



# The Belarus Fund

## Newsletter No:5

Registered Charity 1116762  
Working with the White Flower  
Charity in Belarus

We are delighted to tell you that in the last financial year, you all raised over £30,000 for people of Belarus. **Thank You.**

We have recently returned from a two week trip to Belarus. what a privilege this has been. We were able to do so much because of the fantastic generosity of our supporters and the commitment of the team who paid their own expenses. We now have so many projects that our visit was crammed to capacity and we all returned inspired but tired.

**Eyesight** is a major concern in Belarus, one expert fears that they will become a "Blind Nation". So we were very grateful for the generous donation of children's spectacle frames from John Glover's Optician of Romiley and the funds raised by the Ridge Methodist Church to purchase the Zychem fuse machine for producing raised images on paper. Both of these benefited the Molodechno School for Visually Impaired and Blind Children.

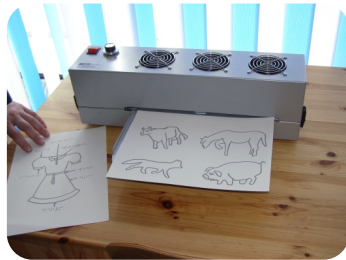
**Hearing loss** continues to be a problem. Dr. Natasha from the "Tuning Fork" charity sends a grateful thanks

to Withington Hospital for their donation of hearing aids and equipment to help their deaf members. she was very pleased to receive the Shakey Wakey alarm clocks which help members to get up for work.

Another exciting development is the increasing number of **foster families and adoptions of children from the orphanages.**



This photo shows Luba and Vladimir's family. They have had 5 children of their own and have fostered 30 other children. We are able to help them with funds from Bamford Chapel which were given to refurbish their kitchen. We have been invited back in September to see them and their new kitchen.



No visit to Belarus would be complete without going to the **Borisov Abandoned Babies Home** where Svetlana and her team do a wonderful job. Some of the children have been



adopted but more are arriving in care as the economic situation worsens. We continue to purchase tights, shoes and other necessities with the kind donations from our supporters. Also in Borisov we were able to see Vera and Vasily and their adopted family.

Although already Grandparents, they continue to foster children aged 10 and over, and provide a loving and caring home. Anatoly and Elena from **Wolozin** are about to have their dream fulfilled as they prepare to move to a larger house in Minsk. This means that they will be able to foster 10 additional children. In September we hope to visit them in the new house. Sadly, Zork the cow developed mastitis and was slaughter for meat. However, Victor's cow has had a calf called Borka - a male which will be fattened for meat, but they are hoping for a female next time to pass on to another village.



Families are becoming an increasing part of our work. In Vitebsk, we met Nina, her daughter Anya who is 19 and has severe disabilities and Anfisa who is 5 years old. Nina desperately struggles to keep her family together - working all night and caring for Anya and Anfisa during the day. She exists on very little sleep. During our stay, we visited the babushkas and dedushkas who are on the support scheme.

A big thank you to First Play Dietary Foods and Gluten Free Foods for their continued support for Lisa who has PKU

For these people, the support is a lifeline to supplement their small pensions to buy food and medicines, so thank you to everyone who supports this.

**The Babushka/Dedushka Support Scheme** is growing thanks to the donations of sponsors. If anyone wishes to become a sponsor then please contact us for information about the scheme and making a monthly donation by standing order.



We have a new venture with older people. In the small hamlet of **Gora**, Alena provides food parcels for alone old people and so we plan to work with her and develop a support network here. The photo shows Alena with Tanya, a babushka, whose extreme poverty is cause for concern and she is one of the people we are hoping to help. In **Logojsk** we met Tamara who runs the Society for Blind and Partially Sighted People where there is a need for support, particularly amongst older people. Also in Logojsk we met the 2 Andrejs, both of whom have been paralysed from the waist down due to road traffic accidents. They are largely bed-ridden as they need lightweight wheelchairs to get around. They both have upper body strength to use such wheelchairs and these would make a massive improvement in their quality of life.



It gave us great pleasure to hand over the £500 raised by **Werneth Concert Band** for the Palette Therapy Group. This is a group of people with mental health problems who really value the opportunities they have through

This newsletter is sponsored by our good friends John and Joyce Glynn and Doreen Halliwell. The cost, including postage, is about 35p. If you would like to help, please contact the charity.

the workshops at the Pervomaiski Social Services Centre. The photo was taken during a visit to an art therapy session.



**Leninski Social Services Centre** provides day care for people with learning disabilities. Here they learn life skills and do craft work. Through the generosity of Bamford and Norden Chapels we are able to fund a modern training kitchen. Here



Tanya, who runs the centre, is receiving the donation from Carol, a charity trustee. They gave us some wooden angels to sell in the UK to

raise funds for materials for their craftwork.

We were so delighted to find that when we visited **Valya**, the government had built an impressive ramp to her ground floor flat. She is now able to get out much more easily and without relying on someone else. The adaptations to her flat are progressing well. Her wheelchair is getting old and she needs an electric one, but these are not available in Belarus yet.

**Finally**, thanks to Bamford Chapel providing a training kitchen for the Zhdanovichi School for the deaf, every school leaver will now earn a "licence" to work in a commercial kitchen, making it much easier for them to gain employment. The school aims for each child to leave school feeling normal. Getting a job is a brilliant start and one boy has already secured a job for himself in a commercial kitchen.

**Thanks to everyone for your Support**

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