



The Belarus Fund

Supporting the victims of Chernobyl
in Belarus

Registered Charity 1116762
Working with the White Flower
Charity in Belarus

Newsletter No. 8.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year. The team have recently returned from this years 2nd visit to Belarus with much news to share.

We have some very good news about **Andrej** who was paralysed as the result of being stabbed in the spine. He is regaining movement and feeling in his arms and hands. The photo below shows him with his mother **Anna**. We all pray that this progress will



continue and that Andrej regains further movement and feeling in his limbs.

Further **good news** is that at several of the institutions we visit, there has been great peristroika (restoration) in the living conditions of the residents.

Once again, we thank **Gluten Free Foods** and **First Play Dietary Foods** for their generous support of **Lisa**. Thanks to them she gets the food she needs to stay healthy. Lisa's mum is so thankful.

The Support Scheme is still growing and anyone who wants to know more can contact us at the address overleaf. This scheme benefits older people, children and foster families.

Each visit we make to Belarus, gives us an opportunity to renew and deepen our relationship with all our friends there. We revisit as many of the projects as we can fit in. What started in a small way has grown to enrich us all, learning from one another and caring about each other.



Vera and Vasily's Foster Family continues to grow with 2 more children arriving since our last visit. They are about to celebrate their 10 year anniversary of being a large foster family. Here they are with some of the children. What's really good is that their son Vasily and his wife are following in their footsteps and have already fostered 2 children with disabilities who they hope to adopt in the future. The charity has pledged support.

A new venture is being undertaken in **Marina Gorka** where the charity is helping fund a hostel where homeless and alcohol dependent people can live and be rehabilitated. There will be more news after our next visit in 2011.

The **Borisov Abandoned Babies Home** now houses 138 children, all lovingly cared for by Svetlana and her dedicated team. It is



always a joy to visit here. We saw the new play equipment outside. The weather was good so we were able to see the children enjoying themselves in the sunshine. A big thank you to everyone for the support they give here.

The **Provincia Summer Camp** for orphaned girls and boys was a great success, and Alena, with her team, worked very hard to give a good balance of activities for these teenagers. This year the weather was very hot, 30+ degrees C every day, even in the shade of the forest, so everyone tired easily but still learned a great deal.



While we were in Belarus **The Festival of The Light of Hope for Artists** was held in Minsk involving all 9 districts and we were able to visit and see the wonderful art work produced by adults with a learning disability.

The **Golden Oldies TV and Radio Quiz** was won by Mrs Joyce Pickford. She kindly donated her £10 prize back to the charity – thank you, Joyce.

We now have the **Red and Gold Christmas and New Year Quiz** which is selling well.

The **Livestock Projects** are going well. However, we have decided to concentrate on chickens, piglets and goats. Cows have proved to be more “high maintenance” needing large dry shelters for the long winter with lots of food – at least 4 tonnes of winter hay each and also tonnes of beetroot. There has been just 1 girl calf born so far, all the others have been males who are fattened for meat.



Thanks to the generosity of John and Jean Cassidy, we now have an excellent **Invacare Mirage electric wheelchair for Valya.**

Thank you so much, John and Jean. We are now working on a way to get it safely to Belarus for her.

Matryoshka Wares are very special and there is a square in Minsk where local artisans gather to sell their dolls and other crafts. We always buy lots to bring home to the UK and they are always very popular.



This year, for the first time, we have produced 2 **calendars** - a desk top and a page per month hanging calendar, both for 2011. We had great fun looking through 8,000 photographs to choose just 12 to appear.

We also added 2 new designs to the **Christmas Card** range.

We remain a very small charity with no costs, so all monies raised goes directly to fund the projects there. None of this would be possible without your prayers and generous support. We have the privilege of seeing the impact of that support when we visit.

Spasiba Bolshoi
Thank you Very much.

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