with seriously ill newborn children to prevent abandonment.
7. **The St. Petersburg Humanitarian Children's Center "Aurora," St. Petersburg** - grant to provide consultations and treatment for children suffering from diabetes, and cerebral palsy.
8. **Rehabilitation Center "Inspiration", Nikolskoe-Gagarino** - grants for behavioral therapy, preparation for post-orphanage life; improvements to the facility.
9. **"Preodolenie L" Center for Vocational and Creative Rehabilitation of Disabled Children, Moscow** - grants to underwrite the expenses of the "Theater on Wheels" project, including costumes and art supplies; sporting equipment and food for 250 disabled children.
10. **"Krug" Rehabilitation Center for disabled children and their families, Moscow** - grant to initiate the "Special School" project allowing 70 children with learning disabilities to receive special educational opportunities and vocational training.
11. **Regional non-governmental organization "Healthy Teenager," St. Petersburg** - grant to involve teenagers in the restoration of historical landmarks; purchase of office supplies.
12. **Art Rehabilitation Center "Our Help," St. Petersburg** - grant for food and a puppet theatre for mentally challenged children.
13. **Art Therapy and Social Rehabilitation Center for The Visually Impaired, St. Petersburg** - grant to cover special equipment and art supplies; piano; massage table; renovation expenses.

(List incomplete)

How You Can Help

The Society relies on private donations to support its various programs. Our endowment allows 100% of donations go directly to help Russian children.

We are also seeking corporate sponsors to help fund our ongoing programs in Russia.

Save the Date!

**40th Annual Petroushka Ball
at the Plaza Hotel, February 4th, 2005**
call RCWS at 212-473-6263 for tickets,
auction donations and ads.

*Please join us in helping - and thank you
in advance for your kind support!*

- Please enroll me as a 2004-2005:
Petroushka Angel at \$2,500**
\$1,500 tax deductible (benefits: 4 dinner/
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Please accept my gift of \$_____

- Please direct my gift to:**
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SEND TO:

RUSSIAN CHILDREN'S WELFARE SOCIETY
200 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE 1617
NEW YORK, NY 10003
888-732-RCWS, 212-473-6263

EMAIL: MAIN@RCWS.ORG, WWW.RCWS.ORG

Russia's Children At-Risk: Statistical Snapshots

- Russia's population is **145 million**; **33 million** are under 18
- **700,000** orphans in Russia, increasing at the rate of **113,000** per year; UNICEF estimates that **95%** of these children are social orphans, meaning that they have at least one living parent who has given them up to the state
- **2,176** orphanages, number of orphanages has increased by more than **100%** in the last decade

- Statistics on orphanage graduates compiled by the Russian Ministry of Education:
- approximately **15,000** children leave Russian orphanages each year, usually at the age of 16 or 17
 - **50%** of orphans after graduation fall into a high-risk category
 - **40%** become drug or alcohol abusers
 - **40%** become involved in crime
 - **10%** commit suicide
 - **33%** stay unemployed
 - **20%** become homeless
 - only **4 %** are admitted to universities

- **2.5 million** children are homeless, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs
- **617,000** children are disabled
- The Russian Health Ministry reports that a stunning **60%** of the country's youth are in poor physical or psychological health
- only **30%** of pregnancies result in births
- only **15-20%** of newborn children are considered healthy
- during the last **10** years, the number of children in Russia has decreased by **4 million**



RCWS Arthritis Project

RCWS is happy to report Evgenia Galiautdinova's major health improvement. Many more children are benefiting from this project in Russia, which was made possible by the generous support of Ms. Lillian Booth.

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