

ENHANCING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITH CLEFT LIP AND PALATE IN RUSSIA

Tens of thousands of children in Russia suffer from cleft lip and palate. Sadly, in many cases, parents abandon children who are born with this condition. To make matters worse, orphans with disabilities are denied virtually every right to medical care, education and individual development. They become victims of the cultural stigma that abandoned children are "damaged." The exact translation of the Russian word handicapped is "worthless." If hospitalized, they are less likely to receive proper care than other children.

The ill state of the Russian healthcare system further complicates treatment of children in need of such corrective surgeries. Government funding is extremely limited, usually covering only 40% of a hospital's actual budget. As a result, hospitals often have trouble paying their bills and

occasionally endure periods without heating and other basic necessities. Patients are frequently asked to bring food or medications with them, and equipment is in limited supply. Materials and wound dressings are washed and used over again. Healthcare personnel receive low pay, which leads to chronic understaffing. Surgeons in the highest-ranking pay category receive a monthly salary of \$100.



A little patient after cleft lip and palate surgery

As a result of these conditions, most children are not able to receive proper medical care. Children with cleft lip and palate, a medical condition that can be easily corrected with surgery, live in horrible shame and embarrassment. They are kept home from school and hidden away from society. These children have no friends, no joy, and no sense of self worth.

The Russian Children's Welfare Society has partnered with The Smile Train, a non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to provide assistance to children born with cleft lip and palate around the world. Together, we will improve the situation for children with cleft lip and palate in Russia. We began our first operations in December 2000, and aim to perform 500 operations per year.

We are currently working with the two most prominent hospitals for facial recon-

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The First Petroushka Ball of the 21st Century

"An Evening in the Enchanted White Forest," is the best way to describe the lovely and magical evening of the Petroushka Ball, which took place on February 2, 2001 at the Plaza Hotel. As usual, the event took place in the Grand Ballroom. However, on this evening the ballroom was transformed into a panoramic forest surrounded by 'white birch' and, the dance floor became the crystal frozen lake where the snow maidens of the Kozlov Ballet Academy took center stage to perform Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Snowflakes."



Ballerinas of the Kozlov Ballet Academy

This year, Mrs. Lannyl Stephens Ossorguine and her husband Sergei, chaired the 36th Annual Petroushka Ball to benefit the Russian Children's Welfare Society. This majestic evening was attended by over 500 beautifully dressed dinner and dancing guests, and raised over \$35,000 to further support needy Russian children.

The guests were brought back to the romantic era of Czarist St. Petersburg and Boris Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago. The Tseylin Trio performed 'Lara's Theme,' bringing tears of joy and nostalgia to many in attendance. At the same time, our guests were brought back to modern day New York City and treated to the music of the Lester Lanin Orchestra. In the Baroque Room, the Balalaika Russe Ensemble strummed the true spirits of mother Russia and hypnotized the very shy in a spell of dance and song.

Mrs. Ossorguine, expressed her deepest gratitude to the Ball Committee, and the many patrons of the ball for their tireless work in making Petroushka Ball 2001 such an enchanting success. This year, Mrs. Beatrice Fekula obtained gift certificates to exclusive restaurants, paintings, books, etc. for the raffle. The Grand Prize was a reproduction of the Imperial



Mr. and Mrs. Ossorguine

Peter the Great Faberge Egg. Each dinner table was graced with a bottle of "Jewel of Russia" vodka, compliments of the firm.

As the grains of time passed slowly into the early morning hours of a new day, guests realized that the nostalgia of the 'enchanted forest' was coming to an end. Yet, as a reminder of such a special evening, the elegant ladies received beautiful gifts donated to the Society by Kenneth Cole and Chopard.

On behalf of the Society, we thank Mr. and Mrs. Ossorguine, all of our benefactors and guests for supporting this event and the ongoing programs that provide relief for Russian children around the world suffering from illness, neglect and poverty.

We look forward to seeing you again next year on Friday, February 8, 2002. We are again fortunate that the beautiful Mrs. Ossorguine will be chairing our 37th Annual Petroushka Ball.

RCWS CONTINUES TO HELP CHILDREN WITH ARTHRITIS IN RUSSIA

In 2000, RCWS started a new program to help children suffering from Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) in Russia. Dr. Thomas Lehman, Professor of Medicine at Cornell University Medical School and the Chief of Pediatric Rheumatology at the Hospital for Special Surgery, kindly agreed to take part in the Society's project.

Despite the availability of the necessary medication in Russia, the dearth of progressively trained rheumatologists has left thousands of Russian children needlessly crippled. To help remedy this problem, Dr. Lehman invited Dr. Medyantsova, Chief of the Pediatric Division at the Moscow Institute of Rheumatology, to New York for a training session in April 2001.

During the next stage of the project, Dr. Lehman participated in the Third All-Russia Congress of Rheumatologists in Ryazan, making a presentation on childhood rheumatoid diseases. His report also included information on various diagnostic techniques and methods of treating patients with joint disease. Dr. Lehman also stressed in his report that early diagnosis and timely treatment are

key to curing a patient with JRA. Unfortunately, about 45% of patients who apply to the clinic have an advanced stage of JRA, which makes treatment and recovery less successful.

Due to such great interest in Dr. Lehman's expertise, the organizers of the congress decided to publish his works in a Russian medical journal for rheumatologists.

After the conference, Dr. Lehman went on rounds with Russian doctors at the Moscow Institute of Rheumatology, examining 12 patients and offering treatment recommendations. Dr. Lehman shared with the staff his knowledge on the use of anti-inflammatory drugs and how to monitor the



Dr. Medyantsova, Mrs. Lipsky, and Dr. Lehman at the Moscow Institute of Rheumatology

dosage. Mrs. Nadia Lipsky, volunteer coordinator of the project, accompanied Dr. Lehman during his visit to Russia, helping him establish contacts and conduct discussions with Russian doctors. With the grant from RCWS, the Moscow Institute of Rheumatology purchased much needed therapeutic equipment, special beds



One of the patients

for patients, computer and other equipment, all of which Dr. Lehman and Mrs. Lipsky saw during their visit to the hospital.

RCWS is very grateful to Mrs. Lillian Booth for financing the project and to Dr. Lehman for his generous donation of time and expertise. The Society intends to continue the arthritis project by further educating Russian rheumatologists and helping the Institute of Rheumatology to purchase the necessary drugs and equipment.

RCWS CHRISTENS PETROUSHKA ON THE HUDSON CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVING RUSSIAN NEEDY CHILDREN!

The Society decided to celebrate its 75th anniversary this year with "Petroushka on the Hudson", an evening river cruise on New York City's glorious and beautiful Hudson River. Friends of the Society responded with their usual generosity and enthusiasm. Prince and Princess Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff graciously opened the doors of their lovely New York City home for a patron's party to launch the event and hand out invitations.

On Friday June 8th, the World Yacht Princess sailed from Pier 81 at the West 42nd Street dock here in New York City, with the Russian flag flying proudly at the bow. As guests boarded, each was greeted with a glass of champagne. The "Princess" passed down the Hudson to New York Harbor, then along the East River to Manhattan's Upper East Side, before returning to her home dock by the same route. Guests enjoyed a five course dinner, then danced in the yacht's main lounge to music from the Lester Lanin Orchestra and the Russian Folk Instruments Ensemble.

The Russian Television station, NTV, covered the festivities.



Petroushka on the Hudson

The event was blessed with a wonderfully crisp, clear evening. When not eating or dancing, guests were up on deck enjoying the sight of Manhattan's skyline in the late-setting sun. World Yacht Princess gave us a fine view of Lady Liberty, and also skirted Ellis Island, where some of our parents and grandparents first set foot on American soil.

Among honored guests in attendance were the Russian General Consul in New York, Mr. Pavel Prokofyev and the distinguished rheumatologist Dr. Thomas J.A. Lehman, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology at New York's Hospital for Special Surgery. Dr. Lehman was honored for his efforts on the Society's behalf, and gave a fine speech describing his work with Russian children.

The approximately 200 guests had a wonderful time and hoped that this inaugural cruise would be held annually. One friend of the Society compared "Petroushka on the Hudson" to the feast at the end of many Russian fables: "The liquor flowed and the food was good, the ambience excellent, and the company superlative. What more could a person ask for?"

Our thanks go out to all those who helped make this evening such a success. Special thanks to Beatrice Fekula for organizing the event



Mrs. Zolotoochin

RCWS REMEMBERS A GREAT FRIEND: A TRIBUTE TO OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN CHILE, MRS. EVGENIA ZOLOTOOCHIN (1917-2001)

Evgenia Alexandrovna Zolotoochin was born in Vladivostok, a seaport on Russia's eastern edge, on February 25, 1917. This was also the year when the dark clouds of the Bolshevik revolution began to spread

throughout Russia. The Communist regime that was established in 1917 haunted her throughout her entire life.

The sheltered life that her father, a successful businessman, provided for his family was interrupted in 1929, when they had to escape to China to save their lives. The twelve year old girl crossed the border with her family, traveling on foot under the cover of the night and hiding during the day.

Their new life in Manchuria had a difficult beginning but, the resolve to succeed helped the family to achieve a reasonable life style. During these few years of relative tranquillity, she finished high school and successfully completed her training as a dentist. Soon after, she married her first husband, a civil engineer.

In 1945, dark clouds began to gather again. The Soviet Army invaded Manchuria and her life was shattered once more by the arrest and imprisonment of her husband, who was placed in several Soviet concentration camps. Left with two small sons, and her will of steel and the strength of her character pulled her through the difficult years that followed.

While practicing dentistry and taking care of her family, she began her crusade against poverty and injustice first as a member, and then as a leader of the Women's Committee in China. A few years later she was told by the Soviet consulate that her husband had died in a prison camp. She remarried and had a daughter.

In 1958, no longer welcome in China by the Communist government and unwilling to go back to Russia, her whole family moved to Chile. She died in this beautiful South American country forty three years later on the July 27, 2001, surrounded by her family, leaving behind a legacy of love and compassion.

Evgenia Alexandrovna was a woman who suffered more than her share in life. Life's tough tests break the spirit of the

weak, and only the strongest survive. Evgenia Alexandrovna not only survived, but also had the greatness of spirit to offer compassion to others. Having experienced herself the injustices of life, she dedicated much of her time and energy to help those in need, especially children. She was a long time representative of the Russian Children's Welfare Society in Chile, always making a case for those who needed to be helped the most. Her leadership as the Chairwoman of the Ladies Auxiliary in the parish of Our Lady of Kazan in Santiago was widely recognized.

We will never know the full extent of her work, for she was a very private person, and respected the privacy of those she was helping. The love and the respect she commanded are reflected in the farewell words of the parish priest, Father Benjamin: "I have seen this many people only at the Easter Mass...."

Evgenia Alexandrovna, you were a leader, an adviser, a fighter, a friend, a mother, a grandmother, and an ordinary woman with an extraordinary heart. God bless your memory!

Alexander Zolotoochin

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS...

In 1989, a group of teachers in Moscow formed Krug (Circle), a non-profit organization offering services to children with physical and psychiatric disabilities. They opened a facility, run by a staff of volunteers, called the Krug Rehabilitation Center, where over 120 youngsters now participate in a variety of rehabilitative activities that run on a three-year cycle. The primary goal of the organization is to help these children to integrate into society.

Children with advanced psychiatric disabilities such as autism, schizophrenia, and Down's syndrome, benefit from individual and group therapy sessions. Other children with developmental disabilities also take classes. Parents are invited to meetings of the "Parents' Club," where they have the chance to learn about their child's disability and consult with specialists.

Every summer, children and their parents go to a special camp for two weeks where they participate in a very busy schedule. In the morning, the children attend classes, take music lessons, and have ample time for play and games. At the same time,

the parents have the opportunity to meet with teachers in a group or in individual consultations, and also assist the teachers during class periods.

After lunch, kids spend quality time with their parents, walking in the woods, reading, or sharing with each other any exciting news from the morning's activities. Then, in the afternoon, children head off to workshops where they learn how to draw, spin and dye cloth, sew Russian folk costumes, make paper and bind books, and make ceramic pots.

On the last day of camp, the children exhibit their workshop projects, put on puppet performances, and participate in contests. At the end of the day, they sing around the campfire to the accompaniment of a guitar.

Krug volunteers also recently started a new initiative, a day clinic, for children with advanced psychiatric abilities. Currently, our 15 children participants attend individual and group classes designed specifically to meet their needs. The children take walks, help cook lunch and learn crafts. This program provides parents with a rare and valu-



Future artist at work

able break from the enormous responsibility of caring for a youngster with disabilities, while assured that their children are in the hands of caring professionals.

Unfortunately, our dedication to the children is not enough to realize all of the wonderful projects we have in mind. We are ever in need of funding! We are very grateful to the Russian Children's Welfare Society for supporting us in 1996, 1998 and 2000 and hope that our work will continue to be of interest to the Society.

Staff members
Rehabilitation Center "Krug"

HELPING ORPHANAGES IN PSKOV REGION OF RUSSIA

If somebody asked you what Great Princess Olga, Alexander Nevsky, Pushkin, Musorsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov all have in common, most of you would probably have no trouble finding a correct answer. All of these names are in some way tied to the history and culture of the ancient Russian city and region of Pskov. In Pskov, the air and soil are saturated with the spirit of the past, and the ideals and beliefs of Russia's ancestors come alive in the whiteness of churches and the mysterious beauty of icons.

The poverty of the Pskov region today, however, stands in stark contrast to the abundant culture and beauty of the ancient city. The roads are in extreme disrepair and the buildings look dilapidated. Unemployment is high, many families are poor, and the number of children given up to state orphanages by their mothers and fathers is growing at a steady rate.

There are 24 orphanages throughout the Pskov region, some of which house up to 300 children. There are also 15 *priyuts*, or



Dinner at the Idrizta Orphanage

The Youth Theatre in Moscow was the gathering point for over 400 orphans from schools around Moscow for a celebration of the old Russian New Year on January 13, 2001. The centerpiece of the event was a beautifully trimmed fir tree, which stood tall in the lobby of the second floor. Ascending the staircase to reach the tree was a difficult, yet rewarding challenge for children on crutches, who were greeted by Ded Moroz and Snegurochka. To be sure, children in wheelchairs safely reached the festivities using the elevator.



The fairy tale begun...



"Mishkas" and the loving friends

temporary shelters where children from troubled families stay before returning home, or before being transferred to a state-run orphanage. The total orphan population of the *oblast* is an estimated 4,000 children. Government subsidies of the orphanage system have dwindled, leaving many institutions in rural areas like Pskov to survive on their own. Many grow and preserve their own food for nourishment. The diet consists mainly of grain cereals, little or no fruit, and minimal vegetables (potatoes and cabbage). Meat is a rarity. We can report, however, that nutrition has improved at many schools in the last year, which in turn has improved the health of school children. Despite this small measure of success, orphans maintain a lowly status with limited prospects for education or employment, and suffer from a life-long struggle with poor self-esteem.

RCWS has helped improve conditions at several schools and orphanages in Pskov. In

the spring of 2001, RCWS provided a grant to the Idrizta orphanage, an institution for children with mild learning disabilities located in a small village about three hours from Pskov. RCWS funds were used to purchase sewing machines and supplies to expand sewing classes for the children. The grant also financed the purchase of tools and equipment for the wood shop, which greatly enhance the quality of the lessons. While this does not directly improve the children's living conditions, it makes it possible for them to acquire skills that can lead to gainful employment after leaving the orphanage.

RCWS also supported another organization in Lositsy that provides an alternative form of care for children from destitute families. The community there, started by congregants from the Saint Martyr Veniamin Petrogradsky church in St. Petersburg, relies solely on donations and receives no government support. RCWS funding was invaluable in defraying food costs, and helped with the purchase of construction materials to renovate the sleeping area and dining facility. RCWS has helped the community in Lositsy to create an environment that gives the children the warm and loving feeling of a home rather than a cold institution. The Pskov orphanages and RCWS work together to grant orphans a sense of care and love that is absent in their lives.

Olga Aareskjold
RCWS Representative in Russia

NEW YEAR BRINGS HOPES

Once everyone had gathered, the New Year's program commenced with song and dance. Clowns were also on hand for further entertainment. A special theatre performance filled with the music, mystery and wonder of fairy tales also enchanted the young audience. Each of the orphans also received presents packaged in bright round boxes.

This special winter holiday for disabled children was realized through a joint collaboration of the Society's Moscow Office and the "Preodoleniye-L" Rehabilitation Center. Dr. Igor Holodny attended the event and in his brief address noted that RCWS is thrilled to work with organizations like the "Preodoleniye - L" Rehabilitation Center, where disabled children are treated with great tolerance and kindness.

This celebration provided a much-needed respite for the children, who must endure



Making new friends

the harsh realities of life in the orphanage. Though they reluctantly dressed to go home behind the grand stairs of the old theatre, the orphans were visibly pleased with the day's festivities. The memory of the day buoys their spirits throughout the year, which is the best New Year's present of all. RCWS looks forward to organizing such holiday events for more children in Russia.

THE PINK HOUSE WITH BRIGHT WINDOWS

During 70 years of Communist rule, the only permissible scouting organization in the Soviet Union was the state organized Pioneers. Other scouting organizations were forbidden, denigrated in encyclopedias as bourgeois.

Ten years ago, different scouting organizations began to appear in Russia. After years of propaganda, there was still misunderstanding and rejection of the new concept. People did not like the foreign word *scout*, but were equally confused by attempts to translate the word into Russian. Many people still think that camping organizations in Russia should be limited to the Pioneers. Despite such difficulties, the Russian scouting movement has taken root in different parts of Russia. In 1998, Patriarch Aleksiy gave his blessings to the Russian Scouts Brotherhood, and provided them with an old building at Krutitsky patriarch ensemble to be used as a meeting center.

The building had been used during Soviet times as a guard post for a famous prison called Alyoshinkie Kazarmy, and was left in great disrepair. The sewage system



The Orthodox Scout Center before...

and the roof needed to be fixed, and there was no electricity. While we were able to clean up the inside of the building, the outside of the building, still equipped with bars and barbed wire, remained uninviting to children.

In 2000, a grant from the Russian Children's Welfare Society enabled us to remove these prison remnants, as well as repair the roof and paint the building. The result is a striking pink building with multi-colored windows.

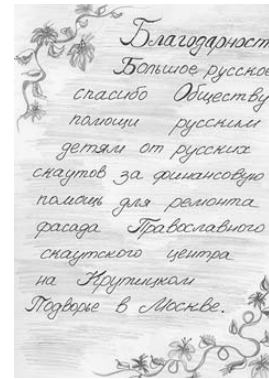
In the summer of 2001, RCWS provided a grant for bathroom renovations, the installation of a phone line and the purchase of kitchen equipment.

The Center now provides after-school activities for over 300 children from orphanages, troubled families, and families with



... and after

many children. Children and their parents gladly come to our center. We are very grateful to the Society for all of their help. When Scouts from all over Russia come to see us, they are delighted to see that the center has improved so much for the better.



Scoutmaster
Natalia Polyakova

Executive
Secretary of the
Orthodox Scout
Center

ENHANCING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITH CLEFT LIP AND PALATE IN RUSSIA

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structive surgery for children in Russia. We work closely with Dr. Svetlana Diakova, Head of the Department of Pediatric Facial Surgery at the Moscow Medical Stomatological Institute and her deputy, Dr. Marina A. Pershina. Dr. Vitaly Roginsky, Head of the Moscow Center of Children's Maxillofacial Surgery, also joined this project in June 2001. All of these doctors are of the highest integrity, and are among the most qualified doctors to perform this type of surgery in Russia.

Unfortunately, these hospitals are limited in the amount of work they can do because funding is minimal. Both of these hospitals are in desperate need of supplemental funding to cover the costs of more surgeries, suture materials, better instruments, diagnostic equipment, medications, and supplies. Mrs. Nika Thayer, one of the Society's generous friends, donated \$15,000 for the purchase of a fiberscope. This equipment will significantly improve diagnostic capabilities and speech therapy treat-



Cleft treatment at the Moscow Medical
Stomatological Institute

ment at the Moscow Medical Stomatological Institute. The doctors there previously had to borrow a fiberscope from another hospital, which greatly limited treatment opportunities.

In June 2001, The Smile Train sponsored Dr. Diakova and Dr. Pershina's participation in the 9th International Congress on Cleft Palate and Related Craniofacial Anomalies in Goteborg, Sweden. This meeting provided Russian doctors with an opportunity to learn about advanced methods of cleft lip and palate treatment and

other available medications. To further train Russian doctors, RCWS and The Smile Train are organizing a training symposium to take place in Russia in the autumn of 2002. All surgeons who perform cleft lip and palate operations in Russia will be invited.

Furthermore, there are many children who need primary cleft surgery at the orphanages in Russia. RCWS intends to establish a special program to bring orphans to hospitals for treatment. The number of orphans in Russia is estimated at 600,000 - a figure that is growing at a rate of 100,000 children per year. With the help of our partner hospitals, RCWS will conduct an outreach program to local orphanages to find children who would otherwise go untreated. As a result of our efforts, we believe that fewer children with facial deformities will be abandoned, and adoptions of children who receive corrective surgeries will increase.

The Society is also hoping to involve 3-5 additional hospitals in Russia to reach more children in need of cleft care. We are truly changing the lives of those children who participate in this program.

CHILDREN'S SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE OFFERS POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR RUSSIA: A VISIT TO ST. ALEXIS SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE

BY BRETT BYERS

Yaroslavl Diocese, Russia - The St. Alexis School and Orphanage, built on the ruins of a convent destroyed by Soviet authorities, has helped to transform this little crossroads one hour northeast of Moscow. The premises have been reconstructed to include a school and farmhouse on its expansive grounds.

Father Alexei Vasilenko and Headmaster Constantine Chebikin have developed an incredibly rigorous academic program to go along with the new facilities. There are four departments: liberal arts, mathematics and science, apprenticeships (offering training in farming, carpentry and mechanics), and a department for the physically handicapped. The school also offers instruction in four foreign languages, and is equipped with computers, and musical

instruments. The school complex also contains a library of 50,000 volumes (including a set of 16th century texts obtained for the library by Father Alexei) and a natural history museum, which is also a source of great pride for Father Alexei. A number of the first graduates of the St. Alexis school are now attending university in Moscow.

St. Alexis is a model community for its 150 residents. Along with the eighty students, seventy adults, including teachers, priests, nuns, cooks, farmers, laborers and other volunteers, live and work on its grounds. They receive room and board, but are otherwise unpaid. The dedication and education level of the staff is impressive - much of the teaching staff holds graduate degrees. All of the adults work very long hours at a variety of tasks to keep the community running. As a result of their hard work, the residents of St. Alexis are largely self-sufficient with regard to food, with many of the 50 adult non-farmers in the community pitching in to help at harvest time.

But it takes much more than hard work and three meals a day to keep the children in the classroom. And St. Alexis is grateful for the help of outside donors who help keep their school and orphanage running. A grant from the Russian Children's Welfare Society funded the purchase of heaters and helped to pay for the heating bill for the St. Alexis

school and student dormitory during their first winter of operation.

Nonetheless, other critical needs remain unmet. The school remains woefully short of funds, skilled labor, and the building materials and tools needed for the maintenance and expansion of the facilities. It would cost St. Alexis \$50,000 to build an additional brick student and faculty dormitory to meet the school's short term needs. Furthermore, Headmaster Chebikin talks about the new textbooks that need to be purchased for next year's academic program so that we can accommodate additional students.

Still, he remains optimistic about raising the funds necessary to complete the work on time. "Our school is getting bigger and better, and that is good news for our students", says Chebikin.

Brett Byers visited the St. Alexis School and Orphanage in November 2000. The Society wishes to acknowledge Mr. Byers for his generous support. He has used his own personal contributions to prevent the local power authorities from cutting off heat when St. Alexis could not pay the bills. He also covered the costs for the construction of shower facilities for the orphans. Children were previously transported to a nearby village to bathe. The Society thanks him for his kindness.



St. Alexis School and Orphanage

" A THREAD FROM EACH OF US WEAVES A POOR MAN A SHIRT "

RCWS DONORS SUPPORT GOES A LONG WAY IN RUSSIA

It has been my great pleasure to work with the Russian Children's Welfare Society since 1997. As a volunteer representative, I have seen how the Society's funding has helped many orphanages to meet needs that could not previously be addressed.

Several orphanages in the Archangelsk region have been able to acquire much needed furniture with RCWS grants. A municipal orphanage in the village of Konosha purchased beds, desks, chairs, mattresses, and blankets. Two other orphanages in Bereznik and Koryazhma purchased desks and chairs so they could accommodate all of their students.

RCWS has also extended its helping hands to several orphanages located in small towns in central Russia: Votkinsk,

Glazov, and Saratov. The Society's support has helped these impoverished orphanages to purchase clothing, food, vitamins, school supplies, toiletries, and toys. Since many of the children also suffer from a variety of medical problems, the Society has also helped with the purchase of medicine and special medical equipment. The orphanage in Votkinsk,



Special exercise equipment for children with the skeletal muscle disorders at the Votkinsk specialized orphanage

for example, serves 60 children with skeletal muscle disorders. RCWS support helped them to purchase special exercise equipment, a padded play pen, foam exercise pads, massage equipment and educational games for the children. The brightly colored equipment also helps foster a cheerful environment, which in turn benefits the children's emotional development.

I am very glad that there are people on the other side of the ocean who care about our children and help them. I thank you again on behalf of the children whose life has become a little easier with your help. There is a saying in Russia that " a thread from each of us weaves a poor man a shirt."

Organizations like RCWS make life better for Russian orphans. Again, thank you for your help!

Elena Lotova

RCWS Representative in Russia

Announcements

PETROUSHKA BALL

The annual Petroushka Ball will be held on Friday, February 8, 2002, at the Plaza Hotel. Please contact the Society for sponsorship, tickets, or additional information.

THANK YOU

The Society would like to thank Mr. Michael Klebnikoff, our former Board member, for his many years of devoted service.

INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

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

RCWS ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Mr. Vladimir P. Fekula was elected as the new President of RCWS at our Annual Board meeting on June 25, 2001. Dr. Igor P. Holodny was elected as Chairman. Dr. Holodny served as a President since 1993. The Society would like to thank him for his long-time contribution.

NEW STAFF AT RCWS

The Society welcomes Tricia Rattigan, our new Director of Development, who joined the organization in the summer of 2001. Tricia received her Master's Degree in

Russian Literature from Princeton University and most recently has been with The Salvation Army.

REMEMBER THE SOCIETY

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

Russian Children's Welfare Society, Inc.
200 Park Avenue South, Suite 1617
New York, NY 10003

Your attorney may contact us at:
(212) 473-6263



Winter is coming!

Russian Children's Welfare Society, Inc.

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