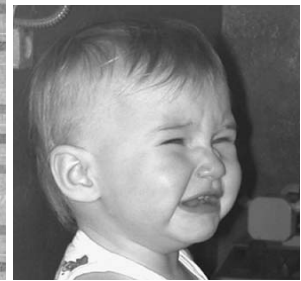
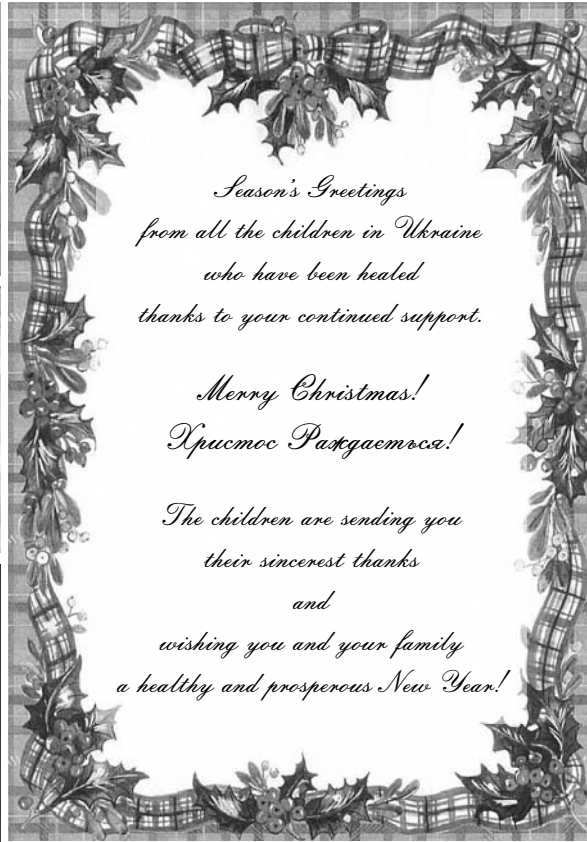


# CHORNOBYL CHRONICLE

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND NEWSLETTER Winter 2007 Vol. XXXIX



## Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA Continues Doing God's Work

CCRDF implements an orphanage program sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (UOC of the USA) that provides over 200 orphans with needed attention and an improved quality of life. The UOC of the USA has funded an orphanage budget for Zaluchya and Znamyanka for the past six years and, most recently, has agreed to help an orphanage in Puhachiv with needed renovations. The positive changes in the orphans' lives would not have been possible without the work of the dedicated UOC community, lead by His Excellency Archbishop Antony.



Archbishop Antony blesses a child.

In 2001 members of CCRDF met with Archbishop Antony and presented him with a compelling problem that existed in Ukraine – the exiled children in the orphanages suffering from category 4 and 5 disabilities. These particular children were tucked away into remote areas throughout Ukraine, out of sight from towns and government assistance. CCRDF asked Archbishop Antony to help finance physical therapy programs which (Continued on page 5)

## CCRDF Continues to Implement VPF's Cradles of Hope Initiative

In 2006, CCRDF was selected to implement the Victor Pinchuk Foundation's (VPF) health initiative program, *Cradles of Hope*. To implement the grant, CCRDF received \$1.7M in 2007 for the purchase of medical equipment and for the organization of Physician Training Workshops.

Since the inception of the *Cradles of Hope* program, Mr. Pinchuk has funded and CCRDF has procured over ten state-of-the-art neonatology centers throughout Ukraine. CCRDF also organized two successful training seminars in the fields of neonatology and ultrasonography in Chernihiv and Lutsk, respectively.

### *Cradles of Hope Center Launched in Odessa*

On September 25th, the Victor Pinchuk Foundation's *Cradles of Hope* initiative launched a new neonatal center at the Odessa Regional Clinical Children's Hospital. The Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, as the implementer and facilitator of Mr. Pinchuk's health program, participated at the opening of the center which aims to reduce infant mortality.

CCRDF procured the following medical equipment for the neonatal intensive care unit: two incubators, a neonatal resuscitation table, a respirator complete with graphic monitor, an Infant Flow SiPAP, a phototherapy lamp, a two-chamber infusion pump, a cardiachometer, a pressure monitor, multifunctional stands, electronic scales, a mobile infant incubator, a resuscitation kit for infants, a fetal (Continued on page 3)

## Evolution in Ukrainian Perinatology

Since Ukraine's independence in 1991, both maternal and newborn healthcare have been continuously compromised, due to the difficult socio-economic situation and to the generally low quality of health services. For the most part, public health institutions have been deteriorating over the past decade, and Ukraine has been facing a dramatic population decline, a large factor of which is the sharp decrease in birth rates and increasing mortality rates.

Some causes to newborn deaths can be attributed to an increase in perinatal and neonatal complications; problems arising from the birth such as poor pre-natal nutrition and care, premature birth, low birth-weight, or pregnancy/birth complications. These factors can be influenced by a failing health care system, in addition to an increase in congenital disorders - an effect, disputably, resulting from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and other environmental degradations in Ukraine.



U.S. lecturers and experts in their respective fields of neonatology and perinatology (L-R): Dr. Cleide Suguihara, Dr. Mary J. O'Sullivan, Dr. Jerry Max Gilles, and Dr. Shahnaz Duara

In the ever-evolving field of perinatology in Ukraine, ongoing challenges are faced when keeping abreast of new developments, in order to provide the best care for tiny patients and their families. In response to these challenges, CCRDF conducted a national medical conference in Kyiv, Ukraine on June 15-16, 2007 entitled *Health Issues of Perinatology in Mother and Child*, which was specifically designed for nearly 350 physicians and nurses working in perinatal, neonatal, or obstetrical care settings in Ukraine. Conference attendees came from all 24 *oblasts* (regions) of Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. This two-day event brought together medical practitioners from both the United States and Ukraine, focusing on various topics in perinatology including micropremies, perinatal disorders, neonatal transport, preventing infection, and perinatal dilemmas of high-risk pregnancies.

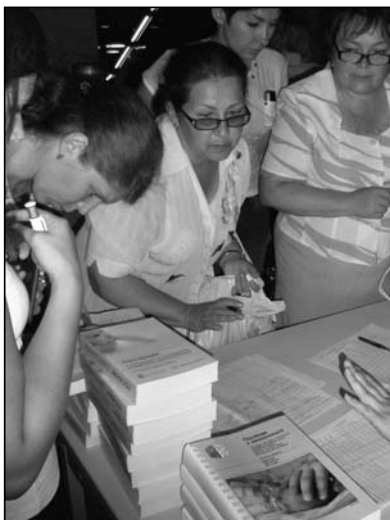
Internationally recognized physicians from the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine led the conference, including Dr. Jerry Max Gilles, Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology Maternal-Fetal Medicine; Dr. Mary O'Sullivan, Professor Emeritus, Department of Ob-Gyn; Dr. Cleide Suguihara, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Director, Neonatal

Developmental Biology Laboratory in the Division of Neonatology; and Dr. Shahnaz Duara, Professor of Pediatrics, Medical Director of Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida.

In addition to the physicians from the United States, several prominent Ukrainian physicians also presented lectures about current issues in perinatology. Dr. Yelizaveta Yevhenivna Shun'ko, Professor and Chief of the Department of Neonatology at the Shupyk National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education and lead neonatology specialist at the Ministry of Healthcare in Ukraine; Dr. Borys Myhaylovych Ventskiv's'kyi, Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Bogomolets' National Medical University #1; Dr. Yury Hennadiyovych Antypkin, Professor and Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, President of the Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynecology of Ukraine; and Dr. Iryna Yuriyivna Hordiyenko, Professor, Chief of the Department of Fetal Medicine at the Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynecology of Ukraine.

Simultaneously, the nursing field was targeted for Ukrainian nurses who work in neonatal intensive care units of oblast or city hospitals. The conference's featured speaker was Renell Leichty, a registered nurse from Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Ms. Leichty presented an overview of a program in neonatal resuscitation and stabilization for nurses who care for critically ill newborns prior to their transport for specialized care. "There is so much interest that they soak it [information] up like sponges," Ms. Leichty remarked. "The passion and desire for this knowledge is incredible."

This exciting medical event was planned and implemented in accordance with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, and through the joint sponsorship of the



Both physicians and nurses picked up copies of medical texts translated, printed, and distributed by CCRDF with the generous donation of sponsors, such as the McMillan Children's Foundation.

McMillan Children's Foundation as the Diamond Sponsor, Siemens Ukraine as the Gold Sponsor, Philips as the Silver Sponsor, and both USAID and Paramed as Bronze Sponsors.

The McMillan Children's Foundation, which globally services children in need, was honored as the Diamond Sponsor for supporting the conference as well as the translation and publication of a medical reference book for clinicians. All conference attendees received a complimentary copy of the handbook entitled "John Hopkins Manual of Gynecology and Obstetrics," which covers most clinical situations in general obstetrics, high risk obstetrics, gynecology, reproductive endocrinology, infertility, and gynecological oncology. The funds provided by the McMillan Children's Foundation will also be used to sponsor the translation, printing, and distribution of "Protocols for High-Risk Pregnancies" to physicians throughout Ukraine in 2008.

The mix of both Western and Eastern medical professionals offered participants of this event a different perspective of current issues, medical approaches, and solutions to perinatal challenges in Ukraine. The 2007 perinatal conference also fostered an environment that allowed colleagues of specific medical fields to come together to build professional relationships and to provide the Ukrainian medical community an opportunity to enhance their clinical practices.

The June 15-16 conference was the latest in a series of successful continuing education programs organized by CCRDF since 1990.



Dr. Laksha Olha Timofievna, Assistant professor of the Ukrainian neonatology department, instructs her audience of nurses how to properly give medical care to their neonatal patients.

## Chornobyl Among the Top Ten of the World's Worst Polluted Places

The U.S.-based *Blacksmith Institute*, an independent environmental action group, in partnership with *Green Cross Switzerland*, recently issued a 2007 Top Ten List of the world's most severely polluted places. Drawing from a database of 400 pollution cases, one of the top sited areas in the report is Chornobyl, Ukraine, the location of the world's worst nuclear explosion, an event which occurred over twenty years ago.

Compiled by experts on the Blacksmith Institute's Technical Advisory Board, the study included specialists from Harvard University, Johns Hopkins, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Hunter College, the University of Idaho, ITT Delhi, and major international environmental remediation companies.

The Top Ten List is designed "to place more weight on the scale and toxicity of the pollution and on the numbers of people at risk," as stated in the report. In the investigation, found pollutants included radioactive dust materials such as uranium, strontium, plutonium, cesium-137, as well as other metals. According to the report, heavy metals and radioactive waste expose 5.5 million residents to various respiratory diseases, birth defects, and premature deaths which, along with thyroid cancer, add to the multitude of increased health defects since the Chornobyl accident.

Although the Chornobyl explosion emitted a tremendous amount of radioactivity, most of the radiation is still encased within the existing nuclear plant itself. The sarcophagus covering the reactor was only designed to last 20 or 30 years. Structural leaks to the sarcophagus have caused experts to fear that a toxic liquid formed from rainwater and fuel dust may be contaminating groundwater in the area.

The other polluted sites on the 2007 Top Ten List are Sumgayit, Azerbaijan; Linfen, China; Tianying, China; Sukinda, India; Vapi, India; La Oroya, Peru; Dzerzhinsk, Russia; Norilsk, Russia; and Kabwe, Zambia.

## Two Major Contracts Signed to Prevent Further Deadly Radiation Leaks

In a long overdue initiative, Ukraine plans to construct a new protective structure for the Chornobyl nuclear reactor by 2013. The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development has earmarked \$505M for the project and the French construction firm, *Novarka*, has been hired to build the new shelter.

The structure will be arch-shaped metal, 345ft (105m) tall by 490ft (150m) wide, enclosing the crumbling sarcophagus. The concrete sarcophagus has been leaking for over a decade, since it was hastily erected after the 1986 accident. The purpose of the new encasement is to ensure nuclear security for over 100 years. The eventual plan is to dismantle the existing sarcophagus and exploded reactor inside the new shelter.

Official Ukrainian data estimates that approximately 95% of the original nuclear fuel is still contained within the reactor. Should it collapse, atomic experts fear the reactor could expel lethal radioactivity.

The U.S.-based company *Hotlec International* has signed a \$250M contract with Ukrainian authorities to build a storage facility for used nuclear fuel. This facility will house state-of-the-art nuclear technology ensuring safe storage of the fuel. It will also eliminate the need to ship spent fuel to southern Ukraine, Rivne, and Khmelnytsky, saving nearly \$100M a year in shipping costs. Construction will be concluded in approximately five years. This agreement is the largest investment contract in the nuclear economic sector in Ukraine with a U.S. company.

# Rochester's CCRDF Golf Tournament: A Great Success



A golfer's bag displays support of CCRDF's mission.

By: Lesia Telega

On Saturday, September 8, 2007 the Rochester Branch of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund held its 9th Annual Golf Tournament at Durand Eastman Golf Course in Rochester, New York.

The Honorary Chairperson of this year's tournament was New York Senator Jim Alesi. The tournament committee members were Irene Matichyn – Event Chair, John Adamczyk, Roman Lesiv, Taras Myhowych, Bohdan Skrobach, and Lesia Telega.

As players arrived and signed in, they were able to purchase raffle tickets for such prizes as two airline tickets, a flat screen TV, a signed NFL helmet, a nine pound chocolate bar, among other many wonderful prizes including golf equipment and gift certificates to local restaurants and attractions.

As the 124 players completed 18 holes of golf, they met at the clubhouse patio overlooking Durand Eastman Park on the banks of Lake Ontario. At sunset, the participants enjoyed a delicious steak dinner with all the trimmings.

Attending this year's tournament were the founders of CCRDF, Dr. Zenon and Mrs. Nadia Matkiwsky. CCRDF Branch President Lesia Telega introduced the Matkiwsky's to the participants at which time they thanked all the supporters and presented Senator Jim Alesi with CCRDF's crystal award for his support of the Rochester Branch of CCRDF. The committee members also honored the newest committee member, Irene Matichyn as the event chair with a beautiful bouquet of sunflowers for her outstanding fundraising efforts at this



After 18 holes, golfers had the chance to relax before the evening banquet festivities began.

year's tournament. Ms. Matichyn thanked the committee for all their work and efforts to make this year's golf tournament the most successful one to date. A special thank you was given to a longtime supporter of CCRDF, Ms. Telega, who, regardless of many obstacles, continues to work to spread the word of the need of Ukraine's children. In gratitude, Mrs. Matkiwsky presented Ms. Telega with a crystal sphere that read, "for your many years of support to the children in Ukraine."

During dessert, the prizes were awarded to the golfers and the raffle was drawn. As the final part of the tournament's festivities, the tournament committee presented CCRDF's Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky with a check in the amount of \$25,000 which was accepted with joyous response from the audience.

Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky arrived in Rochester on Friday, September 7, 2007, to attend the golf tournament and also to visit the local medical institutions to consider the possibility of replicating such outstanding programs in CCRDF's partner hospitals in Ukraine. Their first meeting was with Mr. Ron Pluta of the Pluta Cancer Center – the first independent, not-for-profit cancer center in New York State. The Pluta Cancer Center was established in 1975 by a grant from the Pluta family. The Pluta Cancer Center has become a valuable resource for comprehensive, multidisciplinary cancer care in the Rochester community. The hallmarks of cutting-edge technology and expertise, combined with a personal, patient-centered approach, are now the cor-

nerstone of care at the new Pluta Cancer Center.

Later that morning, Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky visited the Women's Health Pavilion. The Women's Health Pavilion is home to Highland Breast Imaging Center, Strong Health Midwifery Group, Strong Gynecologic Specialties, Strong Fertility Center, Strong Perinatal Associates, Strong Ob/Gyn Ultrasound, and Strong Pelvic Health and Continence Specialties. The Women's Health Pavilion offers unique specialty services to the community including the area's only all-digital, full-service breast imaging and diagnostic center, and boasts to be among the nation's first to combine urogynecology, urology, and colorectal surgery to help women with problems related to pelvic health.

Next, Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky met with Dr. Nina Schor, Pediatrician-in-Chief, Galisano's Children's Hospital at Strong, University of Rochester Medical Center. Galisano Children's Hospital at Strong promotes and advocates the physical, emotional, and social well-being of all infants, children, youth and their families.



Nadia Matkiwsky with the CCRDF Golf Committee: Taras Myhowych, Irene Matichyn, Lesia Telega, John Adamczyk, Bohdan Skrobach, and Roman Lesiv.



Rochester Ukrainian FCU management team: Oleg Lebedko, General Manager, Tamara Denysenko, CEO

After a warm greeting by Father Vasyl Colopelnic, the congregation sang "Mnohaya Lita" in thanksgiving of the monumental work Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky have done on behalf of the children of Ukraine. After Mass, the Matkiwskys met with the congregation in the church hall, where they shared information on the latest initiatives of CCRDF. At the end of the gathering, members of the community made donations to CCRDF totaling \$420. Later that day, Dr. & Mrs. Matkiwsky met with members of the committee members of the Rochester Branch of CCRDF over a traditional Ukrainian lunch at Olga's Ukrainian Restaurant and thanked the committee for standing steadfast to their commitment made many years ago to help the children in Ukraine and make a difference in the lives of children who continue to suffer from the Chernobyl catastrophe.



CCRDF Branch President Lesia Telega pictured with Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky at the monument commemorating 100 years of Ukrainian settlement in Rochester.



L-R: Fundraising Chairperson Oksana Piaseckyj, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, and Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Oleh Shamshur.

## Miami's Help the Children Fundraiser

By: Kristen Elise Lindley

Sunny Isles Beach, a barrier beach just north of Miami Beach, was the setting for this year's South Florida fundraiser for the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF) on October 7, 2007. Hosted at the luxurious beachfront Acqualina Rosewood Hotel, the fundraiser brought together distinguished guests and supporters from surrounding communities of greater Miami.

The evening was both educational and entertaining. A number of dignitaries spoke at the event including Honorary Chairpersons Sunny Isles Beach Vice Mayor Lewis J. Thaler and his wife Madi, Ambassador from Ukraine to the United States Dr. Oleh Shamshur and the founders of CCRDF Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky.

Other distinguished guests were Monsignor Martin Canavan of the Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church in Miami, Rabbi Alexander Kaller of Chabad Lubovitch, U.S. Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Commissioner Gerry Goodman of Sunny Isles Beach, Commissioner Billy Joel of Aventura, and Dr. Eliot Rosenkranz from the University of Miami.



Mistress of Ceremonies Oksana Piaseckyj with Vice Mayor & Mrs. Lewis Thaler

Mrs. Oksana Piaseckyj, fundraising chairperson and mistress of ceremonies, introduced the featured speaker of the evening, Steven E. Schultz, MD.

Dr. Schultz is the Director of Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care at Holtz Children's Hospital. Together with a team of doctors from the University of Miami, Dr. Schultz visited Ukraine and witnessed the difficult conditions of hospitals there. Dr. Schultz described the wonderful collaborative work of the Miami doctors and those in Ukraine who making a difference in the lives of sick children by procuring state-of-the-art medical aid. In his presentation, Dr. Schultz identified on a map of Ukraine where his grandparents were born, proudly tracing his ancestry to Ukraine.

Mrs. Nadia Matkiwsky illustrated the monumental work that CCRDF has accomplished in its 18 year history in her moving powerpoint presentation. Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, warmly greeted the attendees and presented an engraved crystal gift to Vice Mayor Lewis Thaler and his wife Madi as well as to Mrs. Piaseckyj in recognition for their work on behalf of CCRDF.

A magnificent concert by the Papa Duke Trio followed. Violinist Vasyl Popadiuk, Stan Fomin on keyboard, and Victor Khomenko on bass captivated the audience. Setting the mood with slow sustained notes, then moving into incredibly energetic bowing, Popadiuk was mesmerizing. Known as "The Duke of Gypsy Violin" and the new Paganini, Popadiuk convinced everyone that he truly deserves that distinction. Popadiuk has performed on tour to sold out audiences in Europe, USA and Canada, most recently at the Montreal Jazz Festival. On a personal note, he was in the army at the time of the clean up of Chernobyl, and was at the site to witness the aftermath of the explosion. This experience gave his performance at the CCRDF

(Continued on page 5)



## 'Healthy & Happy Family' Volodymyrets Campaign

We would like to inform all of our readers and supporters that although the Volodymyrets renovation campaign has been well supported, our goal of \$100,000 has yet to be reached. To better understand the scope of the campaign, CCRDF would like to provide you with further information.

There are three phases to completing the project. Phase 1 requires all heating, plumbing, and electrical work to be secured in the building. Phase 2 will consist of a capital reconstruction of walls and the replacement of all doors and windows. Once the reconstruction is complete, the last and final phase of the 'Healthy & Happy Building Campaign' will require the building to be equipped with furnishings to run the daily activities of the family medical center – diagnoses and treatments of pregnant woman as well as lectures on the general topic of *healthy mommy, healthy baby*. This facility will be a center of excellence where a new progressive wave of medical knowledge will be accessible to all women who are of pre or post childbearing age.

CCRDF thanks all of the individuals who have contributed towards the campaign. To date, we have raised over \$40,000 in pledges and donations. The campaign is continuing and we are most optimistic that we will reach our goal very soon.

(MIAMI, Continued from page 4) fundraiser a personal meaning.

Local businesses generously contributed gift baskets, flowers and gifts for the Silent Auction. Artist Ludmilla Demchenko Patterson created a beautiful silk batik art piece especially for the fundraiser. Disney World donated free passes to its various parks. The outpouring of support was truly heartwarming.

An informational display created by Dr. Irena Dzubinsky provided photos of Chernobyl's devastation and its suffering children. Their poignant message conveyed the horrific consequences of the nuclear radiation. The lesson to be learned from this tragedy, as pointed out by Ambassador Shamshur, is that this accident could happen any place in the world where there is a nuclear power plant. Unfortunately, Chernobyl was the first to be affected by such an accident. The event raised over \$19,000.



Vasyl Popadiuk (right) pictured with his admirers (L-R): Alex Veshtebey, Stan Fomin, Dr. Irena Dzubinska, and Donna Waskiewich.

(UOC, Continued from page 1) would allow the disabled children to live in dignified conditions and, in some cases, even save their lives by allowing them to regain their physical strength through proper nourishment and physical therapy. Even though this project demanded an enormous emotional and financial commitment, Archbishop Antony agreed to sponsor the program without any hesitation and immediately asked CCRDF for a proposal and work plan.

Since the initial meeting with Archbishop Antony many years ago, not only have major renovations

(roof, floors, windows, doors, walls) been completed at the orphanage, but the project has benefited the children beyond the physical repairs – it has brought dignity and quality to the lives of the orphaned children. As noted above, these successes could not have been accomplished without the annual Ukrainian Orthodox League's (UOL) mission trips headed by Bishop-Elect Daniel, Deacon Ihor Mahlay, Natalie Kapeluch, and many more. Today, thanks to the missionary youth team, these orphans are no longer forgotten.

With the end of the year upon us, we mark six

## CLEVELAND WALKATHON RAISES \$15,000 FOR CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL

By Alexander Kuzma

Photos by Dr. Ihor Zachary

On a brilliantly sunlit fall morning, hundreds of Ukrainian-Americans from the greater Cleveland area walked through the historic Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland in a 5-kilometer walkathon to benefit the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund. Despite chilly temperatures and a crowded community schedule, the September 29<sup>th</sup> "Tremont Walk for Chernobyl"

drew over 300 participants, including local high school and college students and veterans of humanitarian missions to various hospitals and orphanages in Ukraine. Thanks to corporate sponsors and an intensive pledge campaign, the Walkathon raised over \$15,000 for CCRDF's hospital partnership program.

The Walkathon began with a brief ecumenical prayer service at the Ukrainian Museum overlooking Tremont Park. Members of the clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox, Catholic, Baptist, and Evangelical churches asked for God's blessings for the event's organizers and volunteers and prayed for the health of Ukrainians who continue to live on lands that are still contaminated by radioactive fallout from the 1986 nuclear disaster. Rev. John Nakonachny, pastor of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Parma stressed the importance of remembering the thousands of adults and children who have been stricken with illnesses and birth defects as a result of exposure to radiation. Quoting the Gospel of Matthew, Fr. Nakonachny urged the crowd to "Let your light shine, so your Father in Heaven can see your good works."

As marchers gathered on the lawn of the museum and adjoining park, walkathon chair Matt Zappernick officially welcomed all the volunteers and sponsors who made the event possible. Then a long column of walkers made their way along the 5-kilometer route marked by bright yellow posters. Many wore white T-shirts specially designed for the occasion showing an uplifted child's face and listing the Walkathon sponsors on the reverse. Thanks to the support of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, the walkathon drew a cross-section of representatives of various parishes and youth organizations. The parade route passed many of the historic domed churches that anchored the Ukrainian and other Slavic communities in downtown Cleveland throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the marchers who now live in the Cleveland suburbs reminisced about their childhood growing up in the Tremont neighborhood that has experienced a revival in recent years. Among the landmarks



Participants of the walkathon: (L-R) Andrea Mudri, Irena Zawadowsky, and Marta Mudri

along the route were the famous Lemko Hall and St. Theodosius Orthodox Church featured in Robert Cimino's Oscar-winning movie *The Deerhunter*.

After returning to the Ukrainian Museum, the walkers were treated to an outdoor buffet luncheon. Others took advantage of the occasion to visit the newly opened wing of the Ukrainian Museum and a special exhibit on Chernobyl prepared by Dr. George Jaskiw and his daughter Anya.

Proceeds from the Walkathon have been designated for the 'Healthy & Happy Building Campaign' in Volodymyrets, the heavily forested region of central Rivnenska Oblast (Region) that was particularly hard-hit by the Chernobyl fallout. The town is located 11 miles downwind from the Rivnenska Atomic Station, which has also experienced its share of radioactive leaks.



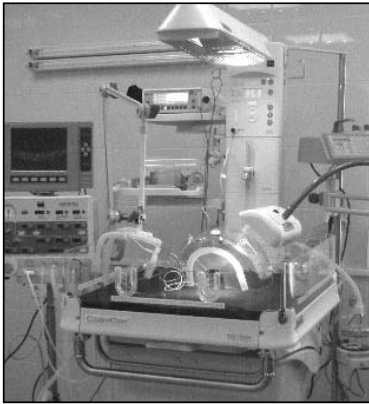
Friends gather to support the cause: (L-R, kneeling): R. Jakubowycz, T. Mudri, (standing) M. Zachary, A. Zachary, S. Zachary, A. Jyubowycz.

On Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church hosted an informational brunch for supporters of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and

Development Fund and the Orphanage Program sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Fr. Deacon Ihor Mahlay introduced two of the young missionaries, Andrea Komichak and Michael Nakonachny, who were part of last summer's delegation that worked with severely disabled children in orphanages at Znamyanka (Kirovohrad Oblast) and Puhachiv (Zhytomyr Oblast). The young missionaries showed a brief but deeply moving film of their experiences produced by their colleague David Kennedy. Following their presentation, Alexander Kuzma, a member of CCRDF's Board of Directors, thanked the parishioners of St. Vladimir's and the Walkathon organizers for their devotion to the cause of Chernobyl's children. He also shared some of his experiences working in Ukraine in 2005-2006 and the impact of medical aid programs and new technology funded by the Ukrainian-American community.

To learn more about the Tremont Walk, or to sign up for next year's charity Walkathon, visit the official web site at [tremontwalkforchornobyl.org](http://tremontwalkforchornobyl.org).

years of unselfish work of the UOC and UOL, and we thank all who have contributed to this magnificent program. The work of the UOC and UOL has simulated other groups in Ukraine and throughout the world to take a serious look at the wellbeing of the children. On behalf of CCRDF, the Board of Directors extends our sincere gratitude and congratulates His Excellency Archbishop Antony for uniting the American-Ukrainian Orthodox community to do God's work.



A photo of some of the life-saving medical equipment purchased for the Odessa hospital.

(VPF, Continued from page 1) monitor, and a computer workstation. The cost of the equipment delivered to the center in Odessa is valued at \$131,000.

The opening ceremony of the *Cradles of Hope Center* was attended by Dr. Yelizaveta Shunko, chief neonatology expert of the Ministry of Healthcare of Ukraine; Andrey Tkachuk, Deputy Chairman of Odessa Regional Administration; Dr. Lyudmila Budyak, head of healthcare for the maternity and child welfare standing committee of the Odessa Regional Council; Irina Golovatyuk-Yuzepolskaya, head of the healthcare standing committee of the Odessa City Council; Dr. Alexander Liman, Chief Physician of the Odessa Regional Clinical Children's Hospital; and Larysa Torbunskaya, chief neonatal expert in the region. Lillian Horodysky, Country Director for CCRDF, attended the opening and remarked that the work of the Pinchuk Foundation in the field of neonatology and perinatology is crucial because this is the medical sector where proper medical treatment must be given in order to ensure healthy individuals in the future.

The *Cradles of Hope Center* in Odessa is one of many centers of excellence for the medical fields of neonatology and perinatology launched by the Viktor Pinchuk Foundation since 2006. The other *Cradles of Hope* centers are located in

Chernihiv, Volodymyrets, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Ovruch, Chernivtsi, Bakhchisarai, and Izmail. An additional two centers will be opened in Donetsk and Simferopol before the end of 2007.

## Ultrasonography Workshop Held in Lutsk

Sponsored by the Victor Pinchuk Foundation (VPF), CCRDF organized a two-day training seminar in perinatal ultrasonography which was conducted in Lutsk, Ukraine from October 29-30, 2007. This training seminar was created specifically for ultrasonographers, obstetricians, and perinatologists who arrived from participating maternity hospitals and perinatal



Neonatologists and nurses from Cradles of Hope hospitals participate in the Neonatal Training Seminar.

centers of the VPF *Cradles of Hope* program.

The overall goals of the training seminar were to provide the physicians with additional knowledge, clinical skills, and problem solving abilities in ultrasonography. The sessions were also designed to improve the quality of the physicians' diagnostic imaging capabilities by focusing on the diagnostic process. By the end of the training, participants were able to describe the sonographic appearance of, and distinguish the difference between, the normal and abnormal anatomy of the fetus.

Guest speakers who took part in this training program were from Western Europe and Ukraine: Dr. Luc De Catte, ObGyn of Leusen, Belgium; Dr. Josef Wissler, ObGyn from Zurich, Switzerland; and Dr. Oleksij Solovyov, ObGyn of the Kyiv clinic, *Nadia*.

During the training session, forty physicians listened to a variety of topics including: assessing gestation in the first and second trimesters, early pregnancy problems, multiple pregnancies, congenital infections, fetal anomalies; and learned about ultrasonographies of the heart, face, neck, central nervous system, the intestines, and urogenital system. Specific case studies encountered in Ukraine played a major role throughout the training sessions, particularly with open discussions between attendees and the guest lecturers.

## Neonatology Training Seminar Held in Chernihiv

On June 18-19 2007, an educational seminar and practical training in neonatology was held in Chernihiv, a city in Ukraine located north of Kyiv. Organized by the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development



Dr. Elmer David

Fund for the Victor Pinchuk Foundation's *Cradle of Hope* program, this training seminar was designed specifically for neonatologists and nurses from *Cradles of Hope* partner hospitals equipped with Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) and intensive therapy departments.

The objective of this seminar was to provide current information, methodologies, and the best practices in neonatology for physicians and nurses in Ukraine working in NICUs.

Speakers who took part in this training program were from the United States and Ukraine: Dr. Elmer David, Professor and Director of Pediatrics – University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey; Renell Leichthy, R.N., Developmental Care Coordinator, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Dr. Tatiana Konchakovska of the Ukrainian Neonatology Department at the P. Shupika's Academy of Medicine in Kyiv, Ukraine.

During the seminar, the following topics were covered: Current Approaches in Resuscitation in Newborns, Pre-transport Stabilization of Critically Ill Newborns, Neonatal Thermoregulation, Breathing Support of Extremely Low Birth Weight Newborns, Feeding and Nourishment for Newborns in NICUs, Sepsis and Infection Control of Children,

and, lastly, Resuscitation of Newborns using protocols outline in S.T.A.B.L.E., an international program designed to provide medical personnel and nurses with knowledge on how to stabilize patients during the post-resuscitation/pre-transport period.

## Corporate Ukraine Moving Toward Social Consciousness

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a fairly new buzz word among businesses today. The number of conferences and seminars are increasing on the subject, numerous awards are being introduced for positive campaigns, and businesses are keen to promote through the media how CSR dictates the way they do business.

The concept of CSR encompasses a broad range of activities that corporations may engage in, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, to demonstrate that they are addressing important social, economic, and environmental issues. Companies are increasingly getting involved with communities to help rebuild lives, engage in cultural and social development, and partner with various non-profit organizations.

A key component around CSR has been multi-stakeholder initiatives, which bring together corporations, governments, and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) to talk about, and in some cases develop, mechanisms for addressing particular areas of concern. The era of globalization has been replete with such initiatives intended to promote greater respect by transnational corporations of social and environmental principles. Therefore, there is a growing interest in businesses taking a lead in addressing those issues in which they have an interest where national government may have failed to come up with a solution.

In September, the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine initiated the development of a Corporate Social Responsibility sub-committee to help draw together an advocacy group in Kyiv, Ukraine. CCRDF has been asked to join this group, together with Coca-Cola, the non-profit *Eurasia Foundation*, the accounting firm *KPMG*, Ukrainian Citizen's Action Network (UCAN), the communication company *Telenor*, and British American Tobacco.

The primary purpose of establishing such a committee is to identify CSR-related deficiencies in Ukrainian legislation, propose improvements, and advocate the government to improve laws on charitable contributions and advertising. Current legislation is designed in a way that does not offer incentives for corporate charitable contributions and there is no tax distinction between product/service advertising and public/social advertising.

Additionally, the sub-committee's goal is to develop information, materials, and access to CSR best practices to targeted groups including the government, media and domestic businesses. Future plans are to develop a practitioners' forum to share information and coordinate CSR activities between and among companies, NGOs, and the media.



Nurse Renell Leichthy stresses the importance of the S.T.A.B.L.E. program to caretakers of newborns in Ukraine.

- S** - sugar and safe care
- T** - temperature
- A** - airway
- B** - blood pressure
- L** - lab work
- E** - emotional support



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Saturday, May 17, 2008  
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Kyiv, Ukraine

For more information, please contact  
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