

Chornobyl Chronicle

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND NATIONAL NEWSLETTER Spring 2003 VOL. XXVII

NEW YORK SURGEON HELPS A TINY ANGEL

Last year, a mysterious but deadly virus struck several infants in the city of Kyiv, leading to four deaths and serious infections in others. One of the victims, Mariyka, narrowly survived the viral infection, but not before it had attacked the cartilage in her nose, leaving an unsightly deformity on an otherwise adorable child's face.

A group of doctors at Kyiv Children's Hospital No. 2, under the guidance of Dr. Oleh Korniyuchuk, were able to improvise a treatment, stabilizing her condition and enabling her to breathe relatively normally. Having worked closely with CCRF in organizing neonatal training conferences in Ukraine, Dr. Korniyuchuk contacted CCRF Co-founders Dr. Zenon and Mrs. Nadia Matkiwsky with an urgent plea to find an American doctor who might be able to correct Mariyka's condition.

The Matkiwskys turned to Dr. Oleh Slupchynskij, a prominent New York City plastic surgeon whose practice specializes in facial reconstructive surgery. After viewing photographs of the child, Dr. Slupchynskij agreed to help Mariyka and flew to Ukraine.

As soon as he had examined Mariyka, Dr. Slupchynskij concluded that he could perform the necessary procedure to restore her tracheal breathing tube. "She was so well anesthetized that I felt we could go right in and create an airway." The two-hour-long procedure was successful, combining the skills of the Ukrainian team and their American guest surgeon. "I saw them do things I've never seen our doctors [in the United States] do," said Slupchynskij, marveling at the talent of his Ukrainian counterparts. "Unfortunately, they do so much with so very little."

CCRF is very grateful to Dr. Slupchynskij for taking the time away from his busy practice to help Mariyka, who will require at least four more surgical procedures to fully restore her natural appearance. Throughout the process, Dr. Slupchynskij and CCRF hope to provide the hospital with more supplies and equipment, including a bronchoscope, that will be of great help to Mariyka and the other children as well.

Tax-deductible donations to help in this special project may be sent to CCRF and earmarked for the "Mariyka T. Account."

(Special thanks to correspondent Andrew Nynka of the Ukrainian Weekly for helping to prepare this report.)



Dr. Slupchynskij and the staff at Kyiv City Children's Hospital #2 prepare to operate on their little patient.



At a Lviv conference sponsored by CCRF and the Medtronic Foundation last November, Dr. Ilya Yemets lectures to an audience of more than 300 pediatric, cardiac & intensive care specialists from Western Ukraine.

CCRF LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY FROM CARDIAC DEFECTS

The Ukrainian Ministry of Health has reported that each year in Ukraine, more than 6,000 children are born with congenital heart defects. Of these children, more than 2,000 die within the first year of life, and most others face the prospect of a substantially shortened lifespan coupled with long-term disability and lifelong status as "invalids". Birth defects have doubled since the Chornobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. Chromosome damage has increased seven-fold among some populations exposed to radioactive fallout, and cardiac abnormalities are also on the rise.

CCRF has launched a major campaign to reduce the high mortality rate among Ukrainian children born with congenital heart problems through an intensive program of early prenatal diagnosis, physician training, and infusion of surgical and critical care technology. "Our goal is to reduce the mortality of these children by half within the next five years," said Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, the Co-founder and President of CCRF.

In the coming months, CCRF will be delivering equipment to open a cardiac surgery center in Lviv. Another cardiac surgery center recently opened in Odessa, with the help of local sponsors, and CCRF is working to secure new technology for at least one more center in eastern or southern Ukraine where doctors have received extensive training and have demonstrated their proficiency in the appropriate surgical techniques.

Currently, only the Amosov Institute of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery in Kyiv has been able to perform open-heart surgery on infants and young children. Under the direction of a brilliant young surgeon, Dr. Ilya Yemets, the pediatric surgery unit performs about 800 operations on infants and young children each year.

"The Amosov Institute has done an incredible job," said Dr. Matkiwsky. "In a typical year, they perform four times more cardiac operations than comparable Western children's hospitals. Clearly there is a need to create new cardiac centers in other regions of Ukraine where doctors are well trained but lack the basic technology to perform most procedures."

With the help of a \$15,000 gift from

Mr. Lubomyr Kurylko and generous donations from CCRF's Boston and Hartford Chapters, as well as other private donors, CCRF recently purchased a pediatric heart lung machine that is scheduled to arrive in Lviv in May, along with an array of cardiac surgery instruments and supplies. A team of trained surgeons under the direction of Dr. Roman Kovalsky is ready to begin performing open-heart surgery on needy patients. Dr. Kovalsky received extensive training in the United States under the auspices of CCRF, and received high praise for his depth of knowledge and insight from colleagues at the Children's Hospitals in Boston and Philadelphia, as well as the Deborah Heart-Lung Institute in Browns Mills, NJ.

In November of last year, Dr. Kovalsky and Dr. Yemets collaborated with CCRF to organize a regional conference for surgeons and cardiologists from eight provinces in Western Ukraine. The conference, which was made possible with the help of a \$25,000 grant from the Medtronic Foundation, focused on laying the strategic framework and technical foundation for the early diagnosis of cardiac defects. More than 300 doctors and nurses attended the CCRF-sponsored conference in Lviv. CCRF is planning a nationwide followup conference to be held later this year, and is currently translating and publishing a series of articles and training manuals on infant cardiology and cardiac surgery that will be provided to all the conference participants at no cost.

"The doctors who attended our neonatal training conference last spring were thrilled with the manuals on neonatal intensive care that we published with the help of Nestle's and Procter & Gamble," said CCRF (cont'd pg. 3)



Working at the warehouse, CCRF Procurement Director Lisa Milanyich labels the heart-lung machine and prepares it for Sea Shipment #14. The heart-lung machine is the first major piece of equipment to be delivered to the new infant cardiac center in Lviv.

SEA SHIPMENT #14 BOUND FOR UKRAINE

On April 24, with the aid of our colleagues at the Panalpina Warehouse in Virginia, CCRF launched its fourteenth sea shipment to Ukraine. Among the most valuable items being transported was the heart-lung machine with a battery back-up converter unit, destined for the Lviv Regional Clinical Children's Hospital. Additional provisions included cases of sutures, needles and syringes, an ultrasound, surgical dressings and gowns, and a variety of other supplies designated for hospitals in Chernihiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Rivne, Kyiv, Uzhorod. (cont'd pg. 4)

Chapter News

In Memoriam...

In the first months of this year, CCRF lost two of its most devoted and distinguished volunteers.

Mrs. Lidia Welyczkowski was a native of Kharkiv who emigrated to the United States after living for many years in Argentina. She became active in CCRF in 1990, helping to host the eight Ukrainian children with cancer who came to NJ after their visit to Paul Newman's "Hole in the Wall Gang Camp." Mrs. Welyczkowski volunteered hundreds of hours each year, responding to letters from hospitals and parents in Ukraine requesting aid for individual children. She maintained CCRF's press archives and performed a wide variety of tasks in support of our airlifts and sea shipments. In March 2000, Mrs.

Welyczkowski traveled on a special mission to Krasnodon near the Russian border to monitor



Mrs. Lidia Welyczkowski embraces the children who arrived from Ukraine in the summer of 1990 to receive cancer treatment and to attend Paul Newman's "Hole-in-the-Wall-Gang Camp."

a shipment of medical aid to the local hospital and distribute funds to the widows and children of 80 coal miners who had died in an explosion in the infamous Barakovo Mine. Mrs. Welyczkowski also visited the Poltava Maternity Hospital to witness first-hand the impact of equipment CCRF had delivered to the neonatal intensive care ward. She also hosted young children who came to the US for corrective heart surgery as part of the Ukrainian Gift of Life program.

* * *

Mrs. Martha Andriuk served as Vice-President of CCRF since it was first established in 1990. Until she was stricken with a serious illness in 2002, Mrs. Andriuk traveled from her home in Darien, CT to our national office each week to attend executive committee meetings and handle a variety of administrative tasks. An accomplished opera singer, Mrs. Andriuk organized and performed in benefit concerts for CCRF and initiated a fundraising drive at her parish in Stamford to finance the purchase of a blood analyzer for our partner hospital in Lviv. Along with her husband, the late Col. Basil Andriuk, she contributed generously to the purchase of a General Electric MRI system for the Kyiv Emergency Hospital and Trauma Center. Mrs. Andriuk played a key role in many of the historic events in CCRF's medical mission, including the visit of eight Ukrainian children stricken with cancer to Paul Newman's "Hole-in-the-Wall-Gang Camp." She also reached out to the wives of Congressional leaders such as Marianne Gingrich, Jane Gephart and Bonnie

Livingston to secure their support for CCRF and its partner hospitals in Ukraine. Orphaned at a young age, Mrs. Andriuk never forgot the children and orphans in her homeland who needed medical attention. A woman of consummate grace and style, Mrs. Andriuk will be dearly missed by all of us.

CCRF extends its sincere sympathy to Mrs. Andriuk's sons Alex, Mark and Andrew, and their families. We extend our heart-felt condolences to our dear colleague Valerie Burachinsky, Mrs. Welyczkowski's daughter, and to the entire Welyczkowski-Holynskij family which has been so deeply involved and so supportive of CCRF over the past 13 years. We also thank all those who have made such generous donations in memory of these outstanding women. We will never forget Mrs. Welyczkowski's and Mrs. Andriuk's devotion to the Chernobyl children, and we pray that their goodness will find its reward in heaven.



At actor Paul Newman's "Hole-in-the-Wall-Gang Camp," Mrs. Martha Andriuk (second from left) greets Mr. Newman and Chernobyl children after their Ukrainian stage production of "Little Red Riding Hood."

BUFFALO CHAPTER ORGANIZES CONCERT FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, March 22nd, the Buffalo Chapter of CCRF hosted a benefit concert at the historic Albright-Knox Art Gallery featuring renowned bandurist Julian Kytasty.

The concert received extensive coverage in the Buffalo media and in the city's vibrant artistic community, including a detailed write-up in the March 20th edition of the popular "Art Voice" newspaper by columnist Erika Leigh Felicetta. The article appeared under the headline "Relief in the Form of a Song," and provided information about the history of the bandura and the successes of CCRF in delivering medical aid to Ukraine. On Friday morning, Mr. Kytasty also appeared on the morning talk show "A.M. Buffalo" hosted by Linda Pellegrino on WKBW-Channel 7, Buffalo's ABC affiliate. Earlier that morning, Buffalo's National Public Radio Station (WBFO) aired an interview with CCRF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma and played some of Mr. Kytasty's recordings during the morning news program with commentary by local NPR reporter Joyce Kryczak.

The venue for the Saturday concert, the Albright-Knox Gallery, is one of America's oldest and most venerable art museums. Prior to the concert, the gallery hosted a fund-raising reception for a smaller contingent of concertgoers and CCRF benefactors, including a tour of several art exhibits featuring the works of Degas, Renoir, Gauguin, Jackson Pollack, and Andy Warhol. Proceeds from the concert were designated for CCRF's new initiative to develop infant cardiac surgery centers and training programs to help save the lives of thousands of Ukrainian children born each year with congenital heart defects.

At the start of the concert, the Vice-President of CCRF's Buffalo Chapter, Laryssa

Petryshyn, introduced Dorothy Furtney, a Legislative Assistant to New York State Majority Leader Paul A. Tokaz, who read proclamations from the city and county governments welcoming Mr. Kytasty to Buffalo and praising the work of CCRF. Julian Kytasty performed a number of works from his latest CD "Black Sea Winds," released under the November Music Label in London.

Special thanks to concert organizers, Christine Paszkowsky, Laryssa Petryshyn, Yuri Hryshchyshyn, Francesca Kasa, Roman Marusiak, and Dorothy Furtney for their outstanding efforts.

The March 22nd concert was the latest in a series of concerts that Mr. Kytasty has presented to benefit the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. Earlier events included concerts with Alexis Kochan-Budyk and the Experimental Bandura Trio at Yale University's Dwight Chapel and at the Church of the New Jerusalem on the campus of Harvard University. Mr. Kytasty and his fellow bandurists are available for other concerts to benefit CCRF in your community. To schedule such a concert, interested parties may reach Mr. Kytasty at (212) 995-2640.



Bandurist Julian Kytasty sits with the Buffalo concert co-organizers Laryssa Petryshyn and Christina Paszkowsky at the studios of WKBW-Channel 7 following the March 21st broadcast of "A.M. Buffalo."

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

Florida - A coalition of organizations led by the South Florida Ukrainian-American Coordinating Committee is planning a fundraising dinner to benefit CCRF on Sunday, June 8th, at the Sheraton-Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hotel at 1825 Griffin Road in Dania, FL. The dinner will follow a memorial liturgy celebrated by Rev. John M. Freishyn-Chirovsky, pastor of Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church in Miami. The keynote speaker will be Ambassador Kostyantyn Grishchenko from the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, DC. For more information, please contact Mrs. Oksana Piaseckyj at (305) 935-7151 or by e-mail at piaseo@earthlink.net.

Connecticut - On May 18th, the Hartford Chapter of CCRF, together with CCRF chapters and support groups in New Haven, Danbury and New Britain, will be hosting an awards dinner honoring Olympic and World Champion Figure Skater Viktor Petrenko for his initiative in organizing the "Victory for Kids" charity skating gala that raised over \$100,000 for CCRF to create a model neonatal intensive care unit at the Odessa Regional Children's Hospital. Other honorees will include the Ukrainian National Home of New Haven for its generous support of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Children's Hospital, Rev. Luke Mihaly and the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church of Danbury, and award-winning photographer Joseph Sywenkyj for their outstanding efforts on behalf of children affected by the health crisis in Ukraine. Guests of honor will include Ukrainian Ambassador Kostyantyn Grishchenko and Consul General Serhiy Pohorel'tsev. For more information, please contact Irene Oleksiak at (860) 647-9946 or iroleks@aol.com, or Nadia Haftkowycz at (860) 529-1336.

News & Letters from Ukraine

Bringing Christmas Cheer to the Orphans of Znamyanka and Zaluchya

by Olena Maslyukivska, CCRF In-Country Director

This past January, Christmas became a real blessing for children in the Zaluchya and Znamyanka Orphanages for Disabled Children. The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, which has been working on improving living conditions in these orphanages with generous support from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA, approached Ukrainian businesses with an appeal to help make this Christmas a true holiday for over 200 disadvantaged children.

Two companies responded to our appeal. Korona, a leader in the Ukrainian chocolate industry donated chocolate presents for all of the children. PepsiCo Beverages International donated soda and stationery. CCRF's Kyiv office recruited volunteers from local theaters to perform an interactive Christmas play for the children.

The children's eyes were full of happiness and excitement as they participated in the engaging play, delighted to be a part of something miraculous, like Christmas Eve. After the performance, the actors came to the children who were unable to participate in the play because of their disabilities, gave them presents, and sang Christmas carols with them.

This event was a very moving and touching experience for the actors, who had never seen so many children with such severe disabilities before and traditionally aimed their performances at audiences comprised of healthy children. They faced a challenge trying to play games with the children which involved clapping, moving their bodies, and reproducing certain sounds. There were tears in the eyes of the actors as they tried to engage the children. "I've never seen so much suffering in my entire life. I never even thought that such children live here," said one of the actresses, overcome with emotion. "Next time when you organize a performance for these kids, please do call us and we will gladly continue our partnership," promised the manager of the Ivan Kropyvnytsky Kirovohrad state regional drama theatre.

As a representative of the CCRF, there is nothing more satisfying for me than seeing the incredible results of the hard work of so many people. While observing the performances I was reminded of the first difficult stages of CCRF's work at both orphanages... Since 1999, CCRF has been working with Znamyanka Orphanage to improve living conditions. Aid that has been delivered includes laundry machines, wheelchairs, new bedding, fresh linens, toys and clothing. Currently, with the financial aid provided by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA, a well is being dug that will provide safe drinking water for the orphans. Zaluchya Orphanage has been CCRF's partner since the summer of 2000. In Zaluchya, CCRF's main concern was to improve the infrastructure of the orphanage, including fixing the roofs and replacing the rotted floors. In addition, CCRF also delivered laundry equipment, livestock, new bedding and fresh linens, medication, clothes, and other critical supplies.

For me, the Christmas pageants at the Znamyanka and Zaluchya orphanages provided additional motivation to make the lives of the children better, healthier and happier. The orphans are my greatest inspiration for continuing to work and reach out to governmental officials, private companies and individuals in



Actors from the Ivan Kropyvnytsky Kirovohrad State Regional Drama Theatre entertain a young boy from the Znamyanka Orphanage.

order to carry on the improvements initiated by CCRF. Interaction with the children, the ability to experience the purity of their innocent hearts and their genuine joy about everything which is given to them by God, and witnessing their ability to be happy with so little, is a constant reminder of priorities in life and attitude towards life's stresses and disappointments. As apostle Paul says in his letter to Timothy: "if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." (1 Timothy 6:8)

(Olena Maslyukivska has served as CCRF's In-Country Director since the fall of 2000, when she returned to Ukraine with a Master's Degree from Yale University in Environmental Management. As a Soros Foundation scholar, Ms. Maslyukivska has taken part in international conferences in South Africa and at the United Nations. In addition to her full-time work for CCRF, she also lectures as an assistant professor of environmental studies at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.)

APRIL 26th MARKS THE 17th ANNIVERSARY OF CHORNOBYL DISASTER

As this edition of the Chernobyl Chronicle goes to print, the world marks the 17th anniversary of the world's worst environmental disaster. The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development has awarded a major contract to the Bechtel Corporation and a consortium of Western firms for \$768 million to begin construction on a new concrete shelter to replace the crumbling sarcophagus that was hastily erected in 1986 to entomb the destroyed Reactor #4. CCRF seeks to work with the corporate community to improve the quality of health care services for the nuclear workers and their families in Slavutych and Chernihiv.



At the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Children's Hospital, a nurse adjusts a special phototherapy lamp provided by CCRF to aid newborn children suffering from jaundice. This was one of several pieces of priority equipment funded by the Ukrainian National Home Association of New Haven, CT. As part of Sea Shipment #14, this hospital will be receiving an ultrasound, a pulse oximeter, and other essential supplies to further strengthen its capacity for treating infants and young children with various complications.

(Cardiac Campaign, cont'd from pg. 1) In-Country Director Olena Maslyukivska. "We're hoping that our partner hospitals will find our next publications just as useful."

CCRF's main goal in establishing cardiac centers in Ukraine is to strengthen the ability of hospitals to treat a much larger contingent of children by enhancing their on-site capabilities. "All the training in the world will not be enough unless Ukrainian doctors can get the essential tools they need to perform these kinds of operations," said CCRF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma. "This problem cannot be solved with a nickel-and-dime approach.... To save these children's lives, we need to invest substantial resources into the kind of equipment and infrastructure that are standard for Western centers."

CCRF estimates that by the end of its second year in operation, the Lviv cardiac surgery center could provide open-heart surgeries for up to 200 children per year. As the staff becomes more experienced and equipped with an additional surgical suite, CCRF hopes to double the number of lives saved. If similar centers can be adequately equipped in Odessa and at least one other city, the goal of reducing mortality at least by half (1,000 lives per year) can be achieved. "In Lviv, Dr. Kovalsky has already performed miracles with minimally intrusive thoracic and corrective surgeries to repair serious deformities in newborns," said Dr. Matkiwsky. "With the new heart-lung machine he'll be receiving, Roman's capability of saving lives should grow exponentially."

CCRF's chapters in Boston, Hartford, Buffalo, and other cities have already mounted significant efforts to support its new cardiac program. The Fund is seeking new benefactors who can appreciate the vital importance of this mission. For further information, please call (973) 376-5140. Tax deductible donations may be earmarked for the "CCRF Infant Cardiac Program".



The 300+ participants in the Lviv conference in November of last year traveled from as far away as Transcarpathia, Chernivsi and Kamianets-Podilsk in order to learn about the early diagnosis and treatment of cardiac birth defects.

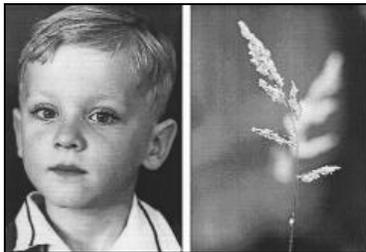
To the President of CCRF, Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky:

We sincerely thank you for your substantial donation of humanitarian aid to our hospital. The instruments that you provided are extremely necessary to ensure the continuation of the work done in the bacteriological laboratory

Best wishes and good health, and once again, thank you for your attention and cooperation,

O. Myndiuk
Head Doctor of the Lviv Regional Children's Specialized Clinical Hospital

and L. Khimczak
Director of the Bacteriological Laboratory at the Lviv RSCC Hospital



*Behold the child, by Nature's kindly law,
Pleased with a rattle, tickled with a straw;
Some livelier plaything gives his youth delight,
A little louder, but as empty quite...*

*Alexander Pope (1688-1744)
(an excerpt from the 2004 Calendar)*

**PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF 2004
CALENDARS TO BENEFIT
CHILDREN IN UKRAINE**

Mark your calendars! The Rochester Chapter of CCRF, together with the British Aid for Deprived Children (BADC), will be selling a 2004 calendar featuring the portraits of some of the youngest survivors of the world's worst nuclear disaster. This calendar, created by British photographer Penny Millar, showcases the portraits of children who are undergoing treatment for various illnesses in Chernihiv, and places them next to a variety of flora that bloom in the region.

According to artist Penny Millar, this calendar represents the natural beauty of floral blooms in the indomitable spirit of children who are fighting to overcome the legacy of Chernobyl. Ms. Millar speaks passionately about her work: "These children, for the most part ignorant of their plight and bleak future, still smile, still offer the beholder such beauty. These faces could be those of any child - and there's the point. They are *not* of any child; they are part of a statistic that is: 'In Chernihiv, Ukraine, only one child in every 100 is free from sickness.' These are not sugarcoated images that mask the truth, but instead speak their own truth and hold their own as art. The message is clear-*Art with Heart.*" Located some 60 miles east (directly downwind) from the Chernobyl reactor, Chernihiv and its surrounding agricultural villages were heavily affected by the radioactive cloud from Chernobyl.

Beyond the intrinsic beauty of these photos, CCRF hopes that this calendar will grace your home or office as a celebration of Ukrainian children's lives and their hope for the future.

CCRF wishes to thank the Rochester Chapter President, Mr. Myron Babiuik and Printing Methods for their support and execution of this project. Proceeds from the sale of this calendar will be allotted for the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment that can have a direct impact on the health and lifespan of Chernobyl children.

**TEACHING LEARNING
NETWORK MOVES FORWARD
WITH CCRF DOCUMENTARY**

In our last edition of the Chernobyl Chronicle, we were pleased to report that the Florida-based Teaching-Learning Network is working to produce a half-hour documentary on the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund to be broadcast on a wide network of public television stations before the end of 2003. The documentary will air as part of TLN's "Voices of Vision" series narrated by respected news anchor Scott Simon of National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition." CCRF is very grateful to Mr. Robert Metcalf who donated \$10,000 to underwrite a portion of the production costs for the CCRF episode. We also wish to thank the New England Self-Reliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation of Chicago, the New York Self-Reliance Federal Credit Union, Col. Yaropolk Hladkyj, and all of the private benefactors we acknowledged in our last edition for their generous donations to the project. We especially thank Mrs. Motrya Kokoris who not only made a generous financial contribution, but also gathered valuable material for the film script and soundtrack.

The Teaching-Learning Network has now received the final \$34,000 it needed to go forward with this project. It has gathered a large volume of material on CCRF and is preparing to go into production this summer. The "Voices of Vision" series is already running in a number of major public television markets, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Miami, and is expected to reach other markets in the near future. If the PBS station in your area is not yet broadcasting "Voices of Vision," please contact our National Office to learn more about this compelling series that features outstanding charitable groups across the United States and around the world. Please call (973) 376-5140 or (860) 652-0458 for more details.



Dr. Oleh Slupchynskij of St. Vincent's Hospital, Dr. Oleh Kornychuk of Kyiv City Children's Hospital #2 and a staff member join little Mariyka and her mother to assess her progress following the operation that restored her airway passage. Further surgeries will be necessary to restore the youngster's natural facial features. CCRF depends on the support of many contributors to help make such miracles happen. We thank all those who have contributed to the success of this special project and to the success of our Sea Shipment that will provide hope to children in need of major operations.



Volunteers from Counterpart International helped Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky and Lisa Milanytch load cargo for the Kyiv Gynecological Clinic.

(CCRF Sea Shipment #14 from pg. 1) En route to Dr. Yemets' Infant Cardiac Center were two crates containing specially requested precision surgical instruments donated by Aesculap, and coronary and aortic cannula necessary for performing cardiac surgery, donated by Polystan and Kendall Company. Ethicon provided two cases of sutures to supplement the cardiac surgery tools and equipment. An ultrasound, refurbished by Ambassador Medical, and a blood gas analyzer donated by Nova Biomedical were packaged for the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Perinatology Center. Wyeth Healthcare and Siemens also donated supplies and equipment destined for Chernihiv City Maternity Center and Rivne City Maternity Hospital #1. Other consignees received supplies donated by AmeriCare, International Aid, and Map International. Znamyanka Orphanage received wheelchairs, hygiene supplies, and boxes of toys and games.

In late March, CCRF sent a sea shipment laden with medical equipment and supplies to create an OB-GYN clinic in Kyiv. With the help of two volunteers from Counterpart International, the items were loaded and shipped to Ukraine.

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