

Helping Children with Facial Deformities to Feel Beautiful *New RCWS Project - A Major Success*

Each year in Russia, 30,000 children are born with facial deformities and abnormalities of the skull. Another 20,000 children experience such defects due to trauma or other illnesses developed after birth. Only 2-3 hospitals in all of Russia have specialized surgeons to undertake cases that often require multiple surgeries and highly advanced medical technology. Costly operations are often put off and these children grow up ostracized by their peers who often mock their unsightly appearance.

Families often fall apart as a result. The stress of having a sick son or daughter leads to isolation, embarrassment, disappointment and financial hardship and marriages often do not survive the ordeal. Deformed children, highly conscious of how they look, suffer from maladaptive behaviors, irritability, depression and



Little patients smiling again at the Center for Maxillofacial Surgery in Moscow

some attempt suicide. Some parents solve the problem by sending their child to an orphanage. Others have appealed to the general public for direct financial assistance for necessary operations by writing letters to newspapers. This latter approach has led to the Society's most recent

innovative undertaking on behalf of Russian children.

RCWS Board member Thomas McPartland introduced us to Lev Ambinder, who runs the Russian Aid Foundation, a charity formed by the daily newspaper Kommersant. As a journalist, Mr. Ambinder realized that printing personalized cases of people needing assistance had enormous potential. Through its Web site and the space allotted to its cause in Kommersant, the Russian Aid Foundation has provided an important forum for children suffering from all types of diseases (facial deformities, leukemia, scoliosis, heart defects, cerebral palsy) to ask the average Russian to make a donation that will make treatment possible. The Foundation scrupulously investigates each case to avoid fraudulent appeals and all money is channeled directly to the medical institution providing the care.

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Benefit Gala with Anna Netrebko and Dmitri Hvorostovsky *RCWS Holds First Fundraiser at Carnegie Hall*

On May 30, 2007, the Russian Children's Welfare Society for the first time in its history hosted a fundraiser at a concert presented by Carnegie Hall. The concert featured two of the leading opera singers in the world, Anna Netrebko, Soprano, making her Carnegie Hall debut, and Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Baritone, accompanied by the Orchestra of St. Luke's. Both Anna and Dmitri are Honorary Directors of RCWS. The sold out evening was a complete success. The Society sponsored a group of retirees from the Tolstoy Foundation and also gave out tickets to vocal students from the Juilliard, Mannes and Curtis music schools. Afterwards, the RCWS held a private post-concert reception with the artists in attendance. After all expenses, the charity earned \$100,000.



Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Diana Vishneva and Anna Netrebko during the post-concert reception

It was a performance that will go down in recent history as one of the great evenings of this revered concert hall. The event was sold out weeks in advance and immediately before the performance people were desperately trying to purchase tickets. The atmosphere was electric. A guest wrote: "There was a party (and also a concert) at Carnegie Hall last night, and we were there. What a party it was! The audience was chock full of handsome young men and women, many conversing in Russian. It was like a dream from the past. The chemistry between the two stars was something to see. Two incredibly attractive and supremely gifted Russian mastersingers at the top of their game, they each played shamelessly to the excited audience. In my 40+ years of concert going, I've never seen anything like it. Here's Anna Netrebko in a fetching black gown, singing the most difficult opera arias to perfection, even, and this is the hardest possible thing to do, creating characters in a concert venue. And there's incredibly handsome Dmitri Hvorostovsky doing the same thing. When they sang their three duets together, the chemistry was smoking."

Of the performance, one critic wrote: "Ms. Netrebko served notice from her very first roulade in *Je veux vivre* that she was in complete command and that her stunning instrument can shake the very walls of Carnegie Hall.

Photo credit: Chris Lee



Heavenly duet of Anna Netrebko and Dmitri Hvorostovsky at Carnegie Hall Gala

As often happens at the opera house, the talk at intermission centered around the disbelief of first time hearers of her live performance." Of Mr. Hvorostovsky he wrote: "... he was his mighty self, dazzling with extraordinary breath control and long lyrical lines." He concluded by stating: "All this was great fun but just a prelude to a wonderful encore program. Having her chance to vamp, Ms. Netrebko blew the lid off of any remaining Carnegie Hall reserve with a sassy *Meine Lippen sie kuessen so heiss* of Franz Lehár in which she not only captivated the audience - and, it seemed, some individual members - but even conducted the orchestra for a while. [Anna blew a kiss to the President of the RCWS.] Mr. Hvorostovsky countered with his signature realization of *Ochi chornye* ("Dark Eyes"), a surefire hit. The pair ended with *La ci darem la mano*, a welcome sendoff for the soprano who will be performing in *Don Giovanni* at Covent Garden soon. What

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RCWS Scholarship Program Reaching New Heights

In 2003, RCWS launched a college scholarship program for orphans in the Pskov region. Initially supporting only 3 students, the Society started small in order to construct a well-conceived and practicable initiative that would prove the wisdom of the effort's original sponsor, Nika Thayer. The program has indeed flourished, expanding to the Yaroslavl region in 2005 and the Moscow region in 2007 (see "Bolshaya Peremena" Center article, p. 9).



A group of bright students - RCWS scholarship recipients in Yaroslavl during the spring 2007 semester

The Society has also garnered the support of new donors along the way and has recently learned that Pavel Zadorozhny has agreed to cover scholarships for 25 students for the 2007-2008 academic year. As the Society's friends know, such support is gravely needed. According to statistics of the Russian Attorney General's Office, 1 in 3 orphanage graduates will become homeless, 1 in 5 unemployed, 1 in 7 will commit a crime, and 1 in 10 will attempt suicide.

The first five RCWS scholarship recipients all graduated this year and all have found employment. Two have become teachers, one is a pharmacist, another an economist and one in building construction. The Society is quite proud of the achievements of this first group of recipients of its scholarship program. It exemplifies the possibility that orphans, despite the tragedies they have endured, can beat the odds and move on to stable lives and professions. Here are two such success stories:

Andrei Loginov was placed in one of the Pskov orphanages, never having known his father and having a mother who showed a preference for vodka over childrearing. Still, Andrei successfully received a degree in building construction and maintenance this past June, though his story doesn't end there. Andrei spent his monthly RCWS stipend prudently and was able to save some money to help his mother go straight. Out of love and an orphan's desire for family connections, Andrei faithfully visited his mother, took care of her and fixed up her apartment. In response, his mother finally gave up drinking and is now working at an old age home. Andrei is working as well before starting military service next year. By supporting Andrei, the Society in fact was able to help two people.

Daria Rubatskaya recently received an accounting diploma from the Pskov College of Building and Economics. Daria's scholarship had been covered by RCWS supporter Peter Semler since 2004. Mr. Semler has been a very

involved donor, corresponding with Darya and going to Pskov to meet with her in person. Last year, Darya got married and is now expecting a daughter in the fall. At this year's reunion of scholarship recipients, Darya learned that Mr. Semler had sent along a gift of \$2,000 to help with the expenses of starting a new family. Everyone present - administrators, students and journalists alike - shared in Darya's joy. She and her husband are moving to a suburb of St. Petersburg where he has a house and a job at a factory and Darya has also found employment. Darya can put her days as an orphan way behind her.

As mentioned above, the Society also sponsors an annual gathering of the students. The day is organized by the wonderful administrators of the Pskov Children's Fund, who provide us with scholarship applicants and who look after and ensure accountability from the recipients. The students are interviewed by the press in the morning, receive RCWS certificates and have a luncheon where they can catch up with old friends and share stories. This year, the students were treated to a bus tour around Pskov, taking in all of the sights, before saying their goodbyes until next year.



2007 reunion meeting of RCWS scholarship recipients in Pskov

Also present at the reunion was Irina Veretentseva, who oversees the six scholarship recipients in the Yaroslavl region. Irina was able to share her thoughts on the realization of the project there while gaining insight from the Pskov Children's Fund. The Yaroslavl students will begin their third year of college next year and have matured greatly since their days at the orphanage. One of the students is studying law at the University of Yaroslavl, three are at the Yaroslavl Agricultural Academy and two are enrolled in the Yaroslavl Pedagogical University. Elena Stroganova meets with the students regularly to help iron out academic, financial or other day-to-day difficulties. Given the good results in Yaroslavl, we will now support an additional three students at the Yaroslavl Pedagogical University.

The RCWS scholarship program is preventing a few of Russia's orphans from slipping through the cracks. Currently, RCWS is supporting 28 students in the Pskov, Yaroslavl and Moscow regions. We are certain to report even more good news from our students in the future. **Please help us continue to grow this very important program.**

Congratulations to the 2007 Recipients of the RCWS Scholarship Award



Aleksander Grekov
Yaroslavl State Pedagogical University, Physics and Math Department



Oksana Demidova
Naumovski Technical School, Accounting Department, Pskov



Ludmilla Ermakova
Pedagogical University, Foreign Languages Department, Pskov



Vladimir Bogdashov
Pskov Polytechnical Institute



Pavel Lukin
Yaroslavl State Pedagogical University, Teaching Department



Victoria Vieyrov
Velikoluzhskiy Construction College, Department of Civil Construction



Natalya Maksimova
Naumovski Technical School, Accounting Department, Pskov



Dmitriy Semionov
Yaroslavl State Pedagogical University, Organizational Mgmt



Andrey Sokolskij
St. Petersburg University of Fire Safety, Ministry of Emergency Service



Irina Sokolova
Velikoluzhskiy Construction College



Kristina Antipova
Naumovski Technical School, Accounting



Aelita Makovetskaya
Pskov Polytechnical Institute, Computer Science Department

List incomplete

Petroushka Ball 2007 at the Waldorf=Astoria a Spectacular Success

On February 9, 2007, the 42nd Petroushka Ball was held at the magnificent ballroom of the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City for the second year in a row. RCWS is pleased to report that this year's Petroushka Ball brought in over \$132,000 net profit to benefit the Society.

A lively cocktail hour preceded an elaborate dinner with marvelous operatic performances followed by sensational balalaika music. This year, the Ball hosted about 500 dinner guests and an additional 200 plus dancing guests. We were delighted with the overwhelming response and happy to see a lot of new faces enjoying and supporting our annual fundraiser.

It was an exciting and glorious evening! Metropolitan Opera star tenor Matthew Polenzani performed with a young Russian soprano, Anna Alkhimova, who appeared with the kind permission of the Los Angeles Opera Company. Matthew brought the house down with a beautiful rendition of *Una furtiva lagrima* from Donizetti's "L'elisir d'amore" and *La donna e mobile* from Verdi's "Rigoletto." Anna Alkhimova sang beautiful renditions of Rachmaninoff's *Ne poi, krasavitsa* and Puccini's *Musetta's Waltz*. Pianist Anna Polonsky began the program with the exciting *Three Fantastic Dances* by Shostakovich. Both singers ended the entertainment with a duet from Verdi's "La Traviata," sipping champagne while singing the drinking song *Libiamo ne' lieti calici Brindisi*.

Alexey Arkhipovskiy, a balalaika virtuoso flown in from Russia and considered by many the best in the world, almost stole the show by combining traditional folk music with unique improvisations and showmanship.

We are excited that not only our guests, but also our performers enjoyed the program. Matthew Polenzani wrote us: "My friends and I enjoyed ourselves immensely, and I'm glad we could help your cause while we were having fun."



Alexey Arkhipovskiy bringing his balalaika to life at the Petroushka Ball

The Lester Lanin Orchestra, under the baton of Spencer Bruno, continued the evening's musical program as guests flooded the dance floor. In the adjoining rooms, Mikhail Smirnov and the Barynya Balalaika Orchestra provided sensational additional entertainment in



Soprano Anna Alkhimova, tenor Matthew Polenzani and pianist Anna Polonsky at 2007 Petroushka Ball

the best spirit of Russian culture well into the morning hours.

Among the evening's special guests were Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN, and Consul General Sergey Garmonin of the Russian Federation in New York.

One of the Society's friends and supporters complimented the event: "The evening was a spectacular success... Just when you think RCWS cannot top one year's heights, there you go again surpassing your guests' wildest expectations. At the end of the day, when the ball lights are extinguished and the music stops, ladies and gentlemen of all ages retire to their beds to be filled with the dreams of princes and princesses; the magic does not end there because the Society's hard work will give a chance for renewed hope and infinite possibility to many children. Thank you for touching so many lives and in the process enriching us all."

RCWS owes a special thanks to Mr. Michael Jordan of Aton Securities for providing wine for the event and to Mr. Art Saguirian, President of BMC Imports Ltd., for the generous donation of "Jewel of Russia" Ultra-Premium Vodka. We are likewise grateful to Mr. Peter Tcherepnine for underwriting the cost of the stunning flower arrangements, created by Inna Nagibina and The Soft Orchid.

The winners of the silent auction and raffle took home the following prizes: a reproduction of the Fabergé Imperial Lilies of the Valley Musical Egg; painting "Happiness Fortune" by Anton Skorubsky Kandinsky; etchings by Ivan Valchev; a gift basket of La Mer skincare products; hand painted icon egg of St. Nicholas; amber necklace by Valerio 888; book "Jewels of the Tsar"; champagne and French wine; dinner certificates to various NYC restaurants and many other beautiful items.

All dinner guests received blue and white bags filled with an elegant bone china cup and saucer from the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory (LFZ) in St. Petersburg, Russia; Estee Lauder fragrances and makeup sets; DCL/Milbar Laboratories skin care products; delicious chocolates from A. Korkunov Chocolatier, Inc.; Valerio 888 amber pendants; Opera News, Russian Life and Russia Profile magazines.

Special thanks to Alexandra Investment Management, Aton Securities, Access Industries, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Basilevsky, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Derby; Mr. Valery Dantchenko and Valerio 888, Mr. and Mrs. Vladimir Fekula, Mr. Alan Feuer, Mikhail and Natalia Filimonov, FactSet Research Systems; The Estee Lauder Companies Inc., Dr. Eda Ellis and Denta Spa, Mr. Andrew Foote, Mr. Igor Gorbaletov, Mr. Nikolay Gordeev, Eric and Olga Jorgensen, A. Korkunov Chocolatier, Ms. Tamara Kozlakowski, Ms. Kathy Martilla, Thomas and Ellen McPartland, Mr. John Medveckis, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Paul, Mr. Dexter Peavy, Michael Ruddy and Fabergé Collection, Russian National Group, Elisabeth and Igor Saika-Voivod, Mr. Dimitry Schidlovsky, Mr. and Mrs. Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff, Mr. Paul Shukin and the Russian Shop, Ms. Tatiana Slavashovich and Herbalife, Mr. Jeffrey Vanderveen, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Young, Pavel and Natalie Zadorozhny; Mrs. Lisa Zemann, Mr. Andrei Zolotov, Jr. and Russia Profile.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Petroushka Ball, scheduled for Friday, **February 8th, 2008**, at the Waldorf=Astoria.



Young volunteers at the Petroushka Ball

Samuel P. Harding Joins RCWS Board

We are pleased to report that Samuel P. Harding has joined the RCWS Board. We have been working closely with Sam to develop our scholarship program in Yaroslavl, where all six of the current scholarship recipients have successfully made the difficult transition from orphanage to college life. That number has increased to nine in September.

Mr. Harding is a retired teacher of Russian language, counselor, housemaster and administrator at The Lawrenceville School in New Jersey. He is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute (Russian), Yale University (BA, Russian Studies), and Indiana University (MA, Slavic Languages and Literatures). He is currently the founder and President of Friends of Russian Orphans, a nonprofit that will soon be dissolved into RCWS. Sam will work to continue the expansion of the RCWS scholarship program and its other activities in Russia.

Wired!

New Computer Lab for Nikolsky Orphanage

The current director of the Nikolsky Orphanage (Leningrad region), Yuri Yevdokimov, is much more than an advocate for children or an administrator with a big heart. Having grown up at the very orphanage he now runs, Mr. Yevdokimov assesses the childrens' needs from the ultimate insider's perspective.

Of the 80 children at the orphanage today, only 8 have no living parents, while the rest are so called "social orphans," either rescued by the state from abusive environments or abandoned by their parents. All of them, without exception, experience acute loneliness and many make up excuses as to why their parents do not visit on holidays. As a child, Mr. Yevdokimov used to explain away his mother's absence saying she was in Antarctica on business. A friend of his related that his father was wounded while apprehending a criminal and could not come because he was in the hospital. The orphans would habitually stare out the window at the bus stop, hoping against hope that today would be the day that their mother or father would come for them.

It is not surprising that Mr. Yevdokimov emphasizes the need for orphanages to cultivate volunteers to go and spend time with the children, write letters, send birth-

day cards, and somehow make them feel special. In today's climate, however, most people



Using new computers

are indifferent and worried about their own problems. Unfortunately, this attitude tends to reinforce the orphans' feelings of inferiority and lack of societal acceptance, generating deep fears about aging out of the orphanage.

These children grapple with varying combinations of ailments that include heart problems, hearing and visual impairment, intestinal problems, poor motor skills, and developmental delays. Only 4 of the 80 youngsters at the orphanage today are fully healthy. And in the past 40 years, only 17 graduates have gone on to complete a college degree, 5 have gone to military schools and 7 have earned teaching certification. The only people willing to invest in the Nikolsky orphans have been the teachers and caretakers who have consistently donated



money from their own pockets to maintain basic programs, such as crafts workshops, language classes, physical education, etc.

For the last 20 years, orphanage administrators have also fought for the completion of a new building constructed with the childrens' needs in mind. The building that houses the orphans was initially constructed as a "House of Culture" in 1939, and was soon after commandeered by the Germans for use as a horse stable during World War II. In 1962, the "House of Culture" was refashioned into the Nikolsky Orphanage, which remains until this day an inadequate and overcrowded state institution that gives the appearance of a prison or army barracks. While ground was dug in 1989 for the new orphanage, periodic funding shortfalls have halted the completion of the project indefinitely.

In meetings with the RCWS staff, Mr. Yevdokimov has demonstrated his commitment to alleviating the despair of the Nikolsky orphans, drawing on his own life experience. In 2006, RCWS granted the Nikolsky Orphanage \$9,500 for the creation of a new computer lab. This equipment will help the children gain indispensable computer skills. The computers and Internet also open up numerous learning opportunities, especially for those with learning disabilities. With your help, RCWS hopes to significantly increase its commitment to improving the lives of these children at the Nikolsky Orphanage and giving them hope.

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Pushkin School

Passing Down the Russian Heritage and Poetry to Children in Novomoskovsk

It would be difficult to imagine low income American school children voluntarily participating in rigorous extracurricular classes devoted entirely to the study of American literary greats like Mark Twain or Walt Whitman. In Novomoskovsk, Russia, however, there is an extraordinary school where many youngsters immerse themselves in the



Reciting a Pushkin poem at the school's special event

works of Russia's most beloved poet, Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin.

Since its inception in 1996, the school has collaborated with the Russian State Library, various museums, as well as the country's top

Pushkin scholars. Noted for its pedagogical practices, the school has published its curriculum to share teaching methods with other teachers in Russia. Many of the students have successfully participated in national and international "Pushkin" conferences and contests, displaying their depth of knowledge. And a number of Pushkin School graduates have gone on to study in the top humanities departments at prestigious colleges, including Moscow State and St. Petersburg State Universities.

Such success does not come easily when the only source of income is a state subsidy for teacher salaries. The students come from families struggling financially and some are orphans. RCWS grants have therefore been critical to the flowering of this academic and cultural undertaking. Our grants have underwritten the vast majority of the school library's 3,000 holdings. The Society's continued support in 2007 will supply the school with necessary books and magazine subscriptions, underwrite student travel to contests, and help meet printing and publishing expenses.



Natalia Borodina, Director of Pushkin School proudly shows the library, co-sponsored by Russian Children's Welfare Society

The school's director, Natalia Borodina, is rightfully proud of the achievements of the students and staff. Each year, approximately 400 students from 6 to 17 years of age gain a deeper acquaintance with the beauties of Russian language and culture through the study of Pushkin. We wish the school continued success!

With Our Donor's Help RCWS Brings Christmas to 2,300 Orphans and Sick Children in Russia

When they told me I would be going to a New Year's celebration in Moscow, I was in seventh heaven! On the platform of the Pskov train station, ten of us met up with our group leader, Diana Mikhailovna, and we continued our journey to Moscow together. An hour before our arrival in Moscow, we were already up and ready to go and quickly ate our breakfast. As we all looked out the windows of the train, I was enchanted by what I saw. Tall buildings flashed by our eyes and the city sparkled with multicolored lights.

A bus was arranged to pick us up and show us the sights of Moscow. We later ate at McDonald's. Then we went to Red Square to look at the Christmas tree, which was magnificent. The tall beauty was overflowing with various lights. During the second half of the day, we went to the theatre to see a performance of "Who cast a spell on Snegurochka?" I loved the theatre and the show very much! And we were even sent home with gifts! I was very happy with our trip to the capital!!



Having fun during the intermission of the Yelka show at the Estrady Theatre

RCWS received this lovely thank you note from 14 year old Ludmila Antonkina, a student in the 8th grade at the Pytalovo school for orphans. Ludmila was one of 88 disadvantaged children in the Pskov region who was selected to attend the Society's annual Yelka party on December 29, 2006.

Seeing Moscow during the holiday season and going to the Estrady theatre was a particular treat for the youngsters from the isolated and rural Pskov orphanages. But they were not the only ones to partake in the festivities.



Trying on Christmas gifts at the Institute for Children with Cancer

Altogether, 1,300 orphans and disabled children from Moscow, Kislovodsk, Tula, Smolensk, Ryazan, Yaroslavl, Kaluga, Tutaev and Pskov, representing 35 institutions, were in attendance at the Yelka Party.

Prior to the show, clowns entertained the children in the foyer of the theatre. Olympian and World Champion figure skater Anton Sikharulidze was on hand to warm up the audience as well. The wonderful decorations also enhanced the holiday atmosphere and the appearance of Ded Moroz generated great excitement! RCWS was fortunate to receive a large contribution from a Russian donor to underwrite a significant portion of the costs of



Bringing gifts and cheer to small residents at Home #7 for HIV infected children the 2006 Yelka, which totaled almost \$62,000.

During the Christmas season, RCWS also made visits to the St. Vladimir Children's Hospital, Institute for Emergency Surgery and Trauma, Institute for Children with Cancer, Rehabilitation Center for Children in Lukino, Morozovskaya Children's Hospital, Home No. 7 for HIV infected children, and the Tugolesky Orphanage. At each of these venues, a professional actor played the role of Ded Moroz and distributed gifts to the children.

The Society wishes to acknowledge those who contributed to the success of the Christmas events. We thank Mr. Ametkhan Alchikov of the IREI Co. for arranging donations of high quality chocolate; Vera Evsikova from Zodiac Co. for gift packaging; Olga Lombas for LEGO toys, tee shirts, pens and knapsacks; EBRD for gifts for children at the Tugolesky Orphanage and the Morozovskaya Children's Hospital; and Mr. Alexei Mikhailuk of Customs House Co. for sponsoring meals at McDonald's for the Pskov contingent. Thanks also to volunteers Laure Trebosc and Julian Kurchanova from the Rostok Regional Charity and to Mrs. Anna Sibiryakova for arranging Anton Sikharulidze's attendance at the Yelka. Together with our sponsors, RCWS was able to bring joy to 2,300 sick and orphaned children in Russia for the New Year!

Helping Visually Impaired Children in St. Petersburg to Experience a New World

The Art Therapy and Social Rehabilitation Center for the Visually Impaired in St. Petersburg is the only institution of its kind in all of Russia. Through dance, improvisation and theatre, children who are totally blind or have severely limited vision improve their movement and gain valuable exercise. The dance teachers at all times emphasize the importance of having a good time and feeling free to be creative with steps. The studio also conducts therapy through painting, acting and clay and wax modeling.

Most programs for the visually impaired focus on music and verbal activities, to the exclusion of physical activity. However, many of the 100 children who attend the art studio suffer from multiple disabilities and greatly benefit from dance and the development of motor skills. Anya Kutina, for example, is basically blind and in addition suffers from

cerebral palsy. When she enrolled at the dance studio at the age of five, she found it difficult to stand up and sit down, bend over or jump. Little by little, her skills have increased and



Anya Kutina, visually impaired, playing the piano

now, at the age of 13, she gains much enjoyment from dancing, singing and improvising on the piano.

Ten year old Daniil Mikutsky was born prematurely at seven and a half months. In

addition to visual impairment, he has a limited immune system, hyperactivity, concentration problems and poor coordination. Daniil is now moving better, maintaining his balance easier and gaining strength in his arms and legs through attendance at the art studio. According to his mother, he also has a better appetite and is showing improvement in his school work. Daniil gets very upset when he cannot attend class because he enjoys it so much.

RCWS decided to grant the Art Therapy Center \$10,000 to install a new hardwood floor, re-tile the bathroom and purchase a music center, piano, drums, furniture and kitchen equipment. The young dancers range in age from 3 to 15; 12 are orphans and 27 are from poor families.

We applaud the efforts of the Art Studio to help these visually impaired children perceive the world in alternative and innovative ways, rousing their spirit and encouraging them to live life to the fullest despite their disabilities.

Helping Children with Facial Deformities to Feel Beautiful

FROM PAGE 1

In April 2006, Anna Sergeeva-Gross, Director of the Society's New York Office, traveled to Russia on business and met with Professor Vitaly Roginsky, the highly esteemed Director of the Center for Maxillofacial Surgery in Moscow.

Together with The Smile Train, the Society has worked for a number of years with this world-class doctor and institution to bring primary cleft lip and palate surgeries to children in need. Ms. Gross also met with Lev Ambinder,

realizing that the Russian Aid Foundation would be a perfect fundraising partner to help Professor Roginsky expand the number of complicated operations and rehabilitation services offered to deformed youngsters.

As a result of Tom McPartland's efforts, a 3-way written agreement was negotiated and RCWS is now working with the Russian Aid Foundation specifically to raise funds that will be used by the Center for Maxillofacial Surgery for children needing treatment of facial deformities. The project is called *"Let's Give Beauty Back to the Children."* We have pledged \$60,000 in our first year and contribute up to \$1,250 per operation, while Lev Ambinder



Prof. Roginsky and his young patient

exploits the media available to his charity to raise the additional funds needed. RCWS's raising funds from Russian citizens represents an important breakthrough.

Depending on the case, surgeries range from \$2,500 to \$5,000, which is far beyond the means of the families involved. Professor Roginsky insists that early diagnosis and treatment of facial deformities is critical not only for the patients' physical health, but psychological development and social integration as well. While many of these children will undergo multiple surgeries over a period of time, it is better to fix the problem before awareness of a defect sets in and damages self esteem for life. Unfortunately, the Russian government has been shortsighted in this regard. Russia spends 56,000 rubles a year to support one orphan, but to date, has not allocated sufficient funding for the timely treatment of the deformities that cause many parents to abandon their children in the first place.

Most of the children who go to the Center for Maxillofacial Surgery don't really believe they can be helped. Using the most advanced medical micro technology, computers and techniques, Professor Roginsky and his staff have seen their patients learn to smile for the first time and watch, as their personalities grow more hopeful and childlike.

Twelve-year-old Nadia Chernova has been under a doctor's care since birth, draining her



Lev Ambinder, Director of the Russian Aid Foundation

parents' financial resources. Born with a cleft lip and palate, Nadia received plastic surgery to correct her lip when she was six months old, and the procedure later had to be repeated. Her nose and jaw also did not develop correctly, rendering her face asymmetrical. Breathing and speaking is difficult and she suffers, unable to make friends. Her story was featured by the Russian Aid Foundation and garnered the 77,450 rubles needed to supplement the Society's 32,550 ruble donation (\$1,250) to cover her complicated treatment. Nadia will require jaw and nose reconstruction, as well as orthodontic care, and is on her way to looking and feeling like a normal girl.

Although Kolya Belikov is six years old, he speaks unintelligibly and cannot chew. When he was six years old, a tumor was removed from his jaw, leaving a hole that never developed gums or teeth and affects his eating habits. The family took out loans for previous medical care, but the father left the family a year ago and they lost their apartment. The Russian Aid Society is trying to raise additional funds for his surgery and needed prosthetic devices. His prognosis is very good according to Professor Roginsky and hopefully Kolya will stop thinking he is ugly very soon.

Between January and October 2007, Project *"Let's Give Beauty Back to the Children"* has received \$206,000 in aggregate donations through the combined efforts of RCWS and Kommersant's Russian Aid Foundation. No child should ever feel less than beautiful and we believe that more children will receive comprehensive care and eventually more numerous treatment sites will be developed throughout Russia's expansive territory through this very critical collaboration.

RCWS Helps to Improve Living Conditions at Gagarinsk Orphanage

In previous newsletters, RCWS has informed friends and donors of our support of the Gagarinsk Specialized Orphanage in Smolensk, which has been in operation since 1956. Our first grant in 2004 was used to overhaul the laundry facilities and install equipment that could handle the needs of 170 children. The orphanage recently received an additional \$7,000 RCWS grant to totally renovate the bathrooms and bring the facility up to proper sanitary standards.

Our work at the Gagarinsk Orphanage is conducted in collaboration with the Severnaya



Entrance to the Gagarinsk orphanage's facilities before renovation...

Korona, or Nordic Crown Charitable Foundation. This is a Russia-based charity, founded by Mrs. Irina Kudrina, a member of our Russia Board and wife of the Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin. Its mission is in keeping with the goals of the Russian Children's Welfare Society. Nordic Crown organizes and finances trips and other cultural undertakings for the children at the Gagarinsk Orphanage. It has also negotiated costs on our construction projects there on behalf of the society.

Both RCWS and Nordic Crown, have been able to enhance opportunities



A brighter entrance after the RCWS grant

ties for the organizations and children that each is most involved with. Severnaya Korona sends children from its adopted schools and orphanages to



New toys and playground at the Gagarinsk Orphanage

the Society's annual Yelka party in Moscow. Likewise, children from RCWS grantee organizations, such as the Pushkin School and the Novomoskovsk and Krasnodubravsky orphanages, were invited to Nordic Crown's celebration of "Children's Defense Day" at a circus in Moscow this past June. The Society will maintain connections with such competent and caring nonprofits in Russia that are certain to expand our reach and compound our impact on disadvantaged children.

RCWS On-going Assistance for Victims in Beslan

Three years ago, the civilized world was disgusted by the terrorist attack on a school in Beslan, Russia, resulting in the deaths of 186 children. While this tragedy quickly turned into yesterday's news, the people of Beslan are still suffering from psychological trauma today.

To help community members cope with the violence and terrible losses brought about by the event, psychological rehabilitation centers were set up in the local clinic and kindergarten by the Moscow based Association of Child Psychiatrists and Psychologists (ACPP). Fortunately, over 400 children have sought care and, through therapy, most have learned to talk about the tragedy in a constructive way and can think about the future in a



Making new friends

positive light. Still, some youngsters exhibit emotional instability and exhaustion stemming from post traumatic stress disorder.

Many adults feel a sense of guilt and don't seem willing to accept psychological help for themselves. This has a negative impact on children, who often assimilate the fears and anxieties of their parents. Those who lost a husband or wife are most vulnerable, overwhelmed by the responsibility of raising children alone in a town permeated with sadness. Men in particular view therapy as an affront to their masculinity.

Dr. Elena Morozova of ACPP emphasizes the need for family therapy to help the adults reconnect with their children and repair bonds of trust. The rehabilitation center therefore organized overnight trips for struggling families in nearby mountain resorts. Enjoying the serenity, taking part in physical activity in a beautiful locale, and participating in therapy with the children produced wonderful results. The parents seemed to have a new outlook on life and generated new memories with their children. They also seemed more willing to avail themselves of the psychological services offered at home.

As a result of these successful out-



Outdoor rehabilitation activities for Beslan children give them a positive view of the world

ings, there are now plans to establish a permanent respite camp for families. Thus, the people of Beslan will have expanded opportunities to extract themselves from their environment and work on their problems in a fresh atmosphere at any time during the year.

Many individuals and organizations were moved to offer donations to help the victims of this heinous crime, including RCWS and its generous supporters. The approximately \$50,000 raised by the Society has covered the cost of operations and medical treatment for children hurt during the terrorist siege, many of whom needed to undergo bomb fragment extractions. RCWS funds also paid for the family trips described above. We hope that our donors will continue to support the people of Beslan during the long and arduous healing process.

Spivakov Foundation

Bringing Music and Art to Children

Vladimir Spivakov is a world-renowned concert violinist currently serving as the Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Russian National Orchestra. He is also a great humanitarian who began the Spivakov Foundation in 1994 to help develop musical and artistic talent in disadvantaged children in Russia. The organization's funds provide costly musical instruments, grants to study music and art classes at home and abroad, and chances to exhibit artwork and participate in concerts. The Foundation has also given direct assistance to children in need, paying for operations, medicine, wheelchairs and rehabilitative therapy.

Since 2004, the Spivakov Foundation has organized an international art festival called "Moscow Welcomes Friends." From May 24th to June 6th of this year, over 1,300 young musicians from different countries displayed their musical talents in a varied program of folk, classical, rock and jazz genres at venues throughout Moscow.

RCWS decided to support the festival by helping with transportation costs for Russian festival participants.

Spivakov's vision includes cultivating the abilities of individual children who then in turn share their musical



Young violinist at the festival "Moscow Welcomes Friends"

inspiration with others in need. The Foundation's "Children for Children" project brings music and art to orphans, homeless, sick and disabled children, and those in juvenile detention through organized concerts.

This September, RCWS sponsored bringing young musicians from The Spivakov Foundation to perform at orphanages in Pskov.

Twelve Spivakov musicians and dancers (14 - 20 years of age) took part in these tours. Over 900 children and 400 adults attended the concerts. In addition to six orphanages, the Spivakov musicians performed at the Idritsa Secondary School and a public club in Shushkovo Village. The concerts were attended by hundreds of children. The organizers even had to put chairs in a hallway to accommodate all the guests. After the concerts, they received from the local kids overwhelmed the Spivakov musicians. The Pskov children invited the young artists to visit them again. Because of such hospitality, the Spivakov students did not want to leave.

Young folk dancer Ksenia Kondrako



Grateful audience at the Idritsa Orphanage during the Spivakov musicians performance

wrote the following about her experience during the concert tour in Pskov: *"For the first time in my life, I was performing at the orphanages. I am grateful for this opportunity to help such wonderful, open, sincere young people, as we met in Pskov. I saw their harsh living conditions and realized that we could learn a lot from them. I will never forget this trip and hope to return to Pskov in the future. I simply fell in love with its picturesque landscape and the incredible people, who were the reason for our being there. Many thanks for organizing this trip and a special thank you to the Pskov children who attended our concerts."*

Attendees of the 2005 Petroushka Ball surely recall the performance of a gifted group of young Spivakov musicians as part of the evening's entertainment.

All people, regardless of social class or life circumstances, recognize the power and importance of music. The Society believes that our collaboration with the Spivakov Foundation will greatly improve the lives of children well beyond the material sphere of their existence.



Maestro Vladimir Spivakov

"Neznaika" Shelter Welcomes First Teenage Residents

Through his eight year tenure as director of the "Way Home" shelter, which provides social services for street children in Moscow, Mr. Sapar Kulyanov learned that a wide range of programs is necessary to assist victims of different ages move on to a stable life. Observing the specific lack of support for older teenagers, particularly those above the age of 18 and deemed outside of the state's responsibility, Mr. Kulyanov, in his current role as president of the "Shelter for Childhood" Foundation, established the "Neznaika" shelter in 2006.

The shelter is a halfway house providing a transitional refuge for young adults as they seek employment and permanent housing. Policies and practices at the shelter have been based on models of similar programs found in



IT literacy - learning new computer skills



Helping to build their new home and future

the US, France, Romania and Poland. The inhabitants of "Neznaika" are obliged to sign a 2 page contract that outlines their responsibilities: show respect for the shelter's rules and property, take steps to gain education and employment skills, maintain discipline and attempt to overcome any crisis that might disrupt their plans to move on. They have 12 months to work out their problems with the help of social workers and staff, who give legal advice and assistance finding work and housing, and are always looking out for their general welfare.

Twenty year old Roman was the first person recommended to "Neznaika." Mr. Kulyanov was familiar with Roman's case since 1995. An orphan after his parents drank themselves to death, there was no one to pick Roman up after a stay in the hospital, where he had lost a kidney. He was placed at the "Way Home" shelter, which luckily managed to find him an

adoptive family. Unfortunately, Roman had problems in school and was constantly lying and stealing, prompting the father to banish him from the apartment when he turned 18. Since September, "Neznaika" staff has been helping Roman go back to school, and with the help of his adoptive father, find a suitable apartment and gain a driver's license that will increase chances for employment.

Former street child 19 year old Vitya was released from an orphanage in 2006, but had been unable to set himself up in normal living conditions. While at the shelter, he has sought out training in the construction trade and by November 2007 will be gainfully employed and living in his own apartment. The Foundation will keep contact with Vitya and render further assistance as necessary.

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is not always easy, especially for kids who have undergone the traumas of homelessness and loss of family. The goal of the "Neznaika" shelter is to help children become responsible adults before it's too late and an irreversible descent into a life of alcoholism, drugs, unemployment and/or criminal activity has begun.

RCWS has chosen to support this effort with a \$20,000 grant to provide electricity for the shelter for one year, food and other basic expenses for 4 teenagers, and the salary for a caretaker/instructor. We applaud the efforts of the "Shelter for Childhood" Foundation to break the cycle of poverty.

Rehabilitation Through Art for Children with Special Needs

When ten year old Nadia first came to the "Krug" Rehabilitation Center in Moscow in 1995, she didn't speak and her mother had to hold her by the hand. Exhibiting severe mental challenges, Nadia lacked any ability to take care of herself. Now, she is among the 15 children at the center who do chores and receive a small stipend in return. Nadia takes care of the plants and assists the staff when pre-k children attend the center. She is much loved for her warmth and concern for others.

How was Nadia able to flourish at "Krug"? Given her serious diagnosis, Nadia initially attended one-on-one lessons. As she progressed, Nadia was placed in the three year rehabilitation schedule, where she could gain skills under the guidance of a caring and committed staff. Each Saturday, Nadia arrived with her mother and sister, who could participate together with Nadia and other children in various activities, including drawing, playing with puppets, games, relay races, and shows put on at the center.



Trying a new recipe

Nadia also attends summer camp where children do crafts, play active games, sing songs, and go on hikes where they get to cook their own food on an open fire. At the end of the stay, the staff organizes a "Day of Laughter" where campers enjoy amusements such as a beauty salon and an evening campfire. Nadia's mother Svetlana praises "Krug" for bringing joy and meaning to her whole family and sends along her thanks to all of the Society's supporters for their role in their happiness.

Operating since 1989, the experienced staff at "Krug" knows that one of the most effective program offerings for children with learning disabilities and developmental delays is involvement in theater productions. The theater studio becomes a place of study, leisure, creativity, physical activity and music. Students have taken part in various performances based on fairytales and folklore motifs, scenes from Mozart's "Magic Flute" and in an itinerant theater throughout the ancient streets of Suzdal. Natalia, an autistic girl with severe endocrine problems, is proof that the theater studio is an indispensable tool for disabled children. She could hardly communicate with others and had barely been out of the house for several years before coming to "Krug" in 1997. Now she loves drawing and sewing. She



Modern dance - "Krug" Theater's new production

learned how to play the flute and sings very well, so it's not surprising that she has earned roles in various productions performed at festivals for special children. Natalia's mother Lidia also affirms that the special theater camps help open up the children and parents alike to the world and other people.

RCWS was very pleased to extend "Krug" a \$12,350 grant this year to support their on site theater program and summer camp. The center also plans to develop materials to train others in the special education field about theater therapy. The center's goal is to help integrate disabled children and their families into society and to help the kids better express themselves. Their projects, developed in coordination with the Russian Academy of Science and the Moscow State Pedagogical University, go very far in assisting the 150 youngsters who attend "Krug" each year.

"BOLSHAYA PEREMENA" CENTER

Helping Orphanage Graduates to Join the Ranks of Higher Education

Most orphans in Russia display an emotional and psychological age 5 to 6 years younger than their actual age. Their educational levels also lag well behind their peers due to the interruptions in schooling caused by homelessness, violence, and a broken home life. Some orphans are intentionally misdiagnosed with severe psychological and neurological disorders when they enter the system and are sent to institutions where there is no expectation of learning. When orphans exit the system, many lack the skills necessary to find and hold down a job and maintain a household.

The "Bolshaya Peremena" educational center in Moscow was established in 2002 to help orphans with the big changes needed to become self-sufficient adults. During the 2006-2007 academic year, 60 orphans, from 15 to 25 years of age, attended classes at the center with the goal of gaining entry into trade schools and colleges or finding work. Most of the students must first develop basic skills in Russian language and math and learn how to study while trying to earn a high school equivalency certificate. They also have the opportunity to study English, German and computer technology.

Each enrollee works with a staff member to develop an individualized plan to achieve his/her goals. Teachers are available to talk to students about health related issues, personal problems and questions about everyday life. "Bolshaya Peremena" has a 24 person waiting list and with good reason. As the following stories show, the center is helping orphans turn their lives around:

Natalia Yeltsova at first led the life of a typical former orphanage student - drinking and unable to hold down a job for more than a month.

After attending classes for 4 years, Natalia received her GED and will begin studying information systems and computer technology at Russia's New University this year.

Nadya Kobets had been placed in an orphanage for children classified as unable to learn and was destined for low level jobs such as seamstress or painter/plasterer. After leaving the orphanage, she was swindled out of her apartment. Fortunately, she was recommended to



Student Nadya Kobets during Chemistry class

"Bolshaya Peremena," where she has been able to finish her high school education during the evenings while working as a cleaning lady during the day. Nadya

has exceptional artistic talent and is putting together her portfolio for entry into a school for professional advertising design.

Some gains are more modest. Luda Kutina didn't speak until she was six years old. She came to the center two years ago and read very hesitatingly, sounding out each word, syllable by syllable. Luda is now able to understand what she reads, paraphrase texts and participate in student conferences. She was recently given her own apartment though the state had originally assessed her as incapable of living independently.

"Bolshaya Peremena" is building ties with the business and nonprofit sectors to increase the



Irina Ryazanova and Ludmilla Koroleva with new RCWS scholarship recipients

resources available for these vulnerable youngsters. The center seeks to expand to two additional locations within Moscow and establish an official collaboration with the Moscow Department of Education. Under the leadership of Director Irina Ryazanova, the center has shared its innovative program and curriculum with other professionals working with orphans in Moscow, Pskov, Krasnodar and Novosibirsk.

RCWS shares the educational goals of "Bolshaya Peremena" and has given grants to augment the library and support teacher salaries. Our most recent grant will underwrite an accelerated academic program for approximately 7 orphans between the ages of 14 and 16 starting in September 2007. They will attend classes 6 times a week and will study the nine subjects needed to pass high school graduation exams. Study will be complemented by a cultural program of theater, music and other educational trips. By June 2008, these youngsters will hopefully be ready to enroll in college.

The Society is also pleased to announce that two "Bolshaya Peremena" graduates were chosen for the first time to receive educational stipends as part of the RCWS scholarship program for 2007-2008. In addition, another three students will receive a monthly allowance from RCWS to help them focus on their studies while they prepare for 2008 college exams.

RCWS Holds First Fundraiser at Carnegie Hall

FROM PAGE 1

can I say? Some nights you just want your guilty pleasures."

It was a fabulous evening and the post-concert reception went on to 1 AM at the Rohatyn Room at Carnegie Hall. The Society thanks **Chopard** for its support and supplying beautiful gift bags. Anna Netrebko is an official brand ambassador of this Geneva based company. We also thank the professional staff of Carnegie Hall for working so seamlessly with us. In addition, the Society expresses its gratitude to Art Saguirian, President of BMC Imports Ltd, Oxford Capital Management, Igor Gorbaletov, James Wolfensohn and Board members: Michael Jordan, Tom McPartland, Doug Paul and Peter Tcherepnine.

One guest summed up the extraordinary evening by writing to us: "Thank you so much again for the wonderful event - it was unlike anything I've ever heard or seen - fantastic!!"

Improving Treatment for Children with Arthritis

RCWS continues to support the treatment of children with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, one of our longest running medical initiatives in Russia. Society grants have been channeled to the Pediatric Department at the Sechenov Medical Academy in Moscow, one of the country's leaders in the diagnosis, treatment and research of the disease. The Academy has been able to purchase important medical equipment, improve diagnostic procedures and better treat children with connective tissue diseases such as lupus, scleroderma and dermatomyositis. Our most recent \$5,000 donation was designated for research on the prevention and treatment of thrombosis, a potentially life threatening condition.

In fall 2006, Professor Nadezhda Podchernyaeva, who heads up the Pediatric Department, and her associate Dr. Olga Shpionkova, arrived in NY to receive training from Dr. Thomas Lehman of the New York Hospital for Special Surgery. Dr. Lehman is considered by many to be the world leading authority in the field of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and his reputation is highly prized by Russian doctors. He has gone to Russia on behalf of RCWS on three occasions to present his knowledge and practical methodology at medical conferences and hospital visits.

These medical exchanges lead to the dissemination of important information on the best practices to help children with this debilitating condition. Shared research and experience on both sides of the ocean will translate into gains for children whose mobility is threatened. With RCWS support and the dedicated involvement of Dr. Lehman and Professor Podchernyaeva, more arthritic children will have the opportunity to attend regular schools, go on to college and become contributing members of society.



Prof. Podchernyaeva and Dr. Shpionkova with their young patient

Pskov Orphanages Progress Report

RCWS investment in the Pskov region is having a noticeable impact on local children. Here is an update on five orphanages that received our support in 2006-2007.

The Pytalovo Specialized School and Orphanage for the Hearing Impaired currently educates 86 students, 44 of whom are completely deaf. The learning process is clearly hindered when children cannot properly interpret speech, which in turn makes mastery of sounds and intelligible speaking very difficult. Modern technology has made many advances to help people with hearing disabilities, particularly schoolchildren, though the cost had been prohibitive for the Pytalovo School.



Helping children at Pytalovo orphanage to hear the sounds of the world

In April 2006, RCWS stepped up with a \$6,641 grant to help Pytalovo realize its "We Want to Hear the World" project. The school acquired modern speech amplifying and speech therapy equipment to help the children develop their hearing and learn to speak grammatically and with correct pronunciation. This funding further provided for the outfitting of a "radio classroom," where students are now able to hear not only the teacher's instruction, but the comments of other students as well.

A subsequent \$8,000 grant was awarded to the school in December 2006 to equip two special audio classrooms for the teaching of geography, physics, chemistry and biology. The school also purchased two computers, textbooks, microphones and headphones. The school administrators are able to create an atmosphere that fosters true intellectual development for these children and opens up possibilities for better communication with the outside world.

The results of the new technology have been extraordinary so far. Over 98% of the students are speaking in a way that is intelligible to non hearing-impaired individuals. Ekaterina Dudenko's letter to the Society best expresses the importance of the equipment to her progress in the last year: "I'm so glad that now I can work with my teacher on the speech therapy training machine Delfa 142. It helps me a lot with hearing and pronunciation. I've started to speak and understand better. I now write without mistakes during grammar lessons. I grasp things quicker and now I get a lot of A's on my report card. I send a huge thanks to RCWS!"

The Krasnogorodsky Specialized Orphanage has fully updated its carpenter's workshop and modernized its kitchen in the last year. The orphanage focuses on giving practical and vocational skills to the 161 children housed

there, some of whom have minor learning disabilities. Our \$8,586 grant of April 2006 was used to purchase cabinet making and carpentry equipment and assorted other tools, replacing outdated versions purchased in the 1960's. Carpentry is a profession that is in high demand in the Pskov region, and now 62 of the students will be able to gain skills using modern appliances. As one student excitedly wrote us: "Now you can't tell if our work (chairs, benches, tables, doors) was done in a school or in a factory!"

The orphanage also received money from the local government to renovate the dining room and cooking facilities, though there remained insufficient funds to purchase kitchen equipment. RCWS supplied an additional \$8,885 grant in December 2006 for the purchase of an industrial baking oven, electric stove, electric vegetable cutter, industrial dishwasher, and necessary fans. The youngsters can now learn professional cooking/baking skills and how to prepare food for themselves before going out on their own. And of course the students enjoy eating and sharing the home cooked meals they've learned to make. In August 2007, RCWS awarded another \$3,553 grant to the orphanage to support their Bicycle Club activities. As a result of the regular exercise, 45 members of the Club demonstrated considerable improvement in their health, behavior and grades. In addition, the teens stopped smoking and running away from the orphanage.

In spring 2007, the **Idritsa Specialized School and Orphanage** was able to solve one of its long time headaches - lack of transportation. The Society provided the orphanage with the means to buy a 14-person minibus in 2002. Still, with 140 children to take care of in a locale far away from public transportation, another smaller

vehicle was necessary to take kids to the doctor, or to classes at technical schools, or to their relatives for holidays. The orphanage recently acquired a new car, a Niva VAZ 2131, costing \$8,530, with the Society's support. The new car is more economical on gas for quick trips with fewer students and the minibus can be reserved for larger trips. Greater mobility means greater opportunities for the health and well being of the children. In August 2007, the **Opochnka Specialized**



RCWS sponsored a new car for the Idritsa Specialized Orphanage



Using new cooking equipment at Krasnogorodsky Specialized Orphanage

Orphanage received an \$11,650 grant from RCWS to furnish its medical center with the essential medical equipment and supplies needed to ensure timely diagnosis and comprehensive treatment for its student population.

This summer, RCWS provided an \$11,355 grant to the **Pushkinogorodskiy Orphanage** to help rehabilitate and treat children suffering from tuberculosis.

A special congratulations to Tatiana Bodrova of the Pskov Children's Fund for being awarded a medal of honor and service by the international foundation *Patrons of the Century*.

In Memory of Mrs. Alexandra Malozemoff

Dear RCWS Supporters,

It is with deep regret that I announce that our esteemed Honorary Director Mrs. Alexandra Ivanovna Malozemoff, nee Harlamoff, passed away peacefully at home on June 28th. She is survived by two children, Alex and Irene, and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Malozemoff was born in a small village east of the Urals in 1912 and escaped the Bolshevik

Revolution by immigrating to the United States in 1922. She grew up in San Francisco and married Plato Malozemoff who rose to become Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Newmont Mining Corporation and also served as Chairman of the Tolstoy

Foundation. She lived for over 60 years in Greenwich, Connecticut.

I had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Malozemoff during several visits when we invited her to New York to show our appreciation for her generosity to the Society. We took her to museum exhibitions and had lunch afterwards. When she could no longer travel, we visited her in Greenwich. What a joy it was being with this cultured woman. She had a keen wit and we enjoyed every minute being with her and always looked forward to our get-togethers. Her Russian was beautiful to listen to. We will forever remember her for her elegance, kindness and interest in the activities of the Society which she supported for many, many years.

We will always have Alexandra Ivanovna in our memory and she will be very much missed.

Vladimir Fekula
President and CEO



Mrs. Alexandra Malozemoff with Mr. Vladimir Fekula

RCWS Grants to Russia in 2006 - 2007

Hospitals and Rehabilitation Centers:

"Let's Give Beauty Back to the Children" Project - \$60,000 grant toward the facial surgeries of disadvantaged children at the Moscow Medical Center of Maxillofacial Surgery. (See article, p. 1 & 6)

Foundation "Future without HIV/AIDS"/ All-Russia Children's Hospital for HIV-infected children, St. Petersburg - \$10,000 grant to hire 9 professionals to provide education and psychological assistance to 26 HIV infected orphans (5-8 years old). The Faberge Foundation provided a direct contribution of \$500 to the hospital toward the art therapy program. The Pettus-Crowe Foundation also awarded a \$1,000 direct contribution.

Smile Train Project - continued sponsorship of cleft surgeries (The Smile Train grant) by the local partner hospitals and co-sponsorship of the II Training Symposium. In 2006, RCWS wired \$21,150 for this program.

Pediatric Department, Sechenov Medical Academy, Moscow (Arthritis Project) - \$5,000 grant for medical research on connective tissue disease and Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. Sponsorship of training for two Russian doctors at the Hospital for Special Surgery in NY. (See article, p. 9)

The Herzen Institute of Oncology, Moscow - \$15,000 grant for equipment and medical research that treats children with sarcomas.

Moscow Medical Stomatological University "Healthy Child" Fund - a \$7,950 grant toward a field mission to the Saratov region to provide medical treatment for 40 children with maxillofacial pathology.

Rehabilitation Center "Inspiration," Nikolskoe-Gagarino - \$22,000 (2006) grant toward the center's activities. In 2007, the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development provided a \$4,040 donation and Dr. Nicolas Gagarin made a direct donation of \$1,000 to the Center. This year, RCWS awarded an additional \$21,770 toward food, clothing for children, medicine and utilities expenses.

"Krug" Rehabilitation Center for disabled children and their families, Moscow - \$12,350 grant toward costumes, books, teacher salaries and theater equipment. (See article, p. 8)

Educational Center "Bolshaya Peremena," Moscow - \$9,500 grant in 2006 to hire 5 instructors for 9 months to prepare 14 orphans from Moscow for high school equivalency exams and college admission exams. In 2007, RCWS provided \$14,823 to underwrite an accelerated academic program for 7 orphans. (See article, p. 9)

Art Therapy and Social Rehabilitation Center for The Visually Impaired, St. Petersburg - \$10,000 grant for furniture, hardwood floors, educational equipment, and window frames. (See article, p. 5)

Rehabilitation Center for Children with Special Needs "Viktoria", Velikij Novgorod - a \$6,000 grant to create an outdoor sports facility for children with special needs.

Charitable Organization for Parents of Disabled Children, Ryazan - a \$6,000 grant toward medical care of 30 children and legal workshops/consultations for families with disabled children.

Rehabilitation and Social Assistance Center "Kupel", Moscow region - a \$10,500 grant for sporting equipment, clothing and an outdoor recreational facility.

Orphanages and Shelters:

Oepochka Specialized Orphanage, Pskov region - \$13,146 grant (2006) to cover sporting equipment and create a gym/sport complex for 104 children living at the orphanage, and \$11,650 (2007) to furnish its medical center with necessary medical equipment and supplies. (See article, p. 10)

Krasnogorodsky Specialized Orphanage, Pskov - \$8,586 grant (2006) toward cabinet making and carpentry equipment, a \$8,885 grant (2006) to upgrade cooking facilities, and a \$3,553 grant (2007) to support the orphanage's bicycle club activities. (See article, p. 10)

Pytalovo Specialized Orphanage for the Hearing Impaired, Pskov region - \$8,000 to cover the cost of sound-amplifying equipment for 86 hearing impaired children. (See article, p. 10)

Pushkinogorodskiy Orphanage, Pskov region - \$11,355 toward medical equipment to help rehabilitate and treat children suffering from Tuberculosis. (See article, p. 10)

Orphanage #2, Novomoskovsk, Tula region - \$12,000 grant in 2006 for an industrial washer/dryer and iron, furniture, and educational seminars and local sightseeing tours for the students. In 2007, RCWS provided another \$12,000 grant toward an advanced vocational training program "Way to the Future." (See p. 12)

"Shelter for Childhood," Moscow - \$20,000 grant to cover electricity expenses (1 year), new electric boiler, salary of instructor (1 year), food, etc. to accommodate 4 homeless teenagers. (See article, p. 8)

Specialized Orphanage for Children with Learning Disabilities, Velikij Novgorod - \$6,173 in direct contributions from The Edmond and Virginia Moriarty Foundation for an industrial size dryer & other necessities.

Krasno-Dubravski Orphanage, Moscow region - \$12,000 grant to purchase a minivan.

Charitable Foundation "Nordic Crown," Moscow - \$7,000 grant toward renovations at the Gagarinsk Specialized Orphanage in the Smolensk region. (See article, p. 6)

Idritsa Specialized Orphanage, Village of Shushkovo, Sebezhsy district, Pskov region - \$8,530 grant was approved toward purchase of a "Niva" motor vehicle. (See article, p. 10)

Nikolsky Orphanage, Leningradsky region - \$9,500 grant for 10 computers. (See article, p. 4)

Charitable Fund Nadezhda (Hope), Vladimir - \$12,680 grant to assist 8 orphans in continuing their education at a school of their choice through a monthly stipend program.

Spivakov Foundation, Moscow - \$3,000 grant to cover transportation costs for participants of the children's art festival and \$4,765 grant to bring young musicians/dancers to perform at orphanages in Pskov. (See p. 7)

Schools:

Pushkin School in Novomoskovsk, Tula region - \$8,000 grant toward books, magazine subscriptions, supplies, transportation to student conferences at home and abroad. (See article, p. 4)

Children's Russian Orthodox School, Avraamlev Monastery, Rostov - \$7,000 grant (2006) and \$9,000 (2007) toward textbooks, furniture, equipment for Chemistry, Physics and computer classes, sporting equipment; uniforms and shoes for children, food, renovation of the school.

St. Nicolas Orthodox School, Kislovodsk - \$11,900 (2006) and \$13,000 (2007) grants to cover food, sporting equipment, financial assistance to needy students, etc.

Russian Orthodox School, Tutaev - \$12,502 grant (2006) and \$11,433 (2007) toward equipment for Computer Science and Art Education classrooms, renovation of school facilities, furniture, and food.

(List incomplete)

How You Can Help

RCWS is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization recognized by the IRS. Tax ID #13-5562332. The Society relies on private donations to support its various programs. Our endowment allows 100% of donations to go directly to help Russian children. We are also seeking corporate sponsors to help fund our ongoing programs in Russia. All contributions are tax deductible.

Save the Date!

**43rd Annual Petroushka Ball
at the Waldorf Astoria,
February 8th, 2008**

Call RCWS at 212-473-6263 for tickets, ads, auction donations and special sponsorships.

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

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PLEASE CONTACT US WITH COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

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Announcements

RCWS is proud to announce that one of our partner organizations since 1998, the **Novomoskovsk Orphanage No. 2** in Tula, has been named one of the 27 best educational institutions in Russia by the Federal Ministry of Education. It represents the only orphanage honored in an "Innovative Schools" competition and shares the spotlight with regular secondary schools and one gymnasium. Congratulations to Director Anatoly Ovchinnikov for his leadership in designing quality education for orphans!

In August 2007, RCWS awarded a \$12,000 grant to the orphanage to advance their vocational training program.



It is with regret we announce that Lannyl Ossorguine, former Chairperson of several of our Petroushka Balls has resigned from our Board of Directors for personal reasons. Her husband Serge continues to be a Board member. We will miss Lannyl's cheery disposition and valuable suggestions. She has assured us that she remains available for participating in limited activities if called on.



Our Director of Development, Maria Vorobieva, has moved to Toronto, Canada. The Society thanks her for her loyal service and for introducing many new supporters during the 4 1/2 years she has been with us. We wish her the best in her new endeavors.



Anna Sergeeva-Gross and Anna Netrebko at the Yacht "Princess" during the "Petroushka on the Hudson" cruise

RCWS's VII "Petroushka on the Hudson" dinner and dance cruise took place on September 14, 2007 and was attended by over 220 guests.



Beslan children having fun with their new friend

Russian Children's Welfare Society, Inc.

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