



# Les Amis de Svieta

Information fall 2016

## Acting together to prevent Child Abandon

Despite the crisis in which Ukraine currently is, Les Amis de Svieta do not give up. In 2015 and 2016 our association continued to pursue the main objective of supporting and helping young children who are severely affected by health problems. Your generosity has enabled us to transform the lives (even to save them!) for many children!

Due to the general uncertainties that have put Ukraine under heavy strain for the last two years, we were not rushing to support large projects. We took the time to analyze the situation. It seemed to be important for us to wait before we could start further projects (**out of consideration to our sponsors**).

Today it appears that the area of Nikolaiev, where most of our work is concentrated, is spared the conflict (located in the Donbass area in southeast Ukraine). Based on these observations and based on reports of our local informants, we plan to launch a **substantial project to support pregnant mothers in difficulties and thus avoid the abandonment of their children.**

With your help we will open a **welcome room for mother-child** in Nikolaiev's Baby House. The mothers in distress who have no social or financial support are welcome to find support and medical, psychological and legal assistance. We hope that such support will enable young mothers to see a common future with their child. And perhaps, thanks to this procedure, there will be fewer orphans in future. We believe in it!

We all know the importance of this first mother-child bond. Today it is proven that the first interactions are of utmost importance: the first days, weeks and months create a trust which often defines the future of the child. Together we want to act and support. Together we can avoid the worst.

*On behalf of Les Amis de Svieta, Pascal Chavaillaz, Françoise and Christophe Hürlimann, Véronique and Joseph Erard-Guenot*



'For a child there is nothing more important in life than its mother', director Olga Ivanovna knows what she is talking about. The head of Nikolaiev Baby House (NBH) hosts around 200 children from 0 to 4 years in her institution. For several years now this orphanage has been a model for the whole of Ukraine.

For the last 15 years NBH has been committed to improving the comfort and quality of the children's life in order to offer them the necessary support for their special needs and conditions. Indeed 90% of our young children suffer from one condition or even from several disorders: problems of the central nervous system, muscular development, hearing or sight, hereditary or contracted infirmity at birth, cardiac malformation or other.

## New therapy room

In 2015 an art therapy room was established at NBH with the help of Les Amis de Svieta. The children, who have suffered a severe trauma through the abandonment and suffer from the consequent effects, can now begin to process their difficulties thanks to drawings, painting and modeling. The professional help and support can also be guaranteed. But because director Olga Ivanovna knows that nobody and nothing can replace the presence of a mother with a newborn, she now wants to open a part of NBH to mothers in distress.

## New mother-child welcome room planned for 2016

In order to realize this new structure an unused place of the orphanage will be rebuilt. At the beginning it is planned to have 5 women per month, 60 per year, in single rooms, which ensure the best possible privacy. In the NBH the women will be given medical advice and may also rely on the expertise of the employees regarding childcare. Through this support mothers hopefully gain confidence in them and learn proper childcare. For Les Amis de Svieta, as well as for the director Olga Ivanovna, this project represents the possibility of preventing mothers from abandoning their children. Various reasons such as material insecurity, social difficulties and lack of health care caused Ukrainian parents not to accept and abandon their children. In the new system, the mother learns to deal directly with her child even with a disability. Consequently the mothers themselves are strengthened. They get information about the nature of the malformation and that sometimes it can also be a reversible disease.

## Max & Co

In Ukraine, the treatment of orphans in a hospital is normally free of charge, but first the child must be taken to the hospital. The State does not pay for transport nor for accommodation during hospitalization or consultation with a specialist in a remote hospital. Les Amis de Svieta covers these costs to enable the treatment of NBH children.



In the case of complications or a suspicion of cardiac malformation, the doctors from NBH forward the sick children to the cardio center in Kiev (KCC). Kiev is 400 km away from Nikolaiev (trip by night train).

We are financing e.g. the journey and accommodation of these children and their nurses to the hospital in Kiev or Kharkov. In 2015 our association had helped 6 children to achieve better health and a more normal life. This year it was 8. Thus, for example, Artem has succeeded in learning to walk with a special device after several surgeries of arms and legs. Max, Mickaël and Yaroslav were operated in KCC. This all was only possible thanks to your donations.



Legend:

On top of this page **Michail (Max)**  
Bottom left, **Alla**. and **Artem** right.  
**Artem** and **Yaroslav** on cover (first) page

Nikolaiev is a port and industrial city in the south-west of Ukraine, 130 kilometers from Odessa and about 60 kilometers from the Black Sea. Around 500,000 people live in Nikolaiev today. Les Amis de Svieta has been supporting the orphanage (NBH) for 15 years. The three initials NBH stand for "Nikolaiev baby house".

- For fifteen years Les Amis de Svieta has improved sanitation in several orphanages such as Nikolaiev, Kremenchuk, Zhytomyr or Kherson. There were many bathroom renovations and renovated kitchens for groups, which could be realized with the support of our association. Last year, thanks to your donations, we were able to renovate in Nikolaiev two isolation rooms, which dated from the Soviet era!



If a child gets sick and the doctors suspect an infection, it must be separated immediately from the rest of the children. There the child is examined and treated until there is no danger for the other children in the group.

- Les Amis de Svieta was able to support various vaccination campaigns, thanks to financial help from our American friends at Svieta Inc..



- Our website [www.svieta.org](http://www.svieta.org) regularly informs you about the latest activities. We are publishing photos of the children, who could be looked after and treated thanks to your donations.

« Many thanks for your support. Every donation, however modest it may be, has a positive effect on our task and support. We and the orphans from Nikolaiev are very grateful for it. Together we can transform their lives and improve their living conditions. »

**Les Amis de Svieta**

c/o Véronique & Joseph Erard  
Les Prés-Dessus  
2874 St-Brais (JU)  
☎ +41 32 433 46 36  
info@svieta.org

**Les Amis de Svieta Les Amis de Svieta**

c/o Françoise & Christophe Hürlimann  
Sur Prègne 13  
2885 Epauvillers (JU)  
☎ +41 32 461 30 17  
info@svieta.org

c/o Martine & Pascal Chavailleaz  
rte du centre Sportif 6  
1752 Villars-sur-Glâne (FR)  
☎ +41 26 400 08 85  
info@svieta.org

**IBAN CH56 0900 0000 9124 4273 3**

Villars-sur-Glâne, fall 2016

