

CHORNOBYL CHRONICLE

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND NATIONAL NEWSLETTER Spring 2005 VOL. XXXII



Former Secretary of State and current Director of the National Democratic Institute Madeleine Albright and Former President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel applaud His Excellency President Viktor Yushchenko at the reception at the Willard Hotel in Washington, DC.

YUSHCHENKO CALLS ON WORLD CITIZENS TO RESPOND TO UKRAINE'S HISTORIC MOMENT

In the early days of April, representatives of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund were invited to participate in a series of inspiring events surrounding the first official U.S. visit by Ukraine's new President and champion of democracy Viktor Yushchenko. On April 6th, President Yushchenko addressed a rare Joint Session of Congress where his speech was interrupted repeatedly by thunderous applause. On many occasions, members of Congress rose to their feet and hailed the President with shouts and chants of "Yushchenko! Yushchenko!" In his address to the packed chamber, President Yushchenko said that "Today, Ukraine is looking into the future with great hope and expectation. Free and fair elections have brought to government offices a new generation of politicians not encumbered with the mentality of the Soviet past. They are honest professionals and patriots. We are working as one team in pursuit of one goal – to lead our nation to success in the shortest time possible."

President Yushchenko appealed directly to the world community and especially to the Ukrainian-American diaspora to support Ukraine at this critical hour to help build a truly democratic society and to help the nation address its most pressing needs saying, "We are under no illusions about the enormous challenges we face." In many of his remarks, President Yushchenko stressed the importance of medical aid and the need to combat the aftermath of Chernobyl and the looming epidemic of HIV-AIDS that threatens to take hundreds of thousands of lives in Ukraine. "Under this administration," said the president, "the health of women and children will be at the highest order of priority."

The new administration in Ukraine is expected to significantly improve the political climate in which the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund can implement its programs. "For fifteen years we have had to work around the Ukrainian government and to overcome many bureaucratic obstacles to carry out our mission," said Dr. Zenon Matkivsky, President of the Fund. "For the first time, we will be able to work *with* a progressive government that truly cares about the needs of its people."

On April 6th, a distinguished member of our Board of Directors, Melanne Verveer, director of the Vital Voices Global Partnership for Women, hosted a special luncheon honoring Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund's Co-founder Nadia Matkivsky and Executive Director Alexander Kuzma attended the intimate gathering that included former U.S. Ambassadors William Green Miller, Carlos Pascual, and Steven Pifer, former Congressmen Steven Solarz and Jim Symington, Alma Powell, Bonnie Lautenberg, and representatives of several major corporations and non-governmental organizations.

Mrs. Yushchenko expressed her deep appreciation to all the U.S. citizens who believed in Ukraine and who devoted so much of their energy to defend its democracy and to improve the *(continued on page 4)*

Fulfilling Our Mission



A newborn rests comfortably in an incubator equipped by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund in the Chernihiv City Maternity Center.

"A picture is worth a thousand words." The above photo presents an infant in one of the neonatal units donated by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. The snapshot was taken in Chernihiv, but it could have been taken in any one of the Fund's twelve partner hospitals where we have installed state-of-the-art neonatal equipment. With every respirator, incubator, infant warmer, or pulse oximeter, your donations are helping to give scores of these helpless infants a fighting chance for life. This is where your donation has had the most impact. Cutting-edge medical equipment requires your generosity, but the results are priceless. For every dollar you donate, we pledge to devote our very best efforts to safeguard the lives of these newborns.

In January, Dr. & Mrs. Zenon Matkivsky had the privilege of attending the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko. Together with the Fund's In-Country Director, Olena Nyzhnykevych, and members of the Kyiv Advisory Board, they were able to witness the immediate and breathtaking changes that have swept *(continued on page 4)*



First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko meeting with Dr. & Mrs. Zenon Matkivsky and Olena Nyzhnykevych.



Dr. & Mrs. Zenon Matkivsky and Deputy Volodymyr Yavorivsky *(far right)* meet with the newly appointed Minister of Health Dr. Mykola Polishchuk to discuss the Fund's medical programs in Ukraine.

PHILIP MORRIS DONATES \$150,000 FOR CANCER TREATMENT

Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky and Olena Nyzhnykevych met with Anna Babinchuk, Project Coordinator from Philip Morris-Ukraine, in our Kyiv office to discuss a partnership program in the field of oncology. This grant will enable us to purchase medical equipment to help diagnose children with various cancers. The targeted cities for this grant will be Kharkiv, Rivne, and Zhytomyr. We anticipate completing this project for Philip Morris by the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe. We are looking forward to working with Philip Morris to help save the lives of children who are undergoing treatment for cancer, especially in areas that were hard-hit by fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Andriuk Family Honors Parents

In 2003, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund lost one of its founding members, Vice-President Martha Andriuk. For years, this devoted volunteer commuted each week from her home in Darien, Connecticut to the National Office in Short Hills, NJ to work on administrative tasks and fundraisers. An accomplished opera singer, Mrs. Andriuk also organized a benefit concert in Stamford and helped raise funds for our partner hospital in Lviv. When her husband Colonel Basil Andriuk died in 2001, Mrs. Andriuk established a fund in his memory to aid a children's hospital in Chernivtsi, near his childhood home in Ukraine's culturally rich Boykivshchyna region. After her own untimely death in 2003, her sons Dr. Alex Andriuk, Andrew Andriuk, and Mark Andriuk, and other members of the Andriuk family, formed a memorial fund in honor of their parents Col. Basil and Mrs. Martha Andriuk.

To date, the Andriuk Family has made a generous donation of \$40,000 to help the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund establish the first neonatal intensive care unit at the Chernivtsi Regional Maternity Hospital. "Chernivtsi is home to one of Ukraine's most prestigious medical universities," said Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, "but this region is quite impoverished, and the hospitals are in dire need of new medical technology." Mr. Kuzma noted that Chernivtsi hosted last year's World Congress of Ukrainian Medical Associations. "Now that they've seen the talents and the potential of the local medical community, we are hoping that other physicians of Ukrainian heritage will follow the example of Dr. Alex Andriuk and his brothers to support their colleagues in this part of the country." Dr. & Mrs. Matkiwsky visited the Chernivtsi Regional Maternity Hospital to assess and evaluate the hospital and found the institution to be highly qualified to receive a new neonatology unit. Dr. Matkiwsky stated, "The neonatologists of the Chernivtsi Maternity Hospital's Neonatology division have attended four of our Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund's Neonatology training conferences in Ukraine. This unit will be installed by a professional team and also will give adequate training to operate this highly sensitive equipment."



Volodymyr Maychenko and Sergey Davidenko, directors of the Maria Hulai-Lion Foundation, present a grant check to Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky.

MARIA HULAI-LION FOUNDATION AWARDS \$35,000 GRANT TO CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL

In December 2004, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund's medical programs received a strong financial boost thanks to the generous donations of many thoughtful individuals and institutions. Prominent among these was a grant of \$35,000 from the Maria Hulai-Lion Foundation. The Brooklyn-based foundation allocated the grant for the purchase of medical equipment as well as general support for the Fund's humanitarian activities. The grant was presented to the Fund's President and Co-founder Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky in the presence of two officers of the Maria Hulai-Lion Foundation, Sergey Davidenko and Volodymyr Maychenko. Dr. Matkiwsky expressed his gratitude to Dr. Maria Lion on behalf of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund Board of Directors. "This gift will help us to fulfill direct requests from our partner hospitals to meet the needs of our medical programs," said Dr. Matkiwsky. The Foundation officers selected the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund after a careful review of the organization's track record and web site.

Corporate Support from Enterprise Fleet Services



Lydia Rudakewycz (center) of Enterprise Fleet Services presents a \$2,500 check to Executive Director Alexander Kuzma and Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch.

Lydia Rudakewycz, who works at Enterprise Fleet Services in NJ arranged for her company to donate \$2,500 in February to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. In an eloquent presentation to the Enterprise Foundation, Ms. Rudakewycz persuaded the company to make the donation to help protect and save the lives of children confronting the legacy of the world's worst environmental disaster. "I am a daughter of immigrant parents who came from Ukraine. I have many relatives whom I've never met, but who suffered from the Chernobyl disaster." The donation was facilitated by Damian Thibodeau of Creative Solutions Unlimited who was a classmate of Ms. Rudakewycz' at Seton Hall University.

Kyiv Lions Club Fundraiser

Each year, the Kyiv Lions Club holds their annual "Burn's Night" fundraiser at the Kyiv City Hall. Proceeds from the evening go to various charities in Ukraine and this year, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund was selected as one of the recipients.

The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund applied to the Lions Club asking for financial support to republish 1,000 copies of the *Manual of Neonatology* in Ukrainian for free distribution to neonatologists in Ukraine. In 2002, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund translated and published 2,000 copies of this comprehensive American medical manual and has distributed the last of these copies to neonatologists throughout Ukraine. The manual serves as a daily handbook for doctors working in neonatal intensive care in the United States and Ukrainian doctors have also found the manual to be most helpful in their work. We receive weekly requests for this book from Ukrainian doctors who have not yet received it.

The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund's Ukraine Advisory Board ordered a table at this year's "Burn's Night" fundraiser. To our pleasant surprise, we learned that evening that \$4,000 was allocated towards the printing of this book by the Kyiv Lions Club. Thank you, Kyiv Lions Club! We look forward to working together on future projects.



From left to right: Olena Nyzhnykevych, Paul Niland, Vice President of Kyiv Lions Club, Nadia Matkiwsky, and Stuart McKenzie, President of Kyiv Lions Club.

Meeting Our Commitment to Partner Hospitals

The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund's National Office received an urgent request from Dr. Oles Mindaik, the Director of our first partner hospital, the Children Specialized Pediatric Medical Center in Lviv to repair an ambulance. It had been delivered in November 1997 and was presented to the hospital in the presence of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton during her goodwill tour of Ukraine. This ambulance serves scores of children who are transported from remote areas of the Lviv Oblast to this hospital which specializes in the treatment of leukemia and various other cancers.

The Foundation received another request for ambulance repair from our partner hospital in Lutsk. Dr. Valeriy Rutsky, Director of the Volynian Regional Children's Clinical Medical Center, asked for financial support for the repair of the ambulance which was delivered to the hospital in 1999.

With the generous financial support of Professor & Mrs. Volodymyr Bakum, the Foundation was able to fulfill the supplications of our two partner hospitals by funding the repairs of both ambulances.

Progress at the Chernihiv Maternity Center

In February, the Foundation's founders, Dr. Zenon and Mrs. Nadia Matkiwsky, with In-Country Director Olena Nyzhnykevych visited the Chernihiv City Maternity Hospital to see first-hand the neonatal intensive care unit donated by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. The newborn ICU received a major infusion of state-of-the-art neonatal equipment thanks to the generous response of our corporate

Anniversary Convention last November. The new equipment was installed by Volodymyr Mitin of NZ Techno.

"We were very encouraged to see the progress this hospital has made in recent months," said Dr. Matkiwsky. "The Chernihiv region is located downwind from the Chernobyl disaster site, and many of its villages are still heavily contaminated by radioactive fallout. This new technology is helping local doc-



Dr. Olena Lytvynenko and Nadia Matkiwsky tour the newly refurbished neonatal intensive care unit at the Chernihiv City Maternity

sponsors and private benefactors who attended last December's gala reception at the Kyiv residence of U.S. Ambassador John Herbst and Mrs. Nadia Herbst. During the reception, Master of Ceremony, Lubodar Olesnycky, stated, "Your generous donations this evening will save infants' lives." Over \$17,000 was raised for the purchase of an advanced respirator to help save the lives of newborns suffering from respiratory distress. Additional funds were raised at our 15th

tors to treat the babies who have been stricken with various complications as a result of their mothers' exposure to various environmental hazards."

A new shipment of medical supplies purchased by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund arrived in Chernihiv in April 2005. Among the most valuable items designated for the Chernihiv Maternity Center were respirators, surgical instruments, catheters, sutures, syringes, and obstetric supplies valued at nearly \$100,000.

OLENA NYZHNYKEVYCH ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF KYIV ADVISORY BOARD



Kyiv Advisory Board members: (from left to right, top row) Yuriy Nyzhnykevych, John Kravatsky, Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, Anatoli Mushtuk, Mike Perry, Myron Rabij, bottom row: Olena Nyzhnykevych, Nadia Matkiwsky, Sasha Perry, and Svitlana Rabij.

As the Chairman and President of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky officially opened the Kyiv Advisory Board meeting by welcoming all Board members. The Board reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and discussed the Fund's future fundraising plans. At the meeting's conclusion, Dr. Matkiwsky nominated Olena Nyzhnykevych as a candidate for Chairwoman of the Kyiv Advisory Board and opened the floor for other nominations. Mrs. Nyzhnykevych was unanimously elected the first Chairwoman of the Kyiv Advisory Board for Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

Ruslana's Charity Concert to Benefit Children of Ukraine



Dr. & Mrs. Zenon Matkiwsky and Olena Nyzhnykevych meeting with Ruslana this past February.

We are pleased to announce that Ruslana, the renowned Ukrainian rock star who won the *Eurovision 2004* competition and the 2004 World Music Award for "World's Best Selling Ukrainian Artist," has chosen the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund as her charity of choice. She chose the Fund in recognition for its years of dedicated service to the children of Ukraine. "Ruslana cares very deeply about the plight of Ukraine's children. Her stature as an international rock star has in no way diminished her warmth or her eagerness to help her people," said Olena Nyzhnykevych, "We are greeted by much enthusiasm from potential corporate benefactors and anticipate a fabulous success!" We invite everyone to join us on May

Ruslana chose the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund as her charity of choice, noting that the Fund's work is critical for Ukraine's youngest citizens.

17, 2005 in Kyiv for Ruslana's Charity Concert. This event will be listed as an official concert on the calendar of events during the international music festival, *Eurovision 2005*.

The proceeds from this concert will be designated for the purchase of state-of-the-art neonatal intensive care equipment for our partner hospitals in Kyiv and Dnipopetrovsk. A portion will also be used to purchase supplies for the "Dzherelo" physical rehabilitation center in Lviv, Ukraine.

Ruslana's breakthrough CD and elaborate show, both named "Wild Dances," integrates hard-driving, innovative rock themes with traditional folk elements from the Hutsul region of the Carpathian Mountains.

For further information on purchasing tickets or attending the VIP reception with Ruslana in Kyiv on May 17th, please call our Kyiv office at +38 (044) 494-1535 or e-mail us at: cacr@voliacable.com. We look forward to seeing you in Kyiv!



Ruslana



Ruslana performing her "Wild Dances."

(YUSHCHENKO, *continued from page 1*) the plight of its citizens. "I want to invite all of you to help us build Ukraine's future."

Following the luncheon, the Foundation's delegates joined over a thousand well-wishers at an outdoor rally by the Taras Shevchenko monument to honor President Yushchenko. The President called on all freedom-loving people to rally around the progressive movement that brought the democratic opposition to power. "For 800 years, the Ukrainian people have nurtured a dream. It has fallen to our generation to convert this dream to reality."

"It was very gratifying to meet so many Children of Chernobyl supporters who traveled from as far away as Chicago, Cleveland, Binghamton, Rochester, and other cities to be part of this inspiring celebration," said Mr. Kuzma.

On April 5th, during President Yushchenko's trip to Boston to accept the John F. Kennedy Library's "Profiles in Courage Award," he visited a heroic five-year old Ukrainian girl, Nastya Ovchar, who had rescued her sister from a raging firehouse and is presently in critical condition. President Yushchenko arranged for her transport to Boston to undergo treatment at the acclaimed Shriners' Hospital



Hosts of the afternoon reception were former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and U.S. Senator John McCain.



At the President's banquet (from left to right): Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, Board member Melanne Verveer, Champion Figure-skater Viktor Petrenko, and supporters Ihor Pawliuk, Talia Fedash, and Adia Fedash.

Burn Unit. After touring the impressive intensive care facility, the Ukrainian leader marveled at the medical technology he had seen. In an interview with Boston's ABC affiliate News Center 5, President Yushchenko said, "What I can see here, I would like to take in my hands and take back to Ukraine—together with the doctors." This is exactly the sentiment that has inspired the mission of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund—to bring world-class medical technology, resources, and training to Ukrainian hospitals to enable local doctors to help save the lives of Ukraine's youngest citizens.

President Yushchenko was warmly received at the afternoon reception at the Willard Hotel in Washington, DC at a reception hosted by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and U.S. Senator John McCain. After attending the reception, the Fund's new Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch remarked, "Standing in the presence of President Yushchenko, it was clearly visible that although this man had suffered, he has gathered his strength and is prepared to raise Ukraine to her innate greatness," expressed the Fund's Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch.

Later that evening, at a gala banquet at the Omni Sheraton in Washington, President Yushchenko offered a toast and a challenge to more than 1,200 well-wishers: "Tonight let us toast the success of our Orange Revolution. But tomorrow let us seize the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and to build the kind of Ukraine we have always dreamed of." Mr. President, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund shares your vision and reaffirms our commitment to provide life-saving medical aid throughout Ukraine.



President Victor Yushchenko speaks in the shadow of the monument to the great Ukrainian poet and freedom fighter, Taras Shevchenko, in Washington, DC.



From left to right: Richard Murphy, Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic & International Studies, Melanne Verveer, Vital Voices Global Partnership Chair and a member of our Board of Directors, and Janet Howard, Vice President for the Coca-Cola Company International Relations.

(CHILDREN, *continued from page 1*) through Ukraine in the first months of this year. All who have witnessed these changes agree that Ukraine stands on the brink of a very promising and enlightened era.

Now that Ukraine has elected a truly democratic president, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, together with the world community, must take advantage of this historic moment to intensify its lifesaving-saving mission, to bring new hope to this deserving nation. In the first days following the inauguration, Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky and Mrs. Nyzhnykevych had the honor of meeting Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko to discuss the many programs the Fund has carried out in the past 15 years and share our dreams for the future. During this productive meeting, Mrs. Yushchenko expressed her gratitude for the Fund's devoted service to Ukraine. On behalf of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky congratulated Mrs. Yushchenko for her perseverance and her husband's courageous leadership in defending Ukraine's freedom during the trying weeks of last winter, wishing her much health and strength in promoting their vision for a brighter future for this land.

Together with one of the leading deputies of the Ukrainian Parliament, Volodymyr Yavorivsky, Dr. and Mrs. Zenon Matkiwsky and Mrs. Nyzhnykevych also met with and Ukraine's newly appointed Minister of Health, Dr. Mykola Polishchuk, former Head of the Neurosurgical Department of the Emergency Hospital in Kyiv. At the meeting Dr. Polishchuk expressed deep appreciation for the organization's efforts. Deputy Yavorivsky had served as the head of the Chernobyl Commission within the *Verkhovna Rada* (Parliament). He had played a pivotal role in exposing the Chernobyl cover-up and he was the catalyst for the formation of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund in the fall of 1989. We look forward to working with such progressive leaders in improving the quality of health care in Ukraine.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFERS CONTINUING ASSISTANCE



On April 7th, members of the Executive Committee of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund met at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC with the Director of Humanitarian Assistance for Eastern Europe Gerald Oberndorfer and his assistant, Dean Fisher. Mr. Oberndorfer praised the Fund for the quality of its medical shipments and assured the delegation that the State Department was prepared to secure an aircraft for Spring 2006, to enable the Children of Chernobyl to launch a major airlift in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

From left to right: Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, Dean Fisher, Director Gerald Oberndorfer, Nadia Matkiwsky, and Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky.

UKRAINIAN DOCTOR & FUND'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRESENT CHORNOBYL EFFECTS AT NUCLEAR SURVIVORS' CONFERENCE



Dr. Porokhnyak and conference organizer Julia Estrella meet with Rev. Kurt Kekuna, pastor of the historic Kawaihāo United Church of Christ in Honolulu.

(Majuro, Marshall Islands) On the 51st Anniversary of the first U.S. hydrogen bomb test in the Bikini Atoll, an international delegation of non-governmental organizations from ten nations gathered in the capital of the Marshall Islands to discuss the long-term impact of radiation exposure and to develop new strategies for aiding radiation victims. Among the featured speakers at the weeklong conference beginning February 26th on the island of Majuro in the South Pacific was Dr. Lyudmyla Porokhnyak, the medical director for the Kyiv-based international women's organization "Zhinocha Hromada" ("The Women's Society"). Dr. Porokhnyak shared her experiences as a nuclear survivor, and presented some of the latest findings on Chernobyl's continuing impact on the health of women, children, nuclear cleanup workers, and communities affected by nuclear fallout from the 1986 disaster in northern Ukraine. As an active participant in Ukraine's "Orange Revolution," Dr. Porokhnyak also fielded many questions from the press and from the conference participants about the dramatic political changes sweeping Ukraine.

Dr. Porokhnyak was accompanied by the Foundation's Executive Director Alexander Kuzma who served as her English-Ukrainian translator and who also presented Chernobyl's health effects corroborated in various international studies. "For many years now, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund and the "Zhinocha Hromada" have been working together to publish medical training manuals and to organize training programs in Ukraine," said Mr. Kuzma. "We have great respect for Dr. Porokhnyak and it was only natural that we recommended her as a qualified speaker for this conference."

The international conference drew participants from the United States, Japan, the Philippines, Guam, Okinawa, and other nations. It culminated at the March 1st commemoration of the 51st Anniversary of the so-called "Bravo" Test in 1954 that exploded a massive hydrogen bomb in the Pacific Ocean. The explosion was over 1,000 times more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. The fallout from this massive blast and subsequent above ground atomic tests contaminated large portions of the Pacific island atolls of Enewetak, Rongelap, Utrik, and Bikini. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy called on the U.S. government to provide medical care and compensation to the large numbers of Marshall Islanders who were stricken with thyroid cancer, birth defects, reproductive complications, infer-

tility, and other serious illnesses as a result of radiation exposure.

Entitled "Our Land is Our Life," the March conference received extensive press coverage in the Hawaiian Islands, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands, as well as internationally through the Associated Press and France's Agence Presse. Dr. Porokhnyak's presentations drew special interest, as she was able to draw important parallels between the Chernobyl effects documented in Ukraine and Belarus and the many health effects documented in the Marshall Islands in the wake of the 67 atomic tests conducted by the US military between 1946 and 1958. Dr. Porokhnyak served as a leading researcher at the Ukrainian Institute of Radiation Medicine in Kyiv. She has produced and patented several products designed to reduce radiation exposure among exposed populations.

Prior to the start of the conference in the Marshall Islands, Dr. Porokhnyak took part in a press conference at the Hawaiian State Capital

"Only by unifying our efforts and by gaining full disclosure of scientific data can the world community truly overcome the consequences of these nuclear tragedies and build a brighter future for our children."

-Dr. Lyudmyla Porokhnyak



United Church of Christ parishioner, Martha Albin, presents Dr. Porokhnyak and Alexander Kuzma with The Honolulu Journal featuring Dr. Porokhnyak's press conference.

in Honolulu sponsored by State Representative Roy Takumi. After returning from the Marshall Islands, Dr. Porokhnyak, Mr. Kuzma, and other conference delegates were invited to make presentations at the Harris United Methodist Church and the historic Kawaihāo UCC Church in downtown Honolulu. They were also interviewed on local radio and television news programs.

The conference delegates issued several resolutions and appeals to world governments to provide more comprehensive research on the long-term effects of radiation exposure in the Marshall Islands and in the Chernobyl region. They also called for continuing medical aid for radiation victims as well as economic and technical assistance to help the Marshall Islands implement sustainable development programs. The conference also devoted a great deal of attention to the ongoing need for decontamination of nuclear sites and the removal of toxic waste and unexploded military ordinance in many

areas where it poses a continuing threat to human health and safety.

The international delegation was hosted in the Marshall Islands by a local non-governmental organization named "ERUB." The acronym stands for Enewetak, Rongelap, Utrik, and Bikini—the four atolls most heavily affected by nuclear fallout from the atomic tests in the Pacific. Members of ERUB presented poignant testimony on the illnesses and birth defects they have suffered. Several women had delivered so-called "jellyfish" babies, which were born with virtually no bone or cartilage. Some radiation experts have speculated that the mothers absorbed large quantities of radioactive strontium-90. When absorbed into the body, strontium replaces calcium and prevents normal bone growth in the fetus. Other ERUB members have had to travel to the US mainland for thyroid and cancer surgery.

"We were very moved by the hospitality and warmth of the people of the Marshall Islands," said Mr. Kuzma. "They are a very devout and spiritually gifted people who sustained terrible injuries as a result of the atomic tests in the 1950s. We are also very grateful to the United Church of Christ, the American Friends Service Committee, and the other sponsors who financed the trip for our delegation."

Citing their experience with the Chernobyl evacuees and Ukrainian nuclear cleanup workers, Dr. Porokhnyak and Mr. Kuzma hope to work with the conference organizers and their Marshallese hosts to develop long-term strategies for more comprehensive health screening, nuclear decontamination, and economic development.

"This conference provided a unique opportunity to learn from the experiences of many nations and communities that have suffered the effects of nuclear and military testing," said Dr. Porokhnyak. "Only by unifying our efforts and by gaining full disclosure of scientific data can the world community truly overcome the consequences of these nuclear tragedies and build a brighter future for our children."

Recently, the Republic of the Marshall Islands filed a Changed Circumstances Petition with the U.S. government citing new evidence showing the need for continued medical assistance to the nuclear survivors. For more information on the current health situation in the Marshall Islands or to lend support to the people of the Marshall Islands, please contact Elma Coleman, representative of ERUB in Hawaii. Ms. Coleman may be reached at lmacoleman@hotmail.com. You may also contact Alexander Kuzma at (860) 652-0458.



The international delegation meets with the president of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kessai Note, at his office in Majuro. Dr. Lyudmyla Porokhnyak presented President Note with a ceremonial "bulava," a Zaporozhian kozak symbol of authority.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HOSTS FORUM ON AIDS IN UKRAINE



AIDS Forum at Columbia University.
From left to right: Prof. Mark von Hagen (Columbia University), Kate Shechter (AIHA), Alexander Kuzma, Stephen Massey (Trans-Atlantic Partners Against AIDS), and Diana Howansky (FOCUUS Program Coordinator).

On March 23rd, the Center for Ukrainian Studies at Columbia University hosted a special forum on the AIDS epidemic that is rapidly spreading in Ukraine. The panel was moderated by Professor Mark von Hagen, a long-time friend of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund who helped to coordinate the Chernobyl 10th Anniversary Conference at the Harriman Institute in April 1996. Among the featured speakers was Alexander Kuzma, Executive Director of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, Stephen Massie, Director of Trans-Atlantic Partners Against AIDS, and Kate Shechter, a Program Director for the American International Health Alliance. All three speakers warned that the Ukrainian government and the international community must radically escalate their efforts to combat AIDS in order to prevent the kind of massive loss of life the world has witnessed in sub-Saharan Africa. Mr. Massey pointed out that the Ukrainian Parliament has adopted very progressive laws to address the AIDS crisis, but these laws have never been properly implemented at the community level. Ms. Shechter shared her concern that local authorities have intimidated AIDS victims and dis-

couraged them from receiving treatment. Out of an estimated population of up to 400,000 infected persons, only 170 Ukrainians are currently receiving anti-retroviral medication. To dramatize the scope of the looming AIDS disaster, Mr. Kuzma asked the audience to imagine the entire crowd of 500,000 demonstrators who amassed in Independence Square in Kyiv at the height of the Orange Revolution. "This is the size of the Ukrainian population that is already infected with HIV, according to the World Health Organization," noted Mr. Kuzma. He continued, "Imagine this mass of people wiped off the face of the earth. Ukraine is sure to lose a much larger portion of its population unless we make the impossibly optimistic assumption that no one else will be infected with this virus."

Despite this grim portrait, the speakers expressed hope that Ukraine's newly elected President Viktor Yushchenko will be much more proactive in combating AIDS and preventing the corruption that had drained resources from earlier AIDS campaigns. In Brazil, the government's aggressive campaign has leveled off the epidemic and saved an estimated 600,000 lives. Mr. Kuzma suggested we have reason for hope: "Our Ukrainian partner hospitals were able to blunt the impact of the Chernobyl disaster. They have proven that given proper technology and medication, they could achieve great success even in combating illnesses such as leukemia and Hodgkin's lymphoma that involved very complex and costly treatment protocols. The Ukrainian-American diaspora and the world community are entitled to savor the euphoria surrounding Yushchenko's victory, but if we really care about Ukraine's future, we cannot ignore this terrible menace. We must realize that our euphoria will be short-lived unless we confront the AIDS crisis in all its magnitude and urgency."

AIDS Laboratory for Lviv Perinatal Center Update

In our Winter 2004 edition of the *Chernobyl Chronicle*, we reported that with the funds contributed by Archbishop Stefan Soroka and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund will be able to establish a PCR Laboratory in the Lviv Regional Perinatal Hospital. To date, the cost of the laboratory exceeds \$47,000.

The PCR Laboratory, an acronym that stands for Polymerase Chain Reaction, will test blood samples by reproducing strands of DNA, making them visible and available for analysis. This process will allow the laboratory to diagnose HIV infections in pregnant women from which proper steps can be taken in order to prevent the transmission of the virus from mother to child. The laboratory will be run under the direction of Dr. Olena Baran, who received intensive training at the Immunology

Laboratory at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) in Newark in a program sponsored by the Children of Chernobyl and UMANA.

Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch is pleased to report that most of the components of the PCR Laboratory have now been purchased. This equipment will be delivered to the SALUS Foundation by the early summer months. UMDNJ Prof. Thomas Denny, a member of our Board of Directors and an internationally renowned AIDS expert, will travel to Ukraine to supervise the installation of the AIDS testing equipment and to provide final assessment of the Lviv PCR facility. Ms. Milanytch thanks Dr. Herald Lewis, the Head of Molecular Virology at UMDNJ, for his assistance in procuring the PCR Laboratory.

STAFF CHANGES:

The Fund Welcomes New Staff Members

All of us at the Children of Chernobyl are very grateful to Lisa Milanytch for a job well done as our Director of Procurement. During her tenure from September 2002 to January 2005, Lisa's most prominent accomplishments include procuring over \$1 million worth of medical equipment and supplies, overseeing three sea shipments and one airlift, and designing and editing eight *Chernobyl Chronicles* and the 2003 Annual Report. Lisa also re-organized our office, and worked together with the Fund's staff and volunteers to organize last year's highly successful National Convention commemorating our 15th Anniversary as well as our 2004 Cardiac Surgery Training Conference, the 2003 Viktory for Kids ice skating gala, the 2003 and 2004 Rochester Golf Tournament, and our 2002 and 2003 annual Christmas parties.

Lisa is currently enrolled in the Outward Bound Program for advanced mountaineering in the Smoky Mountains in western North Carolina. She plans to attend graduate school in the near future. The staff at the Children of Chernobyl looks forward to continue working with Lisa in the future.

The Children of Chernobyl family welcomes its new Director of Procurement, Alexa Milanytch of South Orange, NJ. Alexa, 22, graduated from Rutgers College with a major in Geography and a minor in Economics. Alexa joined the Fund's staff as Program Book Chair of the National Convention and raised over \$10,000. She is off to a great start and we wish her well in her new post.



Alexa Milanytch



From left to right: Michelle Poliwna, Event Manager, Olena Nyzhnykevych, In-Country Director, Marianka Woronovych, Press Liaison, Halyna Borydug, Administrative Secretary, and Olya Datsenko, Treasurer.

Michelle Poliwna, 26, a native of Chicago and recently of Brooklyn, NY, is currently serving as Project Manager for the Ruslana Charity Concert to benefit the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. In February she joined our In-Country Director, Olena Nyzhnykevych, in Kyiv to work on the benefit concert which will be part of the Eurovision music festival. We wish her much luck in this important project.

The Foundation's office in Ukraine is pleased to welcome Halyna Borydug, 29, as Administrative Secretary. A multi-lingual graduate of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Halyna graduated with a Masters in Political Science and Public Administration. Halyna held a post as Senior Specialist in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kyiv, Ukraine, prior to taking her present post. We welcome her and look forward to working with her.

MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES SEEK TO CREATE NEW CHAPTER



At St. Catherine's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Arden Hills, activists gather to form the new Minnesota Chapter of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. From left to right: Stephanie Hushcha; Sviatoslav Mirza, Parish Council Trustee; Alexander Kuzma, Foundation's Executive Director; Rev. Petro Siwko; Lisa Prytula, Coordinator; Alexandra Hushcha; and Bohdan and Oksana Billy.

On March 20th, Executive Director Alexander Kuzma visited the parish of St. Katherine's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Arden Hills, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis-St. Paul, where local activists are working to create a new chapter of the Children



Dr. Oleh Korniychuk opens the boxes procured by Lisa Prytula at Kyiv City Children's Hospital No. 2.

of Chernobyl Relief Fund. Under the leadership of Lisa Prytula, a post-graduate student in trans-cultural nursing at Augsburg College, the parish has formed an organizing committee to register the new chapter and obtain seed funding for its first year of activity. Last fall, Ms. Prytula and Dr. Anatole Lysyj helped to organize a shipment of \$20,000 worth of medical supplies that the Fund delivered to its partner hospitals in Chernihiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, Lutsk, and Lviv. "The quality of supplies supplied by Ms. Prytula and Dr. Lysyj was excellent," said the Fund's President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, "and it coincided perfectly with the needs of our hospitals."

"I attended the Fund's 15th Anniversary Convention in New Jersey in November and was very impressed with Children of Chernobyl's vision and track record," said Ms. Prytula. "The entire convention program was simply awesome!" She also participated with a

team of doctors, nurses and public health professionals who traveled to the Chernobyl zone to assess the needs of clinics in eight contaminated villages in the Zhytomyr Oblast. "The needs of these clinics are so acute and so urgent that I felt compelled to help as much as I could."

As the mother of two teenage daughters, Ms. Prytula is also mobilizing a group of Minnesota youngsters to help with the Children of Chernobyl campaign. "We shouldn't underestimate how much young people can accomplish when their energies and talents are properly channeled into community service." In addition to his meeting with adult parishioners, Mr. Kuzma also met with members of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League and with nursing students at Augsburg College who expressed strong interest in helping advance the Fund's mission. "There is great potential in this community," said Rev. Petro Siwko, pastor of St. Katherine's UOC. "We also want to reach out to the Lutheran community that is very strong in Minnesota and very involved in international health care issues." In 2002, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund received a \$25,000 grant from the Minnesota-based Medtronic Corporation in support of its national training conference to improve infant cardiac surgery programs in Ukraine. "We are looking forward to approaching other corporate donors for similar grants in the future," said Yaroslav Billy, a local businessman and parishioner at St. Katherine's. To support the formation of a Twin-Cities Chapter of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, please contact Lisa Prytula at (651) 245-5099 or Walter Anastazievsky at (651) 490-0887.



Executive Director Alexander Kuzma joined his long-time associates Natalie Pollock and Irene Oleksiak at a rally on the steps of the Connecticut State Capitol in Hartford. Ms. Oleksiak and Ms. Pollock served as co-chairs and press coordinators for the rally which received support from several prominent politicians including US Senators Christopher Dodd and Joseph Lieberman and received extensive media coverage statewide.

Capital Campaign Update:

New Donations Advance UCCNJ Construction Project

In our Christmas edition, we reported on the Fund's involvement in the capital campaign for the construction of the new Ukrainian Cultural Center of New Jersey (UCCNJ) in Hanover Township. This new facility will house the offices of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, as well as the offices of several youth organizations, a banquet hall, conference rooms, and classrooms for children who study the language and history of their Ukrainian forefathers. In December, thanks to the generosity of several large donors, we were able to make a combined installment of \$100,000 to help in the construction of the UCCNJ. Since then, several new donors have stepped forward to channel their gifts through the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. We wish to express our special thanks to the many individuals and families who have made generous contributions since the last edition of the Chernobyl Chronicle. Several of these listed donations were matched by matching funds from corporations. As we receive the matching gift, we will post the donation in our next newsletter.

Nestor & Ivanka Olesnycky	\$ 15,000
Victor Hatala	\$ 10,000
Brian & Andrea Tomko	\$ 10,000
Michael & Alexandra Zavadiwsky	\$ 10,000
Taras & Tamara Kravec	\$ 5,000
Jerry & Donna Kuzemczak	\$ 5,000
George & Zoriana Stawnychy	\$ 2,777
Walter Dziwak	\$ 2,000
George & Romana Shypailo	\$ 2,000
Yaroslav & Daria Bidnyk	\$ 1,000
Myron Holubiak	\$ 1,000
Michael & Anna Koziupa	\$ 1,000
Alexandra Rago	\$ 1,000
Daniel Kashimer	\$ 100

We are pleased to inform our donors that the UCCNJ has received final environmental approval from township authorities and construction is expected to commence this year. The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund is continuing its quest to obtain challenge grants and matching gifts from corporate donors and various foundations to help complete this historic project. Your tax-deductible donations are gratefully accepted. To make sure that your donations are channeled according to your wishes, please clearly indicate whether your donations are designated for the UCCNJ Building Fund or for our ongoing programs in Ukraine.

In Solidarity with Ukraine

From November 2004 to January of this year, hundreds of supporters of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund played an active role in defending democracy in Ukraine and protesting against the fraudulent elections of November 21st that threatened to re-impose a corrupt and authoritarian regime. The people of Ukraine refused to allow their future to be stolen from them. Across the country, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators came out into the bitter cold to demand free and fair elections. They refused to be moved from Independence Square, the *Maidan*, in Kyiv until justice prevailed. The world community stood with them; here in the United States thousands demonstrated in solidarity with Ukraine. We want to acknowledge our donors and volunteers who took part in this historic movement. From Chicago to Los Angeles to New York to small towns like Crawford, Texas, pro-democracy activists voiced their message, insisting that Ukraine not be abandoned in her hour of need.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Rochester Golf Tournament

September 17, 2005

Shadow Pines Golf Club
Penfield, New York

For further information,

Please contact

Rochester Chapter President

Lesia Telega

585-298-1665

**THIS MOTHER'S DAY HONOR YOUR MOTHER
WITH A DONATION TO SAVE AN INFANT'S LIFE**

Since 1995, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund has implemented a highly effective program entitled "The Women and Children's Health Initiative" to decrease infant mortality and develop prenatal care in our partner hospitals in Ukraine. Each spring, the world celebrates Mother's Day as a way of recognizing the sacrifices and devotion of the mothers who brought us into the world and have nurtured us throughout our lives. Unfortunately, for many mothers who have been exposed to radiation in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster, pregnancy complications and genetic anomalies can pose a major risk.

In recent years, several of our donors have made generous contributions in honor of their mothers to make their Mother's Day all the more meaningful. What better way to warm a mother's heart or honor her memory than to continue her legacy by helping to save the life of a newborn?



This campaign was initiated by one of our long-time volunteers, Mrs. Vera Owen of Edison, New Jersey, whose son, David, has made several generous donations in her honor on Mother's Day.

This year, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund invites you to take part in our first Mother's Day Campaign by making a donation in honor of your mother or another woman who has played an important role in your life. This campaign was initiated by one of our long-time volunteers, Mrs. Vera Owen of Edison, New Jersey, whose son, David, has made several generous donations in her honor on Mother's Day.

This Mother's Day, join us by earmarking your donation for the purchase of an infant warmer that will help save the life of a newborn in one of our neonatal intensive care units. This particular medical equipment costs \$9,400. On the remittance envelope, please mark the square that reads "In Honor Of" and please print the full name of the honoree with a complete address, if applicable. We will be pleased to forward your Mother's Day wishes acknowledging your donation.

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.

Unfortunately, many Americans who care deeply about Ukraine and the children of Chernobyl 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 nourishing environment.

By designating a portion of your estate to the Children of Chernobyl 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.

We are very grateful for the generous gift from the Estate of Walter Danylyszyn providing more than \$89,000 in unrestricted funds for our programs. Planned gifts such as these have helped us to build strategic partnerships with Ukrainian hospitals.

If you have not yet drawn up your will, please contact the National Office at (973) 376-5140 or Alexander Kuzma at (860) 652-0458. Your legacy will not be forgotten by the children of Ukraine.

Dear Friend of Ukraine:

I want to take a moment to introduce you to the Kyiv Post, the only English-language newspaper published in Ukraine.

If you're like me, you're frustrated by the lack of information about Ukraine in the Western media. There's almost no reliable source in the Western press for the latest news about Ukraine and the changes going on inside this great country.

We'd like to invite you to take a look at the Kyiv Post. Since 1995, the Kyiv Post has become the most trusted source for news and information in Ukraine, published weekly in Kyiv by a team of Ukrainian and Western journalists.

We invite you to read the Kyiv Post each week online to get the latest news about politics, business, culture and entertainment. Given the thrilling changes Ukraine has undergone, there's no more important time to focus in on events here.

For just \$95 per year, you can get full access to kyivpost.com, including the weekly online edition of the Kyiv Post, full access to the Kyiv Post archive, and special reports.

Additionally, if you donate to Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, we'll offer you an additional 15% discount off our normal subscription price.

Sign up to kyivpost.com by contacting us at Mazur@kppublications.com. Make sure to mention code CCRFI in your email.

Sincerely,

Andrey Slivka
Editor
Kyiv Post



The Ukrainian Weekly:

Offering you the Ukrainian perspective
on the news
in the English language.

We invite you to visit our website:
www.ukrweekly.com

To order a subscription, please call:
973-282-9800, ext.3042

**DONATE YOUR USED CAR
SAVE A LIFE!**

**Tri-State Area
Auto Donation Program**

to benefit the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund



- Tax Deductible
- Free Pickup
- Car-Truck-Van
- Any Condition

Call Greg Intille: (973) 650-1408

Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, Inc.

Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, USA
272 Old Short Hills Rd. Short Hills, NJ 07078
tel: 973-376-5140 fax: 973-376-4988
email: info@childrenofchornobyl.org

Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, Ukraine
vul. Khreshchatyk 25, #28, Kyiv, Ukraine 01001
tel: + 044.494.1535 fax: + 044.494.1536
email: crcrf@voliacable.com

www.childrenofchornobyl.org

Board of Directors
Dr. Zenon Matkivsky, President
Thomas Denny
Orest Dubno
Orest Fedash
Myron Holubiak
Nadia Matkivsky
Leonard Mazur
Joseph Vena
Melanne Verveer

Executive Staff
Alexander Kuzma, Executive Director
Nadia Matkivsky, Administrator
Tanya Fesenko Vena, Financial Officer
Lisa Milanytch, Director of Procurement
Valerie Burachinsky, Cargo Coordinator

Ukraine Office
Olena Welhasch, In-Country Director
Olya Datsenko, Treasurer
Halyna Borydyug, Admin. Secretary
Marianna Woronowycz, Press Liaison

Editorial Staff
Alexa Milanytch, Editor-in-Chief
Alexander Kuzma, Contributing Editor
Alexis Vena, Staff Member