





IREX/ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIAN ORPHANS (ARO) PROGRAM



Child Welfare Workshop in Tomsk

From October 1-9, ARO Educational Consultant Dr. Eileen Lally and Head of the ARO Expert Consulting Group Antonina Shepina visited social welfare organizations and conducted the final in a series of workshops on professional skills for child welfare workers in Tomsk.

During their stay, the ARO representatives had the opportunity to accompany workers from the local NGO *Kristall* on visits to disadvantaged families in the nearby town of Bogashchevo. Dr. Eileen Lally and Antonina Shepina also met with the group of social workers from the Tomsk region that will conduct social work trainings on casework, case management, and early intervention. The six members of the group who volunteered to conduct the initial trainings in four regions presented their materials to the group in a mock training session and finalized the curriculum for the first training in November.



Dr. Eileen Lally and Yvonne Chase (seated in front) with the group of Tomsk child welfare workers

Summary:

In October, the ARO team conducted educational study tours to Barnaul and Tomsk for child welfare specialists and government representatives.

ARO expert consultants conducted the last in a series of child welfare workshops for the *New Development Charity Foundation* in Tomsk, which will begin training other specialists in case management and supervision starting in November.

The Child Helpline Program, which seeks to provide quality emergency psychological assistance to children and adolescents in crisis, released a new publication devoted to the organization of helpline services.

The Second Annual Child Helpline Conference was conducted in October and enjoyed attendance by representatives from throughout Russia and abroad.

Finally, ARO representatives continued negotiations with regional partners regarding individual packages of child abandonment prevention services and their financing.



Activities • Activities

On October 4, Dr. Lally was joined in Tomsk by her colleague Yvonne Chase as part of the University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA) ongoing commitment to the ARO Program. Yvonne Chase, who currently serves as the president and CEO of Denali Family Services and adjunct instructor at the UAA School of Social Work, gave two presentations to 25 Tomsk specialists on early intervention and case management. Following the presentation, Dr. Lally and Yvonne Chase met with former participants in UAA study tours organized in cooperation with ARO to discuss the impact the experience had on their work and to listen to their recommendations for improvement.

The Novosibirsk representatives received valuable information from their colleagues in Barnaul, including sample PR and advertising materials, instructions on drafting legal documents and reports, statistical information, methodological recommendations, work plans, and information on how to properly code calls. The helpline consultants in Baurnaul discussed their visitors' questions at length, which helped the Novosibirsk representatives fully grasp the importance of emergency helpline services and the steps necessary to create them, including the need for state financing and support.

New Child Helpline Publication



The latest NFPCC publication devoted to child helpline services in Pussia

On October 24, the National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC) published a new book entitled Child Helpline Activity in Russia: Principles, Standards, and Practice as part of its series of publications on child abandonment prevention. The book is intended to provide child helpline specialists with vital information on how to best organize helpline services and methods to provide quality counseling

to at-risk youth by telephone. Many of the materials included are being published in Russian for the first time. This book will be of particular interest to practicing psychologists interested in children and family issues, specialists from state social welfare agencies, and helpline consultants and managers seeking to improve the efficacy of their work.

Helpline Study Tour to Barnaul

On October 19, six representatives from Novosibirsk traveled to the city of Barnaul in the Altai Krai to participate in a study tour on telephone helplines. The study tour group, which included government representatives and the manager of a future helpline for at-risk children and adolescents, visited two organizations that currently provide emergency psychological assistance by telephone in Barnaul: the *Regional Crisis Center for Men* and the *Regional Crisis Center for Women*.

Second Annual Child Helpline Conference

On October 25-27, the Second Annual Child Helpline Conference entitled "Psychological Assistance to Children" was held in Moscow. Organized by ARO's key implementing partner the National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC) in cooperation with the Institute of Existential Psychology and Creativity, the conference brought together over 120 people representing 60 helpline services, including helpline managers and consultants, practicing psychologists, social workers, psychotherapists, guidance counselors, teachers, and researchers from 24 regions of the Russian Federation.



Participants during a lecture at the Child Helpline Conference in Moscow

Other esteemed guests included representatives from helpline services in Ukraine and Estonia, as well as *Child Helpline International Coordinator* Thomas Mueller from the Netherlands and Director of Communications at *Children's Right in Society* Martin Höög from Sweden. Conference attendees presented papers and participated in master classes, lectures, and discussion groups conducted by leading Russian experts in the field of existential psychology and child psychology.



During the conference the Child Helpline Association was created, which will unite helpline services across the Russian Federation and facilitate ongoing exchange of information and professional experience. The association will also introduce standards of practice for use in work with at-risk children and adolescents. In addition, the conference participants agreed to begin collecting national statistics on calls made to helplines in Russia starting in January 2008 to present in Russia and internationally. By identifying risk factors at the earliest stages possible, child helplines are able to provide assistance when it is most needed and protect children's rights.

After-School Activity Study Tour to Tomsk

Director of Novosibirsk School #94 Tatyana Karpatovskaya and Deputy Director of School #94 Svetlana Ekimova took part in an ARO study tour to Tomsk on October 31. The representatives, who are in the process of organizing after-school activities for children at risk of child abandonment, observed similar services already in place at Tomsk School #49 and the Mirnenskaya School in the village of Mirniy outside of Tomsk

The after-school activities developed by ARO provide at-risk children from troubled and disadvantaged families with positive adult role models and a safe environment to come to for help with their schoolwork and counseling. Children who attend these programs also have the opportunity to learn valuable life skills and participate in entertaining activities and excursions.

The Novosibirsk representatives met with the managers of after-school activity programs in Tomsk to discuss how to effectively organize such programs and what challenges to expect. ARO Consultant on Social Project Planning Tatyana Voronina met with the study tour participants at the close of their trip to help them fine-tune their project.







Upcoming Activities:

November 5-11 (Novosibirsk):

Educational seminar on family intervention services and casework conducted by Sergey Borzov.

November 6 (Novosibirsk):

Project seminar on the introduction of child abandonment prevention mechanisms conducted by Dmitry Grigor'ev.

November 7 (Novosibirsk):

Educational seminar for social project planning consultants on creating conditions for the introduction of child abandonment prevention models conducted by Dmitry Grigor'ev.

November 8 (St. Petersburg):

Recreational HIV prevention activity for students from five vocational schools

November 9 (St. Petersburg):

Second seminar for city and district level education administrators on planning and evaluating HIV prevention programs at St. Petersburg State University.

November 15 (Barnaul):

Seminar on family intervention services conducted by Irina Alekseeva.

November 27-29 (Tambov):

Project seminar on creating helpline services for children and adolescents in crisis.

November 27-29 (Tambov):

Project seminar on implementing early intervention services conducted by Dmitry Grigor'ev.

