

Chornoby Chronicl

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND NATIONAL NEWSLETTER Summer 2002 VOL. XXIV



Renell Leichty, a Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse from Fort Worth, IN, provides hands-on training to approximately 50 nurses from various regions of Ukraine who participated in the 2-day conference at

Over 300 attend Ukraine's Third National Conference in Neonatal Intensive Care sponsored by CCRF

On April 24-25, the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund hosted the 3rd National Neonatology Conference at the Pushcha Ozerna Sanatorium in Kyiv, Ukraine. The conference was sponsored and organized by CCRF and sanctioned by the Ministry of Health with the official endorsement of the Association of Neonatologists of Ukraine.

Three hundred thirty doctors and nurses specializing in neonatal intensive care from all 25 oblasts of Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea participated in the two-day conference. Dr. Ihor Bilyk, an American neonatologist, and Renell Leichty, the chief neonatal nurse from Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, IN presented lectures on "Neonatal Respiratory Therapy." In addition to learning of the latest advances in the treatment of newborns, the Ukrainian

received hands-on training at the state-of-the-art neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Kyiv's City Hospital #2. NZ Techno, the distributor of Fisher & Paykel humidifiers and Bear/Bird NICU ventilators, and various pulse oximeters and compressors; as well as the Ukrainian distributor of Ohmeda medical equipment Paramed, displayed their products during the two-day conference.

"Neonatal intensive care is a fairly young specialty in the Ukrainian medical system, and intensive physician training an essential component in proper neonatal care," says Dr. Zenon Matkowsky, President and Co-Founder of CCRF.

CCRF has established six model neonatal centers in Ukraine: in Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, Lviv, Lutsk, and Rivne. In several hospitals equipped by the Fund, local doctors have been able to improve survival rates by 50% to 80%

Merck donates leukemia medication to CCRF partner hospital in

Merck, Inc., the major pharmaceutical corporation based in New Jersey donated 350 vials of Elspar, the life-saving chemotherapeutic agent Aspariganese used to treat lymphoblastic leukemia, to the Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Clinic. The generous donation came in response to CCRF's plea made on behalf of the oncology clinic. The donated medicine will be enough to complete two-year treatment for roughly 35 children. The Lviv hospital has greatly improved leukemia remission rates thanks to such medication. (Story continued p.3)



A youngster undergoing leukemia treatment at the Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Clinic. CCRF delivered a large donation of leukemia medicine from Merck, Inc. in April. (Photo by J. Sywenkyj)

Airlift #30 delivers aid to Eleven Hospitals

The Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund's 30th medical airlift arrived in Kyiv's Borispol airport on April 19. The airlift delivered more than 11 tons of medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and hospital supplies valued at \$620,000 dollars to the following destinations: Bahmache Central Regional Hospital, Chernivtsi City Children's Hospital #1, Dnipropetrovsk City Hospital #3, Lviv Regional Children's Clinical Hospital, Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Clinic, Nizhyn Central Regional Hospital, Rivne City Maternity Hospital #1, Yavoriv Centralna Rayonna Hospital, Volyn Regional Children's Clinical Hospital, Zaluchya and Znamyanka Orphanages.

The United States Department of State's Division of Humanitarian Assistance to the NIS, under the direction of Col. Charles R. Hardesty and Mr. Gerald Oberndorfer, has worked in conjunction with CCRF for the past 8 years to deliver 23 of its airlifts and 11 sea shipments to Ukraine. Dr. Zenon Matkowsky, the president and co-founder of CCRF states, "We are very grateful for the generous support that the US State Department has offered us in our humanitarian programs over the past twelve years. The Division of Humanitarian Assistance finances all shipping, fuel, and landing fees of our airlifts and sea shipments. CCRF's first seven airlifts were made possible by the Ukrainian government and the United States government offered full reimbursement for the fuel on 3 of these airlifts. CCRF's work in Ukraine would not have been possible without this measurable support." (Story continued on page 3)



In a demonstration commemorating the 16th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster, disabled children from Cherkassy Province march through the streets of Kyiv on April 21, 2002.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

*New Study documents Genetic Damage in children of Chornobyl liquidators
*New Haven Chapter donates \$70,000 to launch new unit in Ivano-

Letters to CCRF

We bow before you and send you greetings, wishing you a long life and good fortune. The warmth of your hearts, your sincere souls and hope for a happier destiny of mothers and their children in Ukraine are passed onto us with God's blessing.

Your valuable contribution towards building our nation and the development of the intellectual potential of Ukraine is very deeply appreciated. Your initiative in educating and bringing to Ukraine modern, state-of-the-art technology gives us the ability to feel as if we are reaching the standard of other developed countries of the world.

The future begins today, that is why your aid to newborn children in the form of equipment, medicine, and supplies are a sign of not only material, but spiritual support, infused by your positive energy. We ask God to grant you peace and health and hope for future cooperation.

An excerpt from the formal greeting of the Doctors- Neonatologists
From Zhytomyr & Kirovohrad
that was read at the April 24th
Neonatal Conference in Kyiv



(Above) Ukrainian American Plast girl scouts created a patchwork quilt as their Valentine's Day good deed and chose to donate it to Zaluchya orphanage for disabled children in Ukraine.

Dear Children of Chernobyl!

We, Marta Yacykewycz and Myroslava Halibey, send you a "gift of love" in the name of all of the scouts of the 20th PLAST Sorority ("kurin") named after Marta Buretska in Newark, NJ. The scouts helped to create this patchwork quilt during our monthly meetings. Each scout received a piece of material and then created something with this piece.

Each girl chose a theme for her patch. On the squares you will see hearts, the first letter of the scout's name, and some of the girls attached ribbons. Since we ran out of time at the meetings, Myroslava and I decided to finish the quilt as a part of the project for our 3rd degree of our scouting level [equivalent to Eagle Scout.] We are delighted to have finished this and we would like to send this to you.

May this quilt, our gift of love, remind you of our friendship with you.

With love,



Thank you for your good deeds, Riy Zirky! Pictured above, from left to right are Tamara Radko, Natalia Kuziw, Arianna Hryckowian, Tania Zurawski, Christina Diduch. Other participants not featured in this photo were Ulana Romaniv, Laura Diduch, Theresa Omelczuk, and their counselor, Larysta Yurchenuik.

To Olya Datsenko, CCRF representative,
Kyiv, Ukraine

I, Larissa Anatolievna Kanyshna, am very grateful for your compassionate response in providing diagnostic testing for my son Yuri who is now 13 years old. My son is my only child and, therefore, I hope that after this diagnosis and after his operation, his recovery will be complete. Now, I hope that the worst will be over, and my son will be able to live and study further. Thank you so much to all the people who collected for us a significant sum of money to carry out this operation and for the post-operative period. May God grant health and happiness to all those who helped to remove this grief from our hearts.

With respect to all and gratitude from the mother of Yuri,

Larissa Anatolievna Kanyshna
Cherkassy, Ukraine

I'm very grateful to the international Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund for the aid it has provided for my family. It's very reassuring that in this difficult time for us there exists such a fund, such well-meaning, caring people who find the time to help sick children. I wish you from my sincere heart much health, good fortune, success in your difficult, but so very important, essential mission.

Respectfully,
Iryna Bykova, Kyiv, Ukraine



Children from Klevan orphanage in Rivne region sent a photo to CCRF's Cleveland chapter in gratitude for the humanitarian aid received.

Dear CCRF,

We are members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association, (CYM-Passaic, NJ Branch.) Our group consists of 13-14 year old girls who are very proud of their heritage. Every Friday, we get together to extend our knowledge about our customs and traditions.

Our youth group, which is called "Riy Zirky," (translated: "Star Group") were searching to perform a community service. After researching, we had come upon your organization and its purpose, and decided to contribute to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. With much thought and enthusiasm we decided to raise money in the following manner. We created tags where all donors signed their names. To purchase a tag, donations were a minimum of one dollar. Later, these tags were posted in the Ukrainian center (where we hold our meetings) for all to see.

In total, we were able to raise \$400. We were glad to do this mostly because we are still children ourselves, and most importantly to try and help make a difference in other children's lives. Please accept our contribution and we hope we are able to touch other lives.

With warm regards,

My name is Stefan Slabickyj and I am 7 years old. I noticed that this year the world has become a little strange and there are many people who have less than we do here (in the US). On my birthday, I wanted to do something good, so I asked my friends to make a small donation and to share their goods with the children in Ukraine. We hope that we can make someone happy.

Stefan Slabickyj,
Danbury, Connecticut

(and friends: Yuri Slabickyj, Natalia and Paul Pelepyszyn, Marusia Weselyj, Alex Sokolsky, Michael and Peter DeLalio, Mike Szafran, Maxym and Lesia Prybyla, Oles and Lydia Kowinko.)

Merck donates leukemia medication

The hospital staff and its "Save a Child with Leukemia Fund" are very grateful for the kind donation of aspariganese. Dr. Romana Polishchuk, the director of the children's hematology ward at the hospital, points out that there are also many other medications required in the treatment of her patients in order to ward off various infections and illnesses. "Unfortunately, our hospital's budget is very limited. We receive 1 hryvna (.25 cents) per patient per day from the government. This subsidy covers very little of the cost actually needed, considering that it costs between 20,000-50,000 hryvnas (\$4,000- \$10,000) to treat one child."

This is the second time that Merck has donated Elspar to this hospital on behalf of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. The aspariganese requires special care in transportation because it must be refrigerated. It arrived in a pre-packed cold chamber, and had to be delivered to the hospital within 120 hours of its departure from the warehouse in the United States. CCRF and the hospital's "Save a Child with Leukemia" fund received special permission from Ukraine's Ministry of Health to bring in this medication, which is unregistered in Ukraine. Due to the extraordinary circumstances, and the importance of this life-saving medication, Lviv's regional health minister, Mr. Khobzey, strongly supported the donation of this chemotherapeutic agent to the Lviv RSCC.

With CCRF's 30th airlift, the hospital also received the antibiotic Cefaclor, multivitamins, syringes and other medical supplies, and Dactinomycin, with a total value of \$140,000. Although many challenges remain in the hospital's development, it is important to note that there have been many stunning achievements.

The exceptionally high recovery rates of children treated in this hospital are a strong indicator of its effectiveness in providing outstanding medical care for children suffering from cancer in Western Ukraine. The hospital reports that its remission and recovery rates have begun to rival Western standards. For example: for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, survival rates have risen to 77%; for non-Hodgkins lymphoma, to 90%. Even in the treatment of bone marrow cancers and neuroblastomas, the hospital has achieved longterm remission in 40% and 64% of its patients, and 81% of all patients stricken with nephroblastomas. "Certainly, we would like to reduce mortality to nil," says Dr. Myndiuk, the Head Doctor of the Lviv Specialized Children's Clinical Hospital, "but even the finest American hospitals are struggling to overcome these deadly diseases, and we are greatly encouraged by the progress we've made."



A nurse at the Dnipropetrovsk City Children's Hospital #3 examines a newborn infant recovering in one of the intensive care stations donated by CCRF. Infant survival rates in this NICU have improved dramatically since 1997.

Partner Hospital Report Dnipropetrovsk Children's Hospital #3

Over the past four years the neonatal intensive care unit at the Dnipropetrovsk City Children's Hospital #3 has treated more than 1,300 children. The vast majority of these (1,100 patients) were treated with equipment provided by CCRF. Thanks to this new technology and training that three of its doctors received at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, NJ, infant mortality in the NICU decreased almost in half – from 31.6% to 17%. At the same time, the volume of patients increased. In 1997, 260 infants were treated as compared to 393 children in 2001. In 2001, the NICU was able to provide post-operative care for almost three times as many children who received corrective surgery for congenital anomalies or developmental disabilities – 72 children versus 26 in 1997 when the hospital first entered into its partnership with CCRF.

In recent years, there has been a decline in the mortality rate of Dnipropetrovsk's children, but the statistic remains one of the highest in Ukraine. Many mothers and infants continue to be exposed to environmental hazards in this heavily industrialized and polluted city. With the second highest birth rate in the country, this region (oblast) has a disproportionately low percentage of ICU beds for all of its neonatal patients and is severely lacking equipment.

The hospital director, Dr. Ihor Makedonsky hopes to complete construction of an additional ward capable of holding at least 15-18 ICU beds. This would enable the staff to hospitalize all newborns in a separate ICU unit and not turn anyone away for lack of space or lack of blankets or respirators. Currently, the shortage of modern equipment continues to result in a high incidence of complications.

(Left) At Boryspil Airport outside Kyiv, a forklift driver and volunteers help to load a refrigerated crate of ELSPAR, a powerful medication used in the treatment of children's leukemia. The valuable chemotherapeutic agent donated by Merck, Inc. was transported to the Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Clinic where it will provide an entire year's worth of treatment for all the children currently undergoing treatment for leukemia at this

Airlift #30 coincides with Chernobyl's 16th anniversary

(cont'd. from page 1)

Among the most valuable aid delivered was leukemia medication (see story this page), a large volume of antibiotics, vitamins and medical supplies provided by the Catholic Medical Mission Board, MAP International, the Vitamin Factory, Becton Dickinson, Interchurch Medical Assistance, and Heart to Heart. The airlift will bring 290,000 prenatal vitamins to Rivne City Maternity Hospital #1 purchased with the aid of a \$5,000 grant from the State of NY, secured by CCRF's Rochester Chapter. The vitamins and prenatal care literature will be distributed to pregnant women throughout Rivne oblast. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of CCRF's Maine Chapter, Acuson donated an infant cardiac ultrasound to the Chernivtsi City Children's Hospital #1. Anonymous donors and the generosity of Olympus Medical made possible the purchase of a state-of-the-art Olympus pediatric gastroscope, which was donated to the Volyn Regional Children's Clinical



CCRF Kyiv staffer Olya Datsenko monitors cargo as it is unloaded at Boryspil Airport.

CCRF co-founders Dr. and Mrs. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky, Financial Director Tanya Vena and Olena Welhasch, Program Director supervised this shipment. CCRF's Kyiv office staff and volunteers under the direction of Country Director Olena Maslyukivska helped to oversee the distribution of cargo to targeted hospitals and orphanages. "This airlift is a milestone in the history of CCRF", said Dr. Matkiwsky. "We want Ukraine to know that the world has not forgotten

Ukraine



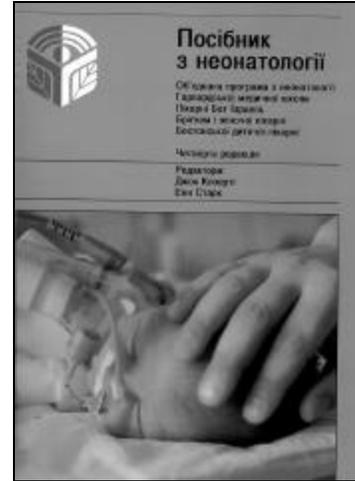
CCRF Program Director Olena Welhasch greets a representative of Nestlé's in the corporate display area.

Neonatal Conference draws specialists from all regions

The conference was made possible thanks to the financial support of Proctor & Gamble, Nestlé, NZ Techno, and Paramed, Mr. Andrij Kurylko, Col. Yaropolk Hladkyi and an anonymous donor. CCRF would also like to thank Mr. Kenneth Menefee of Parkview Hospital's Parkview Foundation for a donation of \$2,000 on behalf of Dr. Bilyk and Mrs. Leichthy's participation in the conference. This is the third national neonatology conference in Ukraine organized by The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, USA.



CCRF co-founder Nadia Matkivsky thanks Volodya Mitin, the Ukrainian representative of the Austrian firm NZ Techno, distributor of Fisher & Paykel humidifiers and Bear ventilators for their co-sponsorship of CCRF's Neonatal Conference. Mr. Mitin is one of the most respected technical advisers for the Fund's partner hospitals. He has dedicated many hours to train Ukrainian doctors on the optimum use of equipment purchased and donated by CCRF. We are also very grateful to our principal sponsor Procter & Gamble and co-sponsors Nestlé's, Paramed-Ohmeda, Col. Yaropolk Hladkyi and Mr. Andrij Kurylko.



(Above) The Manual of Neonatal Care, Ed. John P. Cloherty, M.D. and Ann R. Stark, M.D. was translated into Ukrainian and was distributed to physicians, nurses and medical students throughout Ukraine. The manual was originally published through a joint program in American neonatology at the Harvard Medical School, Beth Israel Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the Children's Hospital of Boston, and the book is the product of articles by 72 U.S. neonatal intensive care specialists. We thank the Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Publishing Company for granting permission to CCRF to publish the Ukrainian-language edition of this invaluable text.

New study verifies genetic damage in Chernobyl clean-up workers' chil-

A recent Israeli-Ukrainian health study published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine in England found that the children of Chernobyl clean-up workers (liquidators) who took part in the emergency response to the 1986 nuclear disaster were far more likely to suffer genetic damage than their older siblings born prior to the disaster. Scientists based at the University of Haifa and the National Institute of Radiation Medicine in Kyiv found seven times more germline mutations in the children born after Chernobyl. "These results indicate that low doses of radiation can induce multiple changes in human germline DNA", said the authors of the study. (See Weinberg, Korol, et al: "Very high mutation rate in offspring of Chernobyl accident liquidators" The Royal Society 2001) Other studies as early as 1994 found that birth defects in Belarusian children had doubled since Chernobyl. Especially prominent were cleft palates, extra or missing digits and limbs (polydactylism: extra fingers and toes), Downs Syndrome and other deformities linked to radiation exposure. (See UPI July 14, 1994: Sato et al Birth defects doubled in Belarusian children, University of Hiroshima) CCRF's partner hospital in Lutsk in northwestern Ukraine (The Volynian Regional Unified Children's Medical Center) has been tracking cases of spina bifida and other rare birth defects among infants born in the Volynian and Rivnenska Regions, under the direction of renowned geneticist Dr. Wolodymyr Wertelecki of the University of Southern Alabama. A published report is expected in the near future.



Medical trainers Dr. Ihor Bilyk (center) and Nurse Renell Leichthy are surrounded by entertainers and CCRF organizers at the farewell dinner concluding the Third National Neonatal Training Conference in April.

Ambulances arrive in Odessa



In mid-March, three ambulances donated by American Medical Response of New Haven arrived at the Odessa Regional Children's Hospital. With the help of volunteers Zenon Luciu and Maria Antonyshyn, the ambulances were successfully loaded for transport aboard flatbed trucks at CCRF's office in New Haven and shipped by the US State Department from the Port of Elizabeth. CCRF is very grateful to Mr. Roman Radawiec of the Signature Sign Company who designed and applied English and Ukrainian-language insignias to identify these ambulances as a gift from CCRF. (Above: Volunteers Damien Ortega and Zenon

CANCER RATES IN UKRAINE forecast to grow 50% in 2002

In an interview with the Russian news agency ITAR-TASS, an official from the Ukrainian Ministry of Health reported that in the year 2002, the number of cancer cases is expected to climb by 50%, primarily as a result of environmental factors. The interview was reported by the BBC monitoring service in the United Kingdom. The higher incidence in cancer is attributed by 70% to environmental factors, and 30% to heredity or hormonal problems. This information is consistent with anecdotal evidence CCRF has obtained from our partner hospitals in Ukraine. In Kyiv, Zhytomyr and Chernihiv doctors have reported a noticeably



Natalia Babiy is one of many handicapped orphans and abandoned children housed at the infamous Zaluchya Orphanage in southern Ukraine. A recent study found extensive genetic damage in children whose parents were exposed to nuclear fallout from Chernobyl. 22



At a press conference hosted by the US Embassy in Kyiv, CCRF staff and co-founders outline the Fund's strategy for combating infant mortality and other health problems affecting children.. (From left to right: Olena Maslyukivska, Nadia Matkiwsky, US Vice Ambassador Masha Yvanovich, Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky and Olenka Welhasch.)

Growing AIDS Epidemic exacerbates

In recent months, the UN AIDS Agency and the World Health Organization have expressed grave concerns about the rapidly growing rate of HIV infections in Ukraine. In the early 1990's, AIDS was virtually unknown in the country, but as contacts with Western countries increased, the deadly infection is spreading rapidly, especially through the regions of Odessa and Mykolaiv. In the early stages, patients stricken with the acquired immune deficiency syndrome tended to be IV drug users and prostitutes, and others considered to be on the margins of society. But today, an estimated 400,000 Ukrainians are infected with the virus, or nearly 1% of the population, and the disease is quickly becoming a mainstream phenomenon among heterosexual couples. Without an aggressive response to this frightening epidemic, Ukraine could lose up to 40% of its population in the next fifty years. The Ukrainian Government has proclaimed the year 2002 as the official Year of Combating AIDS in Ukraine.

Several community-based pro-

Among the most promising initiatives are the Odessa-based office of Doctors Without Borders under the direction of Dr. Ruslan Maljuta, and the Lviv-based Salus Foundation led by Dr. Sandra Sluzhinska. As part of our efforts to combat infant mortality, CCRF is seeking funds to prevent the mother-to-child-transmission (MTCT) of AIDS through early prenatal diagnosis and administration of two pharmaceutical products specially designed for this purpose (*nevirapine* and *zidovudine*). The Salus Foundation has already established a laboratory to screen for cervical cancer and for certain sexually transmitted diseases, but needs additional (PCR) equipment to screen for HIV. Working with the Immunology Department at the New Jersey Medical School, CCRF hopes to procure this PCR laboratory for the Lviv Perinatal Center to protect unborn infants against AIDS. For the relatively modest cost of \$40,000 we can help put in place this very practical and vital component that could save the lives of scores of infants in the years to come. For more information, please contact Irene Oleksiak (203) 387-

Medtronic Foundation awards \$25,000 Grant to CCRF

The Minneapolis-based Medtronic Foundation has awarded a \$25,000 grant to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund to help finance two medical conferences. The Medtronic Foundation's Executive Director Penny Hunt expressed her support for CCRF's plans to hold a national conference on infant cardiac surgery and a second on neonatal intensive care. The grant was awarded under the Foundation's "Healthy Countries" program that strives to improve health care programs in developing countries.

"We are extremely pleased that the Medtronic Foundation agreed to support this program," said Irene Oleksiak, grant writer for CCRF who authored the proposal. "There are hundreds of doctors who would benefit from the hands-on training and insights provided by American specialists." CCRF has scheduled the first infant cardiac surgery conference for early October, under the direction of Dr. Roman Kovalsky, a leading cardiac surgeon from Lviv who studied in the USA under CCRF's auspices and received training in Children's Hospital in Boston and at other prestigious institutions. CCRF is still seeking matching funds from private donors to help cover the costs of translation and publication of medical manuals & training materials.



A young AIDS patient in Symferopol waits for an operation to repair her cleft palate. Her surgeons are afraid to operate for fear of HIV contamination.

New Members join CCRF Board of Directors

This spring, CCRF welcomed two distinguished corporate leaders who have joined our Board of Directors: Leonard Mazur and Myron Holubiak.

Mr. Mazur, the CEO of Genesis Pharmaceuticals has served for two years as the President of the Ukrainian-American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York/New Jersey. We're very grateful to Mr. Mazur who was the initiator of two highly successful Christmas Party fundraisers for CCRF. More recently, he provided a generous donation of cosmetic and dermatology products from his company as a gift packet for all the neonatal doctors and nurses who attended our medical training conference in April 2002 in Kyiv.

Mr. Holubiak is the former President of Roche Laboratories and the current President and Chief Operating Officer of iPhysicianNet.. Over the years,

Staff



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Olena Welhasch, CCRF's Program Director, who has been awarded a U.S. Student Fulbright Grant. Olena will be leaving CCRF to pursue a research project in Ukraine, developing a program to clean up agricultural land contaminated by Chernobyl's radiation, using radionuclide-extracting plants in a process called phytoremediation. In her two years at CCRF, Olenka has made a tremendous contribution to our relief effort and our training programs, helping to secure corporate grants and in-kind support from many American and European companies. Olenka's devotion to the Chernobyl cause has been an inspiration to all

CCRF welcomes new Director of Procurement



CCRF warmly welcomes its new Procurement Director, Lisa Milanytch of Maplewood, NJ. Lisa recently graduated from the Rutgers University School of Business, where she majored in Marketing and minored in Art History. Lisa is a well-known community activist who brings strong leadership skills to her new



Members of the Ukrainian National Home of New Haven present a check for \$66,152 to the New Haven Chapter of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. (From left: Maria Antonyshyn, Theodore Romaniuk, Paul Paluha, Bohdan Antonyshyn, CCRF New Haven Chapter President Gloria Horbaty, Damian Thibodeau, Kathy Mychajluk and CCRF's Kyiv representative Olena Maslyukivska.)

New Haven National Home Produces gift of \$70,000 to CCRF

Recently, the Ukrainian National Home Association of New Haven donated the proceeds from the sale of two buildings it owned to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund and the Orphans' Aid Society. In addition to \$66,000 in direct donations, CCRF also received more than \$4,000 in real estate commissions donated by realtor Lydia Kinyk of Long Hill Realty in Wallingford, who negotiated the sale. Under the leadership of Mr. Paul Paluha, the Ukrainian National Home decided to redistribute much of the UNH's assets to worthy charities involved in aid to Ukraine. The UNHA designated its donation for CCRF's medical programs in Ivano-Frankivsk Province. "We're very grateful to the membership of the National Home for their generosity", said CCRF Executive Director Alex Kuzma. "The building that once housed the National Home had great sentimental value for many members who held meetings there and public forums promoting the cause of Ukrainian independence and human rights. We're honored to carry on their vision and to safeguard the lives and health of the next generation of Ukrainian children now living in an independent Ukraine." CCRF is also grateful for a donation of \$15,000 from the Ukrainian National Home of Lorrain, Ohio that recently liquidated its assets. CCRF is working with the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Children's Hospital to create a model neonatal intensive care unit in this impoverished region. This will be the eighth NICU established by CCRF in Ukraine.



The owners of La Strada Restaurant in Millburn, NJ have been generous long-time supporters of CCRF. Brothers Frankie and Sebastian Cupo have donated thousands of dollars from their business and have masterfully catered many of our fundraisers free of charge, including last year's Christmas Party in Short Hills.

Universities Commemorate Chernobyl's 16th Anniversary

During the week of April 22-26th, a number of colleges and universities held public forums and observances commemorating the 16th Anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. At Fairfield University, the Environmental Studies and Political Science Departments hosted a month-long exhibit of Joseph Sywenkyj's Chernobyl photographs at the Wallenius Library. Students at LaSalle University in Philadelphia hosted a public forum on the long-term consequences of Chernobyl featuring CCRF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma as guest speaker. In the wake of the 9/11 disaster, there is growing public concern about the security of US nuclear plants, and CCRF has been invited to make presentations at



Rev. Bohdan Lukie of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, Mr. Leonard Mazur, President of the Ukrainian American Professionals & Businesspersons Association of NY/NJ and CEO of Genesis Pharmaceutical Co., U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli with Maria Kavatsiuk, who was brought from Ukraine to the United States for treatment by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, and Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, the President and Co-Founder of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

Ps & Bs Christmas Party raises more than \$15,000 for

On December 15th, the Ukrainian American Professionals & Businesspersons Association of NY & NJ's held its annual Christmas party as a fundraiser for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF). Held in the private residence of Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky, founders of CCRF, the event raised more than \$15,000 for the international charity dedicated to protecting and saving the lives of children confronting the world's worst environmental disaster. Over 150 people attended, including U.S. Senator Robert G. Torricelli (D-NJ) who made a surprise appearance at the fundraiser.

In his address to the festive crowd, Senator Torricelli acknowledged the generosity of the Ukrainian American community in support of CCRF over the past ten years. He also stressed the vital importance of Ukraine as a strategic partner of the United States.

"There can be no more worthy cause than helping the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund achieve its ultimate goal of saving the lives of children," said Senator Torricelli. "Initiatives like this, and the dedi-

Ukrainian American Professionals & Businesspersons Association of NY & NJ President, Mr. Leonard Mazur, spearheaded the fundraising drive by inviting guests to make generous pledges to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund's medical programs.

All of us at the Fund would like to thank Mr. Leonard Mazur and the members of the UAPBA-NY-NJ for having the vision to help Ukrainian children and to choose CCRF as the beneficiary of this memorable evening. We are also very grateful to Senator Torricelli and Ms. Roberta Stearns for enhancing the evening and for continuously underlining the importance of the relationship between the United States and Ukraine. CCRF is also thankful to Dr. Oksana Bauer for her culinary talents and to Ms. Alexandra Isaeivich for designing the invitation. Joseph Sywenkyj's touching photographic images of children at CCRF partner hospitals and orphanages were exhibited at the event. Chernobyl survivor Vova Malofienko thanked the foundation for helping to save his life, and Maria Kavatsiuk dedicated the song "Wind

Hartford Chapter holds Photo Exhibit Fundraiser

Renowned photo-journalist Tania Mychajlyshyn-D'Avignon recently exhibited her stunning images of Ukrainian village life and personal portraits in a fundraiser for the Hartford Chapter of CCRF. Ms. D'Avignon, who has worked with National Geographic and other prestigious agencies is best known for her photo-documentary book and calendar series "Simply Ukraine", which includes breath-taking images of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. This superb album may be obtained directly from the author at taniafoto@netscape.net. Special thanks to Lana and Eugene Babij, Ihor Mychajluk, Ulana Hryn, Orest and Oksana Kuzma, Julie Nestoruk and Ihor Stefak for their

Chornobyl
...And what of the children who suffer today
They inherited the horror of that unspeakable day
In hospitals they linger and worry and cry



CCRF leads all aid organizations in Report prepared by World Congress

In its most recent report prepared for the Ukrainian government, the Toronto-based World Congress of Ukrainians presented a detailed account of the major humanitarian organizations providing aid to Ukraine during the first ten years of the nation's independence (1991-2001). We think our CCRF supporters will be pleased to know that our organization was by far the most prolific, both in terms of the volume and value of aid delivered to this fledgling democracy. Out of \$49.2 million dollars' worth of aid provided by all Ukrainian-American organizations listed, CCRF alone delivered over \$44 million in cargo, primarily in the form of medical supplies and equipment. This was more than eight times more aid than the next seven organizations combined. We are very proud of this achievement, and we are extremely grateful to all of our donors whose generosity and creative fundraising efforts

Annual Chernobyl Commemoration in Cherry Hill, NJ

In commemoration of the 16th anniversary of Chernobyl, young members of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church lit 16 candles at their "Remember Chernobyl" program. The program was sponsored by the Committee to Aid Ukraine and Children of Chernobyl. CCRF was presented with \$1,000 raised at this event. Above is an excerpt from a poem that was recited by its author at the event.

Volunteer

Since 1990, CCRF has been blessed with the energy and enthusiasm of many volunteers who have applied their skills and talents to our mission. This summer, we extend our special thanks to Markian Hadzewycz, Katerina Markov, Maya Milanytch, Larissa Oprysko, Bohdan Protyniak and Marianna Woronowycz for their outstanding efforts on behalf of the Fund. Among their many accomplishments:



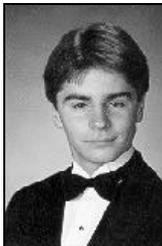
Dr. Zenon Matkivsky welcomes Marianna Woronowycz, who volunteers at our Kyiv office as press liaison.



As our intern from the University of Connecticut, Larissa Oprysko used her skills as a communications major to prepare a variety of press releases, articles and pioneering educational materials for CCRF.



Congratulations to Katerina Markov, junior at Millburn High School, for her Community Leadership Scholarship to Brown University's Summer School Program.



Markian Hadzewycz has been a faithful volunteer at CCRF's National office for the past two years. We thank him for his dedication to CCRF and wish him well at Drew University.



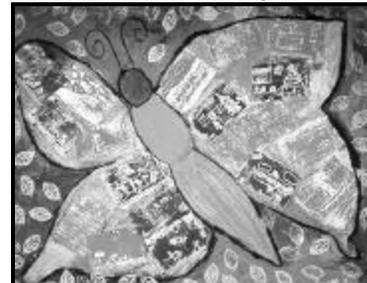
Fourth grade students of Charles A. Lindbergh Elementary School working collaboratively on their mural.

Buffalo Area Schoolchildren Design healing art

For years now, medical researchers have concluded that art and music can have a powerful healing influence on patients undergoing treatment for life-threatening illnesses. High school and elementary grade art students in the Western New York towns of Kenmore and Tonawanda decided to put this theory to the test by creating a series of colorful prints and murals to adorn the walls of some of our partner hospitals in Ukraine.

As part of a project initiated by CCRF's Buffalo Chapter President Olenka Bodnarskyj-Gunn, K-3rd graders of Charles Lindbergh Elementary School held a print sale in December and raised \$1,200 for CCRF. The fourth and fifth graders in Ms. Lavinia Kardani's class at the Charles Lindbergh Elementary School and twelfth graders in Matthew Sagurney's art class at Kenmore East High School combined their designs in a series of large murals.

These murals were displayed in a formal exhibition at the Burchfield-Penney Gallery in January. Later this year, the murals will be delivered to the Zaluchya Orphanage in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast and to the Volynian Regional Children's Unified Medical Center in Lutsk. Using various printmaking techniques, students tried to create murals that depicted their own communities as an expression of their concern for children living in the



One of the stunning designs created by students of Olenka Bodnarskyj-Gunn.

A graduate student in art education, Ms. Bodnarskyj-Gunn has long been one of CCRF's most creative and effective regional organizers. During her undergraduate years at the University of Buffalo, she organized a wide variety of highly visible and successful programs for CCRF. After returning to Buffalo last summer from her graduate studies in Rhode Island, Olenka coordinated the 4th of July Friendship Festival that raised over \$8,000 for CCRF at the East Basin Marina in

Photographer Joseph Sywenkyj returns to Ukraine for his Third Documentary Mission

Joseph Sywenkyj, a former CCRF intern and graduate of the New York School of Visual Arts, will be traveling to Ukraine on his 3rd photo documentary expedition, focusing on a theme that his gripping images of human suffering beg for: faith. Joseph is a recipient of the Joops Swartz World Press Photo Master Class award for international documentary photojournalists. In his third trip to Ukraine he plans to document the tuberculosis crisis. Joseph is rapidly becoming an accomplished photographer. His photographs depicting children in Ukrainian hospitals and orphanages have been exhibited at the United Nations, the U.S. Senate, colleges and galleries. His AIDS photos were featured in the internet magazine:

www.digitaljournalist.org and will soon be published in the book "Facing AIDS, Imaging the Global Epidemic", that will go on exhibit in Barcelona, Paris, New York, Washington, Moscow, and Rio de Janeiro.

A multiply handicapped youngster at the Zaluchya Orphanage, one of many haunting images that Joseph Sywenkyj has brought to the attention of



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Canadian Composer Roman Hurko

Releases CD featuring

This spring, acclaimed Toronto-based composer Roman Hurko released a new CD featuring his original composition "Chornobyl Requiem" (Panakhida), a moving tribute to all those who perished as a result of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. The Requiem was premiered last year, on the 15th Anniversary of the Chornobyl tragedy at the magnificent, newly reconstructed St. Michael's Cathedral in Kyiv. The renowned chamber chorus "Frescoes of Kyiv" sang the Requiem under the direction of the composer as part of an actual memorial service celebrated by hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

In April, CCRF chapters in OH and CT had an opportunity to meet Mr. Hurko during special commemorative programs at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Parma, and the Hall of Graduate Studies at Yale University. Each program included a screening of the Requiem's premiere and a short documentary on the history and reconstruction of St. Michael's Cathedral. Mr. Hurko was warmly received at each of the community forums in April, and CCRF is planning more public screenings of the Requiem DVD recording as well as the St. Michael's documentary in the fall.

CCRF is grateful to Roman Hurko for donating a portion of the proceeds from his CD sales to our relief mission. Mr. Hurko has released a hauntingly powerful CD-single known as "Chornobyl Still Life" that is currently being presented to major international recording artists in the hopes of reaching a broader and more popular audience.

We would like to thank Drs. Natalia and Taras Mahlay, Rev. Deacon Ihor Mahlay, Ms. Laurentia Turkevych, Ms. Marina Andrews, Professor Halyna Hryn and the Yale Department of Slavic Studies for their help in bringing Mr. Hurko to the United States.



Gala organizers Teresa and Lily Zarichny join Zabava bandleader Michael Poulton during April 13th fundraising dance and recording session at the Ramada Conference Center in East Hanover,

Actions Foundation hosts Recording & Charity Dance

On April 13, the Actions Foundation under the direction of sisters Lily and Teresa Zarichny of Bayonne, NJ organized a unique CCRF fundraiser entitled "Kozaks with a Cause". The gala evening featured a dance and live recording by the band "Zabava" from Sudbury, Ontario. Special guests included popular entertainer and musician Ron Cahute and the acclaimed "Syzokryli" Dance Group. The event was held at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in East Hanover, NJ. Proceeds from the CD "Zabava Live in NJ" will go to CCRF. The lively musical compilation of 14 tracks includes a medley of Ukrainian favorites (6 polkas!) as well as popular hits from a variety of pop and rock genres. It's guaranteed to be the cleanest live CD with Ukrainian songs ever recorded. Look for "Zabava Live in NJ" in June. To purchase the CD, visit www.zabavaonline.com or call the Actions Foundation (201) 339-4224.

CCRF would like to congratulate Teresa and Lily Zarichny for their enthusiasm and their courageous initiative in organizing this event. The Actions Foundation's mission is to identify worthy benevolent organizations and to support their philanthropic efforts through various fundraising activities. The "Kozaks with A Cause" night was planned as the first in a series of youth-oriented events designed to appeal to diverse audiences.

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