



MiraMed Institute

A Nonprofit, Tax-exempt, Public Charity with Special Consultative Status
to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations Winter 2002

Our 40th
Anniversary!

Direct Humanitarian Aid ✧ Education and Training for Displaced and Orphaned Children ✧ Prevention of Sexual Trafficking from Russia

Summer Volunteers in Svir Stroi

FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR MiraMed's Summer Volunteer Program brought American volunteers to live and work in a Russian orphanage. This year, with support from the Global Justice Volunteer program, college students **Alissa Bertsch**, **Lindsay Roten** and **Terrell Starr** helped teach



Young boys enjoy summer sun in Svir Stroi

English and computer classes, as well as do art projects and sports with the children of Svir Stroi Orphanage. **Colleen French**, an American ESL teacher living in Moscow, was the fourth member of the team. Highlights of the summer included a day trip to St. Petersburg for 40 of the children; Alissa and Lindsay teaching the kids how to make hand-painted T-shirts

(each child kept their own and "donated" another to the orphanage's crafts booth); a first ever American-style football game, organized by Terrell; and a chance for the many of the kids to write their autobiographies using Russian Microsoft Word in Colleen's computer class. Although MiraMed staff visits the orphanage throughout the year (we're bringing two computers later this year) and are working with the Peace Corps to station a volunteer in Svir Stroi year-round (we were successful in getting Peace Corps to station a volunteer at Uglich orphanage), the summer is a time when we get to see how these kids have changed and grown. It's also a time when the children who have graduated from Svir Stroi return to spend part of their summer here. And how do the kids feel about the volunteers? As Sacha, who is now 19, said, "all the kids knows how much MiraMed helps this orphanage... thank you!" ✧

Russia's first anti-sex trafficking media campaign is a huge success!

ON MAY 16, AFTER TWO YEARS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, **MiraMed** and **The Angel Coalition** launched Russia's first anti-trafficking public education media campaign. Simultaneous press conferences were held in six different Russian cities attended by more than 100 radio, TV, and newspaper journalists. The campaign kick-off received extensive press coverage in all regions, including front page stories and feature articles. Russia's largest daily, *Pravda*, ran a series of articles about trafficking and ORT, one of the two national Russian TV stations, did a special program about trafficking seen by an estimated audience of 20 million.

Regional highlights— parades, posters and more

MiraMed staff were dispatched to each regional city to be on hand several days before, during and after the press conference. Each region had worked very hard to plan its own "events" and activities. In Nizhni Novgorod, a children's

continues page 4

Top: Global Justice Volunteers Alissa Bertsch & Terrell Starr in the Svir Stroi sandbox
Above: Volunteers Colleen French & Terrell Starr lead a game of UNO



MILSAC celebrates 400th student, expands to St. Petersburg, Smolensk

THE MIRAMED INDEPENDENT LIVING AND SOCIAL ADAPTATION CENTER for Orphans celebrated the beginning of its second academic year on September 17, 2001. Starting with an original nine students, MILSAC is now serving over 400 orphans in the City of Moscow and anticipates another 100 starting in January. Due to the increasing numbers of students, the City of Moscow has donated two floors of a former school in central Moscow and we have the space to provide our services for 600 students.

In March, MILSAC welcomed **Jenny Chambers** as the Assistant Director of MILSAC, Moscow. Jenny hails from outside of London and has brought to MILSAC several years of experience working with children at-risk in England and Russia, a great command of the Russian language, and a wonderful level of dedication and care for orphans.



Jenny Chambers

Several New Services...

Over the past several months, MILSAC has added a variety of new programs and services for our students. Our **Youth Council** generated many of these programs.

The MILSAC Youth Council consists of nine of our students who meet monthly and advise on program and outreach efforts.

Outreach Social Work Services provides support and attention for students with special needs. For those students who require more help with arranging appointments and maintaining a safe and secure home, our Outreach Social Worker will visit the youth at their apartment and help them with shopping, cleaning, or extra support with any challenges or issues. Over the summer, MILSAC staff pedagogues and psychologists provided extra group sessions on a variety of subjects for our students: e.g. psychological drama plays, lessons on gardening and planting flowers, and an 8-week program on improving the comfort in your apartment.

More and more MILSACs...

Over this past summer, MILSAC—in cooperation with regional Committees of Education and Committees of Youth—opened Centers in

St. Petersburg, Smolensk, and Uglich. In partnership with KidSave International and the St. Petersburg Girls Shelter “House of Dignity,” MILSAC is now able to serve over 1000 orphans in four regions of Russia.

As MILSAC continues to expand and improve the lives of thousands of orphans, we wish to thank all sponsors, partners, volunteers, and especially our students for all their hard work to make themselves and their lives better! ❄



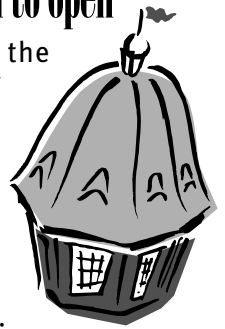
October 9: Students on grand opening day of the Independent Living Center in Smolensk



MILSAC Smolensk: Kids' drawing reads “The Center of Hope for the Future”

Safe houses planned to open

With support from the Women’s Division of Global Ministries, MiraMed will be working with The Angel Coalition to open Russia’s first “safe houses” to serve the medical and psychological needs of rescued and returned trafficking victims. A protocol for the operation of the safehouses has been developed by **Dr. Juliette Engel** and members of the Angel Coalition. Eventually, a network of safehouses are planned to enable each region to receive victims. The first safehouses will be established in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhni Novogord and Chelyabinsk. ❄



MiraMed Institute

PMB 119
1900 W. Nickerson Suite 116
Seattle, WA 98119
206-285-0518 tel
206-285-8216 fax
email: program@miramed.com
web: www.miramedinstitute.org

MiraMed Institute is a federally registered US 501 (c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax deductible.

Our programs are made possible only by the generous contributions of our donors!

Thank you for helping us make a difference...one child at a time in 2002!

Design and layout of this 10th Anniversary MiraMed Institute Newsletter was generously donated by **Marianne Wyllie**, who came to Russia with MiraMed in Summer 2000.



MiraMed opens new office

MiraMed moved to a new three-room office



this Fall, renting space in one of the most famous Stalin “skyscrapers,” Kotelnichiskaya, located a 10-minute walk from the Kremlin. The new office has two phone lines and high-speed Internet connections allowing for much greater efficiency between MiraMed and its many Russian partners.

MiraMed’s new space is also providing an office for Moscow director of the Angel Coalition. The close proximity to the Kremlin and underground Metro will allow all “visiting” Angel Coalition members much easier access to the Moscow office as well.

Most of the furniture for the new office was donated by **Millbank, Tweed**, an international law firm that was closing its Moscow office. ✨



MiraMed “Angel Coalition” expedition explores the Urals and Siberia

AUGUST 08 – 25, 2001: A group of dedicated American women, headed by MiraMed Board Member **Dr. Anele Heiges**, came to Russia to do on-site research regarding the situation with trafficking in women from four Russian cities: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Chelyabinsk and Irkutsk. The group consisted of eight women leaders interested in this problem, including **Dr. Donna Hughes** of the University of Rhode Island, one of the world’s leading anti-trafficking activists.

In Moscow, the group met with representatives of the Angel Coalition and visited MILSAC to speak with staff and students. In Chelyabinsk, Angel Coalition partner **Larisa Vasilieva**, Director of the Women’s Commonwealth, organized a conference with local authorities, partnering NGOs and former trafficking victims currently working in

All-Russia Director retires

Dr. Yuri Puchkov, MiraMed’s All-Russia Director, has announced his retirement. Dr. Puchkov first met MiraMed founder Dr. Juliette Engel, MD, in 1991 and has worked with MiraMed since then. Dr. Puchkov helped position MiraMed as the leading anti-trafficking organization in Russia with his deep knowledge of the Russia NGO community and his personal commitment to the social protection of women and children.

Dr. Puchkov will serve as an advisor to the organization, helping facilitate the unique intricacies of working with the Russian framework. We wish Yuri health and happiness and congratulate him on his outstanding service to the organization. ✨



MiraMed participates in trans-Balkan anti-trafficking conference

Dr. Juliette Engel was an invited featured speaker at an international trans-Balkan anti-trafficking conference held in northern Greece in July. The group of 50 representatives from European states met for three days to discuss anti-trafficking strategies and share experiences. With the advent of hostilities in Macedonia, trafficking from the trans-Balkan area has increased dramatically and the conference delegates learned first-hand about the refugee situation and heard from NGO leaders about the Albanian/Macedonian crisis. ✨



First row, L to R: Svetlana Uralova, Anele Heiges, Martha Gallahue & Marilyn Thompson
Second row, L to R: Satchi Royers, Karin Medall & Larisa Vasilieva

Vasilieva’s “Survivors Helping Survivors” program. The girls told their stories, which were documented by Donna. The group also met the father whose daughter had been trafficked to Turkey and helped secure her successful return by giving him a generous contribution.

The group was able to see first-hand how courageously the Chelyabinsk NGOs are working to provide assistance without material support.

Svetlana Uralova Angel Coalition partner from Irkutsk and the women of “Angara” hosted the group in the Siberian city of Irkutsk on the shores of Lake Baikal. The conference in Irkutsk was attended by regional experts who showed a deep, sound understanding of the trafficking problem and presented regional research on the trafficking situation in Irkutsk and Far East regions.

Angel Coalition President, **Dr. Natalia Khodyreva**, Director of the Women’s Psychological Crisis Center of St. Petersburg, organized the program in St. Petersburg where the group met government officials, NGO representatives and trafficking survivors.

The result of this expedition will be a number of published reports enhancing the world’s understanding of the impact and tragedy of trafficking of women and children from Russia. ✨

Russia's first anti-sex trafficking media campaign ~cont'd. from page 1

parade was held; in Yaroslavl, street theatre; in St. Petersburg, informational kiosks were set up; in Moscow, students at MILSAC handed out brochures at the busiest Metro station; in Petrozavodsk, the major TV station agreed to air our TV spots each night just before their most widely watched program—the 6 P.M. news. Some 600,000 pieces of campaign literature—from brochures to bus cards—were distributed between May–July. The campaign was supported by grants from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (which also included a special "Democracy Grant") and Soroptimists International.

The politicians get the message

In addition to the public media activities—radio, TV ads and posters in buses and stores—each region's volunteer "army" visited schools, colleges and community organizations and met with civic leaders to educate them about the crisis. In Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia (northern Russia, near the Finnish border), the president of the republic met with media and gave his support for special legislation to combat trafficking from Karelia. In Nizhni Novgorod, the governor called the anti-trafficking hotline and asked for special training for his staff to "learn more about what Nizhni could do to fight this terrible crime against Russian women." Elected Duma officials (Russia's Congress) in many regions pledged their support to press for new

laws. Angel Coalition member agencies will be following up on these initiatives as part of their continuing anti-trafficking efforts.

International media coverage is extensive

In addition to press coverage in Russia, the international media reported the story as well. Major TV, radio and newspapers in Western Europe ran stories. CNN, CBS, the *LA Times*, *Washington Post* and more than 100 American newspapers ran articles.

To protect the identity of our Russian partners and MiraMed Institute, all of the articles attributed the campaign coordination and leadership to "The Angel Coalition." As a result, The Angel Coalition is now practically a household word in many parts of Russia.

The next steps

Like any media campaign, after all the radio and TV and media coverage dies down, it is critical to follow up with continuing public education. Although the Angel Coalition is not yet self-supporting, MiraMed is supplying office space and financial support for a Moscow-based executive director. Grants for the establishment of safe houses for returned and rescued trafficking victims, as well as for continued funding of education efforts, are pending. (Partial funding for the establishment of



Soroptimists clubs and women's groups throughout St. Petersburg demonstrate against trafficking of young women



These young people are all from orphanages in Nizhni Novgorod, where on May 21 Youth Action Against Trafficking of Children took place as part of the Public Information Campaign



At the Yaroslavl press conference young women demonstrate against trafficking

safe houses in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Chelyabinsk and Nizhni Novgorod has already been received; see article on page 2).

The historic success of Russia's first public education anti-trafficking media campaign has resulted in unprecedented cooperation and coalition building between nonprofits and government. Traffickers are now on notice that Russia is mobilizing against them and that the 2001 campaign is just the beginning. Although all MiraMed staff were actively involved in this campaign, special praise goes to Program Director **Robert Aronson**, whose extensive nonprofit/media background proved invaluable in creating innovative TV and radio spots and helping train Russian NGOs how to do successful community outreach and plan media strategy. ✨



Children in Nizhni Novgorod took part in a parade — "Youth Action Against Trafficking"