CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

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Winter 2026

A Family for Every Child



Our partners in Gomel, ***Supporting Children Together***, have just completed a year long project with Unicef, which sought to provide the right to life in a family for all children under four years old. This was the first time such an initiative in Belarus had been carried out for very young children.

Specialists from the education, health and social protection departments came together to assess children in the Baby Home and families in the local communities. After moving children back to their families or to new foster families the project staff provided support to them in their homes.



52 babies and small children were moved from the Baby Home with all but one going into a family. 23 children were returned to their parents, like Eva *(above).* 20 children were adopted and 8 were moved to foster families.

Ksenia *(right)* was very quiet and withdrawn in the Baby Home and has been so happy and outgoing since she came to live with her foster mum.

A series of training programmes were delivered by the project staff and materials produced about the way the work was carried out. These have now been sent to the Regional Executive Committee to be approved for use by social care specialists working with families in the future.



The plan is that the ideas and skills learned during this project will be passed on to other regions of Belarus, hopefully benefiting many children and families.



Christmas Cards & Gifts on Page 4





Farewell to Rodni Kut



Anya, Stas and Anton have been living at Rodni Kut in Rogachev since 2003, with Sergei as their Guardian and a team of carers, most of whom are still with them today.

When they arrived, along with Nazar *(right)* who sadly died three years ago, they were just 7 or 8 years old. As they grew up they had regular visits from teachers and they took part in many of the activities of the Rogachev Families Association.

Every summer and Christmas Anya came to stay with the Edwards family in Devon and the other young people enjoyed holidays at a sanatorium.



They have had a very happy life in their family home, but reluctantly we are going to have to close Rodni Kut at the end of this year.

With the ongoing war making it so difficult to work in Belarus, we came to the decision that we should move the young people to Zhuravichi while we are still able to give them support and help them to adjust to life in their new home.



They all lived at Zhuravichi when they were very young. But the home has very much improved since then, partly because of the training and educational visits we have provided over the years for staff at Zhuravichi and at Social Protection.

In mid December Stas, Anton and Anya will move to Zhuravichi and Sergei's wife Oxana will go with them and stay for the first couple of days. We will employ three half time carers and a part time teacher to support our young people, who will join Inna's group *(below)* which we have been supporting for many years.

Natasha, who runs all our projects in Gomel, and Galina, who delivers much of the training on the Unicef programme, will make sure that the carers have the advice and support they need, and that Anya can keep in touch with her family in Devon.





We are grateful to Sergei, Oxana and all the carers who have looked after the young people for so many years.

And also to everyone who has donated regularly to support their care. We hope that you will continue to support them as they celebrate New Year and Christmas with their new friends and settle into the next phase of their lives.

Have a look at our website to see more pictures of Rodni Kut and Zhuravichi *www.chernobyl-children.org.uk*

A New Home for Sasha



Sasha Kurilenko played a significant role in the development of our charity. It was when he was sent to a totally unsuitable institution, that we set up Family Home 2000, where young disabled adults lived for 20 years. This led to the establishment of Rodni Kut, for disabled children. Sasha helped with the design of FH 2000 at Klimovka; he spoke powerfully at one of our conferences, making a deep impression on the Belarusian Ambassador; and he helped participants in our training programmes to understand that for a child it is better to live in a poor family than in a comfortable institution.



He is now living in a flat of his own, in Svetlagorsk, where Natasha, the Director of all our projects in Belarus, visited him recently, and we have helped him with furniture and a phone. The block of flats has been adapted for disabled people and there are other residents who have moved from institutions. He is so happy to have gained his independence at last.

Sanatorium Holidays

We funded holidays this summer for children and teenagers in remission from cancer, seen here at Nadezhda Sanatorium.



And we enabled young disabled adults to have a holiday at Ptich, where we used to send volunteers every summer.



The group on the left live at nearby Kapatkevichi, and they came on day visits to Ptich to join Rodni Kut and other young people from Gomel and Rogachev. They were all able to enjoy various health treatments as well as the chance to socialise and make new friends

Our Shop in Crook

Our shop manager Margaret will be working with Julie and other volunteers to set out Christmas displays and make the shop an inviting place for people to pick up bargain gifts.

We are so grateful to our team in Crook and all their regular customers and donors. They provide very welcome reliable funding for our work as well as playing a vital role in their local community.



Christmas Order Form

(all prices include post and packing)





- ❑ 6 Winter Scene Christmas Cards £3.00
- ❑ 6 Assorted Christmas Cards £3.00

Children with Cancer

Most of the children who have been to stay with our families over the years have been in remission from cancer. We still support the children's cancer charity in Minsk, Children in Trouble, whenever we can, and we would love to help them provide Christmas gifts for children in the hospital.



- ❑ Gift for a Child at the Cancer Hospital £10
- ❑ Art and Craft Materials for Zhuravichi £25
- ❑ Month's salary for a part time carer at Zhuravichi £100
- ❑ I would like to make a donation to CCP I enclose £……
- ❑ I am a Tax Payer. Please Claim Gift Aid ❑ Please send me a Standing Order Form

Name……Address…….

…… Postcode……

Email ……..

Please post this form to Chernobyl Children's Project, Kinder House, Fitzalan Street, Glossop, SK13 7DL or order through our website

Visit our website: 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

A special Thank You to Isle of Wight CND who have supported us generously for many years, and who gave us their final funds when they had to close this year.

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