

## **TRIP REPORT**

**in Torzhokskaya boarding school  
for orphans and children left without parental care  
with disabilities type VIII  
Zeleny village, Tver region**

**18 January 2013**

In the end of the last year we had made arrangements for visiting orphanage early in January - we had to bring Christmas gifts collected by pupils and their parents at one of the Moscow schools. But the visit was canceled at the last minute and we were able to agree a new date only after the winter holidays. Despite our disappointment it turned out for fortune.



The school was closed for repair works through the whole December, the children were in various sanatoriums until the end of winter holidays. Therefore, this year they did not have any traditional New Year's celebrations, or usual gifts from sponsors.



The boarding school for orphans is an institution, where children having various mental or psychical disabilities live and study under special program. In the day of our visit there were about 90 kids, three quarters of them are orphans.

As always, aside from bringing humanitarian aid and gifts we brought a lot of engaging activities and games.



After dividing children into four groups, we started the activities: we had crafts class with the younger ones.

Played games and held competitions in the gym with the teenagers. The Alias game had a special success.



Meanwhile, there was held another class on transforming caps - children together with volunteers were turning them into cats, owls, penguins, decorating with sequins, beads and flowers.





And the most exciting was a cooking class of making cakes of gingerbread with cream, bananas and chocolate.



As always, we asked children to write their letters to God:

Sveta, 8 years

“My request is: change my heart to be good and please bring a telephone called megaphone.”

Igor Shteinikov, 15 years

“God forgive me. Please let all people have another chance and so that they all could go to heaven. Please let them live in peace and without evil. I would like You to come down to the earth and live with us.”

Nastya 15 years

“I would like my mother to stop drinking alcohol. I would want her to come and take me from here and please help her to be sober. And I would also like Jesus to change my life and my mother’s, so that she would pick me up after school daily and she would not die. I love my family and love God. I know that You help to everybody. My mother’s name is Sveta”.

Tagir 14 years

“I would like to find parents. Dad and mom. I would like to have a family. This is all I ask.”

It was obvious that the orphanage is not favored by any sponsors or by local authorities. The institution and the children have a lot of needs, which are not covered by governmental financing.

We've seen dedicated people who give a lot of their time to children. For example, a sewing education teacher spent her day off with us helping to sort out over a hundred gifts that we brought for children. And immediately after our departure she went to the musical rehearsal with the school kids.

The main emphasis in the school is made on involving kids into musical activities. They often take part in various music competitions, festivals and events.

The teachers are real enthusiasts and have to use all imagination and creativity in order to make studies efficient and interesting for children lacking stationery or simple appliances. For example, the school has a single microwave oven which is not used for regular needs but as a training device in the class. We brought a lot of popcorn for movie watching and failed to make it for this reason. There is no broadband Internet either in the village or in the school. A single modem is in the office of school principle, used for checking mail.

Below are the photos of handmade crafts, the tree leaves made of plastic bottles, each leaf cut separately.

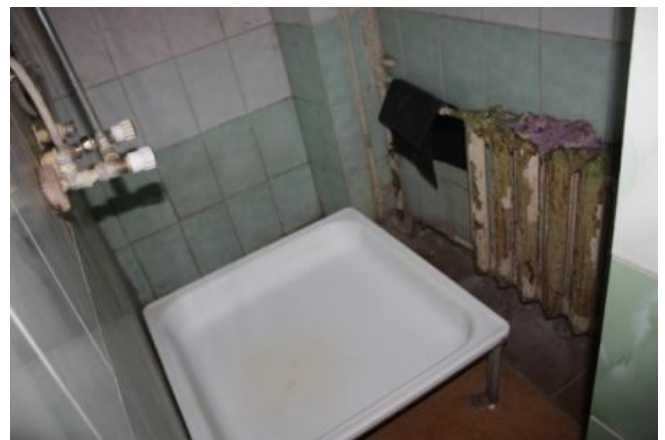


Upon graduation kids enter the local colleges to obtain simple professions of seamstresses or plumbers. But even with special education diplomas it is difficult to find jobs because of the medical diagnoses they got. Therefore, many of them get additional certificates of secondary education from evening school. These children have more chances for settling more or less successfully in life. For the rest of kids the future does not seem to be extremely bright.

In terms of living conditions the most unpleasant surprise were rather cool temperatures at all premises. With  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  outside, the temperature in the bedrooms does not rise above about  $+17^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and the corridors and classrooms are even cooler. The coldest one was the gym, making you to exercise or dress up or freeze.







At the end of the day the children got their gifts and we received in exchange a joy watching their delight, surprise and sincere gratitude.



We encourage any sponsorship involvement in the life of these kids. The premises, studies and bedrooms need repair, windows - replacement. Musical group needs the microphone stands, musical equipment and spare halogen lamps for lighting effects. Teachers were happy to get simple stationery and books. Administration was very much thankful for new cups we brought and hygiene items. Any help is highly appreciated.

Children are not spoiled at all. They were happy that we worked with them, hung on volunteers, calling everybody "mother". Almost all of them experienced traumas and almost all of them are children from families of alcoholics. Some parents are in jails. Despite all medical diagnoses, most of them seemed to be kids who just need more attention and love.

We are very much thankful to all the people who participated in the trip and activities with children, who bought presents and prepared gifts for kids or donated finances for presents, who helped with transportation of the humanitarian aid.

**We thankful to:**

Volunteers who travelled with us: Andrey, Natalia, Gennady, Karina and Elena, Kairat and Igor, Alexandra. We appreciate your support and availability to drive or ride far from Moscow to share your love with children.

**We thankful to:**

**The British International School of Moscow** for great presents to each child.

**The Rock 'n' roll Club “Maestro”** and personally Tatiana Markova for arranging humanitarian aid collection.

**BNS Group** for great outfit for teenagers.

**GGs Trade** and personally Nadezhda for great coats and jackets.

**“MFPoisk” and DS Parad** for party accessories - balloons and firecrackers.

Ekaterina Romanova and her friends for the purchase and delivery of hygiene items for kids.

**To support New Life Center programs:**

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*Назначение платежа: пожертвование на уставную деятельность*

We recently got a tool on our web enabling cards and mobile phones transactions:

<http://newlifekids.ru/help/help-finance>

Kind regards,

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