

# Chornobyl Chronicle

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND NATIONAL NEWSLETTER SPRING 1998 VOL.XIII

## **A CONTINUING LEGACY**

As the world commemorates the 12th Anniversary of Chornobyl approaches, the people of Eastern Europe and Ukraine must cope with a stubborn and unrelenting health crisis:

**THYROID CANCER:** The number of children stricken with thyroid cancer continues to rise. In some areas the rate is 80 times higher than normal.

**BIRTH DEFECTS:** According to health studies conducted by Japanese and American public health experts, the rate of birth defects (including deformed limbs, multiple digits and cleft palates) has doubled.

**INFANT MORTALITY:** The United Nations Office on Population has expressed concern about the declining population of Belarus and Ukraine – the two countries most affected by radioactive fallout from Chornobyl. In Ukraine, the number of deaths has exceeded the number of live births by hundreds of thousands for several years, and infant mortality is at least twice the European average.

**INFERTILITY & BIRTH COMPLICATIONS:** The rate of infertility among Ukrainian men is believed to be the highest in the world; (Source: Boston Globe); A recent peer-reviewed study by Belarusian and American doctors found that the rate of major prenatal and birth complications is significantly higher among women living in radiation-contaminated zones near Chornobyl.



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and First Lady of Ukraine Liudmilla Kuchma are greet the arrival of CCRF's ambulance at the Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Clinical Hospital. The ambulance was donated by CCRF with the financial support of John Deere & Company. (From left to right) Dr Yarema Voznytsia (Chair of the Pediatric Department), Dr. Oleksander Myndiuk (Director, Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Clinical Hospital), First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady Liudmilla Kuchma, Nadia Matkiwsky (CCRF Executive Director), Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky (CCRF President), Dr Mykola Kobzey (Chairman., Lviv Oblast Ministry of Health).

CCRF extends its gratitude to John Deere & Company for its corporate sponsorship of our medical programs in Ukraine. Deere has contributed \$350,000.00 towards our lifesaving mission.

## **CCRF Spreads Holiday Cheer**

As a celebratory conclusion to a successful 19<sup>th</sup> Airlift, CCRF staffers in Kyiv organized holiday gift-giving visits to sick children in the Kyiv oblast. In addition to critical medical equipment included in the airlift, donors helped contribute to CCRF's mission of moral uplift to children in need. With the assistance of volunteer Dr. Mona Mikalsen, CCRF secured donations of Royal Plush Beanie Babies and other toys to lift the spirits of Ukrainian youngsters who are in hospitals awaiting treatment. As a measure of gratitude for the airlift, the Lviv-based chocolate manufacturer Svitoch contributed boxes of its famous candies for distribution during the holiday season.

In preparation for its hospital visits, CCRF enlisted the support of local Ukrainian activists as well. The civic organization "Micheni Chornobylskym Atomom" ("Touched by the Chornobyl Atom"), which unites mothers of children stricken with thyroid cancer, contributed to the effort, enlisting volunteers to organize caroling in hospital wards and clinics.

CCRF staffers also visited children in the Invalids' Orphanage in Vorzel', Kyiv oblast. The orphanage, recently documented by a FOX-TV news crew in Connecticut, is home to orphaned children, many of whom were born with congenital birth defects. The orphanage in Vorzel' (neighboring the town of Bucha) has been a concern of special priority for CCRF's in-country staff. Like most orphanages in Ukraine, it lacks funding for even basic operating costs, and cannot provide its children with basic medical supplies.

## **Bucha Orphanage Welcomes Carolers**

CCRF In-Country Director Nathan Hodge visited the Vorzel' orphanage on Boxing Day, 26 December, 1997, to give individually-packaged gifts of toys and candy to the children. The children were especially delighted to have visitors from outside the home during an otherwise cold and bitter winter. The staff expressed the hope that the orphanage would see more visitors in the future, and remember the children on future holidays.

CCRF also brought cheer to children who were confined to hospitals during the Eastern Christmas and New Year. Children who could not check out of clinics were particularly happy to have a Christmas celebration during a difficult stay away from home and family.

Carolers from CCRF and Micheni visited with children and their families staying in the Kyiv

Oncological Center and in the Kommissarenko Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolic Disorders.

The visit featured distribution of toys and presents for all the children, and an appearance by Did Moroz (Father Frost) and his helper, Snihurochka. They were also delighted by performances by a Ukrainian folk singer, who encouraged children to join in with their own songs and poetry recitations. For gravely ill children, especially those still recovering from surgery, carolers paid visits to rooms in each ward. (See photo).

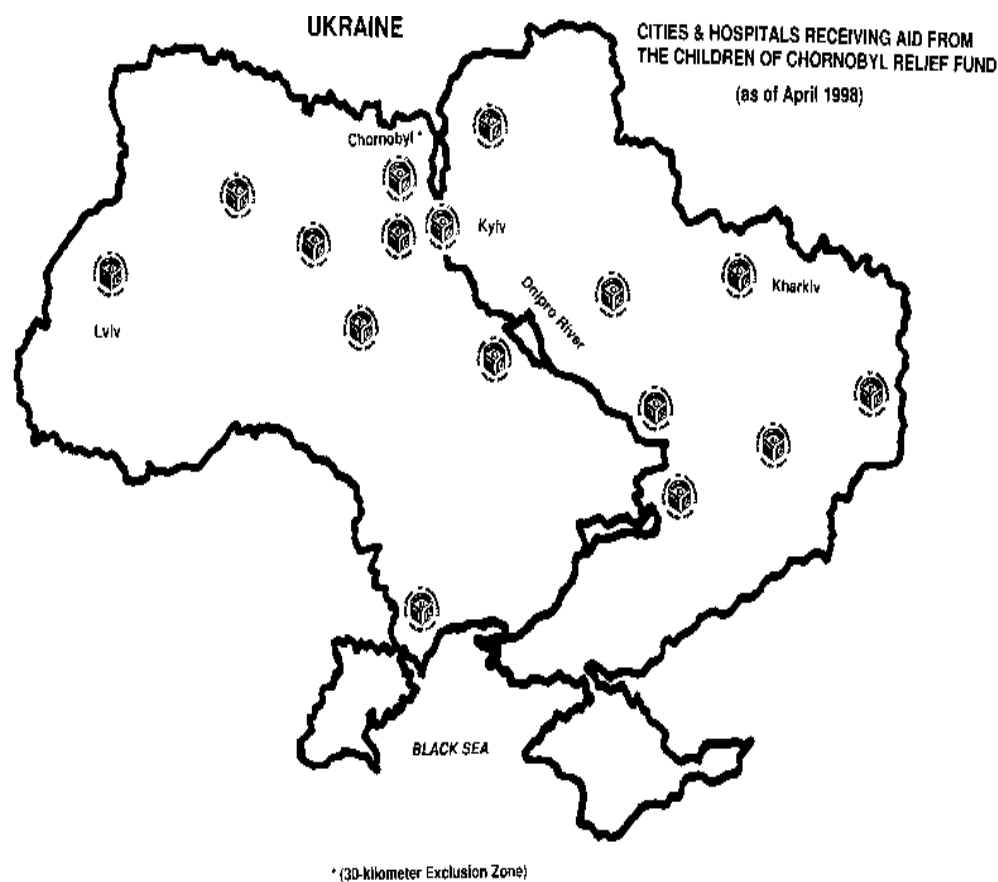
CCRF invites active participation from donors and chapters who would like to join in building on this holiday tradition. Children in hospitals and orphanages throughout Ukraine welcome visits at any time of year from visitors, and rely on the support of continued sponsorship to ensure that their rehabilitation is as short and painless as possible.



Parents and children gather to spend some time with Did Moroz and Snihurochka at the Kyiv Oncology Center.



## RECIPIENTS OF CCRF's AID



1. Lviv Regional Children's Specialized Clinical Hospital
2. Lviv Regional Children's Clinical Hospital
3. Lviv Med-Institute- Department of Oncology
4. Lviv Regional First Aid Hospital
5. Kyiv Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynecology
6. National Institute of Endocrinology (Thyroid Cancer Treatment Center)
7. Kyiv Emergency Hospital and Trauma Center
8. Kyiv Children's Hospital No. 14
9. Pushcha Vodytsia Center for Radiation Protection (Children's Cancer Center)
10. Irpin' Maternity Center
11. Cherkassy Children's Diabetes Clinic
12. Chernihiv Regional Children's Hospital
13. Chernihiv Regional Oncological Dispensary
14. Kharkiv Regional Dispensary for Radiation Protection Kharkiv Children's Hospitals No. 2 & No. 16
15. Luhanske Center for Maternal & Pediatric Care
16. Krasniy Luch Maternity Center
17. Donetske Regional Children's Hospital
18. Vynnytsia Regional Children's Hospital
19. Zaporizhzhya Regional Psychiatric Hospital
20. Filatov Institute (Odessa)
21. Volyn' Regional Children's Hospital
22. Rivne Specialty Pre-School Children's Home
23. Dnipropetrovske City Hospital #3
24. Dnipropetrovske Oblast Hospital (Mechnykova)
25. Dnipropetrovske Regional Oncology Hospital
26. Bucha Orphanage for Handicapped Children

### KEY PRIORITY ITEMS FOR AIRLIFT #20:

Ultrasounds w/ ObGyn Features (2 @ \$15,000)	\$30,000
Neonatal Respirator. (2 @ \$29,000)	\$58,000
Neonatal Incubator for Infants (4 @ \$12,000)	\$48,000
Antibiotics (Oral and Intravenous)	\$15,000
Essential Intravenous Solution for Newborns (with tubing and catheters)	\$ 8,000
Prenatal Vitamins for Expectant Mothers	\$ 7,500
Children's Vitamins and Supplements	\$14,000
Hospital Disinfectants	\$ 4,000
Publication of Prenatal Health Booklets	\$10,500
Special Brochures on the Risks of Tobacco and Alcohol Consumption During Pregnancy	\$ 4,500

**TOTAL** **\$200,000**

### OUR GOAL:

To raise \$100,000 by June 30<sup>th</sup> from this Chornobyl Chronicle Appeal. CCRF will match this sum with at least \$100,000 from corporate matching gifts and independent sources. Even a person of modest means can help us meet our goal. Consider the "centenary challenge" by contributing \$100 to the cause and inviting nine of your friends to match your gift. Remember that for every dollar you donate to CCRF, we will seek to procure at least \$10 dollars' worth of life-saving cargo for the children. With your help, we've done it before, and the need today is greater than ever.

If you or your organization or church can afford a larger donation, you may choose to underwrite the cost of any of the items listed above, or to cover some portion of the cost. We will be most grateful for your generosity.

### OUR SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR 1998:

**Combat** infant mortality through better prenatal education, superior technology and physicians' training

**Strengthen** the ability of hospitals to treat infants and newborns in remote provincial regions

**Improve** techniques for thyroid surgery and cancer screenings to limit the number of advanced cases, and reduce complications following surgery

### OUR PLAN OF ACTION:

**To complete** our model Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Dnipropetrovsk City Hospital #3

**To initiate** the second phase of our pediatric care unit in Chernihiv Regional Children's Hospital

**To launch** an intensive program of training and hospital development at the Luhansk Maternal and Children's Center

**To implement** the second phase of the neonatal intensive care program at the Volyn' Regional Children's Hospital

**To publish and distribute** the second installment of our popular public health booklet: "Caring for a Newborn - The First Year of Life"

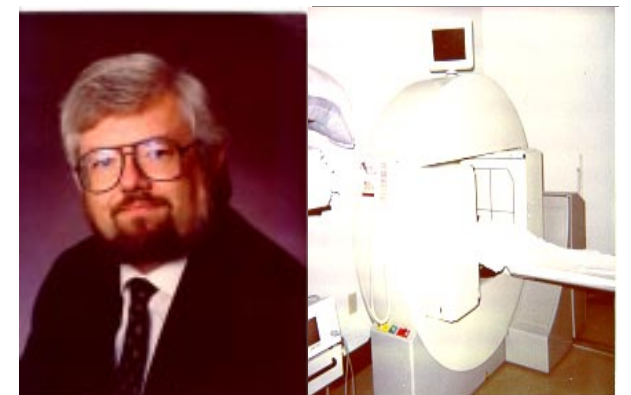
### A GIFT TO CHALLENGE US:

Prior to our last airlift, a pair of anonymous donors from Upstate New York donated \$20,000 to help us purchase neonatal intensive care equipment for a hospital in Lutsk (Volyn' Region, northwestern Ukraine). This extraordinary gift from a family of modest means was very deeply appreciated and CCRF was especially careful to leverage these funds to the maximum extent possible. We leveraged over \$177,000 worth of medical aid for this hospital, averaging \$8.85 worth of cargo for every dollar donated. The medical cargo included a new transport incubator, emergency respirator, anesthesia machine, and other life-saving technology and supplies. The parents and doctors of Lutsk were overjoyed. As we plan our 20<sup>th</sup> Airlift, we are looking for one or more donors to match this anonymous gift, to help the doctors of Volyn' save the lives of even more newborns in the coming years. (Your gift need not be anonymous. We would be pleased to purchase a key piece of equipment in your name, or in memory of a loved one. You may also designate your gift for any of our other partner hospitals, if you prefer.) Donations of any size will be greatly appreciated. Today, a growing number of Ukrainian couples are experiencing the fear (and in too many cases, the heartbreak) of losing a newborn child. Your generosity can save the lives of infants who would otherwise be in grave peril. Please consider making your gift as generous as you can afford. We will do everything to make your gift as cost-effective as possible. CCRF will give these newborns a fighting chance!

### Sea Shipment #6 Sets Sail for Ukraine

CCRF's sixth medical relief sea shipment has been launched with the aid of the United States Department of State. Fifty nine cargo pallets sailed for Ukraine in April and are scheduled for delivery in May. The total value is estimated at \$400,000.00. The following hospitals and medical institutions will be receiving major donations of medical aid: Volyn' Regional Children's Hospital, Lviv Regional Children's Specialized Clinical Hospital for Chornobyl Problems, Lviv Med-Institute, Bucha Orphanage, Rivne Orphanage. The most valuable items included in this shipment range from basic vitamins and medical supplies

to sophisticated lifesaving medical technology. Our Board and volunteers are very grateful to Dr. Andrij Baran, Dr. Gregory Rokosz, Tom Denny, Dr. Mona Mikalsen, Catholic Medical Mission Board and MedPharm, Inc. for helping us secure these top quality medicines, medical technology and supplies, including a thallium scanner, blood analyzer, surgical instruments and syringes. Your help is essential in attaining valuable cargo. If you are interested in getting involved in CCRF's efforts to bring more medical aid to Ukraine, please call our national office at 973-376-5140.



A photo of Andrij O. Baran, MD FACC and a Nuclear Imaging camera similar to the one he donated to CCRF together with his partners Roland T. Phillips MD FACC, David D. Kandath MD FACC, and Harold G. Card MD FACC, all with Saratoga Cardiology Associates. The camera is valued at \$75,000.00



## New York Times Features Work of CCRF Connecticut Chapters

In the Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the New York Times, the Connecticut Section featured a full-page article about the work of the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund and its chapters in Connecticut. Entitled "Chernobyl, Help for a Deadly Legacy", the article provided extensive coverage on the long-term health effects of Chornobyl and a detailed overview of some of the successful projects initiated by the "state's small but determined Ukrainian-American community". The article also included four photographs showing parish life at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven – one of the bastions of CCRF activities since 1990. Other communities cited for their efforts on behalf of the Chornobyl children included Hartford, Danbury, Bridgeport, Stamford, New Britain and Willimantic. The article quoted Dr. Martin Cherniack, an associate professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center and a former director of thyroid cancer field studies in Belarus who predicted that between 17,000 and 50,000 more fatal cancers will occur worldwide as a result of radiation exposure from Chornobyl. Cherniack praised CCRF's strategy which has "evolved beyond concern with the immediate accident to a broader interest in the health of the society."



Leukemia survivors Ira and Tania smile for a moment as they enjoy playing with gifts donated to the Lviv Regional by CCRF in November of 1997, along with oncological medications and supplies.

### BE A VISIONARY!

#### Remember the Children In Your "Zapovit"

One of the first poems that every Ukrainian schoolchild is required to memorize is Taras



Shevchenko's "Zapovit" – the final "Will and Testament" in which this great human rights champion described the legacy he hoped to leave for future generations in his beloved homeland.

Unfortunately, many North Americans who care deeply about Ukraine and the children of Chornobyl forget to follow Shevchenko's example. They forget to write their own "Zapovit"! Your will and estate can be a powerful instrument in promoting your vision for a new Ukraine, where children can live in a healthier, more democratic environment with decent medical care and dignity and hope.....By designating a portion of your estate to the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund, you can reap important tax benefits and you can plan your future with the comfort of knowing that you are leaving a cherished legacy for some of the world's neediest and most deserving children. CCRF is very grateful to the many individuals and families who have remembered to include the Children of Chornobyl in their estate planning. Their gifts have restored the strength and life of some of Ukraine's most promising and idealistic young citizens. They have helped to build the "strategic partnership" with a new Ukraine which is so vital to the long-term security of the United States and the entire world.

If you have not yet drawn up your will, please contact an attorney **today** or call the Ukrainian American Bar Association at (973) 701-0544 for a referral. You may also contact our office at (203)407-0261 or write to CCRF, attn: "Zapovit Legacy Circle", 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, New Jersey 07078.

**We promise: Your generosity will not be forgotten.**

## FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON HIGHLIGHTS CCRF

On February 17<sup>th</sup> a large number of CCRF volunteers were invited to attend a public briefing by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton who reported on her goodwill mission to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Ukraine.

The First Lady's report was delivered to over 800 government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations in the Dean Acheson Auditorium at the US State Department

Building. Mrs. Clinton's report was preceded by welcoming remarks from Ambassador Richard Morningstar, Special Adviser to the President on the Newly Independent States, Brian Atwood, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Both the First Lady and Secretary Albright specifically cited the work of CCRF as an example of a non-govern-

### PHOTO UNAVAILABLE AT THIS TIME

(left to right) Volunteers and Board Members Luba Klaczko, Irene Holynskij, Dr. James Hagen, Luba Lapychak-Lesko, Tamara Hordynsky, Michael Lesko, Lida Welyczkowski, Ambassador Richard Morningstar, Orest Dubno, Irene Jarosewich, Marta Popovich, Dr. Silvia Bilobron, Orest Fedash, and Larissa Wowk at the briefing given by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

mental organization that has had a significant impact on the lives and the quality of health care of ordinary citizens in Ukraine.

The glowing remarks were especially encouraging for CCRF Board members and activists who had never traveled to Washington before, but had volunteered so much of their time and resources to provide training and assistance to the Chornobyl survivors.



*In a Dnipropetrovske clinic, a young mother and her baby examine a popular booklet on prenatal care. The book was published and distributed by CCRF with the aid of a grant from the Monsanto Company. CCRF hopes to publish thousands more copies of this pamphlet to help ensure healthy pregnancies for expectant mothers all across Ukraine.*

## 12 WAYS TO GET CONNECTED

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1998 marks the twelfth anniversary of the Chornobyl Nuclear Disaster. To commemorate this day, we ask you to pick and complete one of the tasks from the list below as a sign of your commitment to the Chornobyl cause. Chornobyl is a global issue. Make this a year of discovery and personal accomplishment.

- CONTACT THE CCRF SPEAKERS BUREAU** and invite one of our speakers to visit your church, civic association, congregation, or school. We will be happy to make a presentation with a video for your members or students. Please contact us at (973) 376-5140 or send us an e-mail to [info@ccrf-iccf.org](mailto:info@ccrf-iccf.org).
- CONTACT THE CCRF NATIONAL OFFICE** and request a copy of the documentary on Chornobyl titled "Return to Chornobyl" which was aired on the Connecticut Fox affiliate WTIC-Fox 61 in November of 1997. Please call us at (973) 376-5140.
- ATTEND A TOWN MEETING!** The US State Department is holding a series of "global town meetings" about US foreign policy in a more interdependent world. You can call 202-647-5171 or visit [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov) for the schedule.
- TELL CONGRESS YOU CARE!** Many policymakers say they hear only from people who are opposed to foreign aid and global engagement. Call or write to tell them your views. Not sure who your members are? Call 202-224-3121 or visit [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USE YOUR CONNECTIONS!** Use materials from this mailing to engage your friends and colleagues in a discussion about Chornobyl issues. Would you like extra copies? Please call us at 973-376-5140 or e-mail us at [info@ccrf-iccf.org](mailto:info@ccrf-iccf.org). Only by networking can we obtain the pharmaceuticals, computers, and hospital supplies that the Chornobyl survivors need so desperately!
- CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!** Since 1970, festivals, special events and advocacy efforts have made

April 22 a focus for environmental awareness and action. Visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org) for more information.

- PROMOTE GOD'S GREEN EARTH!** Harvard University hosts "Christianity and Ecology" April 16-19 in Cambridge, MA (617-524-1205); a Chicago meeting April 23-25 explores "Global Eco-Justice; The Church's Mission in Urban Society" (773-363-1342); New York hosts "Ecumenical Earth" October 22-24 (800-818-2911).
- ATTENTION ALL TEACHERS!** CCRF has prepared a school lesson plan for teachers entitled "Lessons from Ground Zero". This special curriculum on Chornobyl can be applied to elementary through high school levels. For more information, please contact Irene Kytasty-Kuzma at (203) 407-0261.
- TAKE ACTION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH!** Attend the 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the National Council for International Health, June 25-27 in Arlington, VA. Workshops will focus on how to mobilize communities around global health issues. Call 202-833-5900 or visit [www.ncih.org](http://www.ncih.org).
- PEDAL FOR THE PLANET!** Get in gear for Bike Aid 1998, a cross-country fundraising ride. The trek leaves from Seattle, Portland and San Francisco on June 12 and arrives in Washington DC on August 21.
- CELEBRATE UN DAY!** On October 24, learn how the United Nations promotes global development and cooperation. Visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org), [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org), [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org), [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org), [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org) and [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org).
- UPHOLD WOMEN'S RIGHTS!** Contact the Global Survival Network for more information on how you can help spread the word about the illegal traffic in women for prostitution from the Newly Independent States, including Ukraine. Please call the Global Survival Network at (202) 387-0028, look up their website at [www.globalsurvival.net](http://www.globalsurvival.net), or send them an e-mail at [ingsn@igc.org](mailto:ingsn@igc.org)



**Calendar of Events:**

**April 19 (Sunday):** Rochester, NY; Knights of Columbus host Commemorative Fundraising Dinner to mark 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
**April 23 (Thursday):** New Haven, CT Dwight Chapel, Yale University Campus, 7 p.m.  
A Benefit Concert for CCRF featuring Alexis Kochan and Julian Kytasty  
**April 25 (Saturday):** Binghamton, NY; Benefit Concert for the Children of Chornobyl. "A Celebration of Life... A Reflection of a World Tragedy". 7 p.m. at the Helen Foley Theatre, Binghamton High School  
Guest Artists: Olya Chodoba Fryz, Vocals & Bandura; Binghamton String Quartet; the Topolia Women's Vocal Ensemble.  
**April 26 (Sunday):** Cambridge, MA; Concert at the Church of the New Jerusalem, 50 Quincy Street, Cambridge, Mass at 4 p.m. (Near Harvard Square); Benefit

**Touched by Chornobyl's Atom**

*Profile of an Effective Grassroots Movement*

**On March 17, 1998** a group of Ukrainian mothers enlisted the support of CCRF for a day of action at the Ukrainian National Institute of Endocrinology. The gathering called attention to the continuing crisis in children's health. The civic group "Micheni Chornobylskym Atomom" ("Touched by the Chornobyl Atom") unites Ukrainian mothers who share a common grief: children who suffer from thyroid cancer or who are in rehabilitation from thyroid surgery. These mothers face the heartbreaking pain of caring for children who have been scarred by the "peaceful Atom", which threatens the health of their children and the children of generations to come.

Of all the countries in the world, Ukraine and Belarus lead in the incidence of pediatric thyroid cancer. Since the Chornobyl disaster, over 1,000 Ukrainian children and adolescents have undergone surgery for thyroid cancer. The largest concentration of these cases is in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr, Rivne, and Cherkassy oblasts, as well as in the city of Kyiv and in the village of Stare Selo, Rokytnivsky rayon.

The situation for these children is particularly critical, as they lack medical treatment, psychological counseling and social support. Thyroid illnesses take a heavy toll not only on the health of these children but on their families as well. It is especially difficult for those families which do not have the means to treat their children. The situation can reach a point of hopelessness. Some mothers reach a point of desperation so profound that they would rather die than see their children suffer, so their children do not see how helpless they have become.

Over 500 children demand immediate care; "Micheni" is lobbying for action from the Ukrainian government, to secure the right of these children to go on living. Securing proper treatment for these children and young people is especially difficult.

After thyroidectomies, they undergo treatment against metastasis with radioactive iodine; they require two-month rehabilitative stays in special centers, one month prior to and one month following treatment.

The state budget has no provision for procuring

Concert commemorating 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chornobyl featuring Alexis Kochan and Julian Kytasty

**April 26 (Sunday):** Warren, MI; St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ryan Road, Commemorative Program marking the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chornobyl  
**April 26 (Sunday):** Cherry Hill, NJ; Commemorative Dinner marking the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chornobyl  
**September 19 (Saturday):** Danbury, CT; Second Annual Children of Chornobyl 5K Road Race, organized by the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. For advance registrations, please call Father Luke Mihaly at (203) 748-0671. Thanks to Father Luke and his parishioners who recently donated over \$3,000 for our overseas mission.

**September 23 (Wednesday):** Cleveland, OH: Benefit Concert at historic Severance Hall featuring the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Roger McMurrin, Conductor. For more information call Dr. Taras Mahlay at (216) 278-2791.

radio-iodine 131, nor are there any allotments for critically needed thyroid supplements such as L-thyroxine. The only avenue for these children to receive these medications is through humanitarian aid. In the absence of charitable assistance, Ukrainian youngsters would be subject to a death sentence. Likewise, the government makes no arrangements to send gravely ill children abroad for surgical procedures which Ukrainian medicine does not have the technology to provide.

Unfortunately, by an order of the President of Ukraine, taxation laws were changed to remove incentives for charitable aid. An earlier law - which provided for tax refunds for charitable donations to non-profit groups - was taken off the books in 1996. Roughly put, the government managed to increase its revenues at the cost of children's lives.

To this day, most of the centers which treat these children are entirely bereft of medicines. Likewise, nutrition for these children is far from adequate. In response to this critical situation stemming from the Chornobyl catastrophe, this group of mothers and activists has demanded action from the Ukrainian Parliament and Cabinet of Ministers. Included among these provisions was enabling a taxation system which supports donations to humanitarian causes.

In organizing this action, Chornobyl mothers look to call attention to desperate shortages in Ukrainian health care. In issuing their declaration, they hope to summon the support of sponsors from the world community and beyond for this crucial issue.

*(Photo below: January 7, 1998) "Touched by the Atom" Director Hanna Kozlova and ICCF's In-Country Director Nathan Hodge spend a moment on Christmas Day with a cancer stricken child who is undergoing treatment at the Kyiv Oncological Center.*

**Letters received by CCRF:**

Dear Halyna:

Thank you for getting the Chornobyl children gifts of stuffed animals and whatever else they need. My heart goes out to them and God loves you for initiating this dance for these helpless children. God bless you forever. I am 88 years old and very arthritic, but they are far worse off than I am. Thank you very much for helping.... I wish to remain anonymous. Love to you and your family....

*An anonymous letter containing \$12 dollars in cash sent to Binghamton Chapter coordinator Halyna Kurylo in response to an article promoting a local CCRF fundraiser in the Binghamton (NY) Press & Sun Bulletin. February 6, 1998.*

"The effectiveness of CCRF's programs in Ukraine has been widely acknowledged.... No other US organization has provided the sort of quantum leap in diagnostic care and treatment that CCRF has achieved in its partner hospitals in Kyiv and Lviv.

*US Senator Christopher J. Dodd (D. Connecticut) in a letter to Ambassador Richard Morningstar June 13, 1997*

"Over the past year, CCRF and the Monsanto Company have developed a promising humanitarian partnership to address the crisis of infant mortality in Ukraine. As Monsanto has worked to revitalize Ukraine's agricultural sector, the company has made an important investment in the health of its workers and their families. The CCRF-Monsanto partnership has enhanced the quality of prenatal and neonatal intensive care... and offers a strong model for other USAID programs."

*US Senator John Ashcroft (R. Missouri) in a letter to USAID, December 10, 1997*

Dear Madam or Sir,

Thank you very much for your time and effort, in sending me information for my project. I will be using the information that you gave me in my oral presentation on medical conditions related to the Chornobyl accident. The *Chornobyl Chronicle* gave me a lot of great information that will be very helpful. Thank you again for your time, it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Erica Rothman

*Erica is a student at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua, New York*

Dear Mr. Hodge:

I'm really grateful to you for receiving the product "Maxaquin" which helped me to recover from a serious intestinal infection - salmonella. I was in a very grave condition, and after receiving a few tablets of this medication I quickly began to feel better. I very much ask you to send more of this medication, so that it might help more children.

Respectfully,

*Olha Fil'*

*14 years old*

*Lypovets, (Vynnytsia Region)*

**PHOTO  
UNAVAILABLE AT THIS TIME**

**Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund/International Children of Chornobyl Foundation**

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*CCRF is a registered 501 (c)3 organization. All contributions are tax-deductible. Chornobyl Chronicle is published by the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund. Please credit CCRF/*

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