

"Sweet Dreams"



1st Edition Fall 2000

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Dream Pack Program a Success!

This past June 150 personal backpacks were delivered to the children of Charity House. This was the result of the hard work of 4 ACS student coordinators and the generosity of the Middle and High School student body of the **American Community School in Cobham, England.**



Each homeroom "adopted" 3 children and filled the backpack with items specifically for each child. The homerooms were given color photo profiles of each child.

2nd Annual Auction

On November 13, 1999 Diema's Dream held "A Russian Dream". The auction of fine art and treasures from Russia was a great success thanks to such an entertaining auctioneer, **Mark Stacey** from **Sotheby's**. The first auction was lovely and a night to remember!

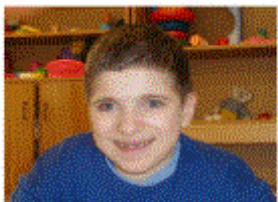


Our 2nd annual auction will be held this year at Hampton Court Palace on Saturday November 11th. Due to the kindness of **British Airways** in giving us a special reduced rate, we will be able to invite the Director of the Charity House Program, Leonid Mogilevsky and his wife and interpreter, Galena. We have also invited the well-known artist, Uri Kricklovensky and his wife Anna. Uri and Anna were so very generous last year when they donated 3 paintings for auction. In addition to having a very special place in Mary's heart, Uri is a wonderful artist!

As we leave for Moscow in October to buy for our second auction, I can't help but remember how wonderful and kind the Russian businesses and artisans were to us. The **Marriott Tverskaya** has been very generous on our trips to Moscow. Last year, the hotel was aware of our work with Russian children, and without asking, we were not charged a room rate for over a 7-day stay! When I looked at the bill, I choked out to the receptionist that someone might just want to double check the bill, as there just

Diema's Dream Dream Packs

Ira Tyuleneva
02/29/86



Ira has Cerebral Palsy. She is sociable and easily establishes contact. She speaks with syllables, knows and recognizes individual workers. She can walk holding on to handrails. She can slightly manipulate objects and toys. Ira knows parts of her body and can show them on her own body.

ACS PG & HS Backpack program for Charity House, Moscow

These profiles brought these children to life for the students of ACS. They lovingly filled each backpack taking into consideration each child's likes and dislikes, disabilities and abilities. Each backpack was decorated and the name of the child was written in both Russian and English. The backpacks were shipped without cost thanks to the generosity of **Crown Worldwide Movers Ltd.** The development of the profiles was truly an international cooperative effort. It began with Alexei Shuvaev, who lovingly shared his talent with us in each and every photograph of the children.

The caregivers working with the children were asked to write a brief profile of each child in their care. The digital camera and Alexei's photos made its way to London and then on to Vienna, VA where Debra Cockrell had the enormous task of downloading the photos and matching them to the children's names!

While Galena sent the profiles in Russian to Natasha for translation to English, Mary was busy in London creating the finished product. As each profile came in she would find the matched photo and put the photo with the profile of the child...150 times! The project although a big one was such a gift because all involved felt like they got to know the children one by one. What made this project even more special to us was that Alexei left a part of himself with each profile. A young man, he died shortly after he completed the photos, from a fall in the forest. He was cutting greenery to decorate the orphanage for the children at Christmas. His body wasn't found for 3 days. For the children he so loved and those of us who loved him...**We miss you Alexei!**



The children were excited to receive their backpacks. One very special girl, Julia, who is 14, said, "This is mine? All for Me? And my name is even written there!"

might have been an error. She returned from the manager's office with this quiet smile and said that the bill was perfectly in order! And doing what any professional, fundraising, charity founder would do, I simply burst into tears! Thank you, Mr. Fardon, Svetlana and all the wonderful staff of the **Marriott Tverskaya.**

The artisans at the market **Ismailova** were so wonderful and generous to us. Some people cried when we explained what we were doing and showed them the pictures of the children. Many artisans could not believe that Americans were doing this for Russian children and they gave us their very best prices. We hope, as we return this October that we will be remembered and once again the Russian artisans will show their kindness to Diema's Dream.

New Programs

A new medical program is in the beginning stages of development. We will be organizing a network of Russian doctors and facilities where we can arrange treatment for some of the children needing operations. If they cannot be treated in Russia then we will arrange for them to have treatment in the US. We have already found an eye surgeon in the Washington D.C. area who had agreed to operate without charge on one of the children.

Of major importance is a new program just underway at the orphanage. The Charity House Program, in conjunction with the Moscow Institute for Continuing Education for Special Education Teachers will be conducting an "experimental" program that will take 2 groups of children and document their progress while working with special education teachers and rehabilitation therapists.

A family support program was initiated to financially support Russian families who have taken on the tremendous responsibility of adopting or fostering the children of the Charity House Program. The first family to be sponsored is the widow of Alexei Shuvaev. Before Alexei's untimely death, he and his wife Lisa decided to take the unprecedented step of formally adopting one of the children of the Charity House program, Alyosha Dubrovski. When Alexei died, Lisa, who grieved terribly for her husband, was without income and feared that she could not support Alyosha and he would be taken back to the orphanage. We are so grateful for the families who offered to sponsor Alyosha and Lisa, each for half of the year. You have done a wonderful thing and given Alyosha the start of a chance in this world. The money will be given to Lisa in October and we know she will be overjoyed at the generosity and extremely



There were not many dry eyes of the adults in the room and we left that day feeling the magic!

grateful.

Goals for 2001

In addition to raising money to support the ongoing operating costs of the Charity House program and providing operations for some of the children, we hope to find a center in the West that works with disabled children to act as a partner for the "experimental" program. The results of this program could be instrumental in providing a mechanism to re-classify disabled children so that they may, in the future, have the same rights of all Russian citizens to medical treatment and education. As you consider your charitable contributions for 2001 please keep Diema's Dream in mind. Any donations towards this goal would be most gratefully accepted.