



Les Amis de Svieta

Information November 2005 - November 2006

- ❖ Geography of Ukraine has almost no more secrets for Les Amis de Svieta! During 2006, our association has been active everywhere in this large country, whose surface corresponds to that of France (see map), to directly support orphan children and to realize projects to improve their life quality in orphanages and boarding schools. We have invested roughly 37,000 Swiss francs for all direct support and projects. All this help has been possible only thanks to your generous donations.



On the above map, red spots show cities in which our association provided help, either in form of an infrastructure project or by medical assistance for children. We visited orphanages or boarding schools (school internat) in areas with blue points. Often on behalf of other associations or for families, which wanted to convey messages about their adopted children.

- ❖ Beginning of this year, we have got our own **web server** up and running. That, naturally, generated some costs as well as much work for the whole volunteers team, which gladly and happily accepted this challenge: **Marie** (graphics), **Richard** (technology), **Jim** (software) and **Tom** (architecture and contents). They all worked very hard in order to present you our new web site full of up-to-date and exciting content. The new web site is also much simpler for us to maintain and update. Don't forget to visit it at <http://www.svieta.org> !



We want to specially thank **Richard** for hosting Les Amis de Svieta (LAdS) Internet services **free of charge** from the very beginning

- ❖ Close co-operation with Les Amis de Svieta (LAdS) France allowed to gather new knowledge and experience in the area of clear water supply. For quite long time, the orphanage of Zeleniy Gay (Kharkov region) suffered from intermittent clear water supply from public supplier. This unbelievable hygiene problem caused much extra work for employees as they had to temporarily store water (in all kind of possible buckets, bathtubs, etc.) in order to cover most urgent needs when public supply was down. Orphanage director suggested to build a well, **drilling** (~40m deep) to tap an underground water source. Water supply from groundwater



fills, mainly over night, an intermediate **storage tank** (10m³), which is coupled to the existing water supply infrastructure and thus provides for a constant and guaranteed water supply. This storage tank was positioned as high as possible and is **protected from cold and weather**. Small pumps are sufficient to provide necessary water pressure. We then had the whole system assessed by the french association 'Aquassistance', which is specialized in similar projects worldwide.

Result of assessment is outstanding. The director of the neighboring boarding school (school-internat) has now the same desire and immediately inquired whether we could carry out a similar project for his school! Perhaps in 2007, with your assistance.... We congratulate and thank Galina, without whom this project could not have been realized in a timely manner.

❖ This year, we could also carry out our first purely educational project. Thanks to an American family, which wanted to finance refurbishment of a laundry in Kharkov region (see also on following page), who accepted to redirect their donation for this project. The Nikolaiev Baby House was assigned by the Ministry of Health to carry out a pilot project according to the educational Montessori method. An **unused Veranda was converted into a classroom**, which was then adapted to the Montessori method and appropriately equipped, to be used by all children in orphanage. Together



with necessary equipment, this project required likewise training and certifying of teachers (through Ukrainian Montessori subsidiary). As of today, two teachers already completed first part of training course and began practicing their knowledge in the **new classroom**. We are very pleased to see that Ukrainian authorities recognize that orphanages do not only have material needs, but that above all, suitable educational means are badly required. Although both benefit the children, such a Montessori project is more in line with our philosophy and ambitions.

❖ Since mid-year, we have decided to join our operational means and skills in Ukraine together with the American association 'an Orphan's Bright star'. This new partnership will benefit both parties and shall allow us to reduce costs and work more efficiently by joining forces where it will be needed. Ukrainian team of **Vika** and **Galina** will thus likewise work in two more regions of Poltava and of Kremenchuk.



❖ Les Amis de Svieta Ukraine is now motorized! Thanks to a donated car our association is now much more mobile in Ukraine and we can reduce travel expenses. The **car** was registered in Ukraine in the name of our local representative **Vika**. A large thank you for donating this beautiful work tool goes to brother and sisters Verena, Christoph and Kathrin Rudolf as well as to an American family.



❖ As stated above, the refurbishment project of laundry at orphanage N°3 in Kharkov could not be realized. Director systematically rejected all our proposals to get it organized and planned according to our working method. Since summer 2004, she was hiding behind innumerable administrative hurdles. We finally have discovered that she tried by all means to select a company with higher prices from her network of friends instead of working together with the most economical partner we had proposed. We regret we had to stop this project, but we simply cannot accept to pursue such a big project under such conditions.

❖ In our last newsletter edition, we informed about the project for replacing flat roof with pitched roof at Nikolaiev Baby House. That is a US\$ 50,000 project, at least at the time we got the first price. We made more than twenty inquiries to international organizations and only received one single answer (negative). We now have to look for different possibilities to fund this project.

❖ Children, for whom we care, always remain the main focus of Les Amis de Svieta. During 2006, we continued to care for the about 20 children we supported or organized operations for in the past. As international adoption in Ukraine has been momentarily on hold, children's situation remains mostly unchanged. Young **Nikolay's** bladder was operated on the end of November and he is doing fine. Director of Nikolaiev Baby House has asked us to support a new girl named Vika, who arrived just recently, and who needs urgently heart surgery.



We wish you all the best for holiday season and thank you again for your generosity. We hope we can count on you again in 2007.

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Visit regularly our Internet site. There, you can read all news about our latest activities and you will also find plenty of new pictures:

www.svieta.org