

# Chornobyl Chronicle

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND NATIONAL NEWSLETTER Winter 2003 VOL. XXIX

## Merry Christmas & Season's Greetings

### COMMEMORATING THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT FAMINE

This fall, human rights advocates, historians and people of Ukrainian heritage across the world will commemorate the 70th Anniversary of one of the most ghastly acts of genocide in human history. Between the years 1932-1933, the Soviet government under the leadership of Joseph Stalin deliberately and systematically starved to death an estimated 10 million Ukrainian farmers in Eastern Ukraine. Despite frantic attempts by Western relief agencies to provide grain and foodstuffs, Stalin's regime blocked the aid at Soviet borders. Armed commissars expropriated all grain and brutally punished Ukrainian villagers who tried to resist or withhold even minute quantities of food to safeguard their families.

As part of this campaign of terror, Ukrainian leaders, artists and writers were rounded up and deported to Siberia or executed. The legacy of the "Holodomor" or "Terror Famine" has haunted Ukrainians for seven decades. Yet until recently, Western scholars and journalists have either ignored the famine or downplayed its horrific genocidal nature.

On October 20th, the House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 356 (by a vote of 382-0) recognizing the man-made famine in Ukraine and expressing condemnation for those who orchestrated this massive crime against humanity. On October 24th, The New York Times disclosed a report by Professor Mark von Hagen, the director of the Harriman Institute



at Columbia University who recommended that The Times revoke the 1932 Pulitzer Prize awarded to its Moscow bureau chief Walter Duranty. Mr. Duranty admitted to fellow correspondents that millions of Ukrainians had died of starvation as a result of Stalin's policies, but he continued to defend Stalin's brutality with the now infamous saying: "You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs."

For those of us working to combat the aftermath of the Chornobyl disaster, the Famine of 1932-33 remains a chilling reminder of man's inhumanity to man. It is also an important reminder of the influence of corrupt journalists and the power of the Western media to cover up even the most massive disasters through neglect, denial and falsification. It reminds us how "the powers that be" can manipulate information to deny victims timely humanitarian or medical assistance.

In the immediate aftermath of Chornobyl, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev belittled Western reports about

widespread radiation exposure and covered up Politburo documents that verified thousands of casualties during the first weeks following the nuclear accident. The International Atomic Energy Agency went out of its way to downplay the high incidence of thyroid cancer among children in Belarus and Ukraine and continues to blame reports of radiation effects on "hysteria" and "radiophobia" without taking the time to research the birth defects, chromosome damage and the rare and latent cancers that our partner hospitals have documented in their pediatric patients.

Seventy years after the Terror Famine, we can do nothing to bring back the millions of men, women and children who died, but we can certainly honor their memory as we work to safeguard the Ukrainian population from further demographic declines.

In the late 1990's, for the first time since the Famine and World War II, Ukraine experienced a steep decline in population. Infertility among Ukrainians is among the highest in the world, birth defects have doubled

and pregnancy complications continue to cripple young mothers' ability to bring healthy babies into the world. To make matters worse, Ukraine is now experiencing the fastest growing rate of HIV-AIDS infection in Europe. The overall population has already dropped from 51 million in 1991 to 48 million in 2003. Without dramatic improvements in health and preventive care,

the US Agency for International Development and the World Health Organization estimate that Ukraine's population could decline to 45 million by the year 2010. The United Nations Office of Population predicts that Ukraine will lose up to 40 per cent of its population by the year 2040.

With your continued help and support, we can and will work to reverse these alarming trends by providing the adequate tools and training needed to make a difference.

It is too late to undo the damage inflicted by Stalin and his henchmen seventy years ago. However, there can be no better way to overcome their legacy than to provide the resources Ukraine needs to combat today's demographic crisis.

In the words of the great American labor activist Mother Jones, we must "mourn the dead and fight like hell for the living." In this season of giving, we call on all of you to help us in our battle to save children's lives.



A press conference was held in Kyiv on October 17 to inform and educate the public through television, radio and newspaper articles about CCRF's mission and programs. The media was astonished to learn the accomplishments of CCRF and the general consensus between the attending correspondents was that "CCRF is the best kept secret in town." Pictured above are Isaac McFadden, Nadia Matkiwsky, Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky and Alex Kuzma. McFadden, a producer for TLN, traveled to CCRF's partner hospitals with a crew to film a documentary about CCRF for a series that will be airing on public television stations in the USA. For the full story, turn to page 3...



Viktor Petrenko, CCRF's hero, is flanked by his friends, Ukrainian National Ice Dance Champions Elena Grushina and Ruslan Goncharov. For the full story, turn to page 5...



The children at Znamyanka Orphanage gather under a rainbow mural that was painted by volunteers from the Ukrainian Orthodox League of USA. This youth mission is the first of many missions that will take place under the guidance of Archbishop Antony and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA. For the full story, turn to page 4...



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
 STATE CAPITOL  
 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

October 6, 2003

Dear Mr. Kuzma,

What a phenomenal show! You and your volunteers should be commended for the incredible job you did in organizing such a spectacular evening. I have never seen the Colorado Brew Pub look so magnificent. It was a thrill for me to have been a part of this special evening.

The Children of Chernobyl certainly have a friend in Viktor Petrenko, his international skating community, and all of you who contribute so much in time and money to ensure they receive the care they need in order to survive.

Thanks again for a fantastic evening!

Sincerely,  
 Janice R. Giegler  
 State Representative - 138th District



Clockwise from the top: Irene Oleksiak with Viktor Petrenko, Moki Kokoris with Brian Boitano, and Alexandra Palylyk with Timothy Goebel.

The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund wishes to acknowledge and thank all those who helped make Viktory for Kids a success. In particular, CCRF thanks the event's co-chairs, Moki Kokoris and Irene Oleksiak, and the following committee members and volunteers: Jay & Alexandra Palylyk, Roma & Damian Thibodeau, Mark & Irene Pawliczko, Rostyk & Ulana Slabicky, Nadia Haftkowycz, Olya Chodoba-Fryz, Rev. Luke Mihaly, Jim & Pat Zeleniak, Tassos and Yuri Kokoris, Natalie Kennedy, Kathy Giles, Walker Zavareei, Alexa, Lisa and Maya Milanytch, Andrey Mykyta, Larisa Krasij and Chrystyna Martyniuk.



*Two pediatric neonatologists and a pediatrician from Kyiv City Hospital #1 accept their "Manuals of Neonatology" in CCRF's Kyiv office. Over the past three months, approximately 300 physicians working with neonates have received the remainder of the 2000 books that were published for CCRF's 3rd National Neonatology Conference held in 2002.*

September 15, 2003

Dear Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund,

I am a neonatologist, Dr. T. Revnyuk, and I obtained a "Manual of Neonatology," from the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. This is a very important book that addresses actual problems in neonatology and related fields on a contemporary international level. This manual is a fundamental source of information for me and my colleagues. We are most grateful for such a valuable gift. In the future, it would be great to have access to literature on neonatal neurology.

Sincerely,  
 Dr. T. Revnyuk  
 Zhytomyr City Children's Hospital #1

To All:

*I'm happy to see that CCRF is being considered as an organization of choice for the United Way Campaign. Last year, letters were sent to a large Ukrainian population asking for support during the United Way Campaign. Actually, I wrote that letter with the support of CCRF's blessings, hoping to increase the awareness and increase donations.*

*Thank you again for awakening the awareness for this very important cause during J&J's United Way Campaign season. It's wonderful to see that we as Ukrainians in our workplace can come together and support an organization that gives so much to the most precious possessions of Ukraine, their children, their future.*

Regards,  
 Vira Popel, RN  
 Senior Occupational Health Nurse  
 A proud employee of Johnson & Johnson  
 (In a letter written to all Johnson & Johnson employees who designated CCRF as their Charity of Choice during the United Way Campaign)

October 2, 2003

Dear Dr. Matkiwsky:

My name is Olha Mykolaivna Melnyk, medical intern specializing in anesthesiology. I'm very grateful to you for a very useful source of information – the "Manual of Neonatology" after having read the section on "Anesthesia and sedation of the newborn," "Intensive care techniques in the delivery room," and "Emergency states of the newborn." I discovered in these chapters many new and interesting insights in the sphere of anesthesiology and intensive care. In addition, the book is written in a concise and concrete, practical style. Opening each section of the book that is useful to me, I am immediately able to locate the essential elements that are of interest to me, as opposed to other books where I've had to look for a half-hour to find the information or conclusion that I urgently need. I also appreciate the lovely, aesthetic appearance and design of the book. Altogether you have carried out a very great deed. Thank you so much. If only we could have more such sponsors in Ukraine.

Olha Melnyk (location unknown)

Honorable Dr. Matkiwsky,

I wish to sincerely thank you for such a beautiful and useful book: "The Manual of Neonatology." The book is written intelligently, accessibly, clearly. I feel that the knowledge one gains from this book is essential, not only for neonatologists but also pediatricians, anesthesiologists, and pediatric neurologists. It's very pleasant to know that there are such people as you in the world who selflessly and without compensation help others. For this, we are very grateful.

B. Terdi  
 Intern in Pediatric Neurology

#### Thank You to CCRF Supporters in New Zealand

This summer, CCRF received its first large donation from supporters in New Zealand. Mr. Joseph Studholme, a New Zealand sheep farmer who often works in Ukraine, raised funds in his community and approached the New Zealand company Fischer & Paykel to arrange a discount for the purchase of a brand new humidifier to be used in a neonatal intensive care unit. The unexpected generous gift will be installed in a partner hospital in Yavoriv, Ukraine, in the coming month. CCRF thanks Mr. Studholme for his support all the way from New Zealand!

#### A Special Thank You...



The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund would like to express a sincere thank you to Perry Construction in Kyiv, Ukraine, for renovating CCRF's Kyiv office free of charge. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**THE TEACHING LEARNING NETWORK GATHERS FOOTAGE FOR DOCUMENTARY ON CCRF**



The film crew from the Teaching Learning Network visits the Chornobyl Museum in Kyiv to gather archival footage for the "Voices of Vision" series before visiting CCRF's partner hospitals. Pictured in the front row from left are award-winning director Isaac McFadden, sound engineer Brian Wohlust, and cameraman Dennis Pendleton. In the second row are Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, museum curator Natalia Tchekina, and Nadia Matkiwsky. Flanking the stairway are the names of the ghost-towns and villages that were permanently evacuated as a result of the Chornobyl accident. Painted on the stairs leading to the second floor of the museum is a tree trunk with dried branches and fallen red apples that represent the children who have fallen as victims to the world's worst nuclear disaster.

In October, a veteran film crew from the Teaching Learning Network traveled to Ukraine to produce a documentary film on CCRF for the "Voices of Vision" series airing on public television stations in the US in 2004. Led by director Isaac McFadden, the crew visited several of CCRF's partner hospitals to document the health consequences of the Chornobyl disaster and to show the impact of CCRF's medical aid programs in improving the health of children and newborns.

The TLN crew interviewed treating physicians and children and gathered extensive footage of the laboratories and intensive care units that CCRF has equipped with state-of-the-art technology. The producers also visited the Chornobyl Museum in Kyiv, where they were able to obtain archival footage of the Chornobyl clean-up that occurred in 1986.

MacFadden said that one reason the network chose to shoot an episode on CCRF was to provide an update on Chornobyl developments to the American public.

CCRF is deeply grateful to all the corporate sponsors and private donors who helped to finance this film project. For more information on the "Voices of Vision" series, please contact CCRF at (860) 652-0458.



Above, on behalf of the "Zemliaky" organization representing survivors of Chornobyl and their families, two young children greet visitors from CCRF at a community center in the Troyeshchyna District of northwestern Kyiv. Dressed in traditional Ukrainian embroidered blouses, the children presented a traditional greeting of bread and salt as a token of appreciation for those who have not forgotten the Chornobyl victims. Many of the children in this group showed signs of immune deficiencies and genetic damage, including a young boy born without an arm.

Left, cameraman Dennis Pendleton films children undergoing treatment for leukemia and other blood disorders in the playroom of the Pediatric Oncology Ward at the Lviv Regional Specialized Children's Hospital. Playing with the children are volunteers Natalia Yynnyk, a survivor of Hodgkins Lymphoma, and CCRF In-Country Director Olena Welhasch. To maintain a more sterile environment, the cameraman is wearing a surgical mask, as are some of the children who are taking medications that weaken their immune systems.



**UZHOROD IN DESPERATE NEED OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

In October, a CCRF delegation visited Uzhorod Central City Perinatology Center, a hospital that services the entire Zakarpatia Region for complicated and critical cases.

This OB/GYN center estimates that it has over 3000 deliveries per year, of which 75% are difficult and problematic births. In support, there is a neonatology department in the hospital where all intensive care is administered to newborn infants. Over 250 newborns out of the 3000 deliveries are treated here, and most of them would require, as it is practiced in the modern world, the use of incubators, infant warmers, monitors, respirators and many other life-saving and monitoring technologies.

Approximately 50 infants are born with various birth defects and 100 to 150 infants are admitted in a state of hypoxia, requiring intensive care.

Unfortunately, this major perinatology center lacks the basic technolo-

gies such as respirators, incubators, blood gas analyzers, perfusion pumps, resuscitation equipment, laryngoscope, suction pumps, monitors and examining tables. This hospital has only two incubators that are old models and one phototherapy lamp. There is no modern laboratory technology, and only outdated methods of diagnostic lab techniques are being used.

For the entire region of Zakarpatia, there are 46 OB/GYN doctors and 8 neonatologists. Many of them are highly qualified in their field and have attended CCRF's neonatology conferences/seminars. During its shipment in the spring of 2003, CCRF delivered over \$47,000 worth of hospital supplies to this hospital. However, this is just a start, as CCRF is looking for an additional \$175,000 to fully update the NICU in this beautiful hospital and bring it up to par with Western institutions. Those of you who are interested in financing this project, please send donations to CCRF at 272 Old Short Hills Rd. Short Hills, NJ 07078.

**CCRF PRESS CONFERENCE DISCUSSES GROWING HEALTH PROBLEMS IN UKRAINE**

On October 17, members of CCRF met with the Ukrainian media in Kyiv to outline the programs in which the Fund has been involved and to expose the growing number of Chornobyl-related health problems in Ukraine.

The organization stressed a growing number of cardiac and other birth defects. "There have been studies showing a doubling in the number of all kinds of birth defects... with telltale signs of being radiation-related, including extra digits, missing digits, deformed or missing limbs and cleft palates," said Alexander Kuzma. Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky stated that CCRF is working to provide doctors with the proper training, tools and equipment necessary to operate on infants with cardiac defects. Recently, a \$60,000 heart-lung machine was delivered to the Lviv Regional Children's Clinical Hospital.

Fullbright student Olena Welhasch said that thyroid cancer, whose incidence has been linked to Chornobyl by the International Atomic Energy Agency, is another big concern. "The biggest problem now is that doctors are not performing enough early screening tests." Through the CCRF "Voices of Vision" documentary, the Fund hopes to educate the American public on the effects of Chornobyl.



CCRF In-Country Director Olena Welhasch, Nicole Beck, and Tanya, a Znamyanka schoolteacher, work on a rainbow mural in the orphanage's school room.

### UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH MISSIONARIES VISIT TWO ORPHANAGES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN IN UKRAINE

by Olena Welhasch

This August, a group of nine compassionate young adults from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA volunteered at two orphanages in Ukraine that are home to severely disabled children. The missionary team consisted of six members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League: Shannon Adamiak, Nicole Beck, John Charest, John Meschisen, Karen Meschisen and Denise Spoganetz, and three group leaders: Ms. Natalie Kapeluck, the Director of the Office of Youth Ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA, Father Deacon Ihor Mahlay, the Director of Missions and Christian Charity for the Church, and Father Taras Naumenko, the pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Church outside of Chicago, who served as the mission's Spiritual Father.

This trip was the first youth mission to the Znamyanka (Kirovohrad region) and Zaluchya (Ivano-Frankivsk region) orphanages that was initiated by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA since the Church first "adopted" these two orphanages. In 2000, in response to an urgent plea from CCRF, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA designated \$40,000 to the orphanages and promised continual financial support to the orphanage program for the next five years. Since this charitable partnership began, CCRF staff has witnessed dramatic changes in the orphanages, particularly in Zaluchya, where the need for assistance was greatest.

"When planning this mission trip, we hoped to accomplish two things: to bring aid and hope to the children and staff of the Znamyanka and Zaluchya orphanages, and to help the young adults of our Church explore their possible vocations in Christian Mission work," stated Ms. Natalie Kapeluck.

Every day for ten days, Father Taras led a Moleben prayer service for the sick and suffering that was attended by the members of the mission team and the orphanage staff. Then the missionary team split up into groups and, depending on the needs of each orphanage, worked on separate assignments. Each volunteer used his individual strengths to help the orphans. For example, a few played with bedridden children and a few did arts and crafts with small groups of more able children while others renovated rooms and decorated them with cheerful murals. Father Deacon Mahlay, a dentist by profession, examined the orphans' teeth, treated them with fluoride, and left a toothbrush for each orphan. Natalie

Kapeluck, who is experienced in loco-motor therapy, captivated children of various abilities by asking them to perform movements that mirrored her own. Even children who were in wheelchairs were able to participate in this activity. Children glowed from the attention they received and from the satisfaction of successfully completing an assigned task.

The staff at the Znamyanka orphanage in the Kirovohrad region was delighted with the opportunity to learn new physical therapy techniques. The orphanage began creating its physical therapy center four years ago, and since its inception, seven orphans who earlier could not walk have taken their first steps. The Zaluchya orphanage has begun renovating a room that will serve as its physical therapy rehabilitation center, and CCRF is currently searching for a wide range of equipment to furnish the center once it is completed.

Father Deacon Ihor Mahlay explained why the group chose to make this mission trip. "There are very needy people in Ukraine, particularly the handicapped and orphaned children, and this is an opportunity for the younger generation of the Church to do mission work in charitable outreach. Charitable outreach is and must be part of the fabric of the Church. We have selected the poorer and more under-fund-

**I feel that our success has been that we brought joy into the lives of the children, the staff, and the people with whom we came in contact. We have been successful in planting the seed for continued mission outreach. Our youth in the U.S. is already planning next year's mission trip!**

- Father Deacon Mahlay, Director of Missions and Christian Charity for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church

ed children's homes to help them improve conditions for the children. These children will never be adopted because of the severe birth defects, and God has given us the blessing to help them by improving the standard of their daily life."

To witness the compassion of the young Ukrainian Orthodox team, all of whom were in Ukraine for the very first time, was amazing. Those who spoke only a few words of Ukrainian were not discouraged by their limited knowledge of the language. Love is a universal language and the children understood that the group came to spend time with them because they cared. An animated farewell performance of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves," complete with creatively improvised costumes and personalized dwarves like Father Dwarf and Doctor Dwarf, delighted the staff and the children. On the last day at the Znamyanka orphanage, 25 children were baptized by Father Taras, and the missionaries and orphanage staff members became Godparents to the newly christened children.

Znamyanka orphanage director Tetiana Valko expressed her appreciation, "Thank you for always remembering us. Whenever we get aid from you, I always wonder, who are these people who live halfway around the world from us and care so much for our children? I'm grateful for the opportunity to have finally met you... I love you and wish you all the best in your lives. May God bless you."

Six days later, Mr. Vasyl Oleksienko, the director of the Zaluchya orphanage, bid the group a tearful farewell, "It's a shame that

you're leaving, because the children are happy and smiling because you are here to play with them. We have felt your love in our hearts. Thank you for brightening the lives of children who have been abandoned by their parents because of their complex medical conditions."

The missionaries all played an active role in realizing their participation in this mission trip by raising funds in their local parishes and giving individual donations. John Charest purchased sneakers and balls for the orphans and Denise Spoganetz left money for reconstruction needs in the Znamyanka orphanage and enough for two new television sets for the bedrooms of particularly bright but disabled children at the Zaluchya orphanage. The missionary group also allocated funds for the installation of a water heating system at the Znamyanka orphanage and for an institutional-sized refrigerator at the Zaluchya orphanage.

"This trip far exceeded our hopes... because the children and staff at the orphanages taught us so much and affected our lives to a point that we will never be the same. Their bravery and their light of life infused our work and sent us home a much humbler group," said Ms. Kapeluck. "The work that CCRF is doing in Ukraine with orphanages such as these is to be commended. We pray that their work continues as do these missionary trips that we have begun together."

Olena Welhasch is a current Fulbright student in Ukraine studying effective ways of limiting radionuclide content in the food of pregnant women living in contaminated regions. Ms. Welhasch traveled to the orphanages with the missionary group as a CCRF volunteer.



UOL team leader Natalie Kapeluck and John Charest help with the physical therapy session for an orphan at the Zaluchya orphanage.

### IN MEMORIAM: BILL DERLYCIA

In September, we lost another dear member of our CCRF family. William (Wasy) Derlycia of Simsbury, CT, passed away after a month-long illness. Just one year ago, Bill spent two full days helping us to move our Connecticut office from New Haven to Glastonbury. A strong and eager volunteer, he also helped to ship boxes full of toys and stuffed animals to hospitals and orphanages in Lviv, Zaluchya and Sniatyn. As a third-generation Ukrainian-American, Bill never forgot his roots. He frequently traveled to Ukraine to visit family in the Ternopil region, and he was very proud to help his niece "Nusia" in her medical studies. A proud American, Bill served in the Armed Forces in the late 1940s and he was a long-time member of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department. His fellow firefighters laid him to rest with an Honor Guard. Bill left a very generous gift to CCRF in his will for which we will always be grateful. His robust good humor and brotherly love will be sorely missed. On behalf of all of us at CCRF, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Bill's family and friends.

**CHAMPIONS SKATE FOR CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF FUND  
IN SECOND VIKTORY FOR KIDS GALA**



After the finale of the show, the cast of Viktory for Kids, along with a few of CCRF's Board Members and the co-organizers of the event, Moki Kokoris and Irene Oleksiak (far right), take a memorable photo.

On Saturday, October 4th, an all-star cast of international skaters led by Ukrainian World and Olympic Champion Viktor Petrenko performed in a charity gala for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. The Western Union Viktory for Kids Rock on Ice featured many of the brightest stars on the Olympic and professional skating circuit, including U.S. Olympic and World Champion Brian Boitano, two-time World Champion and Olympic Silver Medalist Evgeni Plushenko, two-time Olympic Pairs Champion Ekaterina Gordeeva, and 1998 Olympic Champion Ilia Kulik.

The star-studded event at the Danbury Ice Arena attracted skating fans from well beyond Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, drawing aficionados from as far away as Texas, Idaho, Missouri, California and Japan.

"We're deeply grateful to all the skating stars who responded so generously to Viktor Petrenko's appeal and performed for the Children of Chernobyl free of charge," said CCRF's Executive Director Alexander Kuzma. The Danbury program added many stars who were not able to participate in the original Viktory for Kids fundraiser two years ago. Among them were U.S. Ice Dance Champions Naomi Lang and Peter Tchernyshev, U.S. Olympic Bronze Medalist Timothy Goebel, Ukrainian National Pairs Champions Elena Grushina and Ruslan Goncharov, Russian National Champions Tatiana Navka and Roman Kostomarov, Japanese National Champion and World Bronze Medalist Fumie Suguri, and World Silver Medalist Elena Sokolova. The Emcee for the program was American supermodel and television hostess Carol Alt, known for her appearances on the celebrity program "Access Hollywood."



A representative from Western Union presents CCRF Administrators Alexander Kuzma, Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky and Nadia Matkiwsky with a check for \$20,000 during intermission.

Viktor Petrenko received a standing ovation for his new program entitled "Flight" set to the music of Broadway tenor Brian Lane Green. Mr. Green stepped out on to the ice and performed the song live as Mr. Petrenko skated the closing number prior to the grand finale.

The first Viktory for Kids skating gala in March of 2001 enabled CCRF to establish a state-of-the-art neonatal intensive care unit in Viktor's hometown of Odessa, Ukraine. In addition to cash and in-kind contributions, CCRF also received a \$60,000 Acuson pediatric ultrasound donated by the Siemens Corporation and a \$20,000 title sponsorship from Western Union Financial Services, secured by Roma Thibodeau.

**Your money goes to the right place, and you are working with the right people. Thank you, Children of Chernobyl.**

- Viktor Petrenko, Olympic Champion, in a speech before his performance in the Second Viktory for Kids

The program was taped by Emmy-Award-winning television producer Robert Dustin at no cost to CCRF. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the videotape, it will be available for sale through CCRF.

Since the fall of 2001, Mr. Petrenko has made several visits to the Odessa Regional Children's Hospital to see first hand the neonatal intensive care unit that now bears his name. "Every time I talk to the doctors, they say, 'We're saving this newborn...we're saving that one.' They can treat 12 babies at one time. I saw the wing before they started remodeling. I saw it after... It's as modern as St. Francis Hospital in Hartford where our daughter was born. You can't tell the difference..."

Prior to the ice skating gala at the Danbury Ice Arena, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund held a fundraising reception at the Colorado Brewery and Steakhouse. Elena Grushina and Ruslan Goncharov joined Mr. Petrenko in welcoming the guests and thanking the organizers and donors for their support. The banquet hall was elegantly decorated by volunteers under the direction of Alexandra Palylyk of Ridgefield, CT.

CCRF especially thanks the co-chairs of this event, Moki Kokoris and Irene Oleksiak, for their outstanding dedication and hard work in guaranteeing the success of this event. CCRF also commends the superb committee for the event, who devoted so much of their time to Viktory for Kids, as well as the volunteers: Jay and Alexandra Palylyk, Roma and Damian Thibodeau, Mark and Irene Pawliczko, Rostyk and Ulana Slabicky, Kathy Giles, Nadia Haftkowycz, Natalie Kennedy, Walker Zavreei, Olya Chodoba-Fryz, Tassos and Yuri Kokoris, Rev. Luke Mihaly, Jim and Pat Zeleniak, Alexa, Lisa and Maya Milanytch, Andrey Mykyta, Larisa Krasij, and Chrystyna Martyniuk.

State Representative Janice Giegler read a proclamation from Governor John Rowland and the Connecticut State Legislature praising CCRF and Viktor Petrenko for their fund raising initiative and declaring October 4th as "Viktory for Kids Day" in the state. A delegation of schoolchildren dressed in Ukrainian embroidered blouses presented Mr. Petrenko with a bouquet of flowers, and Danbury's mayor Mark Boughton also greeted the crowd.

In his impromptu remarks, Viktor underscored the dramatic impact that CCRF has had on the quality of medical care in the Odessa Hospital. "(CCRF) has shown that we can achieve great results. And CCRF is definitely the organization to get the job done." When he concluded his remarks, the guests viewed a video, filmed by the staff at the Odessa Hospital and narrated by Yuri Kokoris, clearly showing the contrast between conditions at the hospital before and after CCRF implemented its program to modernize the neonatal intensive care unit. CCRF thanks Yuri for editing the sound of the video and developing it into a professional presentation.

At the conclusion of the skating program at the Danbury Ice Arena, VIP guests returned to the Colorado Brewery for a celebrity auction hosted by recording artist and Soyuzivka veteran emcee, Olya Chodoba-Fryz. Viktor Petrenko, Elena Grushina, Timothy Goebel, Carol Alt and Evgeni Plushenko took turns helping Ms. Fryz to promote various auction items, raising thousands more dollars for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. A few of the stars mingled with guests and signed the Viktory for Kids tee-shirts while others posed for pictures.

The evening proved to be a spectacular affair with the additional benefit that the funds were designated to help the frailest and most vulnerable citizens of Ukraine-- its children.



State Representative Janice Giegler reads a proclamation from Governor John Rowland and the Connecticut State Legislature praising CCRF and Viktor Petrenko and declaring October 4th as "Viktory for Kids Day" in Connecticut. Standing left to right are Ruslan Goncharov, Elena Grushina, Viktor Petrenko, Janice Giegler and CCRF Executive Director Alex Kuzma.

## FIFTH ANNUAL ROCHESTER GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITS CCRF

On Saturday, September 13th, a group of fifty-six enthusiastic golfers gathered at the Shadow Pines Golf Club in Penfield, NY, to participate in the Fifth Annual Children of Chernobyl Golf Tournament. Sponsored by the Rochester Chapter of CCRF, the event raised funds to purchase medical equipment and supplies for the Ivano-Frankivsk Perinatology Center in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine.

Prior to tee-off, contenders had a chance to browse the tournament raffle tables laden with donations collected by Ann Wallner and Taras Myhowych. They purchased tickets for items such as golf clubs, putters, golf bags, golf balls, tee-shirts, key chains and a variety of other merchandise. At the end of their 18 holes, players retired to the clubhouse where they relaxed, intermingled and had a chance to peruse the scores.

During dinner, Mr. Bohdan Skrobach, committee co-organizer, spoke briefly to thank everyone for their participation and to introduce Mr. Myron Babiuik, CCRF Rochester



Lesia Telega, one of the co-organizers of the event, greets players as they arrive and helps them sign in.



CCRF Golf Tournament volunteers Stephany Skrobach and Nicholas Scoglio sell an arm's length of raffle tickets to Andrey Mykyta and Oresta Zobniw.

Chapter President. Mr. Babiuik welcomed everyone to the Fifth Annual CCRF Golf Tournament and promised the continuation of a partnership between the Rochester Chapter and the Ivano-Frankivsk Perinatology Center. To date, the chapter has donated \$30,000 to the hospital in Ukraine. Lisa Milanytych, CCRF's Director of Procurement, acknowledged the organizers, participants and donors of the tournament, "You've raised the expectations for this chapter of CCRF, and we are excited to see what other amazing gifts will come from this phenomenal group of individuals." With the conclusion of the more formal part of the evening, the distribution of prizes began with John Adamczuk's light-hearted speech congratulating the winners of the day's events. The team that came in first included Jerry Randisi, Barry Deane, Clark Cogan and Bob Steinorth. Mr. Adamczuk, committee co-organizer, presented prizes to the winners and concluded the evening with the raffle drawing. "Everyone had a very good time again this year. We hope to make the tournament even bigger and better next year in order to raise more funds for such a good cause," said Mr. Adamczuk.



Bohdan Skrobach and John Adamczuk thank everyone for their participation and distribute prizes during the awards dinner.

CCRF wishes to thank the organizers of the Rochester Golf Tournament: John Adamczuk, Bohdan Skrobach, Roman Lesiv, Lesia Telega and all the other members of the committee who helped to make this fundraiser such a success. We also extend a sincere thank you to the corporate sponsor of the event, the Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, and to Mr. Myron Babiuik, not only for his able leadership of the chapter, but also for his initiative in publishing the beautiful 2004 children's calendars that are available for sale through CCRF. For more information, please contact CCRF at 973-376-5140.



The winning team relaxes after a day of golfing: Barry Deane, Clark Cogan, Bob Steinorth, and Jerry Randisi.

### CCRF SUPPORTER JEFF LUEBBE ORGANIZES A SUCCESSFUL WASHINGTON, DC FUNDRAISER

Friends of CCRF in Washington, DC, hosted a successful "happy hour" fundraiser on Friday, October 3rd, at Stetson's Famous Bar and Grill Restaurant.

The fundraiser was open to the public, but was attended primarily by international development professionals and their friends from the DC area. More than 30 supporters came by to relax, have fun, and show their support for CCRF's mission to save the lives of children confronted by the human legacy of the world's worst environmental disaster. "This event was my first introduction to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund," said Jocelyn Wyatt, a Training Manager at Chemonics



Julie Nutter smiles for the camera with her husband, Tim, and her daughter, Caroline, at the DC fundraiser. "It is great to have the opportunity to help a worthy cause and to meet dedicated people. To be able to do this in a fun and friendly atmosphere is even better. My seven-year-old had a blast and she was happy to know that she was helping children like her."

International. "I was excited to have the opportunity to learn about such a valuable organization and support a great cause."

Stetson's Famous Bar and Grill, a long-time DC favorite located at 1610 U Street, NW, generously agreed to host the event and donate a portion of the evening's food and drink proceeds. With Stetson's contributions, more than 600 dollars were raised for CCRF. "(That's) not bad for a Friday night of fun!" one happy hour organizer later remarked.

CCRF wishes to extend a sincere thank you to Jeff Luebbe, who took the initiative to organize this event and provide the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund with an article and pictures for the *Chernobyl Chronicle*. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!

### DANBURY COMMUNITY MOBILIZES IN PREPARATION FOR VIKTORY FOR KIDS SKATING GALA

In preparation for the October 4th Western Union Viktory for Kids ice skating gala, many members of the Greater Danbury Community helped to raise funds and build visibility for the event. On September 7th, CCRF was invited to take part in the "Taste of Danbury" festival that featured non-profit organizations from the Danbury area. Mayor Mark Boughton visited CCRF's exhibit to thank the Fund for bringing an all-star cast of international skaters to the Danbury Ice Arena and to show his support for CCRF's humanitarian mission. CCRF was also featured at a special exhibit at the Danbury Fair Mall, where many shoppers stopped by to purchase T-shirts and calendars and to learn more about the October 4th charity gala. For the sixth consecutive year, the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church under the leadership of Rev. Luke Mihaly and trustee Jim Zeleniak organized the annual Trinity 5-K road race. The race brought together more than 130 runners to support CCRF and to enjoy a perfect day for running on August 25th. The activities of several CCRF volunteers were featured in local newspapers, including the Danbury News-Times, the Ridgefield Press, the New Fairfield Citizen News and the Fairfield County Weekend Guide. Mayor Boughton and his Chief of Staff Michael MacLachlan sent a special appeal to local businesses to support the Viktory for Kids event and several local businesses responded generously. In a very touching gesture, the U.S. Filter Corporation made a special donation to CCRF enabling underprivileged children and young cancer patients to attend the event. CCRF is very grateful to Ms. Marjorie Gallegos for arranging this gift and thanks all of the volunteers who dedicated their time and efforts to support Viktory for Kids.



CCRF volunteer Natalie Kennedy, Mayor Boughton, Irene Oleksiak and Executive Director Alexander Kuzma meet at the CCRF exhibit.

## ADOPT A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT AND SAVE A CHILD'S LIFE

70 years ago, the Terror Famine ravaged Ukraine and eliminated close to 10 million of its people. In 2003, Ukraine's population is again being threatened by diseases and problems such as infertility, birth defects, pregnancy complications and one of the highest growing rates of HIV-AIDS infection in Europe.

At CCRF, we are working to reverse these alarming trends by providing our partner hospitals with the tools and training they need to make a difference in their patients' lives. But this is not a battle that can be won by a handful of activists -- we all have a responsibility to do what we can to combat infant mortality, to protect the lives of children who could easily be saved with a modest but serious investment of time, money, and human resources. Over and over again, we have seen miracles happen. Children have been brought back to life with the help of U.S. technology and training. Given the right tools, our partner hospitals have achieved dramatic improvements in infant survival and cancer recov-

ery rates. There is an urgent need to expand these successes to new communities, but we can't do it without your financial support.

In a new effort to raise funds for the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment, we are asking that you "adopt" a piece of equipment by providing the financial capital necessary to buy it. We are looking to provide the following hospitals with equipment that will furnish their NICUs:

Zhytomyr Regional Children's Hospital  
Rivne City Maternity Hospital  
Ivano-Frankivsk Children's Hospital  
Ivano-Frankivsk Perinatology Hospital  
Poltava City Maternity Hospital  
Chernihiv City Maternity Center

CCRF will work with you in order to choose the most appropriate piece of equipment for your budget. This giving season, please consider this plea for help and give the gift of life to Ukraine's future -- its children.

### Phototherapy Lamp

Phototherapy lamps help a baby to get rid of excess bilirubin found just beneath the surface of skin, curing newborns of cases of jaundice.

Average cost of 1 phototherapy light: \$3500

### Pulse Oximeter

The "pulse ox" continually measures a baby's blood oxygen. It is attached to a baby's palm, foot, finger, toe or wrist by a piece of adhesive.

Average cost of 1 pulse oximeter: \$1000

### Respirator / Ventilator (not pictured)

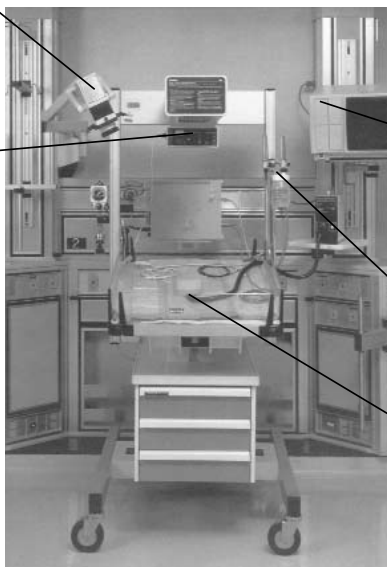
A respirator breathes for the infant when he cannot do so himself. It is the most important piece of equipment in a NICU.

Average cost of 1 respirator: \$17,000

### Incubator (not pictured)

Incubators provide a stable and quiet environment for a baby. The enclosed space ensures minimal contact with germs and provides humidity to keep the baby's skin moist.

Average cost of 1 incubator: \$9000



### Ultrasound (not pictured)

Ultrasounds are used to examine the inner workings of a baby to detect cardiac defects and other abnormalities.

Avg. cost of 1 stationary ultrasound: \$60,000

### Cardiorespiratory Monitor

This piece of equipment displays a baby's heart rate, heart beat pattern, breathing rate and breathing pattern. More advanced machines can measure additional vital signs.

Average cost of 1 heart monitor: \$10,000

### Syringe Pump

This device is used to administer solutions into a baby's bloodstream.

Average cost of 1 syringe pump: \$2000

### Infant Warmer System

A critically ill baby is placed in one of these systems that measures the baby's temperature and adjusts its heating abilities accordingly. The open area allows doctors to examine the baby more thoroughly at a moment's notice.

Average cost of 1 warmer system: \$9000



### THIRD ANNUAL UOL FALL FORMAL RAISES FUNDS FOR THE ORPHANS IN UKRAINE



*Pictures of the orphans from Zaluchya & Znamyanka reminded guests of the evening's purpose.*

For the third year, the Holy Ascension Chapter of the Ukrainian Orthodox League sponsored a dinner-dance to benefit the children of the Zaluchya and Znamyanka Orphanages in Ukraine.

On November 1, guests gathered at the Grand Chalet in Wayne, NJ, to raise funds for the orphans. They had a chance to purchase tickets for baskets with a variety of goodies inside as well as tickets for the 50/50 raffle.

The formal part of the evening began with a prayer and blessing by His Eminence, Archbishop Antony, who urged attendees to "open your hearts" to the plight of the orphans in Ukraine. Richard Jendras, co-chair of the event, welcomed everyone and encouraged all to dance and enjoy themselves.

Fr. Hiermonk Daniel Zelinsky, the pastor of the Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church, spent a good part of the evening as acting photographer. Also in attendance were Rev. Oleh Hucul of the Holy Ascension sister parish in Maplewood, and Lynn Szafransky, President of the National Executive Board UOL.

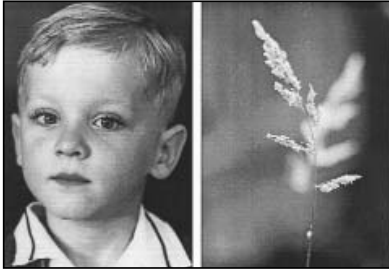
CCRF thanks the co-chairs of the event, Nadine Drost and Richard Jendras, for their efforts in organizing yet another successful fall formal. We applaud the work that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has dedicated towards improving the living conditions in the two Ukrainian orphanages. Thank you for opening your hearts to the children of Ukraine.



*Left, co-chairs of the event: Nadine Drost and Richard Jendras*



*Right, a guest examines the gift baskets before making a choice.*



*Behold the child, by Nature's kindly law,  
Pleased with a rattle, ticked with a straw;  
Some livelier plaything gives his youth delight,  
A little louder, but as empty quite...*

*Alexander Pope (1688-1744)  
(an excerpt from the 2004 Calendar)*

**PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF 2004  
CALENDARS TO BENEFIT  
CHILDREN IN UKRAINE**

Mark your calendars! The Rochester Chapter of CCRF, together with the British Aid for Deprived Children (BADDC), is selling a 2004 calendar featuring the portraits of some of the youngest survivors of the world's worst nuclear disaster. This calendar, created by British photographer Penny Millar, showcases the portraits of children who are undergoing treatment for various illnesses in Chernihiv, and places them next to a variety of flora that bloom in the region.

According to Millar, this calendar represents the natural beauty of floral blooms in the indomitable spirit of children who are fighting to overcome the legacy of Chernobyl. She speaks passionately about her work; "These children, for the most part ignorant of their plight and bleak future, still smile, still offer the beholder such beauty. These faces could be those of any child - and there's the point. They are *not* of any child; they are part of a statistic that is: 'In Chernihiv, Ukraine, only one child in every 100 is free from sickness.' These are not sugarcoated images that mask the truth, but instead speak their own truth and hold their own as art. The message is clear -- *Art with Heart.*" Located some 60 miles east (directly downwind) from the Chernobyl reactor, Chernihiv and its surrounding agricultural villages were heavily affected by the radioactive cloud from Chernobyl.

Beyond the intrinsic beauty of these photos, CCRF hopes that this calendar will grace your home or office as a celebration of Ukrainian children's lives and their hope for the future.

If you are interested in purchasing this calendar, please send \$15 for the calendar plus \$5 shipping and handling to CCRF Calendar Fund, 272 Old Short Hills Road in Short Hills, New Jersey 07078. Proceeds from the sale of this calendar will be allotted for the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment that will have a direct impact on the health and lifespan of Chernobyl children.

**ROCKIN' AROUND  
THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

Last year, on December 14, 2002, the Ukrainian American Professionals and Business Persons Association of New York and New Jersey jointly with the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund hosted a Christmas party to benefit both organizations. Over 100 people attended the affair, which was held at the Matkiwsky residence in Short Hills, NJ.

In addition to enjoying the festive atmosphere and socializing with friends, guests had a chance to bid on a number of items, including the grand prize Norwegian Cruise Lines Vacation Package, procured for the event by Dr. Mona Mikalsen. Mr. & Mrs. Boris Lewyckyj of Staten Island, NY, were the lucky winners. We hope that they enjoyed themselves on their New England or Bahama cruise!



*From left to right: Dr. Bohdan Vitivitsky, Vice President of the Ps&Bs, Mr. Serhii Nechyporenko, representative from the Embassy of Ukraine to the US, and Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church USA.*

This year, the Fourth Annual joint Christmas Party will be held at the Holubiak residence in North Brunswick, NJ. CCRF sincerely thanks Mr. Leonard Mazur, the president of the Ps & Bs, and its members for initiating this annual tradition that raises funds for the support of our programs in Ukraine. CCRF encourages all of its readers to participate in this festive fundraiser.

CCRF also thanks all those who helped with the preparations for last year's Christmas party, especially those volunteers who dedicated their Saturday night in order to assist the Ps & Bs and CCRF: Markian Hadzewycz, Alexa Milanytch, Andrey Mykyta, Olenka, Gregory and Nadia Olesnycky, Alexis Vena and Olena Welhasch. CCRF would also like to thank Dr. Mona Mikalsen, who has procured over \$100,000 worth of medical equipment for CCRF partner hospitals in Ukraine.

**Attention Readers!**  
**In our efforts to better  
serve you, please notify  
CCRF of any corrections  
to be made on your  
address label.**

**BE A VISIONARY!**

**Remember the Children  
In Your "Zapovit"**



One of the first poems that every Ukrainian schoolchild is required to memorize is Taras Shevchenko's "Zapovit" - the final "Will and Testament" in which this great human rights champion described the legacy he hoped to leave for future generations in his beloved homeland.

Unfortunately, many Americans who care deeply about Ukraine and the children of Chernobyl forget to follow Shevchenko's example. They forget to write their own "Zapovit"! Your will and your estate can be a powerful instrument in promoting your vision for a new Ukraine, where children can live in a healthier, more democratic environment with proper medical care and dignity and hope...

By designating a portion of your estate to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, you can reap important tax benefits and you can plan your future with the comfort of knowing that you are leaving a cherished legacy for some of the world's neediest and most deserving children.

CCRF is very grateful to the many individuals and families who have remembered to include the children of Chernobyl in their estate planning. Their gifts have restored the strength and life of some of Ukraine's most promising and idealistic young citizens. They have helped to build the "strategic partnership" with a new Ukraine that is so vital to the long-term security of the United States and the entire world.

If you have not yet drawn up your will, please contact an attorney today or call the Ukrainian-American Bar Association at (973) 701-0544 for a referral. You may also contact our Connecticut office at (860) 652-0458 or write to CCRF, attn: "Zapovit Legacy Circle," 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, New Jersey 07078.

**Donate Your Used Car  
Save a Life**

**Tri-State Area  
CCRF Auto Donation  
Program**



-Tax Deductible  
-Free Pickup  
-Car-Truck-Van  
-Any Condition

Call Greg Intlile: (973) 650-1408  
or  
CCRF: (973) 376-5140

**Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, Inc.**

272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078 / Tel: 973.376.5140 / Fax: 973.376.4988  
252001, vul. Khreshchatyk 25/28 Kyiv, Ukraine / Tel-Fax: 011.380.44.228.1870 / 464.1207  
CCRF email: info@childrenofchornobyl.org  
www.childrenofchornobyl.org

**Board of Directors:**  
Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, Chairman  
Thomas Denny  
Orest Dubno  
Orest Fedash  
Myron Holubiak  
Nadia Matkiwsky  
Leonard Mazur  
Joseph A. Vena  
Melanne Verveer

**CCRF Executive Committee:**  
Alexander B. Kuzma, Executive Director  
Nadia Matkiwsky, Administrator  
Tanya Pesenko Vena, Financial Officer  
Lisa Milanytch, Director of Procurement  
Valerie Burachinsky, Cargo Coordinator

**CCRF Ukraine Staff:**  
Olya Datsenko, CCRF Kyiv Office Administrator  
Olena Welhasch, Ukraine In-Country Director  
Marianna Woronowycz, Press Coordinator

**Editorial Staff:**  
Editor: Lisa Milanytch  
Contributing Editor: Alexander B. Kuzma  
Staff Member: Alexis Vena

CCRF is a registered 501c3. All contributions are tax-deductible.  
The Chernobyl Chronicle published by CCRF.  
Please credit CCRF for all reproduced materials.