

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

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Autumn Newsletter 2021

Family Support Project

With a grant from the **US Embassy in Minsk**, our partners 'Supporting Children Together' have recently completed a very successful project in Gomel Region. Working in the districts of Chechersk, Dobrush and Buda-Koshilova they used all the skills and techniques learned during the UNICEF project over the previous year to support families with children with disabilities.

Over 40 families took part in the project. They attended



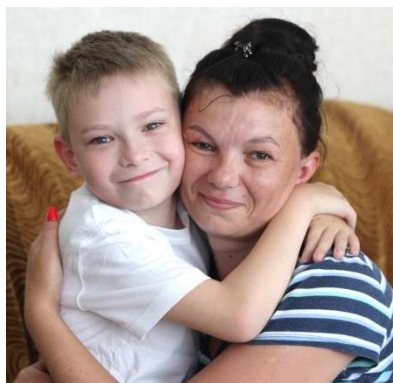
many sessions of 'School for parents' where paediatricians, teachers, speech therapists and other specialists gave them advice about caring for their children and helping them to develop.

And there were regular training sessions and round table discussions for professionals from Health, Education and Social Care, encouraging them to work together in multidisciplinary teams and to use a child centred approach.

The whole family was supported and the siblings enjoyed getting together at parties.



Twelve year old Kyril (pictured right) has myopathy and his younger brother has the same condition. The family has been supported through this project and we hope to give their single mum more support in the future as the boys' needs become greater.



Eleven year old Timur has cerebral palsy and did not walk until he was 8, after he had some operations in Russia. His mum, Tatiana has found involvement in the project very helpful, partly for the advice and practical help of professionals and also for the companionship and psychological support of meeting other parents with similar children. 'Every step is difficult for me', says Timur, 'but I walk because I want to make my mum happy'.



The Croft Canter Julie Raftery is organising this 10 mile run again on October 9th, with proceeds going to Air Ambulance and CCP. There are still spaces if you would like to join (free entry if you raise at least £50 for CCP) Email Julie if you would like to know more. Julie.raftery@hotmail.co.uk

Supporting Foster Care Families

It was in the year 2000 that CCP began a programme of training covering fostering and many aspects of child care and development. Since then Gomel Region has led the way in finding families for children and closing almost all the orphanages.

Our partners in Gomel, 'Supporting Children Together', have just finished a very successful project funded by **Unicef**, which has



moved most of the healthy children out of the Baby Home and into loving families.

We are this month launching a new project to make sure that foster families have the ongoing support they need – particularly those who are looking after babies and very young children, teenagers or children with disabilities. There will be regular training sessions for both parents and professionals and the project staff will work closely with the Baby Home and

the local authorities in Gomel to give children the best possible chance of finding a family, and to give those families the practical and emotional support they need. This work is being funded by **The Fairness Foundation** (formerly known as Persula Foundation) who have given us an annual grant for many years to enable young people with disabilities and living in institutions to have a holiday in the summer

Teenage Mental Health Project

We have worked for more than a decade with the Psychiatric Hospital in Gomel, delivering training programmes and organising educational visits for senior psychiatrists.

In 2018 we had funding from the **BEARR Trust** to work with children who were in danger of being referred to the hospital, to try to give them the support they needed within the community.



We are now launching a new project, with funding from **Action for Disability** which will support teenagers who have spent time in the hospital, working with them at home and in pedagogical centres. We hope that they will receive the professional help they need to enable them to successfully reintegrate into school or college.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Kay Harvey went to Belarus in 2019 with ADHD nurse Sally Trowse, to deliver training to professionals and advice to parents. Kay will be contributing to the planning of the new project via Zoom.

Skydive takes place at last!

Early in 2020 Carol Ashcroft booked with Skydive Buzz in Devon to do a tandem jump from 15,000 feet. She was due to jump at the end of March and she set up a fundraiser for CCP which raised an amazing £1,800!

Then Covid struck and all jumps were off. Carol promised her supporters she would jump when she could and the funds were used to support the young people in our Family Home Rodni Kut.

We are very grateful to everyone who donated and delighted that Carol has now been able to make the jump!



The Chance to Live at Home

The Palliative Care Team in Gornell look after families with children with severe and life limiting illness all over the region.

For many years entirely funded by CCP, the team are now employed by the Health Department, whilst we continue to fund some extra hours for staff and support for families.

For children reliant on equipment to help with their breathing, some of this is now provided by the state. But oxygen

concentrators are not one of these items. In the last few months we have bought several of these machines, for children such as Nadezhda, allowing her to live at home with her parents, rather than being confined to hospital.

Hasan (pictured left) is the latest child to be in need of one of these machines and we will purchase it for him in October.

The oxygenators cost \$1,000 each, but they make the world of difference to the life of the child and his parents.

We also provide the transport for the Hospice doctor and nurses

for many of their visits, especially when they are travelling to other parts of the region. We have a beautiful minibus which we bought last year with a **Rotary Club Global Grant**. The bus also regularly collects young people from the Search Club to get together at the Mayflower Centre.



Sunflower Competition

Congratulations to our winners! Gillian and Andy Carey came first with a wonderful 74 inch sunflower. Charlie Ajomale-Evans was the runner up at an impressive 63 inches.

Two year old Ellie Ruane planted her seeds with grandparents Kath and Ken and has loved watching them grow!

Linda Hardwick won the craft competition with this beautiful cushion.





Stunning New Greeting Cards!

Eight years ago Learning Disability Specialist Fiona Ritchie visited Belarus to give advice and training to health, social care and education professionals in Gomel Region.

Fiona has been a strong supporter of our work ever since, and as a keen and talented amateur photographer she has offered us some of her beautiful wildlife photos to use as Greetings Cards.

You can buy a set of four (Top row Set 1 and 2nd row Set 2) for just £7.50 including postage.



Our Wonderful Charity Shop

Many thanks to Gerald and all the brilliant volunteers at our charity shop in Crook, Co. Durham, which continues to thrive.

It is a wonderful source of fundraising for CCP and of good quality affordable items for the local community.



Visit our website: www.chernobyl-children.org.uk Secure Donations can be made online

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And on Twitter and Instagram @ChernobylUK

We are very grateful to all the individual donors, businesses, trusts and foundations, local authorities, church and peace groups, our own group co-ordinators and host families, trainers and sanatorium volunteers who continue to give so much time, energy and financial support to the children of Belarus and who have been supporting us through the pandemic.

Special Thanks to 'Action for Disability' Trust, Godel Technologies and the Fairness Foundation for their generous support..

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