



MiraMed Institute

Providing direct humanitarian aid, education and training for displaced and orphaned children and prevention of sexual trafficking from Russia

A Non-Governmental Organization with SPECIAL Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

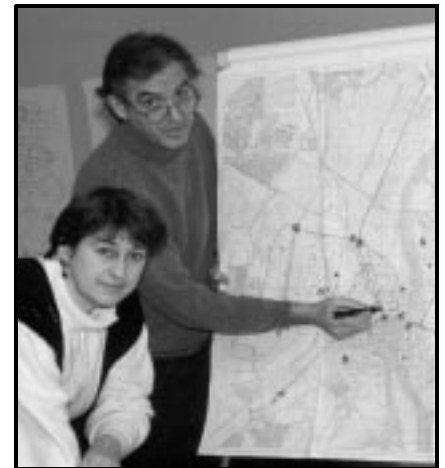
Trafficking prevention program expands with continued U.S. State Dept. support - victim rescued

MiraMed's successful year long training program in six different Russian oblasts to educate local nonprofit organizations, government agencies and others about the alarming criminal sexual trade of young girls and women from Russia and the newly independent states has resulted in new funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to expand its program. As part of this training, MiraMed helped form an independent anti-trafficking organization, "The Angel Coalition", who will be mounting, with our help, Russia's first multi-media campaign next Spring.

The new program began this fall with a two week international conference in Moscow introducing new "Angel Coalition" members to those who have already been trained and to hear and meet with senior representatives from major international organizations such as the International Office of Migration (IOM), the EU (European Union) UNICEF, etc. as well as Russian Duma (Congress) and foreign government embassy officials.

More than 60 women participated in the conference, including representatives from US anti trafficking organizations and six different republics. (In our Summer 2000 Newsletter, we wrote a report about trafficking in Tadjikistan and with support from this new grant, we were able to include representatives of MODAR, the Tadjik women's organization spearheading the fight against trafficking in this country).

A dramatic event happened during the first week of the conference when MiraMed founder Dr. Juliette Engel, received an emergency call from an Angel Coalition member in Chelaybinsk, Russia who had just been called by a frantic mother whose daughter had



MiraMed program director Robert Aronson with a member of the Angel Coalition in Veliki Novgorod (500 km from Moscow) review the action plan for volunteers for distributing posters and other anti-trafficking campaign materials.

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MiraMed Moscow Center celebrates its 100th student



(Above) MILSAC staff and volunteers, Summer 2000



(Right) MILSAC director, Eric Batsie and students

In June, a Moscow center where orphans and orphan graduates could come to learn the skills they need to re-enter society was just a dream—and now, just six months later, the MiraMed Independent Living and Social Adaptation Center (MILSAC) has celebrated its 100th student! Under the leadership of its Director Eric Batsie, the MILSAC staff has grown to a full time complement of four social workers and psychologists, three teachers and a part time staff of orphanage graduate interns. Young adults ages 17-23 are now "in class" six days a week from 1-9PM.

"It's really been exciting," Batsie says, "seeing these kids come in so eager to participate in what we have to offer. Some of them are in really tough shape—thrown out of their school or their apartment, no place to go, in trouble and desperate. Luckily, they had friends already

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MILSAC continued...

at MILSAC who brought them here....so we could help. As orphans, they are so used to getting stepped on that when they are treated really badly, they just accept it. We've helped several kids get back into school and find housing and now we're starting to help those who are ready find decent jobs." (A profile of a MILSAC student is enclosed.)

In addition to getting one-on-one counseling support, all MILSAC students are enrolled in a professionally designed and developed year-long curriculum that covers the most important aspects of learning how to re-enter society after a childhood spent institutionalized. Classes include everything from responsible social and personal behavior, health and safety, legal rights, etc. to practical "how-to's"—shopping, using money, public transportation, finding and holding a job and more.

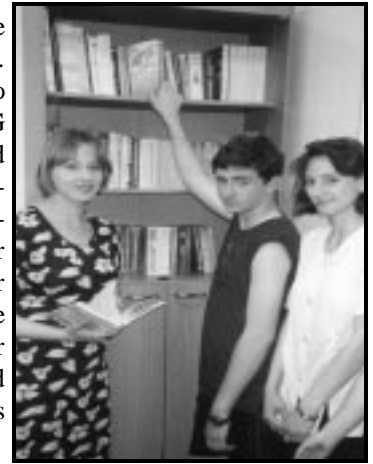
Although still in its infancy, MILSAC's reputation is making a big impression on Moscow governmental agencies responsible for social support of young adults. "There is a steady stream of officials coming to observe our program, examine our curriculum and encourage us to expand what we are doing as quickly as possible," Batsie reports.

MiraMed has also reached out to the private sector for support. There are hundreds of American companies doing business in Russia and many are members of the



Part of attaining independent living skills involves learning how to budget, shop and prepare nutritious meals for a household. MILSAC students enjoy the results of their efforts.

American Chamber of Commerce in Moscow (AmCham). MiraMed's membership fee into AmCham was sponsored by AIG Insurance, which has also donated used computers and volunteer executive time. Promises of job internships have come from other AmCham members and major Moscow hotels such as the Baltchug Kempinski and Aerostar have donated meeting space and lunches to introduce the business community to MiraMed's work.



MILSAC students have access to a reference library on all aspects of health and social adaptation as well as books required for study. The library was donated by Friends.



As part of job training, preparation, MiraMed staffer Olga Alexandrovich teaches classes in Russian grammar and introductory English..

At a recent meeting with volunteers, MiraMed founder Dr. Juliette Engel said "...the MILSAC program is a shining example of making a difference one child at a time. Almost ten years ago we began by providing humanitarian aid to help stabilize the orphanages we work with; then expanded our program to include education and training in these orphan-

ages-- to give these kids a chance to fulfill their potential. Now, we've added a crucial program to make sure they don't fall into the cracks after they leave their orphanage. Helping these kids re-integrate into society, continue their education and/or find decent work is the best way we can help make sure they don't turn to a life of crime or become easy prey for traffickers and others who pick up kids like these."



The complex social, emotional and legal problems facing Russian orphans keep MILSAC counselors hard at work.

Summer 2000 Volunteer Report



Tom Conroy, a sociologist from New York, takes a break with Sasha and Dima during Festival Day at Svir Stroi Orphanage

For the fourth consecutive year, MiraMed's Summer Volunteer program again brought joy and learning to hundreds of children. In Svir Stroi, Sr. Helen O'Leary (Sisters of Charity) and Rosalia Rozsahegy, a registered art therapist were joined by Robert Aronson, MiraMed program director, for a summer of art, English and fun. Art classes were taught twice each day, with a special "Studio" class offered in the evening. Sr. Helen taught three English classes each day. The highlight of the summer was a site visit by MiraMed UN representative Dr. Anele Heiges, staff and friends of The United Methodist Church's Board of Global Ministries program (which provides financial support to meaningful social programs around the world, including MiraMed). To celebrate this event, a Festival was held to include the team members in face painting, a "hide and go seek" game where the children received an English word list of familiar objects and then had to find them, a Frisbee contest and songs.

Another highlight of the Svir Stroi summer were first time ever all day trips to St. Petersburg, where 45 children toured this magnificent city and enjoyed a sit down meal at a local pizza restaurant. In Uglich, the Uglich Orphanage Crafts Booth, filled with orphan created hand made dolls and other crafts was a great success, generating over \$1000 in revenue for Uglich Orphanage (which went to build a new banya/shower and make other improvements at their summer camp). In addition to providing training and income to more than a dozen children who created the booth items, three older orphanage children were employed for the entire summer, operating the booth under the direction of MiraMed Uglich Coordinator Vlad Suprunov and MiraMed-sponsored Peace Corps volunteer Eric Schempp. Using donated computers, the children maintained inventory control and accounting records. Two other former MiraMed summer volunteers, David Tagliani and Nick Hindman, who now spend many months of the year living in Russia, continued their special projects for Uglich Orphanage. And in Moscow, returning volunteer Tony Collis, PhD, head of Antioch University's graduate program in psychology (Seattle, WA. Campus), worked at MILSAC helping train professional staff and served as a mentor to two Svir Stroi orphan graduates who were employed as summer interns at MILSAC in Moscow.



Ann Unander, Executive Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, and Rosa, a Svir Stroi orphan, admire their handiwork.

Anti- trafficking programs continued....



MiraMed directs the Ratatouille Puppet Theatre of Nizhni Novgorod in creating the Angel Coalition's first anti-trafficking TV commercial featuring a "trafficker" trying to "catch" a young girl.



just escaped from traffickers who had sold her to a brothel in Nicosia, Cyprus where she had been beaten, starved and raped. Her mother had seen an Angel Coalition hot line phone number the day earlier in a local newspaper and called for help. Working with a member of the St. Petersburg, Russia chapter of Soroptimists International who was attending the conference, the IOM and the Russian embassy in Cyprus, we were able to complete this rescue and secure safe passage to bring her to Moscow to re-unite with her family!



MiraMed Institute

“making a difference...one child at a time”



Report from founding director, Dr. Juliette M. Engel

It has taken me a decade of firsthand experience working with institutionalized and abandoned children in Russia and the republics of the former Soviet Union to even begin to comprehend the enormity of problems facing children who are raised in Russian orphanages. Currently, there are over 650,000 institutionalized children within the Russian Federation alone. These children are born with all the talent, potential and intelligence of any child. Their eyes are bright, their hearts are open and their minds are eager for knowledge about the world. But what comes into their open souls is darkness, neglect, beatings and a system of care which focuses on meeting only their most basic physical needs — while neglecting to *teach* these children how to meet these needs themselves.

Something must be done and done quickly! Very close to 10% of Russian children of school age are abandoned and living in institutions. The economic and social situation deteriorates in the former Soviet Union is still fragile. Tens of thousands more children are abandoned and orphaned each year while government funding for their basic level of care continues to diminish.

Only a handful of organizations are working to help these children and one of them is MiraMed Institute. Our only source of support for aid to these children is through grants and donations. *Your gift keeps hope alive.* Thank you for continuing making a differenceone child at a time!



Your donations helped these Uglich Orphanage girls learn to design and sew beautiful traditional costumes.

I will help. Please use my gift to help continue MiraMed’s programs of direct humanitarian aid, education and training and prevention of sexual trafficking.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____.

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Street Address _____

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Please circle the credit card you wish to use: MasterCard VISA

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MiraMed Institute is a registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt public charity. All contributions will be acknowledged.

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