# ROOF-tops 



Newsletter of the Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund
March 2010

## PROVIDING SUPPORT AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORPHANED YOUTH IN RUSSIA

With thanks to St. Andrew's Anglican Church, the companies Campbell's, Clifford Chance, Cushman and Wakefield, Deloitte, Linklaters, Mercers, Minnesota Children's and Home Society, Nestle, Partners in Hope, Pfizer, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Raiffaizen Bank, Starbucks, St. Andrew Society of Russia, Tchibo, Troika Dialog, Vegas Lex, and numerous private sponsors for their help and support of our Education Center and ROOF's other programmes.

## An excursion to Serpukhov



Traditionally we celebrated the 8th of March with an excursion. We went to Serpukhov where we managed to visit the Prioksko-Terrasny Nature Reserve (12 kilometres from the town), Vvedenski Vladychny women's monastery and Vysotski men's monastery. The weather was wonderful. Our mood was great.
Our trip to Serpukhov brought us many great impressions. We fed true bisons and aurochs in the Nature Reserve with apples and carrots, rolled an ice-hill in Serpukhov, walked in monasteries' surroundings, enjoyed the view of the river Nara that divides the monasteries, went inside the monasteries' churches, had a monastery dinner at the women's monastery, and visited public liturgies in both monasteries.
Thanks to our guides, we learnt many new things about the Nature Reserve, the peculiarities of animals and birds living there, about the history of the town of Serpukhov, and about Vvedenski Vladychny women's monastery and Vysotski men's monastery.

Late evening, tired but very happy, we came back to Moscow.

## ROOF's EDUCATION CENTRE STUDENTS ROOF's Group 12

ROOF's Group 12 was created to help students who study at a higher level at schools, at colleges, technical institutions, are preparing to enter or study at universities. The teachers usually work with the students from this group individually. These young people are highly motivated and or-ganized- they know what they want. It wasn't easy for these students to enter higher institutions, and they had to make great sacrifices to achieve this. They are all in the workplace, so they could get ready for their entrance exams only when they had free time.
The example of these young people is very important for other ROOF's students. The existence of this group shows that our children are able to receive a full value education.

## Polina Bykonya

Polina came to ROOF's EC in September 2003. In 2008 she graduated from the 11th grade and entered University. Today Polina is a 2nd year student at RSSU, the Department of Journalism. She works as a courier.
"ROOF has become my first home. I stay very little in my flat and always come to ROOF instead. ROOF has the most understanding and wonderful teachers. They are true professionals. It is quite difficult to work with such children as
 us, but they love both us and their work. They become our true friends, help us in life, become our backbone, our support, give us their love. I was studying at ROOF for 4 years. During this time my outlook changed. I get on easier with people. I've received new knowledge. I've found true friends. I know that any moment I can come to ROOF and ask for help and they will never say no. I still keep coming there, receiving new knowledge, get ready for my exams, or just talk and drink tea. I enjoy being there. The most important thing is that children trust them, and this is very important. I've been staying at the orphanage for 10 years, and I still don't love the orphanage, and never go there for help. This shows a lot.
ROOF is a big family. I love this family, They made me a true personality. I believe that I'll grow professionally and will help my family, just as many children help their mother and father."

Gennady Gagin


Gena came to ROOF's EC in September 2003. In June 2009 he graduated from the $9^{\text {th }}$ grade and entered the Department of Law at the College at IWEI. He works at Starbucks.
"ROOF gives children a chance to receive education and go further. ROOF never leaves the children. When they make a first step it always helps them to go to the very end. There are many educational centres and evening schools, but ROOF is the only place which is completely different. ROOF has its own way of working with students so that they do not feel uncomfortable. At ROOF, groups have 10 students each and a professional teacher who will think everything over and allow everyone their say. No one does this at other educational institutions. ROOF is a very special place.
When I first came to ROOF, it was very difficult for me to study here. I attended classes at the college, at the orphanage and at ROOF simultaneously, but I understood that ROOF was much more important than anything else. I knew that ROOF is the only place where I can become a true man and get a start in life. I've already graduated from ROOF but I keep coming here quite often.
ROOF gives a person an opportunity to find himself in this life, to choose the right way, to receive an education and go straight to achieving one's aims. I'm proud that there is a place for ROOF in my heart."

## Notebooks from Deloitte

On 3rd March ROOF's Education Centre students were rewarded with the notebooks, donated to us by Deloitte. The representative from Deloitte, Vitalij Farafonov, had personally presented the computers to our children.
The notebooks were given to the students who had participated at the renewal carried out by the Deloitte staff at ROOF's EC in October 2009, and also to those who always help and support ROOF during various events: Ivan Lobov, Denis Makarov, Mikhail Sokolovskiy, Vikentiy Ekimov, Gennadiy Gagin, Maksim Mironov, Dmitriy Rostovskiy, Aleksandr Richards, Nikolay Kupriyanov, Sergey Smirnov, Polina Bykonya, Kristina Asmalova, Ainur Akhmedova, Aleksandr Chasovnikov, Ilya Shimanchik, Natalya Spasskaya, Vladimir Spigul. All our students were very happy to receive such wonderful and, more importantly, useful presents.
Many thanks go to our friends from Deloitte for the fantastic computers!

## How to make a donation to ROOF

## Bank Transfer to RF

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ANO «ROOF's Education Center» TIN/KPP 7703576584/770301001
OGRN 1057749637934
OKPO 7951822
rouble account
40703810938040104474
at Sberbank of Russia JSC
Moscow, Tverskoye Branch 7962
BIK 044525225
correspondent account
30101810400000000225
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Cheques to USA and Great Britain

## ROOF

5200 Wind Point Drive
Racine, WI 53402
USA
ROOF
P.O. Box 1648

Cannock, Staffs,
WS11 1YB
UK

## Vikenty Ekimov

Kesha came to ROOF's EC in September 2003. In May - June 2009 he graduated from the 11th grade, passed his state exams in Maths and Russian and entered University. Today Kesha is a $1^{\text {st }}$ year student at the State Special Institute of Arts, the Department "Design of Environment".
"ROOF is an organization that gives a person a chance, an opportunity to receive education and become someone, as you are nobody without an education. I greatly appreciate ROOF, and I love those people who work there! If it were not for these people the
 name ROOF wouldn't be mentioned every minute, hour, and every day. ROOF's teachers gave me a chance to receive an upper secondary education diploma and to enter the Institute. At ROOF I learnt to communicate with other people better than ever, to understand and often help other children that have the same problems that I once passed through. I became more patient and tolerant.
I try to visit ROOF whenever I have a chance. ROOF and all these people who work here are my third home."

## Nikolay Kupriyanov



Kolya came to ROOF's EC in September 2003. In June 2008 he graduated 11th grade here. Now Kolya is a $4^{\text {th }}$ year student at the Heat-and-Power Engineering College of OAO "MOEK". He also works as a plumber at a Social Management Academy. When Kolya graduates from college, he will go straight to the $3^{\text {rd }}$ year of a technical Institute or University and continue his studies to become an engineer.
"I love ROOF because it was created or, perhaps more accurately, born for all those children who want to be educated.
Education wasn't the only thing that ROOF gave me. It gave me much more than just an education. ROOF gave me love, warmth, understanding. I try to come to ROOF as often as I can, because I've found many cool and wonderful friends here. Also I come here to work with ROOF's teachers on those subjects I need for my studies at college.
ROOF gave me a lot, but the most important are love, joy, warmth and care. ROOF is much more than just ROOF."

## Aleksandr Olkhovsky

Sasha came to ROOF's EC in 2006. In 2009 he graduated $11^{\text {th }}$ grade at ROOF and at a secondary school and entered the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality. Now Sasha is a $1^{\text {st }}$ year student at the Department of Social and Cultural Service and Tourism.
"I love ROOF for everything: for its wonderful working team, for care about the students, for joyful life, for interesting and unforgettable ex-
 cursions, for each moment I spent there. I love ROOF with each cell of my body. I love it when Olga Vladimirovna argues or gets angry, because when she gets angry she can also give us her love.
ROOF gave me a lot of merry friends, interesting knowledge and impressions. ROOF gave me a start out in life. It didn't just give me an education and an opportunity to enter the Institute, it gave me love for the teachers, a number of bright and wonderful impressions, plenty of pleasant things. At ROOF I learnt to be more open in communication, to trust people, I learnt to express myself.
I wish ROOF to grow and flourish. Let there always be such wonderful teachers, obedient students, generous sponsors. I wish there to always be ROOF. ROOF is a wonderful organization that makes a really good thing,, helps those people who are in need. I will never forget ROOF. There will always be a place for ROOF in my heart. For the years of my study at ROOF I have only the best and the warmest memories of them."

