

# CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

## ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

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Summer Newsletter 2025

## New Project Supporting Babies in Gomel



Our partners 'Supporting Children Together' will be starting a new project with UNICEF this autumn, supporting babies and young children. We are delighted that they will be working with Dr. Olga Avila who we worked with and brought on an educational visit to the UK in 2017 when she was working in early intervention at Polyclinic No 19 in Minsk. Olga now works at UNICEF and she will be supervising this project.



young children will have disabilities and extra support will be given to them and their foster parents.

Guidance will be produced and shared with the Advanced Learning Institute in Gomel to be incorporated into future education and training.

The goal will be to prevent children being sent to the Baby Home, and for those who are already there, to find families and make sure they do not go on to an orphanage. We have done a lot of this work in the past and have several people working with us who have great expertise and experience in working with professionals across health, education and social protection and in preparing and supporting foster families. Many of the babies and



Part of the project will also involve trying to set up respite care in the Baby Home for families with children needing palliative care. This would be wonderful!

We have worked with the Baby Home Director, Elena, for many years, and we would love to see her enabled to set up this respite care which would make a huge difference to the lives of struggling families.

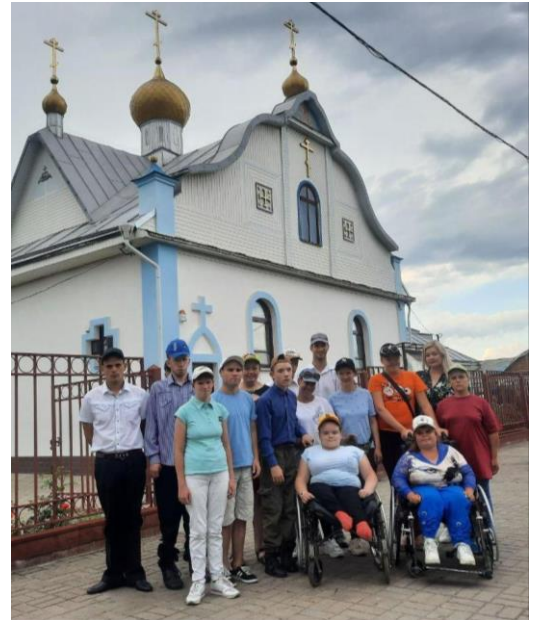


## Some of the Young People we support in Belarus



From **Zhuravichi**, Inna, who we have employed for many years, sent us pictures of some of the young people doing crafts and enjoying time together. Some of them have been able to learn how to make these beautiful baskets.

The residents at **Rechitsa** have enjoyed some days out recently with the support workers we fund.



And at our Family Home **Rodni Kut**, Anya celebrated her 29<sup>th</sup> birthday in July, with Anton and Stas.







The Search Club in Gomel continue to send us regular messages about their outings and activities with Maria, who has worked with them since the club first met 15 years ago. Here they are visiting a Lavender Farm in Vietka.

## Supporting Foster Care Families and Children's Mental Health



This project, which finished in June this year, supported 35 children, a third of whom had special needs or mental health issues. Half the children were with foster families, and half living in a social shelter. As well as working with the children, and separately with the parents our staff helped to train 21 specialists from local schools and pedagogical centres.

More than half the children had spent time in the Psychiatric hospital in the preceding 9 months, whilst only 3 had to be admitted to hospital during the course of the project.



The team working on the project comprised an experienced coordinator, special needs teacher, psychologist, psychotherapist and neurologist. Parents clubs met regularly (above) and there were family therapy sessions, medical consultations and 8 trainings sessions and seminars.

One teenager who had been very troubled and spent much time in hospital, found that working with the psychologist and psychotherapist helped him to communicate with and understand his family and also his friends and the staff at school. Vanya said "I feel happier now as I am sure that I can manage my emotions and actions, and this means that I can live without a hospital and be happy with my family"



## Hospice Care

Our psychologist, Aliona, also works with Hospice families in Gomel. She supports individual families at home and also brings mums together on special occasions and some weekend so they can relax and talk about their problems.



## Young Supporters raising Funds

Many thanks to two ten year olds who raised funds for us at the One World Festival in New Mills in July.

Bessie Gannon turned out all her toys and helped to sell them for CCP.

And Martha attracted a happy queue of children all afternoon for her face painting.



## Could you make a donation to support our work?

*You could post a cheque to: Chernobyl Children's Project, Kinder House, Fitzalan Street, Glossop, SK13 7DL or ask us for a Standing Order Form*

Visit our website: [www.chernobyl-children.org.uk](http://www.chernobyl-children.org.uk) Secure Donations can be made online

*Thank you so much to Everyone who continues to support our work in Belarus*

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