

# CHORNOBYL CHRONICLE

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND NEWSLETTER  
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Following the delivery of medicine and surgical supplies to the Amosov Center of Cardiac Surgery in Kyiv, CCRDF Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch visits the center, where she meets one of the hospital's youngest patients with her mother. The baby girl was born with a heart anomaly that was surgically corrected by the center's talented surgeons. Thanks to CCRDF's continued support of the hospital, many more such babies will have an opportunity to live long, healthy lives.



Adam Wojacki, General Manager of UMC-Ukraine, along with members of the press and representatives of UMC's staff, visits the Lviv Regional Children's Hospital to see first-hand the equipment installed by CCRDF. (L-R) Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Roman Kovalsky, Lviv Regional Health Ministry official Dr. Irina Mykychak, Mr. Wojacki, UMC grant manager and Community Relations Director Yaryna Klyuchkovska, and others.

## UMC GRANT GENERATES MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN FIVE CCRDF PARTNER HOSPITALS

We are pleased to report on dramatic improvements that have been achieved in five of our partner hospitals as a result of the generous grant provided by Ukraine's leading wireless communications company UMC. Last year, UMC celebrated its 10 millionth customer with a special charity drive that raised \$133,000 in voluntary donations from UMC customers across Ukraine. UMC doubled this (continued on page 5)



CCRDF President Zenon Matkiwsky and NY City Opera soloist Oksana Krovytzka meet with the President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko and First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko during the Chornobyl 20th Anniversary Conference.

## FIRST LADY KATERYNA YUSHCHENKO GREET'S COMMEMORATIVE AIRLIFT

CCRDF Delivers \$2.8 Million Worth of Vital Medicine and State-of-the-Art Medical Equipment to Partner Hospitals in Ukraine



American and Ukrainian officials meet the cargo plane at Kyiv Boryspil Airport. The Commemorative Airlift was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State (USDOS) and included in-kind donations from companies including Americares, Merck, Becton Dickinson, Panalpina, Nonin, Nova BioMedical, and Aesculap. (L-R): U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst, Ukraine 3000 Executive Director Andriy Myroshnichenko, CCRDF President Zenon Matkiwsky, First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko, CCRDF Director of Programs Nadia Matkiwsky, CCRDF Vice President Valerie Burachinsky, CCRDF Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch, CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, USDOS Director of Humanitarian Program for Europe and Eurasia Gerald Oberndorfer, and CCRDF Ukraine Chairwoman of the Board Olena Nyzhnykevych. (See full story on pages 2 and 3)

## CHORNOBYL CONFERENCE DRAWS SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CCRDF and Ukraine 3000 Organize Humanitarian Forum "Rebirth, Renewal, and Human Development" in Kyiv

Kyiv – At 3PM on April 24, in the Taras Shevchenko National Opera Theater, President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko opened the plenary session of the combined Scientific and Humanitarian International Forums marking the 20th Anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. President Yushchenko stressed the importance of maintaining nuclear safety, saying that "we have a responsibility to the living, the dead, and to those yet unborn," to ensure that another Chornobyl disaster does not take place. The plenary session drew distinguished guests from many countries, including Japan, the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Israel, Italy, Spain, Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Brazil, as well as guests from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Among the keynote speakers was CCRDF's President and Founder Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky who delivered a monumental speech by defying the IAEA's Chornobyl Forum Report of 2005 and challenging the United Nations and the global community to address the many critical health issues that were totally ignored by the IAEA and the United Nations report. Dr. Matkiwsky cited a number of compelling health studies on Chornobyl's long-term impact that have yet to be reported by the international press. Drawing an analogy with the cover-up of the Ukrainian Terror Famine of 1933, Dr. Matkiwsky reminded the audience that even Pulitzer and Nobel Prizes cannot protect journalists or health researchers against the infamy that comes with falsifying a human tragedy. "One way or another, the truth will come out about Chornobyl," said Dr. Matkiwsky. "It may take another twenty, or even 50 years. We can only hope that Chornobyl's impact will be less severe than we expected. But we have a duty to seek the truth. And we have an opportunity to (continued on pg. 4)



(L-R): Panalpina Vice President of Sales Ken Jones, United States Department of State Humanitarian (USDOS) Operations Officer for Europe and Eurasia (EUR/ACE) Dean Fischer, Panalpina Vice President of Operations Benno Bartholdi, CCRDF Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch, St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Silver Springs, MD, Pastor Rev. Volodymyr Steliac, USDOS Deputy Director of Humanitarian Programs for EUR/ACE John Post, CCRDF Vice President Valerie Burachinsky, USDOS Director of Humanitarian Programs for EUR/ACE Gerald Oberndorfer, CCRDF Financial Officer Tanya Vena, USDOS Humanitarian Program Officer for EUR/ACE Nicole Shank, Embassy of Ukraine Second Secretary of Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs Natalia Holub

## CCRDF LAUNCHES COMMEMORATIVE 20 AIRLIFT

### Press Conference at the Embassy of Ukraine

by: Yaro Bihun -Ukrainian Weekly, Alexa Milanytch - CCRDF

Washington, DC – On April 5, the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF) held a press conference at the Embassy of Ukraine to launch the 20th Anniversary Commemorative Airlift. The medical airlift, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, delivered vital medicine, state-of-the-art equipment, and hospital supplies to the children of Ukraine. American and Ukrainian government representatives and CCRDF's supporters attended the press conference.

As highlighted by one of the conference principals, Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Dr. Paula Dobriansky, this commemorative airlift was part of an ongoing process by private groups and the U.S. Government to provide post-Chernobyl Ukraine with medical and humanitarian assistance. Dr. Dobriansky said, "Since 1989, CCRDF [has delivered] medical aid valued at more than \$55 million. And since 1992, the U.S. government has provided Ukraine with humanitarian commodities and Freedom Support funds with a combined value of more than \$1 billion." This partnership between the public and private sectors represents "the best of America's initiative and generosity." Under Secretary Dr. Dobriansky noted that the involvement of the Cuban-American community in the Chernobyl assistance efforts was initiated in December at the request of Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko (see related story on pg. 8).

Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL) whose staff helped organize the Cuban-American community's involvement in the Chernobyl aid effort, explained the community's interest by paraphrasing a statement made by Martin Luther King about injustice anywhere being an affront to justice everywhere. "In the same spirit," he said, "my community believes that helping a child anywhere is helping a child everywhere."

Calling the Chernobyl accident "one of the saddest events in Ukrainian history," the event's host, Ukrainian Ambassador Dr. Oleh Shamsbur, expressed his country's gratitude to all who have come to its assistance. The 17 years of work by CCRDF has made "an enormous difference" for its 24 partner hospitals in Ukraine and the many people affected by the disaster. The Ambassador



Sixteen-year-old Maria Kavatsiuk arrived to the United States in February of 1990. Showing early symptoms of leukemia, CCRDF sponsored the treatment of then six-month-old Maria along with her father, Vasyi, who served as a liquidator at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

expressed special thanks to U.S. State Department Director of Humanitarian Programs for Europe and Eurasia Gerald Oberndorfer and the rest of the staff of the USDOS who worked to provide funding for this airlift. Ambassador Shamsbur also acknowledged the efforts of Congressman Diaz-Balart, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, and their colleagues at the House of Representatives, who, on the previous day, passed a resolution calling for continued assistance for Ukraine.



CCRDF Financial Officer Tanya Fesenko Vena reads a statement from CCRDF President Dr. Zenon Matkivsky

The survivors of the Chernobyl catastrophe were represented at the press conference by Vasyi and Maria Kavatsiuk, who shared their experiences in the wake of the Chernobyl tragedy and spoke about how CCRDF's assistance helped them. Vasyi Kavatsiuk is a surviving liquidator of the Chernobyl disaster. A professional musician and conductor of the Ukrainian Radio and Television Orchestra in Kyiv, he was activated as an army reservist to command a unit that was putting the nuclear waste back into the damaged core of the reactor. After some treatment in Moscow, he returned home to what he described as a "miserable" life. He was ill, his first daughter, Marta, died before reaching the age of two, and his second child, Maria, faced an uncertain fate. But thanks to the timely treatment facilitated by CCRDF, Maria's life and his were spared. "As a father and as a family, we'll never forget this," he said. Daughter Maria Kavatsiuk recalled one of her earliest memories of CCRDF, "[I remember] being surrounded and immersed in all the loving care by many people that helped me and my family." The 16-year-old continued, "There are so many more children that need our help today, and only with your support can we provide that help." Miss Kavatsiuk also spoke about her plans for the future. "I hope to become an active member of this foundation by becoming a doctor and helping to save children's lives, as the foundation saved my life." On the following day, the Kavatsiuk family left for a visit to Ukraine - their first since being evacuated to the United States in 1990.

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America President Michael Sawkiw, Jr., and representatives of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Congressman Christopher Smith (R-NJ), Andre

Kravchenko and Orest Deychakiwsky also addressed the press conference. On behalf of Congressman Smith, Mr. Deychakiwsky stated, "We need ongoing support for organizations like CCRDF that has worked for 16 years to provide state-of-the-art medical technology, physician training, and humanitarian aid to give Ukrainian children a



Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Dr. Paula Dobriansky

fighting chance to overcome cancer and leukemia. Clearly, there is much work that remains to be done. Again, I commend the devoted leadership, staff, volunteers, and supporters of CCRDF for your tireless work and deep commitment to a most noble cause." These words were echoed by the letters of support from Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), NJ Governor Jon Corzine, and Olympic Champion Viktor Petrenko.

CCRDF Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch, who moderated the session, highlighted some of CCRDF's achievements in caring for Chernobyl's victims. Even though one-third of the children in the region have suffered from tumors and other medical problems, and certain birth defects have doubled, there is hope. In Kharkiv Children's Hospital No. 16, for instance, the recovery and remission rates for childhood leukemia have



Chief of Staff to Congressman Diaz-Balart Ana Carbonell, CCRDF Vice President Valerie Burachinsky, and Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart

improved from a dismal 5 percent - a virtual death sentence - in 1991 to 75 percent in 2004, thanks to the installation of modern equipment such as a blood cell separator and a full protocol of chemotherapeutic agents. CCRDF has created model neonatal intensive care units in Poltava and Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk, where infant mortality has dropped by as much as 45 to 80 percent, even as the hospitals began to take on a larger volume of infants with more difficult pathologies. By raising the standard of care, CCRDF has also stimulated citizen initiatives, private philanthropy, and indigenous government programs that were virtually unheard of during the Soviet era.

CCRDF thanks the in-kind sponsors of the airlift: AmeriCares, Merck, Becton Dickinson, Panalpina, Nonin, Nova BioMedical, and Aesculap, whose donations filled the aircraft with medical aid valued at \$1.7 million, bringing the combined total of humanitarian aid delivered this commemorative year to \$2.8 million. CCRDF is grateful to all participants for supporting this cause and sincerely thanks all those involved in staging the press conference, especially Ambassador Shamsbur, Natalia Holub, and the staff at the Embassy of Ukraine. Lastly, CCRDF thanks Adrienne Burachinsky, Maya Milanytch, Zoriana Nehrebeckyj, and its staff for organizing the press conference and preparing the cargo for departure.



Congressional Fellow for Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur Andre Kravchenko, Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Oleh Shamsbur, and Council General of Ukraine Mykola Kyrychenko at the DC Press Conference

## COMMEMORATIVE AIRLIFT ARRIVES IN KYIV

More than 12 tons of medical aid was delivered to Ukraine when the Chernobyl 20 Commemorative Airlift landed at Borispol Airport in Kyiv on April 20. The humanitarian aid was greeted by First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, U.S. Ambassador John Herbst, the CCRDF staff and Kyiv Board Members, and the international press. This commemorative year, American-donated medicines, equipment, and supplies have reached 12 partner hospitals located throughout Ukraine, delivering over \$2.8 million worth of aid.

The Chernobyl 20 Commemorative flight is symbolic of CCRDF's 20th anniversary motto, "Rebirth, Renewal, and Development." Each humanitarian delivery to Ukraine marks a *new beginning* for a child who will be benefiting from the aid contained within. With each humanitarian delivery CCRDF *renews* its commitment made seventeen years ago to bring medical relief to the children in Ukraine. CCRDF continues to strive to *develop* a stronger health care system in Ukraine by engaging corporate donors and private individuals to act as partners of CCRDF to equip hospitals with modern medical technology and to enable doctors to further pursue accredited medical education.

It has been seventeen years since the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund visited its first partner hospital in Ukraine. CCRDF Founders Dr. and Nadia Matkiwsky were appalled to discover a health care system 70 years behind that of the Western world. Since 1989, CCRDF has worked tirelessly to deliver medicines, life-saving equipment, and medical supplies, valued at over \$55 million, to its 24 partner hospitals. This endeavor could not have been accomplished without the aid of CCRDF's most loyal supporters. CCRDF's greatest reward is to see a healthy smiling child leaving the hospital with a brighter future. Thank you for helping us keep our promise to the children who confront the legacy of Chernobyl.



Ukrainian and international reporters follow First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko and CCRDF Founder Nadia Matkiwsky as the women inspect the cargo that arrived in Kyiv aboard CCRDF's Commemorative Airlift on April 20.



Following the March 17 strategic conference L-R: Dianne Kube of the Community Oncology Alliance, CCRDF Founder Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, Chairman of Pediatrics at Miller Medical Center Dr. Steven Lipshultz, Mr. Rodney Seddon representing a leading British children's oncology foundation, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, Dr. Igor Mokryk from the Amosov Cardiac Surgery Center, Chief Doctor at the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Children's Hospital Dr. Radyslav Koturbash, Dr. Alexander Enis of the Kyiv-based Medical Relief Foundation, CCRDF Founder Nadia Matkiwsky, Chief Doctor from the Rivne Regional Children's Hospital Dr. Vitaliy Boyko, Dr. Grygoriy Klymnyuk from the National Institute of Oncology, Dr. Dmytro Hutsulak from the Mykolaiv Regional Children's Hospital, and CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma.

## UKRAINE 3000 ESTABLISHES "FROM HOSPITAL TO HOSPITAL" PROGRAM

The International Fund Ukraine 3000, a non-governmental charitable organization, was created by First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko to promote, protect, preserve, and rebuild Ukraine's history, culture, and crucial public sectors that serve the general population of Ukraine. Ukraine 3000 Foundation's medical division established a program "From Hospital to Hospital" to enhance efficiency in the country's health-care system, develop effective service practices, and improve the quality of care for all of Ukraine's children.

As a first step of the program, Mrs. Yushchenko selected 25 children's hospitals - one in each region of Ukraine - to partner with a leading medical institution in a medically advanced country. Such a partnership will create direct links for interaction between medical experts from Ukraine and countries throughout Europe, North America, and the Pacific Rim, enabling Ukrainian physicians to work with reliable associates in order to gain world class experience in a variety of medical fields.

Mrs. Yushchenko has asked CCRDF to be an advisor in this endeavor because of the Fund's successful partnerships with twenty-four hospitals throughout Ukraine - fourteen children's hospitals and ten maternity centers. CCRDF also understands the importance of comprehensive medical training conferences and the publication of translated medical books and manuals. In addition to the delivery of surgical instruments, hospital supplies, medicine, neonatal equipment, and state-of-the-art cardiac, oncological, and laboratory-diagnostic tools, these components serve as an example of exemplary hospital-to-hospital partnerships that Ukraine 3000 wants to replicate.

On March 17, CCRDF founders Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky, Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, several medical advisers, and CCRDF hospital partners were invited to participate in a summit conference chaired by Mrs. Yushchenko to further promote the "From Hospital to Hospital" Program. This summit invited many international and national organizations which are interested in helping Ukraine build the "From Hospital to Hospital" program.

Presently, the situation in Ukrainian medical institutions is critical due to significant epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, nervous disorders, mental retardation, and the high rate of oncological diseases. The future of Ukraine depends on the present health of its children, and the "From Hospital to Hospital" program will hopefully serve as the first step by a Ukrainian-based charitable organization to extensively improve the quality of care for the nation's citizens.

## CCRDF'S MAINE CHAPTER SPONSORS LAPAROSCOPY UNIT IN CHERNIVTSI

CCRDF's Maine Chapter has raised funds to complete a program at the Chernivtsi City Clinical Children's Hospital No. 1 to create a laparoscopy unit which will prevent patients from having to undergo general surgery, thus making them less susceptible to infection. Through the efforts of former and current Directors of Procurement Lisa and Alexa Milanytch and through generous discounts provided by Aesculap, to date, CCRDF has delivered the needed laparoscopy equipment to furnish the unit. CCRDF has also arranged for the training of two physicians from the Chernivtsi hospital, Dr. Mykola Khoma and Dr. Vitaliy Livchak, who underwent intensive laparoscopic training in November 2005 at the Hannover Kinderklinik at the Hannover Medical University in Germany. To complete the program, the physicians will be traveling to the Shalimov Institute in Kyiv where they will practice laparoscopic surgery on an existing unit that is similar to the one that was procured. The final phase of the program involves sending a laparoscopic surgeon from the Shalimov Institute to oversee the first few operations at the Chernivtsi hospital. On behalf of the patients and medical staff at the Chernivtsi hospital, CCRDF thanks Dr. Bohdan Slabyj and the Maine Chapter for their initiative to fund this project, and Claudio Nobile from Aesculap who organized the physician training.



Eurovision winner Ruslana Lyzhychko visits a baby in the neonatal intensive care ward at Lviv Regional Children's Clinical Hospital.

## POPSTAR RUSLANA TOURS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN LVIV

The popular Ukrainian recording artist and the newly elected Deputy to the Ukrainian Parliament Ruslana Lyzhychko toured Lviv Regional Children's Clinical Hospital to promote her humanitarian efforts with the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund to save children's lives. Visibly moved by the sight of premature infants struggling to overcome various complications, Ruslana commended the miraculous efforts of neonatal cardiac surgeon Dr. Roman Kovalsky at the Lviv Okhmatdyt who has helped to save hundreds of babies with the help of respirators, pulse oximeters, and other intensive care and diagnostic equipment. The 2004 winner of the Eurovision Song Contest continues her promise to raise funds for and awareness of CCRDF's medical programs.



GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, has donated a large quantity of its vitamin "Immunovit C"® to over 10,000 schoolchildren in the western region of Kyiv, Sviatoshyn District. Above, CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma and representatives from GlaxoSmithKline distribute the vitamins to schoolchildren.

(CONFERENCE continued from pg. 1) rebuild the shattered medical infrastructure that the Soviets left behind." After the opening session there was a short briefing with those who spoke during the plenary session followed by a reception for the conference guests.



CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, CCRDF-Ukraine Chairwoman of the Board Olena Nyzhnykvyech, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, and CCRDF-Ukraine Board Member Mike Perry at the commemorative concert.

That evening on April 24, CCRDF hosted a commemorative concert of classical music sponsored by Philip Morris and its parent company "Altria Group." The commemorative concert was opened by the First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko who quoted John Keats' *Ode to a Grecian Urn*: "Beauty is truth and truth is beauty." This star studded event featured renowned Ukrainian and international stars, including renowned soprano Oksana Kroytyska of the New York City Opera who performed her signature aria "Un Bel Di" from Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* and Hollywood film star Vera Farmiga who read in Ukrainian Ivan Drach's poem



Hollywood actress and Ukrainian-American NJ native Vera Farmiga, star of Martin Scorsese's upcoming film "The Departed" with Jack Nicholson and Robert Deniro.

*Chornobylska Madama*. The National Opera Orchestra conducted by Mykola Dyadyura provided exquisite renditions of many masterpieces from the repertoire of the opera and ballet theater. These included performances by internationally renowned ballerinas Olena Filipieva and Hanna Dorosh and other winners of international competitions including bass-baritone Serhiy Maghera, soprano Natalia Nikolaishin, tenor Ihor Borko, and many more outstanding artists. The concert opened with Mykola Lysenko's overture to the opera *Taras Bulba* and concluded with the National Academic Choral Cappella "Dumka" which sang the "Lacrimosa" from Mozart's *Requiem* and the prayer for Ukraine, "Bozhe Velyky Yedyny." This concert was produced and organized by CCRDF's Founder Nadia Matkiwsky and the artistic director was Anatoly Solovyanenko, Director of the Kyiv Opera House and son of the world renowned tenor Solovyanenko.

On April 25, at the Mykola Lysenko National Philharmonic Hall, CCRDF and the Foundation Ukraine 3000, under the chairmanship of First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, hosted the international humanitarian forum titled "Rebirth, Renewal and Human Development" to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. "The purpose of this conference was to examine some of the long-term health consequences of the Chornobyl disaster and to consider the lessons the world has learned from this tragedy," said CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, who co-presided over the program with Andriy Myroshnichenko, the Executive Director of Ukraine 3000.

At the opening of this forum the First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko emphasized the importance of international awareness and communication and sharing solutions on a global level.

Mrs. Yushchenko's presentation was followed by the First Lady of Poland Maria Kaczynska, renowned author Paulo Coelho, U.S. Ambassador John Herbst, Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, British Ambassador Robert Brinkley, and the Vice President of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development Fabrizio

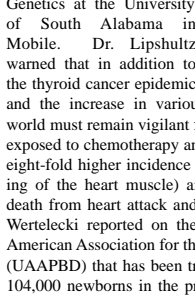


First Lady of Poland Maria Kaczynska.

Saccomani. Dr. Matkiwsky addressed the many important health issues that are often ignored by the world health research establishment. The plenary also featured presentations by Juan Manuel Suarez del Torro Rivero, President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Koichiro Matsuura, the Director-General of UNESCO, and Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, the Director-General of the World Health Organization between 1988 and 1998.

The afternoon program delved into many of the in-depth issues surrounding the Chornobyl aftermath, including the need for emergency preparedness, environmental restoration, and the preservation of the unique Polissian culture of the communities that were permanently evacuated following the nuclear disaster. The most heavily attended session dealt with the health consequences of Chornobyl and other humanitarian catastrophes that have shed light on the medical needs of affected populations. Several noteworthy presentations were offered by eminent scientists such as Dr. Steven Lipshultz, the Chairman of Pediatrics at the Miller Medical Center at the University of Miami, and Dr. Wolodymyr Wertelecki, Chairman of Medical Genetics at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

Dr. Lipshultz warned that in addition to the thyroid cancer epidemic and the increase in various oncological illnesses, the world must remain vigilant for heart diseases, as children exposed to chemotherapy and atomic bomb tests have an eight-fold higher incidence of cardiomyopathy (weakening of the heart muscle) and are vulnerable to sudden death from heart attack and other cardiac illnesses. Dr. Wertelecki reported on the findings of the Ukrainian-American Association for the Prevention of Birth Defects (UAAPBD) that has been tracking the condition of over 104,000 newborns in the provinces of Rivne and Volyn that received substantial radioactive fallout from Chornobyl.



Dr. Wolodymyr Wertelecki, Chairman of Genetics at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

In addition to foreign dignitaries, the session on health impact also included several prominent Ukrainian physicians whose health studies contradicted the Chornobyl Forum Report issued in 2005 and whose vigorous dissents had been deliberately excluded from the IAEA and United Nations press statements. Among these was Dr. Mykola Omelianets, a demographer with the National Institute of Radiation Medicine, who testified on the death toll of Chornobyl liquidators in Ukraine. According to Dr. Omelianets, ten per cent, or 34,400, of the 344,000 Ukrainian emergency workers died between 1987 and 2004. Their mortality rate is 2.7 times higher than other working age males in Ukraine, and cancer deaths among this group are also 2.7 times higher. Dr. Omelianets pointed out that for the most part, these are still young men who were in their 20s and 30s at the time of the nuclear accident, yet 25% of their deaths are caused by cancer, while the average rate of cancer deaths among Ukrainian men is only 9.8 per cent.

Other presenters included Prof. Eduard Pazukin of the Kurchatov Atomic Institute in Moscow, Dr. Angelina Nyagu, the President of the International Association of Physicians of Chornobyl, former Minister of Health of Ukraine Dr. Andriy Serdiouk, Dr. Olha Tymczenko of the Institute Environmental Medicine, and Dr. Anatoly Cheban, a leading endocrinologist with the Institute of Radiation Medicine. Dr. Cheban reminded the audience that the thyroid cancer epidemic in Ukraine and Belarus is just the tip of an epidemiological iceberg, as fully one-third of all children and adults in these countries suffer from endocrine disorders caused by their exposure to radioactive iodine and 9,000 children have already been diagnosed with pre-cancerous thyroid



CCRDF-Ukraine Treasurer Olya Datsenko with Paulo Coelho

lesions. Dr. Tymczenko and Dr. Lyudmyla Porokhnyak testified on the destructive effect of radiation exposure on the reproductive health of women.

Despite these grim assessments, the conference also focused on some of the positive results of the international response to the Chornobyl disaster and the potential for saving the lives of thousands of children and adults. Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky pointed out that "for all the heartache and anguish it has caused, the Chornobyl disaster has served as an important catalyst for the revitalization and modernization of the medical systems of Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and other former Soviet republics." Citing specific examples from CCRDF's partner hospitals, Dr. Matkiwsky went on to say that "We have seen how even modest investments in new medical technology and training programs have helped to reduce the rate of infant mortality and to dramatically improve cancer remission rates."

Mr. Jeremy Hartley, the national director of UNICEF in Ukraine, urged the audience and the Ukrainian government to push for simple preventive measures such as the iodization of salt that would not only reduce the risk of thyroid cancer caused by exposure to radioactive iodine, but also dramatically reduce the incidence of mental retardation and improve school performance. Similarly, Dr. Wertelecki urged the low-cost dissemination of folic acid in bread flour to help reduce the incidence of spina bifida and neural tube defects in newborns. Other speakers such as Dr. Edward Lyman of the Union of Concerned Scientists testified about the largely untapped potential of renewable sources of energy that could reduce dependency on foreign oil and gas, reduce greenhouse gases, and avoid the creation of massive quantities of atomic waste.

At the conclusion of the Humanitarian Conference, section leaders presented a humanitarian manifesto and a series of specific resolutions that were unanimously approved by the convention participants. On April 26, the manifesto and resolutions were read at the Ukrainian Parliament. They are also being submitted for the approval and adoption by various international decision-making bodies. At the parliament during the reading of the resolutions CCRDF Founders Dr. Zenon and Mrs. Nadia Matkiwsky were introduced and acknowledged for their 17 years of dedicated humanitarian service to the children in Ukraine.

After the resolutions were approved, conference delegates and First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko, Chairwoman of the Humanitarian Conference, enjoyed a 25-minute classical youth concert with talented Ukrainian stars who are beginning to win acclaim at the international level. The finale was sung by the Dzvinochok Boys Choir of Kyiv which sang Lysenko's "Vladyko Neba i Zemlyi" with the solo ren-



During the conference reception, the Kyiv Lion's Club presented CCRDF with a check for \$17,000 US to be used towards the purchase of a neonatal respirator. (L-R) former president of the Kyiv Lion's Club and Director of Primeros Funds Group Paul Niland, current President of the Kyiv Lion's Club Pierre Sleiman, CCRDF Founder Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, and CCRDF-Ukraine Chairwoman of the Board Olena Nyzhnykvyech.



First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko is surrounded by (L-R) tenor Dmytro Popov, Nadia Matkivsky, choir director of the "Dzvinochok" Boys Choir, and the Director of Kyiv Opera House Anatoly Solovyanenko.

dered by the award winning young tenor Dmytro Popov. This finale brought Mrs. Yushchenko and many in the Philharmonic Hall to tears. During the standing ovation, the Artistic Director of the Kyiv Opera Anatoly Solovyanenko introduced conference committee member and producer of this concert Mrs. Nadia Matkivsky to present an award to the Chairwoman of the Humanitarian Conference First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko in recognition of her dedication to the children of Ukraine.

CCRDF is especially grateful to Philip Morris International, their managing director Raman Berent, their parent company – Altria Group, and the community rela-



Representing Philip Morris International (PMI) that sponsored the conference, PMI Director Raman Berent and PMI Country Director Olena Khomenko are introduced to the First Lady of Ukraine by Mrs. Nadia Matkivsky.

tions department under the direction of Olena Khomenko and government affairs coordinator Olesya Olenycka for their generosity in sponsoring this conference and the commemorative concert on April 24. Beyond their sponsorship of these historic events, Philip Morris also donated an additional \$170,000 to CCRDF to help combat children's leukemia in Kharkiv, Rivne, and Zhytomyr and provided funding for a neonatal intensive care unit at the Kharkiv Regional Children's Hospital. Additional funding for the conference was provided by Coca-Cola International, Holtec International, Baker & MacKenzie, Otis Elevator, the Salans Law Firm, and AES Ukraine.

### *(UMC GRANT continued from pg. 1)*

contribution and then added a supplemental grant for a total gift of \$416,000 to the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund. Thanks to this generous grant, CCRDF has now purchased state-of-the-art equipment for its partner hospitals in Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernivtsi, Uzhorod, and Kherson. Some of the most valuable items are among the first of their kind in Ukraine, including an advanced "uro-dynamics" system that will enable doctors in Dnipropetrovsk Children's Hospital #3 to perform delicate surgical procedures to correct birth defects of the reproductive and urinary tract. Without this system, many of these babies would become life-long invalids, but can now lead normal lives. We have also purchased two Japanese Fukuda ultrasound units, fetal heart monitors, neonatal incubators, and respirators which will greatly help these hospitals in protecting mothers and their unborn babies. UMC's staff has taken a personal interest in this grant program, hosting press conferences in the hospitals to celebrate the installation of this vital technology, and touring the recipient hospitals to see the improvements first-hand. What is especially gratifying is that UMC's leadership as a corporate donor is stimulating similar investments from other businesses and government agencies. For example, upon seeing the exciting changes that UMC and CCRDF have brought about at the Chernivetska City Maternity Hospital #2, the Mayor of Chernivtsi Mykola Fedoruk pledged \$100,000 to purchase additional medical equipment to further strengthen the neonatal unit. The UMC Program with CCRDF has received extensive coverage on national television and in local and regional news.



New York City – On Friday, April 28, the United Nations held a conference in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Chernobyl. The conference was hosted by the UN Permanent Missions of the three countries directly affected by the Chernobyl nuclear explosion: Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. Among the Ukrainian-Americans who attended were Shevchenko Scientific Society's Library Director Svitlana Andrushkiw, CCRDF Volunteer Helena Milnytych, and CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma.



On behalf of CCRDF, Executive Director Alexander Kuzma receives the Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Ohio Representative Marcy Kaptur. (photo by Yuri Kosin)

## CCRDF RECEIVES AN AWARD FROM CONGRESS

Washington, DC - On April 27, the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund was awarded a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for its "outstanding humanitarian work to aid children affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe." The certificate was presented to CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma by Ohio Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, the Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, at a reception that followed the Congressional Briefing in the Rayburn House Office Building. Ms. Kaptur cited the Fund's sixteen years of unrelenting activity in Ukraine where CCRDF has delivered 32 humanitarian airlifts and 16 sea shipments, providing over \$55 million dollars worth of medical aid, technology, and training to Ukrainian hospitals and orphanages. Mr. Kuzma thanked the Caucus for this honor and thanked Representative Kaptur for her leadership in promoting humanitarian assistance and greater awareness of the long-term consequences of the Chernobyl accident on Capitol Hill. The reception hosted representatives of the U.S. State Department, the National Institutes of Health, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and various constituent groups comprising the Chernobyl Challenge '06 Coalition. The Master of Ceremonies during the reception was Paul Speaker, the President of RKO Films in Hollywood, who stressed the importance of keeping the memory of Chernobyl alive, as many children and future generations will continue to be affected by radiation exposure.

Among the witnesses called to testify at the Congressional Briefing was Ambassador of Ukraine Dr. Oleh Shamshur and Ambassador of Belarus Mikhail Khvostov, former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual, Dr. Scott Davis from the School of Public Health at the University of Washington, CCRDF's Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, Executive Director of the Chernobyl Children's Project International (USA-Belarus) Kathleen Ryan, Deputy Director of the Office of Nuclear Energy, Safety, and Security at the U.S. Department of State Warren Stern, and Country Program Coordinator for Ukraine and Belarus at the World Bank Serhiy Kulyk.

## KENNAN INSTITUTE FORUM EXAMINES FULL-SCALE IMPACT OF CHORNOBYL

Washington, DC – On April 26, the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars hosted a forum commemorating the Chernobyl disaster. The director of the Kennan Institute, Blair Ruble, stated that the intention of the forum was to promote conversation about the full-scale impact of Chernobyl for the purpose of drawing a more accurate historical conclusion about the disaster. Distinguished speakers from a variety of disciplines offered their perspectives on the Chernobyl accident and its effect on the people and regions contaminated by the radiation.

The most debated panel included a discussion about the health effects of Chernobyl. Didier Louvat from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presented the findings of the Chernobyl Forum, a group that included representatives from international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization, officials from Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, and prominent scientists and health experts. According to Louvat, the Chernobyl Forum concluded that there are serious health consequences among the 600,000 liquidators who responded to the emergency clean-up effort following the accident, but limited its "reliable evidence" of those health effects to the 50 cases of radiation exposure immediately following the explosion, increased rates of thyroid cancer in children, and psychological trauma. Murray Feshbach, Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center, rebutted with a statement claiming that the Chernobyl Forum's report was "too assertive" and premature in its findings, given the uncertainty that exists due to shortcomings in Soviet-era health statistics and the long incubation period of many cancers. He also criticized the forum for examining data only in Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia despite the fact that former liquidators live in countries throughout the world.

Leonard Mazur, CCRDF Board Member, supported Feshbach's conclusions by listing serious health effects that have been observed by treating physicians in CCRDF's partner hospitals following the Chernobyl catastrophe. He cited an increase in spina bifida and other neural tube disorders, an increase in rare and unusual birth defects, a higher rate of cataracts and blindness among a younger population, an increase in certain types of cardiac defects in newborns, and increased rates of bone diseases and deformities. Mazur noted that children of liquidators have experienced chromosomal damage that can be passed on to future generations, the so-called "grandchildren of Chernobyl."

Further inaccuracies were reported by David Marples from the University of Alberta. Marples noted that a recent report from the IAEA understates its claim of 4,000 deaths attributed to the Chernobyl accident, while a conflicting report from Greenpeace overstates its estimated claim of 100,000 deaths. Marples believes that the true figure lies somewhere in the middle, and a consensus on the actual consequences of the accident remain a distant goal.

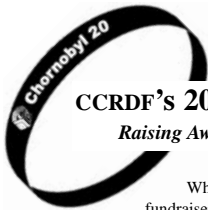
After a screening of the film "Chernobyl Heart," featured cardiac surgeon and founder of the International Children's Heart Foundation Dr. William Novick cited his own observations noting a 100% increase in two particular types of cardiac birth defects after 1986, stating that these anomalies are a direct result of the Chernobyl nuclear explosion. He also mentioned that there have been conflicting reports about the results of Chernobyl, many at opposite extremes with agendas attached to them. According to Novick, if the problems related to the results of the nuclear catastrophe are to be solved, and if future problems are to be avoided should another catastrophe occur, we must find a middle road that avoids such political agendas.

Portions of this text taken from a report written by Joseph Dresen titled, "Commemoration of the Chernobyl Disaster: The Human Experience Twenty Years Later," available at [www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/kennan).



CCRDF Board Member Leonard Mazur speaks at the Kennan Institute.





**CCRDF's 20/20 CAMPAIGN**  
*Raising Awareness of Chornobyl*

What started out as a simple fundraiser developed into a wide-spread campaign to raise awareness of the Chornobyl tragedy among the American public. With the start of its 20/20 Campaign, CCRDF asked supporters to donate \$20 – that's \$1 for every year since 1986 – to provide aid for Ukraine's youngest citizens, its children, and its future. The fundraiser sparked the interest of a number of teaching, religious, and private institutions throughout the U.S. where CCRDF was invited to give presentations about Chornobyl and its experience working in Ukraine as a humanitarian organization. In addition, the "Chornobyl 20" commemorative bands were sold to show solidarity among Ukrainian-Americans and Americans alike in remembrance of the Chornobyl tragedy. In Ukraine, Dr. Tatiana Isakova, Head of the Math Department at the Pechersk International School in Kyiv, initiated a fundraiser at the school where she teaches, raising over four hundred dollars by selling the bracelets. Altogether, the 20/20 Campaign raised over sixteen thousand dollars, and CCRDF sincerely thanks everyone who contributed to its success. CCRDF particularly thanks Charissa Martin, Teenage Conference Director in Pittsburgh, who initiated the printing of the bracelets to raise awareness of the Chornobyl disaster.



*One of the images of "Reflected Innocence," by artist Lydia Bodnar-Balahutruk. Says the artist of her recent journey to Ukraine, "The trip opened my eyes to a land beautiful but ravaged by the Soviet system, a long-suffering yet hopeful people, and a rich culture undergoing reclamation and rebirth."*

**TEXAS ARTIST DONATES  
 PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF ART  
 TO CCRDF**

In 1991, Lydia Bodnar-Balahutruk, noted artist and long-time presence in the Houston art scene, traveled for the first time to her ancestral homeland, Ukraine. Her experiences there inspired her to create a portfolio of artwork that resulted in a series of striking images titled, "Reflected Innocence." Mrs. Bodnar-Balahutruk says of her journey, "The trip opened my eyes and soul to a land beautiful but ravaged by the Soviet system, a long-suffering yet hopeful people, and a rich culture undergoing reclamation and rebirth. I experienced the compelling visitation of Ukraine's weighty history - from the horrific 1932-33 Famine artificially induced by Stalin's political collectivization policy, to the more recent 1986 nuclear plant explosion in Chornobyl. A deep interest in the human condition, at the heart of my painting for a long time, took new form and urgency in my creative work." To date, the artist Mrs. Bodnar-Balahutruk has raised over \$3000 for the purchase of needed medical equipment for the NICU at Chernihiv Maternity Center. To view the prints or for more information on how to purchase them, please visit [www.texasprint.net/SpecialProjects.html](http://www.texasprint.net/SpecialProjects.html).



**YALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA DONATES PROCEEDS TO CCRDF**

New Haven, CT - Since 1994, the students and faculty of Yale University have been strong supporters of CCRDF and the Fund's medical relief efforts in Ukraine. Three of our In-Country Directors have been graduates of various Yale programs, and several musical ensembles including the Yale Slavic Women's Chorus and the Yale Russian Chorus have performed benefit concerts for our Fund. Most recently, on February 25, the Yale Symphony Orchestra (YSO) held a special benefit concert at historic Woolsey Hall to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. In addition to solo performances by the brilliant young pianist Alexander Rabin and soprano Michelle Adessa, the program featured a premier of a very moving orchestral work simply entitled "Chernobyl" by renowned composer and New Jersey native Nancy Van der Vate. This concert was initiated by several Yale Symphony alumni including violinist Adrian Slywotzky, Jr. and YSO's Managing Director Brian Robinson. Ms. Romana Thibodeau, an active member of CCRDF's New Haven Chapter, opened the program with a letter of thanks from CCRDF's founders Dr. and Mrs. Zenon Matkiwsky. Ms. Thibodeau thanked Maestro Toshiyuki Shimada and the members of the Symphony for their important contribution to our cause. The concert raised over \$1,300 in net proceeds for CCRDF. Although comprised entirely of students, the YSO has won considerable acclaim and it has performed with some of the greatest musicians of our time, including Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copeland, Emmanuel Ax, and Robert Shaw, and we are proud to win the support of this fine ensemble.

**UKRAINIAN MUSEUM COMMEMORATES CHORNOBYL TRAGEDY**

*Photo Exhibit, Theatrical Performance, Film Screening*

New York City's Ukrainian Museum commemorated the 20th anniversary of Chornobyl by organizing three events that raised public awareness about the effects of the Chornobyl catastrophe. The museum invited the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund to participate in these commemorative events.

On March 12, the Ukrainian Museum opened "Chornobyl +20, This Is Our Land... We Still Live Here." This photographic documentary depicts the daily chores and portraits of people who continue to reside in the contaminated zone surrounding the nuclear power plant that exploded in 1986, sending millions of curies of radiation into the air. The vivacity and brightness of the photos is a stark contrast to the lingering medical, psychological, and economic injustices of Chornobyl. As stated by CCRDF's Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch, "The Ukrainian Museum's exhibition helps to remind us all that Chornobyl's legacy continues. It reminds us that we cannot forget. As Kofi Annan said, 'It will not be until the year 2016 before the world can BEGIN to fully assess the impact of Chornobyl, because the radioactive elements spewed out of the reactor will continue to affect the world for centuries to come.'"

On May 5, the Ukrainian Museum hosted a theatrical performance titled, "Catch-86," written and performed by Taras Berezowsky. Mr. Berezowsky, a 23-year-old Ukrainian-American, graduated from Kalamazoo College, Michigan, in 2005 with a B.A. in Theatre Arts, and has been working on Catch-86 for the past two years. In 2004, the then 21-year-old, by his own initiative, raised capital to fund his trip to an orphanage he knew little about other than the fact that it housed children affected by the Chornobyl disaster. With help from CCRDF's former In-Country Director Olena Nyzhnykevych, Mr. Berezowsky ventured to his ancestral homeland to interview individuals who have in some way been affected by Chornobyl's legacy. These interviews became the body of his one-man play. "I was so impressed with how realistically Taras recreated his experiences. He was able to accurately portray his encounters with the people he met and interviewed in Ukraine into his one-man play," said CCRDF's Financial Officer Tanya Vena after seeing the play. CCRDF thanks Taras for the hours that he volunteered at Znamyanka orphanage and commends him for bringing the issue of

Chornobyl to the forefront by relaying the human stories that he encountered.

On May 7, the Ukrainian Museum organized a screening of "Chornobyl Heart," the 2004 Academy Award-winning film for Best Documentary Short Subject. The film portrays the effects of the Chornobyl disaster on children suffering from a variety of illnesses in orphanages in Belarus, where most of the radiation fallout landed. Maryann DeLeo, the producer and director of the film, spoke about her experiences in traveling to Belarus and creating her documentary and Ms. Milanytch spoke about CCRDF's response to combatting the health affects of the Chornobyl disaster.

CCRDF sincerely thanks the Ukrainian Museum's President Olya Hnateyko, Executive Director Maria Shust, and Board of Directors for their commitment to raising public awareness of Ukrainian issues. By organizing these worthwhile events, the Ukrainian Museum has exhibited its commitment to educating the American public about Chornobyl.



*CCRDF Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch, Museum President Olya Hnateyko, and CCRDF Volunteer Helena Milanytch attend the Chornobyl Photo Exhibition at the Ukrainian Museum in New York City.*

## CHICAGO COMMUNITY HOLDS SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON CHORNOBYL

Chicago, IL - On April 29, CCRDF's Executive Director Alexander Kuzma was a featured speaker at an all-day scientific conference commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Chicago. The conference took place on the campus of the Rush Medical Center's School of Public Health at the University of Illinois where Mr. Kuzma appeared alongside several noted Chernobyl experts including Dr. David Marples of the University of Alberta, former CCRDF Board member Dr. Ihor Masnyk of the National Cancer Institute, Gordon Fowler, Program Manager for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Russia and Ukraine, Dr. Karim Khan and Dr. Daria Hrynkiw Khan, project engineers with Bechtel's Chernobyl Shelter Implementation Program, and Dr. Pavlo Zamostyan of the UNDP (United Nations Development Program). Another key speaker was Dr. Anatoly Okeanov of the Research Center of Radiation Medicine in Minsk who reported on compelling new evidence of growing breast cancer and lung cancer rates among Chernobyl liquidators and survivors in contaminated regions of Belarus. As the concluding speaker in the program, Mr. Kuzma called on the audience to respond to the humanitarian crisis that continues to unfold in the regions affected by Chernobyl's fallout. He reminded his listeners that Chicago's medical community and its large Ukrainian-American enclave could become a "powerhouse" in providing timely assistance to Ukrainian hospitals and research centers. "You have the power to save thousands of lives in the years to come," said Mr. Kuzma. He cited numerous cases in which timely medical aid from CCRDF and other Western donors helped to reduce infant mortality and provided timely surgeries for children with thyroid cancer and leukemia. He urged the audience to use its creativity and fuel its imagination as to the dramatic improvements that could still be achieved. The conference received substantial coverage in the Chicago Sun-Times and other publications. CCRDF is grateful to Ms. Anya Mostovych, Dr. George and Maria Hryciak, Dr. Orysia Kardoza, and the Chicago Chapters of UMANA and the Ukrainian-American Professionals Association for their sponsorship of this event.

## CONNECTICUT COALITION MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY Citizens Gather in Hartford to Remember the Victims of Chernobyl



Markian Bojko and Christina Uzdejczuk look on as Areta Bojko lights the ceremonial candle at the vigil honoring the victims and survivors of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. (Photo by Borys Krupa)

Hartford, CT - On April 26, Ukrainian-Americans and environmental activists from across Connecticut gathered at the State Capitol in Hartford to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The candle-light vigil was organized by the Council of Ukrainian-American Organizations of Greater Hartford.

Among the featured speakers was newly-ordained Eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Stamford, the Most Reverend Paul Chomnycky O.S.B.M., and Orest Dubno, the former Commissioner of Revenue for the State of Connecticut and former Chairman of the Board for CCRDF. Mr. Dubno acknowledged the important contributions of many donors from across Connecticut who have helped CCRDF to finance hospital development projects in Kyiv, Lviv, Odessa, Rivne, and Ivano-Frankivsk. He especially thanked the Ukrainian National Home of New Haven that contributed \$70,000 for a neonatal intensive care unit in Ivano-Frankivsk.

The current President of the Hartford Chapter Julie Nesteruk thanked all those who helped to organize the 20th Anniversary vigil, including Lana Babij, Irene Oleksiak, Ihor Stasiuk, Nadia Haftkowycz, Ihor Rudko, Natalie Pollock, Inna Stachiw, Halyna Shulewsky, Halyna Dumanska, Anna Pokora and Marta Derhak. She also thanked the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the Ukrainian Women's Organization of the Four Freedoms for their active participation.

## UNWLA BRANCH 100 DONATES FUNDS TO CCRDF

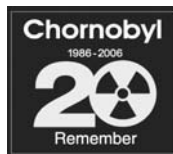
Carteret, NJ - On May 7, Branch 100 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), under the leadership of Talia Kaskiw and Oksana Kuzyszyn, held a Chernobyl commemorative program at St. Mary's Church hall. The event provided attendees with an opportunity to see what CCRDF is doing to combat the health effects of Chernobyl by viewing the film, *Voices of Vision*. This documentary film traces the consequences of the nuclear explosion and the humanitarian effort to alleviate some of the most catastrophic results. On behalf of the children of Ukraine, CCRDF sincerely thanks the members of UNWLA Branch 100 for their efforts and their contribution of five hundred dollars to the Fund.



## THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF USA SUPPORTS ZNAMYANKA ORPHANAGE

Four Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars  
Donated to Diaper Program

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA presented a check to CCRDF in the amount of four thousand eight hundred dollars for the Diaper Program at the Znamyanka orphanage. One thousand dollars was donated by St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Parma, Ohio, and three thousand eight hundred dollars was given by the United Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA. The program will provide the orphanage with diapers for bedridden children. CCRDF thanks the Ukrainian Orthodox Church for its continued support!



We must remember  
the past and take  
action to ensure the  
safety of the future.

## "REMEMBER 1986-2006"

CCRDF Supports Canadian Fund

Toronto - On April 9, the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund hosted a commemorative concert in Roy Thomson Hall. The concert featured renowned musicians, soloists, and a world premiere of Christos Hatzis' *Wormwood*, a powerful musical interpretation of the Chernobyl catastrophe and its linkage to "The Book of Revelations." The theme of the evening was "Remember," which was echoed in the third musical score of concert, a requiem titled, "Panachyda for the Victims of Chernobyl." During this portion of the concert the audience had an opportunity to recognize the suffering of the victims and reflect on the accomplishments of the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund (CCCF).

CCRDF was especially pleased to support their Canadian sister organization, CCCF, because of the history shared between the two organizations. In 1990, CCCF's founder Dr. Yarsoslaw Schudrak joined forces with CCRDF to launch the NJ-based organization's first relief flight to Ukraine. This partnership triggered the enthusiasm from the Ukrainian-Americans and Ukrainian-Canadians alike. CCRDF particularly acknowledges Mr. Orest Hustuliak from Canada and Mr. Bohdan Mysko from the U.S., who donated \$20,000 each to pay for the fuel of the transatlantic flight. With the plane's arrival in Ukraine, this first humanitarian delivery became a defining moment for the two organizations. Both organizations knew this was their calling—to serve the children of Ukraine.

CCRDF's Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch congratulated the Canadian Fund for their 17 years of continuous work in Ukraine to help the Chernobyl survivors. Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund applauds the efforts of our neighbor and counterpart, the Canadian Children of Chernobyl Fund, for organizing the commemorative evening that serves as a reminder of the events that unfolded on April 26, 1986.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT DELEGATION INVITES UKRAINIAN DOCTORS TO MASTERS IN PEDIATRICS CONFERENCE

On December 1-2, 2005, a congressional delegation from the United States traveled to Ukraine to observe the pediatric health practices in several Ukrainian hospitals. The delegation included Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Dr. Paula Dobriansky, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart (FL-R), Chairman of Pediatrics at the Miller School of Medicine Dr. Steven Lipshultz, CCRDF Founders Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky and Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, Chief Administrative Officer of the Community Oncology Alliance Diane Kube, and President of Mothers and Women Against Repression for Cuba Sylvia Iriondo. During a meeting with the First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko and directors of Ukraine 3000 Foundation, President Viktor Yushchenko surprised the delegation with a visit and expressed his gratitude to the delegation for its initiative in helping Ukraine rebuild its medical system. He underlined the importance of the work that CCRDF is doing, and stated that much remains to be done. As the meeting continued, the delegation had opportunities to discuss issues such as physician exchange programs, telemedicine, consultation on systems and facilities improvements, and research to specifically assess the state of radiation exposure in children from Chornobyl. The purpose of this educational discussion was to develop the best long-term strategies for the improvement of pediatric health care in Ukraine.

At the request of Mrs. Yushchenko, Dr. Steven Lipshultz invited six physicians from Ukraine to participate in the Masters in Pediatrics Conference in Belharbor, Florida, for a week in January 2006. Dr. Lipshultz stated, "We are very passionate about what we do (and) our visitors' commitment to give life where it would not be is truly inspiring." The six physicians who attended the conference were from oncology and hematology hospitals, and cardiac surgery centers located in Kyiv and Lviv: Dr. Wasyl Lazoryshnyets, Dr. Grygoriy Klymnyuk, Dr. Iryna Avramenko, Dr. Igor Mokryk, Dr. Svitlana Donska, and Dr. Zoryana Kizyma. Following lectures by world-renowned specialists in the fields of pediatric oncology, hematology, and infant cardiac surgery, the physicians toured the University of Miami Miller Medical Center with Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart and his brother, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart. The exposure gave the physicians a chance to see first hand the daily workings of pediatric care in the U.S., and provided them with information and ideas to bring back with them to their own hospitals in Ukraine.

At the conclusion of their tour, a press conference took place at the Miami Miller Medical Center, where Congressmen Lincoln and Mario Diaz-Balart stressed the importance of a medical coalition between Miami and Kyiv. Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky emphasized the critical needs of neonates in Ukraine, and called for additional physician exchange programs, known in the U.S. as "continuing medical education." This would give Ukrainian physicians a continuous renewal of knowledge concerning the technological areas and new treatments and protocols in hematology, oncology and cardiac surgery.

In a letter later received by CCRDF, Dr. Donska spoke about her experience and thanked her hosts, "We greatly need advisors and knowledge, so I hope this is only the first step in a long relationship of sharing knowledge. Perhaps we can also provide some knowledge to you. Many thanks." Dr. Mokryk talked about the urgent need for more resources, "We hardly manage to treat one third of the children who need surgery, so this collaboration is very important." Overall, the doctor-to-doctor exchange, supported by the President of the University of Miami Miller Medical Center, served as a successful model for the "From Hospital to Hospital" program that Ukraine 3000 is developing with its advisor, CCRDF.

## HARRIMAN INSTITUTE COMMEMORATES CHORNOBYL WITH CONFERENCE

New York City – On April 25, the Harriman Institute at Columbia University held a conference titled, "Commemoration of the Chornobyl Disaster: The Human Experience 20 Years Later." Speakers presented their research and individual experiences on the impact of the disaster, covering the reaction to the Chornobyl tragedy from diplomatic, scientific, humanitarian, artistic, and academic perspectives. Professor Mark Von Hagen, Director of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, opened the conference by defining Chornobyl as a tragedy that "forever changed the fate of the Soviet Union from a pre- to a post-Chornobyl society, which reminded its citizens of the dishonesty of the Soviet system and ultimately led to the break-up of the USSR." His words echoed in the testimonies that followed.

The scientific panel included research by three renowned medical experts. The late Dr. Basil V. Worgul, a professor of radiation biology at the Department of Ophthalmology and Radiology at Columbia, in conjunction with the Ukrainian American Chornobyl Ocular Study, studied the development of cataracts in the "liquidator population" in a number of Ukrainian cities. His findings revealed a more rapid development of a specific type of cataract that forms in the back of the eye. These cataracts, whose placement is indicative of exposure to radiation, were common among the youngest liquidators. Dr. William Novick, Founder of the International Children's Heart Foundation, spoke about a significant trend that he observed during his frequent humanitarian trips to Ukraine and Belarus, where he operated on infants with cardiac birth defects. Together with the Amosov Center of Cardiovascular Surgery in Kyiv, Dr. Novick and his team identified a one hundred percent increase in patients with two particular types of heart conditions following 1986, when the number of cases of Ebstein's anomaly and multiple ventricular septal defects in Ukraine grew from 3 to 4 a year to an average of 8 to 10. Dr. Daniel Branovan of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary informed the audience of an increase in thyroid cancer in the New York Metropolitan Area, and connected the increase of cancer with the arrival of 400,000 Eastern European immigrants to the tri-state area. He noted that thyroid cancer can be easily treated and that mortality rates are low, but stressed that people who were adults in 1986 are only now beginning to develop thyroid cancer due to the prolonged latency period of the disease.

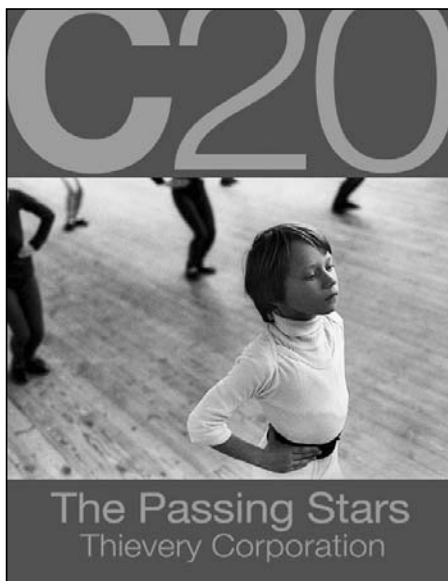
Lisa Milanytch from CCRDF and Sherrie

Douglas from the Chornobyl Children's Project International (CCPI) presented their experiences as humanitarian aid workers in Ukraine and Belarus, respectively. Ms. Milanytch noted the undisputed effects of Chornobyl, such as an eightyfold increase in thyroid cancer among children, and increases in cases of chromosome damage, such as a fourfold increase in cases of spina bifida. She outlined the programs that CCRDF has established in the pediatric fields of medicine and the organization's commitment to training physicians and providing prenatal care to pregnant women. Sherrie Douglas' slide show touched the hearts of her audience with graphic images of children whom she encountered in CCPI's orphanages who suffer from a variety of physical disabilities and mental illnesses. Ms. Douglas mentioned that CCPI's efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Belarus are hindered by the tense political situation in the small former Soviet country. Both women urged the audience to spread awareness of the Chornobyl tragedy, and petitioned the World Health Organization to recognize more than just thyroid cancer and psychological trauma as results of radiation exposure.

The Chornobyl tragedy also captured the imagination of the artistic community, including author Irene Zabytko who read excerpts from her book, *The Sky Unwashed*. Based on the reality of returning refugees to their hometowns in the exclusion zone around Chornobyl, the fictional tale follows one family as they endure the immediate and lasting effects of the nuclear tragedy.

Following a screening of the "Chornobyl Heart" documentary, Sherrie Douglas and Dr. Novick moderated a discussion about the catastrophe's effect on human health and recovery. Attendees of the conference were particularly concerned with the inaccurate statistics and trivialization of the widespread effects of radiation exposure by official organizations such as the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations, and other governing bodies.

To close the conference, Mykola Riabchuk from the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy urged the international community to help Ukraine in its efforts to rebuild the sarcophagus and to find alternative sources of energy. Mr. Riabchuk examined the role of Chornobyl in its contribution to a lingering mistrust of Moscow politicians by Ukrainians and native Russians alike. He stressed that when studying the human experience of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, the "emphasis should be on the human dimension, not only on statistics." The global community has mourned for twenty years and should continue to remember Chornobyl, but for now, let's focus on the efforts towards a better future for Chornobyl survivors.



Famed electronic music pioneers Thievery Corporation have teamed up with Mondano ("world citizen"), a grass-roots nonprofit group in Washington, DC. The joint CHERNOBYL::20 (C20) is a unique collaboration bringing photographers and musicians together to focus attention on the Chornobyl disaster's continuing consequences.

Thievery Corporation has just released a new single, "The Passing Stars," exclusively on iTunes. The proceeds will help charities in the regions most affected by Chornobyl. The track is a haunting, moody gem with the late Pam Bricker's unmistakable voice. Along with the single comes a digital booklet of select photos from the C20 photo exhibition, which takes a humanistic view of the life after Chornobyl through the eyes of some of the world's top photographers.

And that's just for starters. Later this year, a full-length benefit CD compilation will be released, featuring music donated by international recording artists and a special slideshow of C20 images.

The CHERNOBYL::20 participating charities are: Chornobyl Children's Project International, Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund.

For more info and photos visit [222.C-20.org](http://222.C-20.org)

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