

# CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

## ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

### 'Family Home 2000' at Klimovka

In 1999 we found that a young man called Sasha had moved on from the Children's Home at Zhuravichi to an appalling mental institution. Sasha was an intelligent young man, whose only disability was that he could not walk. We managed to move him temporarily to a better home, and resolved that we should set up a small home for Sasha and a few other young people like him.

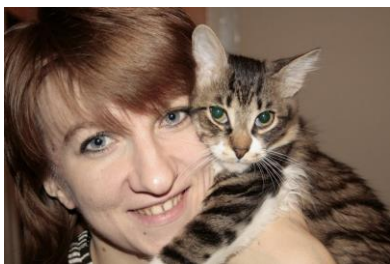


Gomel Regional Education Department gave us half a kindergarten in the village of Klimovka, not far from Gomel City. With the support of the Regional Social Protection Department we spent several months in the year 2000 renovating it and turning it into a very comfortable home for four young people.

Sasha moved in to the home in November 2000 with two of his friends from Zhuravichi – Liena, who has Spina Bifida and Greesha, who has cerebral palsy. They were later joined by Sveta, who grew up at Rechitsa Boarding School. Sveta had received a good education, whereas the young people at Zhuravichi had never learned to read or write or to care for themselves.

The young people, with the support of four excellent carers, began to catch up on some of the education they missed and learned to cook and look after their home.

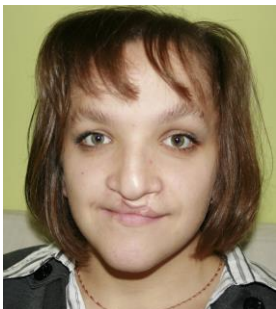
The Social Protection Department were very supportive and the Director of the Department for Gomel Region was very proud of our 'Family Home 2000' and encouraged other regional authorities in Belarus to look for foreign partners who could help to create something similar, using Klimovka as a model. A home for six young people with disabilities was soon established at Rechitsa with funding from an Irish charity.



Sveta soon started work as a secretary in our Mayflower Centre, and established a successful animal rescue charity. Sasha moved on to a bigger home as he decided that life at Klimovka was too quiet for him.

Liena and Greesha are very happy at Klimovka which we hope will always be their home. Liena really enjoyed learning to cook and does a lot of beautiful crochet work. Greesha loves painting and often tells people he was born in the year 2000.

Several young people have moved though the home and on in to independence, including Ira who now works at the Mayflower Centre.



Another young woman called Ira moved from Duyanovka to become a permanent resident and from 2010 Larissa and her husband Sasha have been looking after the young people and have made FH2000 into an even more welcoming place for past, present and visiting young people.

