

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

More than thirty years after the world's worst nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl power station in northern Ukraine, the children of Belarus continue to suffer from the effects of the fallout.

Thyroid cancer rose by more than 100 times in the most contaminated parts of the country in the early years after the disaster. Other types of cancer are also prevalent and children suffer from many other health conditions or genetic disorders.

Chernobyl Children's Project (UK) brings children in remission from cancer to Britain in the summer for recuperative holidays.



The children benefit greatly from four weeks of fresh air, good food and new experiences. They go home with boosted immune systems, new friends and many happy memories

For children and young adults with disabilities living in orphanages, we support an exciting three week holiday at a Holiday Camp within Belarus. We send out volunteers, both to the camp and to the institutions, who work very hard to enable the children and young people to take part in all sorts of activities and have a truly memorable holiday.



The Chernobyl Disaster

On 26th April 1986 there was a huge explosion at the nuclear power station at Chernobyl on the border between Ukraine and Belarus. Some of the nuclear materials spewed from the reactor were carried round the world, but the heaviest fallout landed in Belarus. A quarter of the country's best farmlands and forests were poisoned with caesium 137 which will be in the soil for hundreds of years.

Despite the evacuation of over 400,000 people, there are still two million people in Belarus living on seriously contaminated land.

Recuperative Holidays

A holiday abroad gives children the chance to get away from this environment and forget their worries. For children who have major health problems or who have had cancer, it is especially important.

Every summer we invite many teenagers in remission from cancer, as this age group are seldom invited by other charities, and the holiday gives them a better chance of avoiding a relapse. We

also bring very young children, when their treatment has finished, and they travel with their mums, who are almost as much in need of a holiday as the children.

Our local groups raise the funds and organise lots of great activities for the children. The children stay in pairs and their month is usually divided between two families.



Hospice Care

If cancer treatment is not successful, then hospice care is vital. We have a home palliative care team in Gomel, who also support many families with children with genetic disorders and other life limiting disabilities.

Foster Care Training Programme

We organise educational visits to the UK and take health, education and social work professionals to Belarus to give advice about our projects and deliver training. Since 2000 we have run training programmes in Belarus for directors of institutions, psychologists, teachers and academics. This has helped to get hundreds of children fostered into local families. We have training programmes in Leaving care, Restorative Justice, Principles of Social Work and many aspects of the care and education of children with disabilities.

Supporting Children and Young People with Disabilities

Family Home 2000. In 2000 we created a small family home in the village of Klimovka for young adults with physical disabilities, who had grown up at Zhuravichi Children's Home. They soon learned to cook and look after themselves and their home. Family Home 2000 is permanent home for three young adults and has helped many others move on to the independence.



In 2003 we moved four young children from Zhuravichi to live in a house in Rogachev with some lovely carers and a foster father. Now all in their early 20's the young people at **Rodni Kut** are very attached to 'Papa Sergei', their five 'mamas' and all their brothers and sisters. You can read more about them and all our projects on our website. www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

Families with Children with Special Needs

For families who look after their severely disabled children at home, life is very hard. In 2004 we set up The **Mayflower Respite Care Centre** in Gomel, which provides care, good food and lots of fun for groups of six children while their parents have a much needed break. In 2008 Social Protection took over most of the costs of running the centre, whilst we continued to provide transport.



We set up a class in 2005 for children in wheelchairs in **Special School No 5** and provided their transport to school until 2014 when we gave minibuses to both Mayflower and the school. We also provide psychological support and practical advice to support young families with disabled children.

In 2018 we began a new project funded by **UNICEF** to provide support to families with children with disabilities and help to integrate the services provided by the local Education and Social Protection Departments.

Visit our website

www.chernobyl-children.org.uk



Contacts: Executive Director: Linda Walker

01457 863534 07976 653610 ccprojectuk@gmail.com

National Treasurer and Groups' Co-ordinator: Catherine McElholm

07747 775218 cath.mcelholm@gmail.com

Head of Training Programme: Geoff Wright Geoff_wright70@hotmail.com

Volunteers Co-ordinator: Lynne Murphy lynnecm@live.co.uk

Trustees: John Gater 01782 535000 Mags Whiting – 01457 865805

Nigel Boulton - 01782 412372 Brian Hardwick – 0161 969 3418

**Would you like to join or establish a local group
and host children in your home for a recuperative holiday?**

Volunteer at the Holiday Camp? Organise a fund raiser for us?

I would like more information about Chernobyl Children's Project (UK)

I enclose a donation of £.....

I am a UK taxpayer. Please Claim Gift Aid on my donation

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code

Telephone Email

Chernobyl Children's Project (UK) Registered Charity No.1059832.

A company limited by guarantee Registration No. 3220045

National Office: Kinder House, Fitzalan Street, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 7DL