



Les Amis de Svieta

Information November 2006 - June 2007

- ❖ For the last 6 years Les Amis de Svieta has been helping hundreds of Ukrainian children, who live in orphanages. However, once they leave institutional system, these young people are often left to themselves. During last April's trip, Pascal met **Olga Igorivna (Olya)**, a young lady of almost 20 years of age, who spent all her life in this system. Suffering from a serious congenital malformation, Olya contacted us via director Olga Ivanovna for support in order to be able to follow a professional scholarship, which will enable her to have an independent life. We started searching for «sponsors» ready to finance Olya and her three years of basic training in accounting and in computer science. Thus, Thomas Rudolf (representing another generous sponsor) and his sister **Kathrin**



undertook a trip to Nikolaiev in order to meet with Olya and help her to find a proper school. Her studies will begin in September and we will pay her a monthly pension. It is the first time that we make such a sponsorship project and we will surely learn a lot from it. But Olya's initiative spirit and huge motivation encourage us to give it a try. We will keep you informed about Olya's progress in our next newsletter.

- ❖ In February this year, **Ekaterina, Viktoryia** and **Yulyia** travelled to Kiev Cardio Center to have their cardiac diagnosis confirmed. Yulyia remained there for a week and underwent successful cardiac operation which definitively solved her health problems. Ekaterina did not have to remain in Kiev since her diagnosis was not confirmed and thus no intervention was necessary. She returned to Nikolaiev together with Viktoryia, as she could not be operated because of her health state (chronic pneumonia closely related to her heart problem). In April, Viktoryia travelled back to Kiev and was treated for two weeks with antibiotics, till her general state allowed a first cardiac surgery which proceeded normally. She remained in intensive care longer than expected because of a very strong fever. It is certainly her destiny, since during this time her heart stopped beating and a second cardiac surgery had to be performed in emergency. This second operation was successful and after a stay of almost two months in Kiev, **Viktoryia** was finally able to return to Nikolaiev, cured of her cardiac problems and therefore of her chronic pneumonia as well. We were all very worried for a few days, waiting with impatience for her daily medical bulletin, fearing the worst. Good things come true, all is well and we are extremely grateful to the New Zealand «godmother» of Viktoryia to have allowed us to rescued her !



- ❖ Throughout year 2006, all windows of **Kherson orphanage** were replaced. This complex and long-term project was carried out in several stages with the help of a local company which built each and every window to measure. The **old, several times re-painted and badly isolating windows** were replaced by **modern plastic ones with double glazing**. This superb project was possible thanks to the generosity of an Irish family (their son came from this orphanage) which did not hesitate to organize a lottery as part of the Dublin marathon to raise the necessary funds (~10' 000 €) for its realization. You will find many photographs showing the various stages of the project on our web site: <http://www.svieta.org/index.php/albums/category/C55/>.



- ❖ Last year, we carried out a project to **supply well water** to the specialized orphanage of Zeleniy Gay (Kharkov region). We made a control visit last April and can state that everything functions in the best way and thanks to this project, the orphanage could save half of operating expenses for fresh water supply. This brought orphanage director another idea: consider a similar operation for its two ancient gas-burners (one of which doesn't even run anymore). He found the funding to replace one of the burners and thanks to Les Amis de Svieta (LAdS) France, a second burner was bought right away during our April visit. LAdS Switzerland will purchase flow meters and an automatic regulator, essential for correct operation of the units and also pay for the whole installation and setup. All should be installed during this summer. The aim is to allow a reduction of two thirds of operating expenses for gas supply (used as well for heating of hot water).



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- ❖ The main event of last April's trip was the first «official» meeting with a representative of the American association OBS (An Orphan's Bright Star) with whom we collaborate closely. **Stacey** (on the right on the photograph), two years after having adopted her daughter Emily, wished to return to Ukraine and used the opportunity to represent her association at the orphanage at **Kremenchuk** where the joint project to **completely renovate the laundry** was launched. Vika and Pascal met Stacey and Emily in Kiev and made the trip to Kremenchuk with LAdS car together! They spent two days together there and were able to clarify project details as well as to carry out many purchases for the orphanage in local stores under supervision of orphanage director. Work began in May and finished one month later. This achievement was possible thanks to «our» building contractor from Nikolaiev, which had sent 15 workers in order to keep the (very short) delays set by the director. The funding of the project went fifty-fifty between OBS and LAdS. Vika (on the left in blue on the photograph) once more perfectly fulfilled her role as project coordinator !



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- ❖ The Swiss steering committee welcomed with great pleasure two new members to mitigate the departure of Martine, who remains however available to help with administrative tasks. We give a warm welcome to **Françoise** and **Christophe** Hürlimann, living in Epauvillers, Switzerland. We are delighted to have joining us and look forward to work together. We're certain that they will bring new points of view and fresh ideas to continue improve our help to children and orphanages of Ukraine.



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- ❖ The Montessori class at Nikolaiev Baby House opened its doors in September 2006. This year, the American branch partly funded realization of an external playground, again according to same Montessori teaching principles. Some more funding is still needed to finish this project before summer is over.
- ❖ We recently received a request to help young **Natalyia**, soon to turn 4 years old. She suffers from arthrogryposis. This syndrome manifests itself by a deformation of **hands and feet**. Thanks to your donations, this young girl will travel to Evpatoryia (Crimea) where she will be examined by the best orthopedic specialists in Ukraine. We will keep you informed about Natalyia in our next newsletter. Or if you are impatient, go visit <http://www.svieta.org>



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We wish you all a beautiful summer and thank you for your generosity. We hope we can keep counting on you in 2007.

Thanks in advance !!

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