

Treasures of the Heart Christmas 2007



Barskoe Gorodische Orphanage

December 2007

We are anticipating a super trip to BG this year. So many improvements have been completed in 2007: the hall and dining room, shower house and laundry room, commercial washer and dryer, snow blower for the kids' safety on the icy trails, and a completely furnished woodworking shop!

Hot showers, clean clothes, sanitary dining room, and a trade for the kids when they leave BG were just some of our goals.

The Christmas party is a highlight for us as we are able to share Jesus' birth, gifts, crafts, and a celebration meal. It warms our hearts as the teachers tell us each year, "The kids anticipate your visit more than their families." Thank each and every one of you for helping us reap the blessing! Without you, this would not be possible.



Last year, we treated the kids to an old fashioned sleigh ride. To say they loved it, would be an understatement.

New Teaching Work Shop

After the government completed the classroom, we were able to realize a long term goal. We supplied it with any carpenter's tool dreams. It has:

Lathe
Table saw
Compound miter saw
Drill press
Grinder

Vacuum system
Electric sander
6 sets of hand tools
Visual aids for the wall
Lots of supplies

How You Can Help...

"Adopt" an orphan for Christmas \$25

A gift for each child – Old Navy Hoodies

Socks and underwear

Crafts – giving us a chance to interact with the kids

Nativity Presentation

Goodie bag with fruit, cookies, and candy for each child

A huge Christmas cake

A real bottle of Coke for each child

A celebration meal

Bulk food - sugar, flour, macaroni, cheese, meats, eggs, oil, butter

Vladimir's Crisis Center

Christmas 2006, our friend, Lena, made a call for us on our last day in Vladimir. Our hearts were filled with anticipation, as we visited with the director of the first and only women's shelter in Vladimir. Walking into a remodeling project in progress, we knew immediately, it was ours to complete.

Even though this will be a government sponsored center, only basic operational funds are provided. The minor remodeling that was in progress would only "clean up" the place. The director would have to find funding for a complete transition and improvements necessary to have the center operational. This is quite like

the beginning Director Alex was faced with at Barskoe Gorodische.

The center will provide temporary housing, legal help, and help finding a job. The stories of these moms are heartbreaking and not necessary to share. We listened to them for you and know God has opened a door where we can minister to the family's body and soul.

Before we knew about the center, Lena and her husband, Uri, had been raising money for them. Knowing their personal involvement, we feel confident they will be our eyes and ears.

Since the first visit, we have become a partner with the center. Treasures will be furnishing the 10 bed dorm, playroom, and our dream is a new kitchen. The furniture will be bought in Moscow at Ikea.

To make this a reality, we are flying to Berlin, where we will purchase the playroom supplies and take the train to Russia. This may seem an odd way to make all the purchases, but as we have learned, in Russia, children's toys are real luxuries and they make families pay dearly to treat their kids. In Berlin, a playhouse cost \$95, in Russia; the same playhouse cost \$750!

Treasures of the Heart, Inc

1530 Williamsburg Lane ▪ Beaumont, TX 77706-3443 ▪ 409.898.1937

Donate on-line @ treasuresoftheheart.org

Treasures is a 501 (c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible

Team Update—A year of health problems over shadowed by MIRACLES!

Stephanie's knee replacement was a surprise to us all. Her doctor fought all odds to get her cleared and on the schedule for surgery in a matter of 10 days. She is resting and staying off her knee in anticipation of the trip. We laughed, even on a walker she would be faster than she was last year!

Howard is as good as new after his cancer surgery. The surgeon at MD Anderson pronounced him cancer free!

Donna has been seeking answers to her health problems, but thank God, all the scary possibilities have been ruled out.

Richard began a Science magnet school this year. He is in the 5th grade in the gifted and talented class. He is enjoying his new environment, as his teachers are from all over the world. Richard's rich life of travel is already helping him relate to the many cultures he is meeting at his new school.

Wish List for the Women's Shelter

Playroom

9 Toddler chairs at \$25 ea
 1 Table at \$65 ea
 3 Stools at \$13 ea
 2 Toy Shelving Systems \$165 ea
 Puppet Stage \$45
 Play Kitchen \$125

Dorm

8 Day beds at \$120 each
 8 Mattress & Linens at 220 each
 1 Bunk bed at \$360 each
 2 Mattress & Linens at \$197 each
 1 Crib at \$145 each
 Toys

Kitchen

Cabinets
 Sink
 Stove
 Dishes, Silverware, & Glasses
 Pots and Pans

The Real Good News

One of the frequent questions we get is, "Are the conditions in Russia improving?" Over the last eleven years, we can see growth each trip. The free market concept is taking root. In some areas, the government seems more responsive, at least in some cases.

In 1996, the babies were starving and freezing to death. It was commonplace for orphanages to run out of food before the end of the month. In '99, we arrived at Sobinka orphanage, only to find their water had been off for three weeks. When we asked what the problem was, they responded, "In Russia, you do not ask why. You turn on the faucet. There is water, or there is not. It will come back, some day." Today, things are better, at least where Treasures has access. From reports we receive, Russian are adopting

their orphans in much higher numbers, than in years past.

The kids at Barskoe Gorodische were barely existing. Being placed on the street on 16th birthday, most faced a life of crime, then prison. Now, most of them have opportunities to get into trade schools, while a few are off to college. The government, who in 1996 would not even feed the orphans, is now remodeling the school house. The neighborhood parents are asking, "Can our kids come to Barskoe's school?"

Last week, a local orphanage had a fire. The area directors are taking their weekends to help clean the debris. Such involvement has not been commonplace.

Women, for the most part, have been second class citizens, in Russia. Now, Vladimir is starting a shelter for women.

We have gone in many pediatric hospitals, and been shown children who were waiting to die, for lack of minor medical supplies. Without such simple things as sutures, surgeries could not be performed, resulting in protracted suffering, and in some cases, death. In June, Vladimir Children's Hospital invited us to the opening of their neo-natal unit.

The good news is, God has His plan in action. He has prepared the hearts and minds of administrators and staff, before He opened their doors to us. Places whose doors were closed to any outside help, are opening to Treasures. This is not from anything we have done, but the hand of the Lord. Now as we begin to enter the 21st century, we will be able to take the real Good News to them!

Friends Update

Vitaly & Aloyna purchased a ceiling franchise, they sell the do it yourself supplies to remodel ceilings. Like any new business, more work than money, but they have great hopes of building it into a future.

Please, pray for them, as they have selflessly given to the orphans of Russia for many years.

Lena & Uri are both working hard. This week their apartment was flooded by an overflowing heating system. Lena said the apartment is finally dry and they will begin repairs next week. They lost the ceiling, walls, and floor.

Please, pray for them, as they would love to have a child.

Zhanna & Andrey are both doing great and continuing their education. Coming out of Barskoe Gorodische, they are good kids with goals for their future.

When we last visited their apartment we remodeled, it was neat and clean.

Please, pray for them, as they face a Russian future.

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We are a non-denominational Christian Organization and a 501 (c) (3) 76-0635932 charity. We've cared for orphans in Russia, Sri Lanka, The Republic of Georgia, India, and Africa, where we are feeding, clothing, building, remodeling and providing medical needs.

Our call is to meet the needs that fall through the cracks. We provide and distribute humanitarian aid to orphans, children's hospitals and needy families, all over the world, while sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all who will listen, thus meeting their physical and spiritual needs. We equip the indigenous people with the necessary implements to care for those in their charge, physical and spiritually.

Vladimir Children's Hospital

In 2005, we were granted access to a hospital we have never been allowed to visit. As usual, God had placed a friend, Nadia, inside the hospital. We were excited to find the hospital administrator is a Christian!

The door was opened on our visit last Christmas, when we had the

run of the hospital. We played grandparents to every child in the hospital, as we made our way through the halls and rooms, loving and praying for the babies, toddlers, kids, and teenagers. Tears rolled down the cheeks of mothers, as we prayed for them and their children. What a gift it was for us.

Can you imagine how happy we were to see the equipment we brought the summer before, being used to save those tiny lives? We were tickled pink to give them a second IV pump this year. When we return this Christmas, we will be taking a third pump.

Our Bible angels have provided a beautiful hard cover Bible for each family with a child in the hospital.

Our Goals for this Christmas

Each child a gift & goodie bag of fruit, cookies, and candy.
We are planning for 80 children, ages 0 to 16.

**How Can You Help?
Sponsor a sick child's
Christmas for \$15**

