

MiraMed Institute



Annual Report 2003



MiraMed Institute

2003

January 1, 2004

Program Reports

| | |
|--|---|
| Letter from Director | 1 |
| Support for teen-aged mothers | 2 |
| Centers for Social Acaptation | 2 |
| Rehabilitation protocols for trafficking survivors | 3 |
| Trafficking Victim Assistance Center | 3 |
| Emergency repairs for Svir Stroi Orphanage | 4 |
| Social action theater in Volga Region | 4 |
| Public information campaigns in Russia and Romania | 5 |
| Computers for St. Petersburg orphans | 5 |
| Major grants and sponsors | 6 |

Cover artwork
"Rooster on the
Kremlin" by Alesha
K.—age 12, an or-
phan from Nizhni
Novgorod.

Dear Colleagues, Sponsors, Friends!

2003 has been a year of unprecedented growth for MiraMed Institute and its Russian NGO partners. This was the first year that MiraMed received multi-year funding for both its anti-trafficking programs and social protection programs for orphans and other at-risk populations. A grant from the United States Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) enabled us to start Russia's first Trafficking Victim Assistance Center in Moscow and open five regional safe house programs to aid repatriated trafficking survivors. Our second government grant came from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In partnership with "Theatre for a Change", Russia's first social action theatre, MiraMed will create an in-school theatre project aimed at increasing tolerance and understanding of at-risk, marginalized segments of Russian society (orphans, the disabled, refugees, etc.) and develop an Advocacy Network of NGO's representing these groups. This innovative project will begin in January, 2004.



Other 2003 milestones saw a growth in support and recognition for MiraMed's Center for Independent Living and Social Adaptation, which was finally granted a permanent home in a city-owned building. This will give us enough room to grow and to fulfill our program mandate. Our "Single Mother's" program at the Tsaritsyno Center was named a model program by the Mayor of Moscow and featured at a city-wide presentation of exemplary social programs. Its success has resulted in new funding from World Childhood Foundation to begin a second "Single Mother;s" program at the Kolomenskoe Community Center in Moscow. MiraMed's reputation for effective programming has also been recognized by other city agencies as well. The professional staff now serves as a permanent advisors to the Moscow City Duma Commission on Preventing Child Prostitution, Trafficking and Pornography—working with committed Duma Deputies to reduce the exploitation of Russian women and children in Moscow. "Women and Children First" staff (founded as a Russian NGO by MiraMed in 2001) also serve as advisors, to the Committee of Social Protection in Moscow, and have been building their independent funding base from a variety of Moscow-based companies and international foundations.

2003 was also a year of significant accomplishment for the "Angel Coalition", Russia's first anti-trafficking NGO founded by MiraMed founded in 1999. This summer, the Angel Coalition staff assisted CNN in the production of its first anti-trafficking special which aired on the CNN International program "Insight", appeared as expert commentators on national Russian TV and radio and were increasingly called upon by Russian and Western European media to participate in their anti-trafficking reports. Angel Coalition staff also serve on the Legislative Committee of the Russian State Parliament. Earlier this year, the Angel Coalition received its first significant European grant, from the Swedish International Development Agency, to do regional training of government and law enforcement; as well as a grant from the City of Moscow to produce the anti-trafficking play "Let's Go to Paris" in Moscow orphanages and schools.

Although our prominence at national and international levels has grown enormously, our program approach and focus remains "hands-on". MiraMed is all about delivering services *directly*—to orphans, young single moms and their infants, to babushkas and to Russian NGO's who also work with these at-risk, marginalized groups. We remain committed to our roots, to soliciting daily input from the hundreds of constituents served by our programs. Without the committed support of our colleagues, sponsors, donors and friends who have believed in MiraMed and its mission throughout the years and worked side-by-side with us to keep the dream alive, none of this could have happened. I hope you are all very proud of what we have accomplished this year – making a difference in the world one child at a time.

Juliette M. Engel, MD



600 children from our programs, local orphanages and internats and families came together to celebrate the International Day of the Child in Moscow.

MiraMed provides intensive life skills and social adaptation for 650 orphans at a cost of just \$200 per year per student.



The MiraMed Center has finally found a permanent home at the Blago Center, a former hospital in a gated compound in the VDNH region of Moscow.

Support from the World Childhood Foundation provides expanded community services for teenaged mothers and their babies in Moscow

After a successful first year that saw the program at Tsaritsyno Community Center enroll 50 young single mothers (under 21) and their babies, the World Childhood Foundation approved funding in July 2003 for the expansion of our Young Single Mother's program to serve another 50 young mothers at a second community center in Moscow at Kolomenskoe. This year 100 moms and 100 babies participated in a program of medical care, counseling, parenthood training, mentoring by the "Babushka Brigade" - the seniors who participate in the program by providing advice, babysitting, piroshkis and love -- and direct food-aid from the City of Moscow with additional support from international businesses in this city. Furnishings and brightly colored toys were donated by IKEA.

This program is under the very capable direction of Natasha Novikova who has done an excellent job of building community relations in the Southern Moscow region. This includes partnerships with the Tsaritsyno Monastery and the city of Moscow - a success story that received considerable press in Moscow when the Vice-Mayor came to visit the project to declare it "a model of successful cooperation". One of this year's many highlights was one-year anniversary celebration on the International Day of the Child where more than 600 children and many families came to enjoy a MiraMed-sponsored festival of clowns, theatre, healthy food, pony rides and games with prizes for all participants.

In September, our Young Mother's Program became the *first* official NGO/City of Moscow partnership program in Moscow with much press and fanfare. Although a common occurrence in other countries, this is a very rare in Russia and demonstrates unequivocally the level of popularity and support this program enjoys in this city.

MiraMed Centers for Independent Living and Social Adaptation complete third year in partnership with "Women and Children First"

After outgrowing three former spaces, the MiraMed Center for Independent Living and Social Adaptation in Moscow finally found a permanent home this summer. It's the "Blago Center," a restored three-story former hospital in a gated compound about 45 minutes from the city center in the VDNH region. The Blago Center has plenty of classroom and counseling space, a full kitchen, a sports hall, art and music rooms and many other facilities that will significantly enrich our program in the years to come.

Other milestones for the program this year included a grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb to publish HIV/AIDS prevention material for orphans and our first grant from United Way in Russia to pay for printing curriculum workbooks. (In order to attract funding from Russian charitable organizations and Russian companies for our Center program, MiraMed created a separate Russian non-governmental organization called "Women and Children First").

Our new headquarters has also enabled us to recruit new volunteers to participate in classes and field trips and encourage increased corporate and private donations (like an excellent piano and a new stove for our kitchen) to keep pace with our expanded programs.

After nine months of intensive editing and group effort, the Center published its long-awaited 108 page, pocket-sized "Moscow Youth Survival Guide". This project was funded by the World Bank with support from Bristol-Myers Squibb and World Childhood Foundation. The Guide is a first-of-its-kind compendium that contains essential information on how to cope in Moscow if you are an emancipated orphan. It's packed with practical information such as emergency phone numbers, places to get help with education, legal and human rights issues, how to pay bills, avoid difficulties with police, medical information, nutrition, and more. Printed in full color with a laminated cover for extra durability, this landmark resource book features brightly colored illustrations and will serve as an indispensable resource guide for the kids who need it most!

The Center will celebrate its 5th anniversary in 2004. We now work with 300 Moscow area orphans, 200 at our sister program in St. Petersburg and 50 in Uglich. Our materials are also being used by a program in Perm (50) and this past fall, we initiated a new program at Ryazan Orphanage (50). In less than five years, we have gone from working with 4 orphans to 650 15-23 year-olds who will be learning the life skills they need to become part of Russia's promising future.

MiraMed/Russian NGO partners create Health and Rehabilitation Protocols with support from Bristol-Myers Squibb and US Department of State

This year five of MiraMed's Russian NGO partners received sub grants to open safe houses for trafficking victims in their respective regions. In order to develop a "best practices" specific Russian protocol for safe house operation and rehabilitation procedures, MiraMed and partner staff visited operating safe houses in Europe that are already working with Russian trafficking survivors. Site visits were made to Moldova, Lithuania, Ukraine, France, Italy, Spain, Albania, Bulgaria and Montenegro. Each team consisted of two direct victim assistance care-givers who filled out an extensive, 25-page questionnaire on all aspects of safe house operations. The team also interviewed staff and community stakeholders including government representatives, militia and other NGOs.

Following these site visits, all of the participants presented their research to MiraMed's Victim Assistance Center staff who compiled completed questionnaires and additional printed materials, examples of contracts, intake interview forms, police report forms and other useful materials into a working compendium of materials for review during the scheduled protocol writing session. The five-day protocol writing session was held for 24 participants, including safe house staff, government representatives from the Ministries of Labor and Interior and representatives from the State and City Dumas.

This working group developed the first working draft protocol for victim assistance in Russia. During this intensive session, site visit data was shared with the group and discussed by participants. The protocol writing team of 20 Russian safe house staffers and 4 government officials then broke into specialty sub-groups which included the fields of psychology, law, medicine, public health, law enforcement and security, to discuss their evaluations and applicability as a "best practice" in Russia. At the completion of the session, all of the materials were duplicated and the first draft protocol was printed and distributed to all participants including government agencies. The final protocol will be adapted for use in the Russian Federation wherever possible.

Grant from US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Office funds Victim Assistance Center and network of safe houses

In June 2003, MiraMed Institute in partnership with the Russian NGO The Angel Coalition, opened the Moscow Trafficking Victim Assistance Center (TVAC) with funding from the US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP). The new grant is for 3 years and enables both MiraMed and the Angel Coalition to expand its staff and services for repatriating trafficking victims as well as to set up a system of nine regional safe house programs in eight different regions of Russia.

The TVAC has a full time staff of four as well as graduate level interns from Tajikistan, Russia, the United States, Sweden and Britain. Oleg Kouzbit serves as Director of the Victim Assistance Center; Elena Yurova, a Boston University MPH graduate, is the Public Health Director, Afsona Kadyrova, a Moscow law school graduate is the Legal Consultant and Marianna Solomatova is TVAC's Governmental Liaison and member of the Duma Legislative Working Group.

This young, dynamic team has already traveled to major European cities to gather data and worked with non-governmental partners in Kazan, St. Petersburg, Murmansk and Petrozavodsk to set up safe houses in these cities. Although just a few months old, the Victim Assistance Center has also begun direct assistance by meeting survivors at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport to facilitate their return home or to a safe house. During 2003, the TVAC assisted in 60 documented cases of trafficking.

In May, the Angel Coalition organized a "Legislative Lobbying" conference funded by the government of The Netherlands which provided legislative lobbying training to 32 members of the Angel Coalition from 15 regions of Russia. At the May conference, Angel Coalition members developed a strategic plan for regional and national lobbying in support of pending anti-trafficking legislation.

In September 2003, MiraMed Institute and the Angel Coalition received a grant from the Swedish International Development Agency to provide technical assistance for a public education anti-trafficking program in Murmansk, which is on the border of Norway and is a major trafficking route into Scandinavia.



The directors of Russia's first network of safe houses for trafficking victims participated in an international protocol writing sessions after visiting European safe houses this year.

**MiraMed
Institute in
partnership
with the Angel
Coalition opens
Russia's first
Trafficking
Victim
Assistance
Center**



Angel Coalition members developed a strategic plan for lobbying in support of pending anti-trafficking legislation in Russia.



The Svir Stroi remodel included everything from new walls, heaters, pipes, windows, paint, plaster and a completely new kitchen which is now producing 200 meals 3 times a day plus snacks.

Svir Stroi Orphanage, severely damaged last winter, finally completes emergency repairs

During brutal -40C weather of winter 2002, Svir Stroi's orphanage, one of the first orphanages MiraMed began working with in the early 1990's, suffered such severe damage that all 103 children had to be evacuated to a nearby school. The cost of repairs to fix burst pipes, twisted window frames, ruined walls, a wrecked kitchen and more was \$60,000. This is a king's ransom in Russia and the local oblast (county) simply could not afford it. The orphanage was told only \$35,000 could be spent to fix major damage. This would have left all the interior sleeping and common spaces a disaster. The director, Ivan Nikolaivitch, contacted MiraMed with an urgent appeal and within 1 month we helped to raise \$25,000 to enable the orphanage to be completely restored.

Major donations came from the Russian Children's Welfare Society in New York, individual donors at United Way in Russia, from the Buckner Foundation in Texas and Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA) in the US. MiraMed staff, together with Russian summer program volunteers from 2002, made several site visits to the orphanage during the ordeal to visit the children, meet with the director and staff and to document repairs.

Although all of the children had to endure living 30 or more to a room at the local school for almost 9 months (suffering a quarantine due to a hepatitis outbreak) they now have a completely restored orphanage thanks to the generosity of people who cared.

**MiraMed's
extensive
experience
helping Russian
NGOs build
their capacity
creates strong,
independent
partnerships**

MiraMed Institute awarded its first United States Agency for International Development grant to produce social action theater and establish an advocacy network in the Volga Federal District, Russia

In 2001, in cooperation with "Theatre for a Change," a new theatre company made up of former stars of the internationally acclaimed Gorky Puppet Theatre, MiraMed Institute created an in-school anti-trafficking play called "Let's go to Paris". The results were so successful that the two organizations applied for a grant from USAID to support a new series of in-school plays with a focus on "incorporating values and tolerance". Almost 100 proposals were received and only 11 were funded—and ours was "in the top two". The three-year grant will combine the masterful talents of "Theater for a Change" puppeteers and MiraMed's extensive capacity-building and training expertise.

The project has two goals: First, a series of in-school plays and teachers' guides will be developed to help thousands of ninth grade students in the Volga Federal Region understand their own and society's intolerance towards orphans, refugees, the disabled and people with HIV/AIDS. Second, an Advocacy Network of NGO's in the region will be established in order to become a stronger voice for the disenfranchised to work with civic and governmental authorities for improved social policies and programs.



"Let's go to Paris" was shown to classes of 15 year old girls in Nizhni Novgorod middle schools. Input from the students helped shape the design of the USAID grant proposal.



Anti-trafficking public information campaigns conducted in Iasi, Romania and Murmansk, Russia

This summer, MiraMed staff traveled to Iasi, Romania, on the border of Moldova, and to Murmansk, Russia, north of the Arctic Circle, to help NGO coalitions in these regions design their first anti-trafficking campaigns. In addition to conducting intensive training workshops involving media and campaign participants, Robert Aronson, Vlad Suprunov, Marianna Solomatova and Elena Yurova visited local NGO's to teach them how to establish local grass roots networks.

The campaign in Murmansk was funded by SIDA, the Swedish International Development Agency and the Iasi campaign was funded by World Learning. In Murmansk, Valentina Shelkova, the head of an NGO in Yaroslavl that participated in MiraMed's 2001 six-region Russia anti-trafficking campaign, was also brought in to share her experience with the group. Each campaign was launched in the Fall with great energy and commitment.

Initial results have been strongly positive. In Iasi, for example, an anti-trafficking concert drew 3000 young adults and was broadcast world wide on the internet, while in Murmansk, hundreds of calls were received by hotlines and media coverage has been extensive. The Swedish Nordic Network is conducting an ongoing survey of trafficking in the region that will become part of the TVAC Victim Assistance Database for Scandinavia.



Angel Coalition Director of Development, Marianna Solomatova, works with Russian volunteers conducting a Public Information Campaign in Murmansk in the North of Russia.

MiraMed works with "Computers for the World" to bring volunteers and computers to orphans in St. Petersburg

In spite of the construction difficulties in Svir Stroi which made it impossible to send summer volunteers to the orphanage site this year, we did capitalize on our record of volunteerism by arranging for Garfield High School students in Seattle to bring computers to an orphanage and orphanage school in St. Petersburg. "Computers for the World" was started by teachers and students at Garfield in collaboration with Rotarians and has sent teams all over the world for many years. Working with the original founder of the program, Kjell Rye, parents and teachers, we arranged for 15 computers to be brought to St. Petersburg during the summer vacation period.

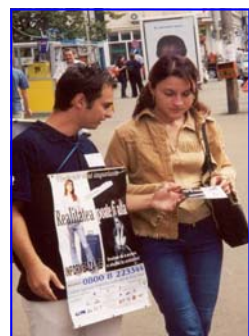
MiraMed made all of the arrangements for group housing and transportation in Russia and met the group when they arrived in St. Petersburg. After two weeks of hard work, both computer labs were set up and operational.

One of the orphanages we chose to receive computers sends their high-risk teenaged girls to our Center of Social Adaptation in St. Petersburg—a good example of how MiraMed builds upon its relationships to bring about positive changes in the lives of Russia's orphans.



Students and teachers from Garfield High School in Seattle work with students in St. Petersburg orphanages to set up two fully functional computer laboratories.

The Hon. John Miller, (left, standing) director of the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Person's Office visited Moscow for a three day fact-finding mission in September. In addition to meeting Russian officials, Mr. Miller met with Angel Coalition members and MiraMed staff to learn more about anti-trafficking activity in Russia.



Volunteers in Iasi, Romania, took to the streets to inform young women and girls how to avoid the dangers of international trafficking.

Major grants, donors and sponsors—2003



Moscow Youth Survival Guide, published in September 2003, is a unique, 108 page, pocket-sized resource for orphans and orphanage graduates containing a wealth of health, safety and survival information.



Anti-trafficking information booklet produced for the public information campaign against trafficking campaign in Iasi, Romania—a trafficking hot spot on the border with Moldova.

Major grants and donors

(An audited 2003 financial statement will be available April 1, 2004 and posted on our website)

United States Department of State,
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
IOM—International Organization of Migration
The Starr Foundation

World Childhood Foundation
The Bristol-Myers Squibb Health Foundation
The Anne and Charles Roos Advised Fund
The Taylor Fund
The Edmonds Dominican Sisters
The Adrian Dominican Sisters
Microsoft Matching Funds
International Women's Organization, Moscow
Oriflame of Sweden
Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA)
International Women's Organization, Moscow
General Board of Global Ministries
(United Methodists)
Sisters of Charity
Sisters of the Precious Blood
Virtuoso

Sponsors

AIG, Moscow
General Electric, Moscow
Pfizer, Moscow
Delta Credit Bank, Moscow
Emerald City Rotary, Seattle
Boeing Operations International, Moscow
LeBoef, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, L.L.P., Moscow
Carnegie Foundation, Moscow
SAS Radisson Hotel, St. Petersburg
American Chamber of Commerce, Moscow
Embassy of the United States, Moscow
Embassy of Switzerland, Moscow
Bristol-Myers Squibb, Moscow
World Bank, Washington DC - Moscow
IKEA, Moscow
ACTR, Moscow

(And special thanks to D-Graphics, Moscow for donating the printing of this 2003 Annual Report)



MIRAMED INSTITUTE
PMB 119
1900 WEST NICKERSON SUITE 116
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98119
TEL; 206-285-0518
FAX: 206-285-8216
PROGRAM@MIRAMED.ORG
WWW.MIRAMEDINSTITUTE.ORG