

# CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

## ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

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## Christmas Gifts will bring Hope and Happiness for Children in Belarus

When you are stuck for ideas for Christmas presents for friends and family who seem to have everything they need, you may find we have the ideal gift for you here.

For just £10 you could provide a Christmas present for a child like Gera (*right*) who attends the Mayflower Respite Care Centre in Gomel, or for a child having treatment at the Cancer Hospital in Minsk.



A new toy at Christmas does much to brighten the life of a young child in the hospital. But often we are asked to help with buying medicines for children when these are not available in Belarus. £200 would pay for medicines which might be needed to fight an infection, resulting in the child being well enough to undergo a life saving bone marrow transplant.



We hope that Nikita (*left*) will soon be well enough to come for a holiday in Britain with his mum. For £400 you could sponsor a child in remission from cancer for a holiday in the UK, either at Christmas or in the summer.

For £15 you could purchase a Christmas Gift for a Hospice Family. (*right*) Our palliative care team in Gomel support 20 families whose children have life-limiting illnesses, and many of them struggle with poverty as well as disability.



£25 would buy a big box of Art and Craft Materials for children in an orphanage or at the Psychiatric Hospital. And £40 would buy a Pack of nappies and toiletries to support a new mum who may be struggling to keep her baby.

This would complement the training and support which will be offered as part of our new programme aimed at helping to prevent babies going into the Baby Home in Gomel.

£100 would provide a month's salary for an extra carer to help improve the quality of life for children like Zharina (*below*) who live at Zhuravichi Children's Home. She is very delicate and needs to be fed



slowly and carefully, which is hard to achieve for overworked staff. So we fund extra carers to give children like this the time and attention they need and long for.

£80 would provide a Two week holiday at a camp in Belarus for a young adult with disabilities. For young people living in an institution this is something to look forward to all year.

£50 sponsors a Day Out in Minsk for children and teenagers during their stay in the Cancer Hospital.



## Holiday Fun for Disabled Kids at Ptich

In late July over one hundred children with special needs arrived at Ptich Holiday Camp in the Belarusian countryside for a three week holiday. The children are all from Zhuravichi Children's Home or Rechitsa Boarding School.



Some children have been enjoying this holiday every summer for the last ten years, and it is something they look forward to all year.

For four year old Adam, who has no arms, it was his first holiday and he loved every minute of it.

More than 20 volunteers from Britain were joined by an even greater number of Belarusian volunteers, most of whom were studying in Minsk to become special needs teachers.

Together they organised activities for the children and gave them all the love and attention that these orphaned children crave. A group of volunteers this year spent a week at Zhuravichi with the children who are deemed too disabled to be allowed on the holiday.

And at the end of August a group of learning disability nurses also spent time at the children's home, chiefly

working with those children who are confined for most of the day to their cots. Next summer we hope to send a larger group to Zhuravichi and give as much fun as we can to the children who are always left behind.

Face painting was a highlight of the holiday for all the kids, whatever their age, and they loved it best of all when they were given the

opportunity to paint the faces of the volunteers.



We are very grateful to all the volunteers who worked so hard and especially to those who have been to Ptich several times, or who took on the responsibility of leading a group this year. From the Belarusian volunteers we would particularly like to thank Olga, who did a great job co-ordinating and took these photos, and also interpreter Dasha (*pictured top right*), who told us the experience has changed her life.

In 2006  
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2007 Marina Ilyushonak interpreted at the Holiday Camp and also was involved in much of the organisation for it. Marina has

been doing a brilliant job for us in Minsk - visiting the Embassy to organise visas; negotiating with various departments; working with the convoys; interpreting for our training programmes in Gomel and accompanying groups of professionals on educational visits to the UK. This year she came to Solihull with the teenagers from Svetlagorsk Orphanage. Marina is now leaving us, for an exciting new job opportunity with a mobile phone company, and we wish her all the best for the future.



## Humanitarian Aid Convoys

We have been able to take large amounts of new equipment this year - educational materials from a supplier in Hyde, furniture from Ikea and disposable nappies and cleaning materials from Procter and Gamble. Two truck loads were delivered to Gomel in September and a larger convoy will take aid to Minsk, Gomel and Rogachev at the end of October. We have a great aid team, led by Mike Allison, and they devote many of their weekends to collecting, packing and loading the goods, as well as driving the trucks out to Belarus. And we have tremendous support from David Campey who provides us with a free warehouse, and Paul Campey who services all our vehicles, also for free.

## There's No Place like Home

When Ira Banchyk was born with a cleft palate and deformed feet her young mum was advised by the doctors to give her up. We met Ira in the Baby Home in Gomel when she was three years old and brought her to Britain for a holiday. A medical assessment resulted in the offer of an operation in Exeter to remove Ira's feet and give her prosthetic legs.



Since then Ira has never looked back, has been a very active and happy member of the 'family' in

our house in Rogachev 'Rodni Kut', and has regularly visited two families in Devon for holidays, check-ups and new legs.

But a year ago Ira started to ask why she didn't live in an ordinary family with just one mum, like the other children at school. Jean Holt, our Head of Training, traced Ira's mother who was overwhelmed at finding her daughter again. The Baby Home had misinformed us that Ira's mother's rights had been taken away, and misinformed her that we had taken Ira permanently to England where she had been adopted.

Visits to the family home in a village near Kalinkovichi began in February, and Ira found that not only her mum Oxana, but dad Nicolai

and little sister Lilia, were delighted to have her back in the family. Papa Sergei from Rodni Kut was very sad to lose the little girl he loved, but even he now recognises that Ira is happier than she has ever been.



Ira Rozhkova grew up at Zhuravichi Children's Home and then when she was fifteen CCP(UK) helped to get her moved to Rechitsa Boarding School. This was where Ira's education began and she had a very happy time sharing a room with Tanya and Luba, where the girls soon became the best of friends.

Ira was born with small and non functioning arms and legs, and twenty years ago it would have been very hard for a family to care for such a child at home.



In 2005 we produced a book about Ira, with Ticktock Media, as we were so inspired by her cheerful



and positive outlook on life. Soon after this Ira met her parents for the first time after teachers at the school located the family.

After five years at Rechitsa the time came when Ira would have to leave and was expected to move on to an adult institution. But her family offered to take her back! One of Ira's sisters had got married and left home, so they had the space and Ira's mum has given up

work to devote her time to her daughter. When we organised a holiday for disabled young adults at Ptich in the summer, we invited Ira and her mother. All the other young people tell us that Ira's mum is wonderful, and Ira is just bursting with happiness. We hope to be able to help the family to create a new bathroom which will be accessible with a hoist. This is the only problem to be overcome in order to give Ira the care she needs in the family she has always dreamed of.



If both 'our' Iras can be re-united with their families, it seems likely that there would be many other children who could return home, with a little help and support. Our new project at Ulookavye Orphanage for children with mild to moderate learning difficulties aims to do just that. Our group in Endon hosted eight of these children this year and saw some of the effects of institutionalisation. We have now employed a social worker who will create a profile of each child, find out about their birth parents, and seek to re-unite them wherever this is possible and in the interests of the child. Our group in Craven raised funds for this project this year, instead of hosting children. Jean Holt is organising training for the staff, so they can help to find and prepare foster families for some of those children who cannot return to their own parents.





## Christmas Cards & Gifts

We have two new designs for Christmas Cards this year, both painted by Alessia Barilova from Rogachev. Despite her very severe cerebral palsy Alessia is a wonderful and prolific artist. The cards are printed A5 size and are sold in packs of six, three of each design.

Our annual calendar is full of happy images of many of the children we support.

Prices for calendars, cards and all our Christmas Gifts are listed on the order form below. (*postage and packing included*) When you purchase a Christmas Gift you will be sent a photo card with a description of the gift, which you can give to your friend or relative.



Gift cards do not need to be confined to Christmas. They are also ideal for birthdays, weddings and other family events. When Lucy Daniels from Bolton was christened her mum and dad decided that they would like all her gifts to be donations to CCP(UK). Lucy is now five years old, but when her little sister Ellen was christened earlier this year the family decided to support us again!



We are very grateful to Olympus KeyMed who print all our cards and calendars for us for free. This is in addition to all their financial support which gives such a fantastic boost to almost every aspect of our work.



## Order Form - (or you can order online at [www.chernobyl-children.org.uk](http://www.chernobyl-children.org.uk))

- |   |        |   |        |
|---|--------|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calendars                            | £ 3.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Cards                    | £ 2.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday in the UK                    | £ 400  | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine for child with cancer     | £ 200  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carer for Cot Children               | £ 100  | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday in Belarus                 | £ 80   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day out in Minsk                     | £ 50   | <input type="checkbox"/> Baby pack for new mum              | £ 40   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art & Craft Materials                | £ 25   | <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Gift for Hospice Family  | £ 15   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Gift for child with cancer | £ 10   | <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Gift for Mayflower Child | £ 10   |

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... I am a UK tax payer. Please claim Gift Aid on my donation

Please send to .....

Post Code ..... Tel: ..... email: .....

Please return the form to: CCP(UK), Kinder House, Fitzalan Street, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 7DL

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