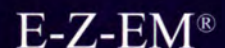


free
children &
chemabyl



Фонд Допомоги Дітям Чорнобиля є благодійною організацією, що покликана захищати та рятувати життя дітей, яким випала доля протистояти наслідкам однієї з найстрашніших екологічних катастроф спричинених людством.

Нас підтримували



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**Children of
Chornobyl
Relief Fund**



**Міжнародна
Фундація
Чорнобиля**



1989 1999

продовжуючи місію...



На плечі цих людей кожного разу лягає збирання коштів, спорядження та транспортування медичних вантажів на Україну...

Протягом 10 років ФДДЧ було організовано і доставлено на Україну 23 авіа- та 7 морських рейсів з медичною допомогою, вартість яких складає понад 40 млн. доларів. Загальна вага вантажу становить понад 1000 тон.

Понад 30 медичних дитячих закладів у багатьох областях України отримують допомогу від Фонду

Фонд Допомоги Дітям Чорнобиля засновано у 1989 році подружжям Матківських в Америці, штат Нью Джерсі. Президент ФДДЧ, др. Зенон Матківський є Головою хірургічного відділення госпіталю Юніон, Нью Джерсі. Його дружина, виконавчий директор Фонду Надія Матківська отримала багато нагород за свою благодійну діяльність протягом 25 років, в тому числі і від Парламенту України. У 1996 році Матківські стали першими американськими громадянами, що отримали нагороду Президента України. Цю нагороду їм було вручено за визначну благодійну діяльність в Україні.

З часу свого заснування, Фонд об'єднав довколо себе багатьох людей, яким не байдужа доля дітей на Україні. Вже десять років на Україну надходять вантажі, що складаються з найновішої та найсучаснішої медичної реанімаційної та неонатологічної техніки і ліків.

Система роботи Фонду Допомоги Дітям Чорнобиля повністю виключає втручання третіх осіб у доставлення та використання обладнання та медикаментів. Усі

вантажі надходять безпосередньо до лікарень та медичних дитячих закладів. У цьому Фондові допомагає Міжнародна Фундація Чорнобиля, що працює на Україні. Міжнародна Фундація Чорнобиля підтримує постійний контакт з отримувачами допомоги, вивчає їхні потреби, надає консультації щодо використання обладнання.

Свою десяту річницю Фонд Допомоги Дітям Чорнобиля зустрічає, маючи за плечима немалий досвід роботи та значні досягнення, але ми дивимось у майбутнє і готові надалі продовжувати місію покладену на нас долею.



Діяльність ФДДЧ було відзначено багатьма нагородами. Серед них:

1995 р. Надію Матківську визнано Верховною Радою України "Чорнобильською мамою".

1995 р. ФДДЧ отримав Міжнародну Нагороду від Губернатора штату Нью Джерсі за благодійну діяльність.

1996 р. Др. Зенон та Надія Матківські отримали відзнаку Президента України за визначну благодійну діяльність.

У квітні 1999 р. Фондом було проведено урочистий вечір, на якому Першу Леді США Хіларі Клінтон було нагороджено за її плідну роботу у допомозі дітям України.

Це ті, хто зустрічає вантажі на Україні, координує їх та слідкує за тим, щоб вони, минаючи треті руки, потрапляли за призначенням



CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND

TRACK RECORD

(Updated as of January, 1999)

- ★ Twenty Airlifts and Six Sea Shipments; Delivery of 1,100 tons of humanitarian aid valued at over \$40 million US dollars;
- ★ Established state-of-the-art Blood Diagnostic Laboratory at the Lviv Regional Specialized Pediatric Clinic in Ukraine (1990); in 1997 the Laboratory was certified by an independent team of international inspectors as the finest in Eastern Europe.
- ★ Installed the first US-built Magnetic Resonance Imaging System in Ukraine (at the Kiev Emergency Hospital & Trauma Center) Over 7,000 patients have undergone diagnostic testing in the MRI, more than 700 malignant tumours found since 1994.
- ★ Provided cancer medication and post-operative drugs for hundreds of children with leukemia and thyroid cancer.
- ★ Modernized six neonatal intensive care units with respirators, transport incubators, pulse oximeters & other advanced technology. (Kyiv, Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovske, Lutsk, Lviv and Vinnytsia)
- ★ Organized training conferences, internships and advanced seminars for hundreds of Ukrainian doctors in the fields of pediatrics, oncology, surgery, clinical biochemistry and neonatal intensive care.
- ★ Testified as expert witnesses in Congressional hearings and UN forums on the aftermath of the Chornobyl disaster.
- ★ Founders became the first US citizens to receive Ukraine's Presidential Medal of Honor in recognition of CCRF's humanitarian achievements CCRF is also the winner of the 1995 New Jersey Governor's Volunteer Award and several other coveted honors.

Chernobyl, Help for a Deadly Legacy



Photographs by Thomas McDonald for The New York Times

Generations gather at St. Michael's Ukrainian Church in New Haven. From left, Pilar Roncal, her daughter Pilar Geba and Maria and Sonia Geba.

By ROBERT DUBROW

It took only a few seconds for one of the nuclear reactors at Chernobyl, Ukraine, to explode on April 26, 1986, and start spewing radioactive material into the atmosphere. But the toxic legacy of the incident will last for decades, if not generations.

As concern has grown for the children exposed to radiation at the time of the accident, as well as for new generations, so too have support efforts. Since 1989, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, supported by the state's small but determined Ukrainian-American community, has provided medical and other humanitarian aid to Ukraine. And it appears to be in it for the long haul.

Chapters of the relief fund, based in Short Hills, N.J., have been set up in Hartford, New Haven and Danbury, along with smaller groups in Stamford/Darien, Bridgeport, New Britain and Willimantic. A steady stream of funds has been raised through concerts, auctions, bazaars, banquets, bake sales, road races and mail appeals.

The relief fund's 19th airlift — supported in part by \$8,000 raised in Hartford — arrived in the Ukrainian city of Lvov in November, with an ambulance and neonatal intensive care unit supplies and equipment.

Alex Kuzma, whose parents were born in Ukraine, is the director of development for the Children of Chernobyl fund, working from his office in Hamden. (The group uses the post-Soviet Ukrainian spelling of the town, abandoning the Russian spelling imposed on the former Socialist Republic.)

According to Mr. Kuzma, major health problems faced by Ukraine's children include cancer, an infant mortality rate that is twice the European average and birth defects.

"In virtually every neonatal unit that we've been to," Mr. Kuzma said, "the doctors have reported that they're seeing higher rates of birth defects, more children with multiple birth defects, and very bizarre birth defects." An epidemic of childhood thyroid cancer is clearly the result of exposure to radioactive iodine, he says.

Dr. Martin Chernlack, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center and a former director of the thyroid cancer field studies in Belarus, also heavily contaminated by the Chernobyl accident, projects that over 50 years, anywhere from 17,000 to more than 50,000 fatal cancers will occur worldwide due to radiation exposure



byl was a big, big tragedy. Each one of us had a call inside to help."

Associated with St. Michael's Church is a 75-student, nondenominational Ukrainian studies school. The children collect toys for the relief fund to send to Ukraine.

Another St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, in New Haven, is the home of that city's chapter. A few years ago, when a girl who traveled from Ukraine to be treated for leukemia at Yale-New Haven Hospital needed a bone marrow transplant, the chapter raised close to \$100,000. The transplant was successful, and the girl now lives in the New Haven area.

Performances by the Veselka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, a children's folk dance group based at the church, have raised about \$15,000. Each Sunday after church services, the chapter also raises money by selling coffee and pastry.

The Danbury chapter is the newest, founded in early 1997 at the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. Father Luke Mihaly, the parish priest, wanted to get the parish out into the community; he appears to have succeeded.

The Trinity 5K Road Race for the Children of Chernobyl in September and an art auction in October raised a combined total of \$3,500. A benefit concert by the Yale Russian Chorus is scheduled for Feb. 1. "We've really broken new ground," Father Mihaly said of his 60-member parish. "We're becoming known in the community. We've met new people. It's been a Godsend for us."

Martha Andriuk, a classical singer who lives in Darien, is an executive vice president of the fund. Working with the St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Stamford, she organized and performed a concert that raised money for a blood diagnostic laboratory established by the fund at the Lvov Regional Specialized Pediatric Hospital. The Hartford chapter has also contributed to this laboratory, which was recently rated by a European review team as the finest in Eastern Europe.

Other national leaders of the fund also have Connecticut connections. Orest Dubno, a New Haven resident, is chairman of the fund's national board. Ksenia Kyzzyk from New Haven, who began volunteering for the fund when she was a student at Trinity College in Hartford, is now the assistant executive director in Short Hills. Nathan Hodge learned to speak Ukrainian and Russian when he was a graduate student at Yale; he began a two-year stint as in-country director for the fund in Kiev last June.

FORUM



OREST T. DUBNO
ALEXANDER B. KUZMA

Chornobyl aid drying up but needs remain

IT was a small headline buried in the Sunday paper, "Study warns Alps still radioactive." Most readers probably missed it, but the implications were profound.

Twelve years after the nuclear disaster at Chornobyl, French researchers are warning that campers and shepherds are still at risk from high levels of radiation which drifted into the Alps in 1986. The findings are especially astounding when we consider that the Alps are located hundreds of miles west of north-central Ukraine, where the nuclear meltdown occurred. Significant amounts of radiation were deposited in one of the most pristine areas of Europe, home of the Albertville Olympics and the source of spring water sold to health buffs around the world.

Though 12 years have passed, Chornobyl remains a nightmare for many people across the Northern Hemisphere, a sobering reminder that there is nowhere left to run or hide from radioactive releases.

As the Nuclear Regulatory Commission weighs the decision whether to restart the Millstone nuclear plant, it is worth contemplating just how unforgiving this technology can be when coupled with human error and an unhealthy dose of hubris. To be sure, the Soviet technology which brought us Chornobyl was far below Western standards, with far fewer safety features and backup systems. Still, the whistleblowers at Millstone and some hair-raising near-misses at other U.S. atomic plants have reminded us that American technology is not foolproof, that lapses in safety procedures could lead to catastrophic results.

Over the past year, Hollywood and Broadway have lavished their attention on an 80-year-old disaster that has far less bearing on the present. Public fascination with the Titanic shows no signs of waning, while concern about the Chornobyl aftermath is harder to sustain. The United Nations and the G-7 nations are complaining of "donor fatigue," and there is growing resistance to the pleas for help coming from Ukraine and Belarus — the two nations most affected by Chornobyl.

The recent U.N. pledging conferences designed to raise the millions of dollars needed to stabilize the crumbling Chornobyl sarcophagus have come up short, and Western scientists are warning that a collapse of the structure around the melted reactor core could lead to another dangerous release of radiation.

Human nature is full of quirks and oddities. We find it easy to express outrage over a failure of lifeboats to pick up the Titanic's survivors in the North Atlantic, but we seem willing to write off entire future generations of Ukrainians and Belarusians whose gene pool is being contaminated by radioactive isotopes.

There were 1,200 souls who went down with the Titanic. Though much harder to calculate, the human toll of Chornobyl will certainly be higher. Even some of the more conservative nuclear scientists now estimate that Chornobyl will cause between 17,000 and 50,000 fatal cancers.

We can expect many casualties beyond those stricken with cancer. For the sixth year in a row, there has been a sharp decline in population in Ukraine and Belarus. Life expectancy has dropped, and birth defects have doubled. The rate of thyroid cancer among children in the most contaminated areas has increased 80- to 100-fold. Perhaps most frightening is the fact that the Chornobyl disaster is still unfolding with thousands of children and young adults exhibiting pre-cancerous conditions.

Here in Southern Connecticut, we are blessed with medical know-how and valuable community resources that can have an immensely positive impact on the lives of people in Eastern Europe and around the globe. There are a number of medical experts who have played an important role in the treatment of Chornobyl victims and in seeking the truth about Chornobyl's long-term health effects. Dr. Nicholas Dainiak, chief of medicine at Bridgeport Hospital; Drs. Jack van Hoff and Peter Bearsley, pediatric oncologists at Yale's School of Medicine; epidemiologist Dr. Martin Chermiack of the University of Connecticut; and Vito Mazza of West Haven, who is president of Hunger Relief and Development Inc., are just a few of the unsung heroes who have devoted much of their time to this cause.

Airlifts and medical shipments funded by Connecticut residents have brought life-saving aid to the afflicted region. This investment of charitable dollars has proven exceedingly cost-effective, as doctors have made important strides in combating children's leukemia, thyroid cancer and immune deficiencies.

Although we can take heart in these accomplishments, we need to remember that hospital development and health programs are extremely costly, even under the best of circumstances. Ukraine, Belarus and other former Soviet republics are rebuilding their health infrastructure after decades of gross neglect, corruption and government mismanagement. The enormous challenges they face are compounded by the effects of Chornobyl which are still mounting.

Orest T. Dubno of New Haven is board chairman and Alexander B. Kuzma is assistant executive director for the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund. The fund is a national charity with chapters in Connecticut that has delivered more than \$40 million in aid to Eastern Europe. Readers may write Dubno and Kuzma in care of 127 Treadwell St., Hamden 06517.

CCRF shipments aid regional children's hospitals in Ukraine

SHORT HILLS, N. J. — Regional children's hospitals in several Ukrainian cities recently received large shipments of medical supplies and technology from the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF). The combined shipments, valued at \$1.7 million, arrived in Chernihiv and Dnipropetrovsk on March 13, following an airlift from Newark International Airport.

The largest shipment was assigned to Dnipropetrovsk Children's Hospital No. 3, which provides emergency treatment and intensive care for newborns from across Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. Two tractor-trailers packed with state-of-the-art neonatal equipment were unloaded on March 14 under the supervision of local doctors, servicemen from the Ukrainian Army and CCRF staff.

The delivery was documented by local news media as well as American broadcast journalist Volodymyr Artymyshyn, who filmed the process for the TV program "Kontakt."

On the evening prior to the delivery, hospital officials and a local children's folk ensemble, Svitanok, greeted an official delegation representing the CCRF and the Monsanto Co., which had financed the purchase of advanced technology for Dnipropetrovsk.

The shipment belongs to the first phase of the CCRF's Women's and Children's Health Initiative, a program that was made possible by a \$263,000 grant from Monsanto. The program is designed to stem the high rate of infant mortality that has plagued Ukraine since

the late 1980s.

This year, Monsanto is providing additional funding for physicians' training and follow-up support for Dnipropetrovsk where the company has made substantial investments in revitalizing the region's agricultural sector. Similar efforts are planned for Luhansk and Vinnytsia.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, Dr. Alexander Buyalsky, chief of the Neonatal Department said, "This shipment exceeds our most optimistic dreams! 'These machines are a Godsend for us.' For years, the hospital has had to rely on outdated Soviet equipment to combat life-threatening complication that afflict newborns. Thanks to the CCRF and Monsanto, the hospital's neonatal unit is being upgraded with new intensive care respirators, ventilators, incubators, cardiac monitors and other technology that Western hospitals take for granted.

Following extensive screening by CCRF advisers, Hospital No. 3 was chosen for a long-term partnership because of its dedicated staff and its reputation as one of the most progressive and innovative medical centers in central Ukraine. In April, three neonatal specialists from the hospital will participate in an intensive training program at the St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, N. J. whose neonatal and obstetrics/gynecology departments are rated among the best in the United States.

In Chernihiv, the CCRF delivered more than \$100,000 worth of priority equipment to the Regional Children's Hospital that serves this city of 300,000

northeast of Kyiv. Most of these supplies were secured with funds raised by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. during last year's campaign to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

These included two high-quality intensive care incubators and a \$30,000 anesthesia machine produced by the Ohmeda corporation of England; Siemens ventila-

tors, an Infant Star respirator and a transport incubator needed to transport emergency cases from rural maternity clinics to regional hospitals.

Chernihiv's hospital director, Dr. Alexander Kareta, especially thanked Archbishop Antony and his staff at the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, N.J., for

(Continued on page 20)



In Dnipropetrovsk Children's Hospital No. 3 Dr. Marina Fedutik holds an infant recovering from birth complications. The CCRF's delivery of intensive care equipment such as the Infant Star Neonatal Ventilator to her left will improve the hospital's ability to treat such infants more effectively and to save more children's lives.

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A CONTINUING LEGACY

As the world commemorates the 12th Anniversary of Chornobyl approaches, the people of Eastern Europe and Ukraine must cope with a stubborn and unrelenting health crisis:

THYROID CANCER: The number of children stricken with thyroid cancer continues to rise. In some areas the rate is 80 times higher than normal.

BIRTH DEFECTS: According to health studies conducted by Japanese and American public health experts, the rate of birth defects (including deformed limbs, multiple digits and cleft palates) has doubled.

INFANT MORTALITY: The United Nations Office on Population has expressed concern about the declining population of Belarus and Ukraine – the two countries most affected by radioactive fallout from Chornobyl. In Ukraine, the number of deaths has exceeded the number of live births by hundreds of thousands for several years, and infant mortality is at least twice the European average.

INFERTILITY & BIRTH COMPLICATIONS: The rate of infertility among Ukrainian men is believed to be the highest in the world; (Source: Boston Globe); A recent peer-reviewed study by Belarusian and American doctors found that the rate of major prenatal and birth complications is significantly higher among women living in radiation-contaminated zones near Chornobyl.



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and First Lady of Ukraine Liudmilla Kuchma are greet the arrival of CCRF's ambulance at the Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Clinical Hospital. The ambulance was donated by CCRF with the financial support of John Deere & Company. (From left to right) Dr. Yarema Voznytsia (Chair of the Pediatric Department), Dr. Oleksander Myndiuk (Director, Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Clinical Hospital), First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady Liudmilla Kuchma, Nadia Matkiwsky (CCRF Executive Director), Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky (CCRF President), Dr Mykola Kobzey (Chairman, Lviv Oblast Ministry of Health).

CCRF extends its gratitude to John Deere & Company for its corporate sponsorship of our medical programs in Ukraine. Deere has contributed \$350,000.00 towards our lifesaving mission.

CCRF Spreads Holiday Cheer

As a celebratory conclusion to a successful 19th Airlift, CCRF staffers in Kyiv organized holiday gift-giving visits to sick children in the Kyiv oblast. In addition to critical medical equipment included in the airlift, donors helped contribute to CCRF's mission of moral uplift to children in need. With the assistance of volunteer Dr. Mona Mikalsen, CCRF secured donations of Royal Plush Beanie Babies and other toys to lift the spirits of Ukrainian youngsters who are in hospitals awaiting treatment. As a measure of gratitude for the airlift, the Lviv-based chocolate manufacturer Svitoch contributed boxes of its famous candies for distribution during the holiday season.

In preparation for its hospital visits, CCRF enlisted the support of local Ukrainian activists as well. The civic organization "Micheni Chornobylskym Atomom" ("Touched by the Chornobyl Atom"), which unites mothers of children stricken with thyroid cancer, contributed to the effort, enlisting volunteers to organize caroling in hospital wards and clinics. CCRF staffers also visited children in the Invalids' Orphanage in Vorzel', Kyiv oblast. The orphanage, recently documented by a FOX-TV news crew in Connecticut, is home to orphaned children, many of whom were born with congenital birth defects. The orphanage in Vorzel' (neighboring the town of Bucha) has been a concern of special priority for CCRF's in-country staff. Like most orphanages in Ukraine, it lacks funding for even basic operating costs, and cannot provide its children with basic medical supplies.

Bucha Orphanage Welcomes Carolers

CCRF In-Country Director Nathan Hodge visited the Vorzel' orphanage on Boxing Day, 26 December, 1997, to give individually-packaged gifts of toys and candy to the children. The children were especially delighted to have visitors from outside the home during an otherwise cold and bitter winter. The staff expressed the hope that the orphanage would see more visitors in the future, and remember the children on future holidays.

CCRF also brought cheer to children who were confined to hospitals during the Eastern Christmas and New Year. Children who could not check out of clinics were particularly happy to have a Christmas celebration during a difficult stay away from home and family.

Carolers from CCRF and Micheni visited with children and their families staying in the Kyiv Oncological Center and in the Kommissarenko Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolic Disorders.

The visit featured distribution of toys and presents for all the children, and an appearance by Did Moroz (Father Frost) and his helper, Snihurochka. They were also delighted by performances by a Ukrainian folk singer, who encouraged children to join in with their own songs and poetry recitations. For gravely ill children, especially those still recovering from surgery, carolers paid visits to rooms in each ward. (See photo).

CCRF invites active participation from donors and chapters who would like to join in building on this holiday tradition. Children in hospitals and orphanages throughout Ukraine welcome

visits at any time of year from visitors, and rely on the support of continued sponsorship to ensure that their rehabilitation is as short and painless as possible.



Parents and children gather to spend some time with Did Moroz and Snihurochka at the Kyiv Oncology Center.

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(Above) At the conclusion of his speech at the Chornobyl Museum in Kyiv, Vice-President Al Gore embraces Ivan Poliukhovych, an eight-year-old boy from Rivenska Oblast who is recovering from thyroid cancer. Ivan presented the Vice-President with a bouquet of flowers and thanked him for his deep concern for the nuclear survivors. Ivan spoke on behalf of the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund and its Ukrainian partner organization "Touched by Chornobyl's Atom". [photo by Alex Kuzma]

A SUMMER HOLIDAY FOR THE CHILDREN OF PUSHCHA VODYTSIA

On August 5th, the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund and the Ukrainian packaging company TetraPak-Laval co-sponsored a special summer holiday for children at the Pushcha Vodytsia Sanatorium. Located in a pristine forest just outside Kyiv, Pushcha Vodytsia has become a leading center for children undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer, leukemia and other life-threatening conditions. Since 1986, more than 20,000 children have received treatment at this site. TetraPak has made a major commitment to donate high-quality nutritional liquids for the children at Pushcha Vodytsia. In 1998 alone, TetraPak delivered 24 tons of free milk and juice to the center.

The August 5th holiday featured performances by the Theatre Troupe from Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and various entertainers from Ukrainian radio and television. Adding to the festive atmosphere, CCRF distributed toys donated by children in Connecticut, stuffed animals donated by the Vermont Teddy Bear Company, and children's vitamins from Solgar Laboratories. Most importantly, CCRF delivered the anti-leukemic medication ELSPAR (Asparaginase) manufactured by Merck & Co.. (ELSPAR is in great demand in many hematology clinics. It is used to bring leukemic children into remission.) CCRF extends its thanks to all the donors who contributed so generously to make this holiday an unforgettable experience for the children and their dedicated nurses and physicians.

VICE PRESIDENT VISITS CHORNOBYL: SPEAKS OUT ON BEHALF OF CHORNOBYL'S CHILDREN

On July 23rd, in an eloquent appeal to the world community, Vice-President Al Gore called for a renewed commitment to aid the children and families still suffering the consequences of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. The Vice-President toured the Chornobyl site and later held a press conference at the National Chornobyl Museum in Kyiv to deliver a major policy speech on nuclear non-proliferation. Surrounded by relics and archival photographs from the 1986 evacuation, Gore called Chornobyl "a menacing monument to mistakes of the century now slipping away from us - a hulking symbol of human decisions unworthy of our children." Gore was visibly moved by the experience: "I walked through the abandoned town of Prypiat. I saw an amusement park that looked like a haunted playground, with a large ferris wheel rusted over. "A merry-go-round whose seats swayed slowly in the wind....a four-lane highway leading to nowhere. And I wondered: What has become of all the people who lived here? What has become of the children?"

Gore confessed that he should have been better prepared for the emotional impact of seeing Chornobyl. At one point he drew attention to the large wall of photographs to the right of the podium showing the faces of hundreds of Ukrainian children who had been stricken with thyroid cancer in the wake of the accident: "What has become of the children - the faces in those photographs - the children of Chornobyl? Their fates challenge us: Will this be the last nuclear disaster or just one of the first?"

"What happened at Chornobyl is capable of transforming not only those who endured the tragedy itself, but all of us - if we learn the lesson that we are all connected.... Only in our hearts will we find the way to healing."

-Vice-President Al Gore
July 23, 1998

USA Today devoted nearly a full-page to the Vice-President's visit under the headline: "Chornobyl's wasteland awes Gore" For more excerpts from the Vice-Presidents remarks, please see page 6.

(Right)
Welcome relief from the hospital routine: Children show their appreciation for entertainers during the Summer Holiday at Pushcha Vodytsia.



(Right)
Christmas in July?: CCRF staffer Pavlo Smirnov distributes toys donated by school childrenn Connecticut and Vermont Teddy Bears to ailing children in Pushcha Vodytsia.



Inside this issue...

- ◆Update on Impact of Airlift 19
- ◆Progress in Lutsk and Vinnytsia, Dnipropetrovsk
- ◆Chapter News in Binghamton, Cherry Hill, Detroit Kalamazoo, New England, and Rochester
- ◆Calendar of Events
- ◆CCRF's Website: www.ccrf-iccf.org OR www.childrenofchornobyl.org

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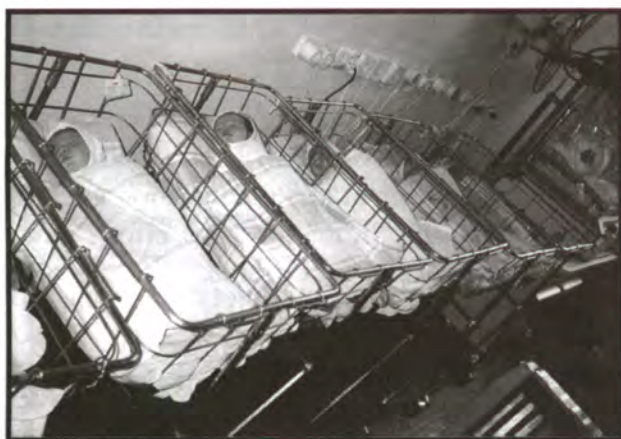
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Chornobyl Chronicle

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND NATIONAL NEWSLETTER Summer 1999 VOL. XVI

NEW DATA SHOWS ALARMING DECLINE IN UKRAINE'S POPULATION

The New York Times, Kyiv Post and the Ukrainian Weekly have confirmed that Ukraine is experiencing a serious decline in its birth rate and a disturbing increase in mortality. According to the latest statistics available, Ukraine has experienced a net loss of more than 2 million citizens - from 52 to 50 million - in just the past five years as overall mortality has dramatically outpaced live births. In a front-page article published on February 26, the New York Times reports that Ukraine's infant mortality rate stands at 21 deaths per one thousand live births - nearly three times the European average. The factors contributing to these trends are varied and complex, but many health experts are convinced that Chornobyl is clearly having a major impact. Preliminary findings from the European Longitudinal Study on Pregnancy and Childhood (ELSPAC) have established that women exposed to Chornobyl fallout are more likely to experience severe prenatal or birth complications than Ukrainian women who were not exposed to Chornobyl. It is noteworthy that Belarus and Ukraine - the two nations hardest-hit by Chornobyl fallout are the only two European nations experiencing such a demographic freefall.



Newborns recover at Poltava Regional Maternity Center.

Responding to the new findings, Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, President of CCRF stated, "This underscores the importance of our efforts to combat infant mortality and to strengthen neonatal units and prenatal education. We know that in Dnipropetrovsk, our partner hospital reduced infant mortality by nearly 50% within the first year of receiving new technology and training from CCRF. We have seen other encouraging successes in Lutsk, Lviv and Vinnytsia, but this is not enough. We need to expand these efforts to more provinces as quickly as possible. In the United States, these problems have been countered effectively with an infusion of technology, training and community education. The Ukrainian government, the diaspora and Western relief agencies need to address this crisis with a greater sense of urgency and with a commitment to reverse these devastating trends."



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton praised CCRF as "a remarkable organization that has set new standards for international development and humanitarian aid." Seated behind the First Lady are actor Alec Baldwin and US Senator Frank Lautenberg.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Accepts Lifetime Achievement Award from CCRF

(New York City) On Monday, April 19th the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund held a special awards reception honoring the First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton for her lifetime achievement in promoting women's and children's health. Despite a harrowing schedule, the First Lady came to the Ukrainian Institute of America to accept the award in person and to express her enthusiastic support for the work of CCRF.

Speaking to a capacity crowd, the First Lady praised CCRF as a "remarkable organization that has set new standards for international development and humanitarian aid." "Many members of Congress and humanitarian experts at the State Department are amazed by how much CCRF has accomplished with such a lean staff and such a modest budget," said Mrs. Clinton. "I have seen with my own eyes and heard with my own ears the impact of your efforts."

The First Lady was presented with a 14-inch bronze sculpture of the "Berehynia" (the protectress), a traditional icon-like image of a mother holding a child with outstretched arms. In introducing the First Lady, CCRF Executive Director Nadia Matkiwsky cited several verses from a poem by Maya Angelou entitled "Phenomenal Woman". She called Mrs. Clinton "a woman who stands on her own achievements, a woman of vision and compassion and intellectual strength...". Mrs. Matkiwsky thanked Mrs. Clinton for "reaching out to help the stricken children of Ukraine", noting that a nation without healthy children is a nation without a future.

Prior to the First Lady's arrival, film producer Fred Caruso, who served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening introduced two other guests of honor: US Senator Frank Lautenberg and actor Alec Baldwin who gave an impassioned plea for more aid to the survivors of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster.

Mr. Baldwin, who is well known for his role in such popular films as "The Hunt for Red October" and "The Juror", called on the audience to recognize the global threat posed by the Chornobyl accident and to intensify their commitment to aid its victims. "Some of the health consequences of Chornobyl are well known and beyond dispute. Others are just becoming apparent..."

At the conclusion of the program, the Brooklyn-based "Prolisok" Ukrainian girls' choir under the direction of Andriy Stasiw rendered several songs by Viktor Petrynenko and other modern composers in honor of the Chornobyl children. Mrs. Clinton commented on "the beautiful faces" of these young ladies and thanked them for their wonderful singing.

CCRF is thankful to all the patrons, guests and volunteers who helped to make this one of our most successful fundraisers ever. The evening program enabled us to raise over \$90,000 for our medical mission. The program was cited in a number of news publications, including USA Today, the New York Daily News, Associated Press and the Kiev Post. For an interactive report on the program, including recorded audio excerpts from the speeches by the First Lady, Senator Lautenberg and Alec Baldwin, please consult the internet webpage: webmaster@brama.com. See page 4 and 5 for more coverage.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- * Alec Baldwin's Remarks about CCRF
- * New Partnership with Poltava
- * Progress in Kyiv, Lutsk & Vinnytsia
- * Chapter Updates:
 - Lehigh Valley, PA; Rochester, NY
 - New Haven, CT; Chicago, IL
- * Donations from Siemens and Bristol Myers-Squibb

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Chernobyl

*Continuing
the mission...*

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The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund is a humanitarian organization established to protect and save the lives of children who confront the human legacy of one of the world's worst environmental disasters.

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