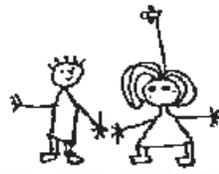




Summer Camp 2003 with Ukraine's President Victor Yushchenko



# HUHTC

Help Us Help The Children



Number 1, 2005

# NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first issue of our new HUHTC newsletter. The newsletter will be provided to you to help you understand our charity, our goals, our expectations and our success in meeting them.

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## ABOUT US... *Making a Difference* **Help Us Help The Children - Pryateli Ditey**



Help Us Help The Children (HUHTC), a project of the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund is a core group of volunteers helping over 30,000 orphans in Ukraine. For more than 12 years, 200 orphanages, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and clinics have benefited from supplies of medication, food, clothing, educational toys and materials with a value of over 15 million dollars Canadian.

After the Chernobyl disaster, thousands of children were orphaned or had extreme medical defects or other difficulties. Yearly, HUHTC offers a variety of relief efforts to help these children. Volunteers personally visit orphanages throughout Ukraine delivering medication, dental supplies, clothing and new shoes. Winter and summer camps are held to give children a chance to enjoy nature, and develop physical and spiritual activities related to daily living.

The Anti-Trafficking chapter mentors the children to the many dangers faced when they leave the orphanages such as prostitution and crime. Our Scholarship chapter gives funds to a number of orphan graduates to further their education and provide them with prospects of a better future.

In addition, our volunteers hold events to raise money for the orphans. This years' Fundraisers included a Volunteer Night, Art Show, Fashion Show, Telethon, Church Collection, Recital, Walkathon and the Maria Burmaka Concert.

The 10th anniversary Summer Camp continues to search for benefactors to help with our mission of improving the everyday quality of life and health of the orphans and creating opportunities for them to reach their maximum potential.

# **SUMMER CAMP**

## **In Vorohota, Ukraine**

**Luba Petrusha, UCARE volunteer @ HUHTC Camp**

In August of 2004, Help Us Help The Children - Pryateli Ditey, held its annual summer camp for Ukrainian orphans. The volunteers came from Canada, Ukraine and the USA. Many of the Ukrainian volunteers were "stipendiaty", orphans who have completed high school and moved onto college and trade school (where they are supported by stipends from and Help Us Help the Children and UCARE).

More than 500 hundred children traveled many miles to spend two weeks in the clean mountain air of the Carpathian Mountains. They came to a town Vorohota, nestled in the mountains near Hoverla, the tallest mountain in Ukraine. They were then split among four sites; two for the younger children (ages 12-15) centered in buildings in sports bases in or near town, and two for the older children (ages 16-18) held in tent camps in the mountains.

***More than 500 children travelled many miles to spend two weeks in the clean mountain air of the Carpathian Mountains.***

The official language of the camp was Ukrainian, and efforts were made to instill national pride in camp participants. This included Ukrainian crafts, music and traditions, and training in kozak martial arts ("boyovyj hopak").

Last years camp theme was an international one. Every day the children awoke in a new country. At the morning zbirka they would raise the flag of that country (along with the Ukrainian one) and listen to its anthem. The komanda (camp leaders/staff) would dress in national costume, and tell the children a bit about the day's country. Before going to breakfast, all the camp's participants would have to pass through a mock-embassy to get the camp passports stamped with visas.

During the course of the day, during their maysterni (workshops) and their free time, the children would learn more about each day's country.

One of the most popular maysterni was "Business", where our campers learned about starting and running a business. Each group (hurtok) was given a loan, with which they started their own business. Some opened cafes; others started up hair and nail salons and laundry services. Others prepared and delivered varenyky, pizzas, coffee, tea and cappuccinos. One group sold photo CDs of camp, this, with more than 1000 photos on a single CD, was the most labor intensive and profitable project. Our campers learned how real business works;

after paying for supplies, franchising fees, loan repayment (and in one group, mismanagement of funds!); the profits were much less than gross income. A few campers started their own free land projects (water delivery from the dzerelo/spring and in-room massages) and made a tidy profit.

In health education the campers learned about hygiene, first aid, smoking, drug and alcohol addiction, and AIDS prevention. The latter is a particularly important topic as Ukraine has the highest rate of **AIDS** infection in all of Europe (there is currently a 1%-HIV infection rate, or about 500,000 cases, and this number is growing exponentially. **If the current growth rate continues unabated, the infection rate will be about 7% in 2010**, similar to that in many hard-hit areas of Africa).

The children's health was looked after in other ways. On the first day of camp, all of them underwent a medical exam, and acute medical problems were treated. Those with significant dental problems were sent, on a daily basis, to Ivano-Frankivsk, where a volunteer dentist treated them. Every base had at least one volunteer doctor to look after coughs, colds and other aches and pains, to stitch wounds and to provide TLC.

Overall it was the hope that the program provided the children with a variety of new life skills while promoting greater awareness of themselves and the world around them.



**A time capsule was buried under a rock inscribed with a Tryzub in the year 2000 containing the goals and ambitions of all the campers. In commemoration of the 10th annual HUHTC camp; this summer, the children will reopen the capsule and measure their success of meeting their various goals. As well, hopefully, they will rekindle the many pleasant memories and ongoing support they receive from HUHTC.**

# SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

**Daria Turshkina – Orphan  
HUHTC - UCARE Class of 2004**

My world, since nine, has been the orphanage. It was a very difficult and endless time. I was prepared to view my “orphan hood” as my destiny in life. I felt empty and useless in society. But I knew how to be strong and trust myself. The orphanage was my “life” school, where I learned to never show my true feelings and to be hard as stone. You hid your feelings so that others wouldn’t be able to hurt you. It was like a game. The world is a selfish one. I couldn’t tell if it was bad or good, but I knew it was different and filled with harsh realities. I would not wish that life on anyone.

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But then one day I woke up and realized that somebody needs me- that was my first day in the Summer Camp (the Tabir organized by Pryateli Ditey- Help Us Help the Children). Ever since then I believed that somebody, many people, cared about me and supported me. It didn’t matter how far away they lived. It was more than just a relationship

between a charity and the orphans. I know that many children that have been supported by HUHTC and UCARE agree with me. Living in an orphanage, being invited to come to the Carpathian Mountains was an unimaginable opportunity for me to enjoy the mountains and benefit from the programs, workshops and events at Summer Camp. It has been the greatest present for me because now, I have a huge HUHTC & UCARE family around the world. I take part in almost all the projects of HUHTC and work to support the children who come from the same background as me. I truly believe that we can prevent bad things

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from happening to us if we care for each other. I plan on being involved in HUHTC every moment of my life because these people are very special not only to me but to all Ukrainian children in orphanages. We feel as though we are part of a large family, which

has helped us learn to stand on our own in this world. I remember every moment of my life and I thank God for the people who supported me and believed in me. To forget about them and not try to help would be the same as my leaving my own family.

## **Daria’s Success Thanks to Help Us Help The Children**

Upon graduating with a Masters degree in Economics, Daria took a position as a financial auditor with the Prudens Consulting Group\*. She divides her time between Kharkiv, and her apartment in Kyiv, where the headquarters of Prudens is found.

\*The Prudens Group includes firms which provide services in auditing, tax and management consulting and accounting based on National and International standards. There are 140 specialists within the company- lawyers, auditors, financiers, economists, registrars of securities and estimators, analysts and arbitration managers. Prudens Consulting Group works with a great number of Ukrainian companies and foreign investors in areas of metallurgy, transport, electricity, heavy and medium machine building, light manufacturing and food processing, pharmaceuticals, insurance, securities and mass media.

# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

## Scholarship Graduates' Meeting, Kyiv, March 2005



Daria Turshkina child



Daria Turshkina graduate



Ruslan Masnenky child



Ruslan Masnenky graduate

### HUHTC Scholarship Recipients as Children and as Graduates.



Milia Mashkovtseva child



Milia Mashkovtseva graduate



Anton Novashewsky child



Anton Novashewsky graduate



# ANTI-TRAFFICKING

## Help Us Help The Children Anti-Trafficking Initiative



Submitted by: Irena Soltys, Co-Ordinator HUHTC-ATI

At the tenth anniversary gala of Help Us Help the Children many of us heard award winning journalist Victor Malarek speak of how 'conveniently' orphans fall prey to traffickers after 'graduation', and how in some eastern european countries, orphans are even sold into the sex slave trade by orphanage directors. How can this possibly happen? Why is this allowed to continue? The answer is easy--either no one is looking for orphans or they have no one else to turn to. The solution to the problem is complex. In the audience that evening was the current President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, and his wife , Kateryna Chumachenko Yushchenko. In his address, Mr. Yushchenko, with tears in his eyes, pledged to put an end to the exploitation of orphans and children in Ukraine.

A few months later, in October of 2003, HUHTC partnered with the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Toronto in organizing the first book launch of Victor Malarek's "The Natashas-The New Global Sex Trade". It was on this evening that the author donated the proceeds of the book sales towards establishment of a seed fund for Help Us Help the Children Anti-Trafficking Initiative (HUHTC-ATI), and still continues to be a crusader for the cause, a mentor and friend in helping our group achieve our goals.

Our first project was fundraising for the purchase of 100 copies of "The Natashas" for distribution to government officials, human rights groups and university students in Ukraine (participating in the Canada-Ukraine parliamentary exchange program)

Members of Stop the Trafficking Coalition in Ottawa were able to put HUHTC-ATI in contact with the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH).As a result, both groups are working in tandem and a CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) project proposal has been put forth to develop policies and programs that prevent sexual exploitation of vulnerable children and youth in Ukraine, including trafficking and HIV/AIDS awareness. This project is currently under revision.

HUHTC-ATI has also arranged for Winrock International to conduct trafficking awareness seminars at camps for orphans. We hope to extend the training to orphanage workers and directors.

In 2004, with the assistance of Winrock International, office staff of Help Us Help The Children in Ukraine and our stendiatiy (scholarship recipients), HUHTC-ATI provided the majority of graduating orphans and summer and winter camp participants with a "survival" handbook (Robota Za Kordonom, Work Abroad) containing helpful information and trafficking help hotlines throughout the world. We hope to do so again this spring and every year.

We are currently exploring project possibilities with the OSCE (Office of Security and Cooperation in Europe) Anti-Trafficking Program, dealing with job placements, economic empowerment and co-op job training or internships for graduating orphans. Focusing on the Kharkiv, Kherson and Kyiv regions of Ukraine, it is hoped that the this pilot program can establish a successful model that could be extended to other regions and vulnerable groups.

Partnering with the anti-trafficking branch of the Ukrainian organization C.U.R.E. (Center for Ukrainian Reform in Education), we have reached an agreement for translation into Ukrainian and publishing of "The Natashas" in Ukraine, for not for profit distribution to various human rights & women groups, schools, libraries and government institutions.

We thank Victor Malarek for writing 'The Natashas', and opening our eyes and hearts to this shocking human rights abuse and for providing the proof needed to engage politicians , governments and communities world wide. Throughout the past year and half, we have organized various anti-trafficking events and fundraisers, and been invited to speak at meetings and functions, to make others aware of this human rights crisis. We realize our work in ensuring a better outcome for orphans after leaving the internaty has just begun.

# CALENDER of events

## **Mother's Day Recital May 7th, 2005**

ONGOING

St. Martins on the Fields - Fundraiser for 10th Camp Anniversary.

## **Telethon May 14th, 2005**

ONGOING

Covered by Svitohliad at 8:00 pm.

## **Church Collection May 22nd, 2005**

ONGOING

At respective Churches.

## **Walkathon June 11, 2004**

ONGOING

Etienne Brule Park and James Gardens - 5K and 10K Walkathon.

## **10th Anniversary Summer Camp August 1st - 20th 2005**

ONGOING

Over 500 orphans from all different regions of Ukraine will attend the 10th Annual Summer Camp.

## **Winter Ski Camp January 2004**

ACCOMPLISHED

65 orphans attended the HUHTC Winter Camp learning about Ukrainian Christmas, New Year and Malanka traditions and we directed a program with a very strong focus on Anti-trafficking.

## **First Route March-April 2004**

ACCOMPLISHED

Volunteers visited 50 orphanages in Ukraine in desperate need of medicine, dental equipment, essentials for life, educational materials and toys. U of T donated 50 dental chairs that were later refurbished by HUHTC dentists in Ukraine and delivered to various orphanages.

## **Telethon June 2004**

ACCOMPLISHED

Done with the cooperation of our Ukrainian Churches, Kontakt and Svitohliad.

## **Train the Trainers Workshop July- August 2004**

ACCOMPLISHED

Trained over 50 different teachers, instructors and caregivers from orphanages throughout Ukraine.

## **Summer Camp July-August 2004**

ACCOMPLISHED

Over 500 orphans from all different regions of Ukraine attended the 9th Annual Summer Camp. It's theme was "Different Countries Around the World" and the influence of the Ukrainian Diaspora on these countries.

## **Second Route October 15th 2004**

ACCOMPLISHED

Volunteers will visit 80 orphanages in Ukraine to deliver a whole year supply of medicine for over 10,000 orphans throughout Ukraine donated by Eugene Melnyk owner of Biovail Pharmaceuticals Corporation. And also deliver other much needed essentials for life.

## **Open House for Volunteers October 27th, 2004**

ACCOMPLISHED

Held at St. Vladymirs Institute, a recruitment of new volunteers and a Retrospective of the past 13 years of HUHTC work.

## **Art Gallery Show December 5-12th, 2004**

ACCOMPLISHED

Held at KUMF. With Channel 11, Svitohliad.

## **Graduate Meeting March 26th, 2005**

ACCOMPLISHED

Over 100 Scholarship Recipients met to discuss future plans and 10th anniversary camp.

## **Maria Burmaka Concert April 9th, 2005**

ACCOMPLISHED

At Golden Lion Restaurant.

## **Fashion Show April 14th, 2005**

ACCOMPLISHED

Fashion Gives held at the Mod Club and was a great success.

# DONATIONS *In kind*

If you have any questions, please call us at  
**tel: 416 604-4611** or fax: 416 604-1688  
or send us an e-mail at: [cccf@bellnet.ca](mailto:cccf@bellnet.ca)  
Visit our web page at [www.chornobyl.ca/~huhtc](http://www.chornobyl.ca/~huhtc).

**This summer Help Us Help The Children will hold it's 10th Annual Summer Camp for Orphans in Ukraine.**

## Help Send An Orphan To Camp - Summer 2005

Over 500 orphans aged 12-18, from orphanages throughout Ukraine, will participate. The camp will be held at Vorohta, in the Carpathian Mountains of Western Ukraine. The program to raise orphans' awareness of the power they hold in shaping their lives. They will take part in workshops intended to develop their self-confidence, independence, teamwork and self-esteem. **Help Us Help The Children's North American and Ukrainian Partners - Pryateli Ditey** will continue to instill in the children an understanding of Ukraine's history and culture and to cultivate a sense of belonging and pride in their country. Once again, we appeal to you to assist Help Us Help The Children and sponsor an orphan to the **10th Annual Summer Camp 2005**. It costs \$200.00 for one child to attend camp. This includes their transportation to camp, accommodations, three meals a day, new shoes, pants, t-shirts, hat, socks, towels and hygiene items such as toothpaste/brush, shampoo... With a minimum donation of \$50.00 you will receive a picture of one of the orphan children you helped sponsor, a thank-you note and a tax receipt. Please help us in creating an unforgettable two weeks for an orphan in Ukraine this summer.

### ----- Yes, I'll Help Send An Orphan To Camp -----

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate (check one please): \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to **Help Us Help The Children** and mail to: 2118-A Bloor St. W., Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6S1M8

Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

A tax receipt will be issued in Canada.

Charity Registration # 13690 9538 PR 0001



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