

ROOF-tops



Newsletter from the Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund

February 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, as well as numerous private sponsors for their help and support of our Education Center and ROOF's other programmes .

www.roofnet.org

Cooking class at NESTLE



On February, 3rd ROOF's Education Centre students once more visited NESTLE. They were given their favorite cooking class by the Crosscultural Club. Alexey Zimin as usual impressed our students with his recipes and stories about Italian cuisine. The most active members of the Club, together with Ulyana Shilkina and Maxim Shmakov, guided by Alexey, cooked a goat's cheese salad, risotto with mushrooms and a very

unusual dessert from cheese and grape leaves.

We are grateful to Andrey Bader, Olga Prokhoda and Alla Rakhman who organized this wonderful meeting. We are thankful to the volunteers Leonova Olga, Shapalova Irina, Kiseleva Sophia, Cherednichenko Anna, Shashkova Marina who all took an active part in the cooking class.

Maslenitsa at ROOF's Education Centre

We celebrated Maslenitsa at ROOF's Education Centre on 13th February. The students and teachers gathered to sample extremely tasty bliny (pancakes) with jam, sweet condensed milk and maple syrup. One person made all the pancakes -Anton Shamarkin, the husband of our student from Group 12 Natalya Spasskaya.

The Chaplain of St. Andrew's Anglican Church Father Simon Stephens blessed our meal and wished us a happy holiday.

The bliny were fantastic! Our volunteer from London Alex Harman confessed that he had never tasted such delicious pancakes.

Thank you very much to Anton who cooked all the pancakes for the whole of ROOF!



ROOF's EC students visiting the Festival of Italian Cinema

On 27th February, the moderator of ROOF's Club "Crossculture. Italy" Ulyana Shilkina invited ROOF's Education Centre students to visit the Festival of Italian Cinema: from Venice to Moscow that took place at "Khudozhestvennyj" cinema. We watched the film "The Big Dream" ("Il Grande Sogno") by Michele Placido. The director of the International Venice Film Festival, Marco Muller, personally presented the film and wished the audience a happy viewing. Many thanks go to the directors of the cinema, Ruslan Orestov and Vasilisa Orestova, for their invitation to the Film Festival!

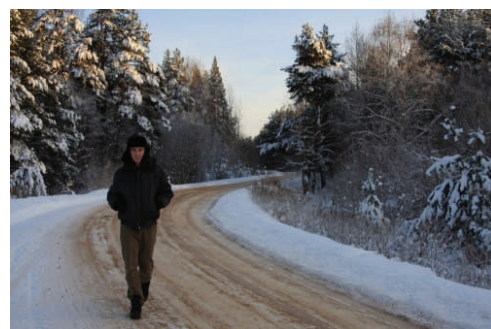
ROOF's EC students visiting the opera «The Barber of Seville» at the «New Opera» theatre

On 28th February, ROOF's Education Centre students who are also the members of ROOF's Club "Crossculture. Italy" attended the opera "The Barber of Seville" by Gioachino Rossini at the theatre «New Opera».

It was our student's first visit to the opera. Fantastic music by Rossini and the wonderful voices of the performers really charmed them.

The experience of visiting the opera was a great success. Neither the Italian language, nor the length of the performance of more than three hours phased our students. We all are looking forward to visiting the opera again in the near future.

Howard Amos talks about his work at Belskoye Ustye



Howard spent two and a half months in Russia (from mid-November till the end of January) teaching children from Belskoye Ustye Psycho-Neurological Orphanage.

"I taught all the kids from Belskoye Ustye Orphanage. The level of education in the orphanage remains low, despite the school. All the kids are capable of learning more and fulfilling their potential. I did several different things with the kids:

1. **Kruzhki (Circles)** – Fairy Tales Kruzok, Films Kruzhok, Table Games Kruzhok, Maths Kruzhok, Geography Kruzhok, Drawing Kruzhok, Sports Kruzhok, Music Kruzhok. These were between 35 & 50 minutes long and were supposed to help the children practice things they learnt in school and show how school was relevant to real life. For example, in Fairy Tales Kruzok we would read a short story or fairytale, discuss the characters, plot and ideas and then do an activity drawing on the ideas in the story.

2. **Work in Baranovo** - I repaired a room in Baranovo so that it could be used as a classroom. At the end of my time in Baranovo some children came here to do work on the understanding of texts and stories. Their concentration was much better than it is in the orphanage and they enjoyed coming to a new place. This classroom will also hopefully be used by others in their work with the kids.

(Continued on the next page.)

MEET OUR STUDENTS

ROOF's Education Centre. Groups 3 and 4

Most of the students in Groups 3 and 4 come from psycho-neurological adult institutions, where they are to spend the rest of their lives. Studying in ROOF's EC helps them receive elementary education in various subjects, take part in ROOF's events: excursions, trips, visiting museums, cinemas and theatre; develops social awareness and skills. In the future some of these students will be able to pass the psychological, medical and pedagogical tests, which will remove their diagnosis and let them receive a state apartment, where they will live independently.

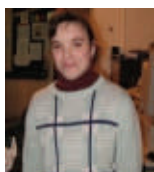
The students from Group 3



Maksim Dorozhkin Maksim is 28. This is his 7th year at ROOF. Maksim is diligent, conscientious, really enjoys studying. Step by step, he is successfully learning the elementary school program at his own pace.

«I come to ROOF each day, study here, I like ROOF very much. ROOF is a place where you can always ask both teachers and students for advice.»

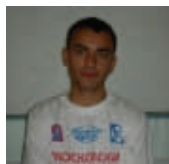
Vladimir Spigul Volodya is 30. He has been studying at ROOF for 6 years. Volodya likes studying very much, and is good at it. He is a sociable, responsible and a friendly person. An excellent cook. In 2008 and 2009 he worked as a cook at the summer camp in Belskoye Ustye. Not long ago Volodya was transferred to the psycho-neurological internat in Stupino, outside of Moscow. Unfortunately, the distance doesn't let him continue regular lessons at ROOF.



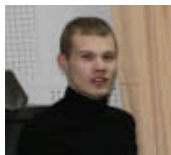
Irina Maslova Ira is 29. She has been studying at ROOF for 6 years. Here Ira learnt how to read and write, to solve maths problems. After studying at ROOF for a few years, she had passed the psychological, medical and pedagogical tests successfully and received a chance to leave the internat and live independently in a state flat.

Valeriy Lebedev Valera is 20. He came to ROOF this academic year. He cannot read, write and count, that's why he often comes to additional lessons. He is looking for a trustee who will help him leave the orphanage.

«At ROOF I want to learn how to read and write. It's very interesting here. Quite soon I'm going to bring my girlfriend to ROOF so that she could also receive an education.»



The students from Group 4



Seraphim Gurov Sima is 22. This is his 4th year at ROOF. He is a very intelligent student. Sima draws well, he is good at calligraphy. Among his interests are computers and information technology.

«I came to ROOF to finish my studies. Before this I studied at various places, but never completed my education. I want to receive a secondary education at ROOF, I need it for my work.»

Aleksandra Evstigneeva

Shura is 19. This is her 2nd year at ROOF. She is a very smart girl. Shura enjoys studying and is good at her studies. She is fond of music and dancing, and can draw well. In the future Shura wants to find a job where she will be able to help other people.



Vitaliy Permyakov Vitaliy is 27. He has been studying at ROOF for 5 years. He is the monitor of Group 4. Vitaliy loves studying. He attends all the classes, and always comes an hour—hour and a half before their start.

«At ROOF I like studying and communicating with my friends and teachers. I came here to finish my studies, to achieve my goals, to enter an arts technical college. I learnt many various things at ROOF.»



3. Individual Work - I also worked individually with a number of children in the orphanage. In one-to-one work it was clear how much potential the children have. Even in the few lessons I had with each child, they made noticeable progress. I had about 6 kids with whom I worked individually (although numbers fluctuated). Sometimes I would ask some of the older girls to help me when I was working with the younger groups. They enjoyed this responsibility.

There were plenty memorable moments! It was wonderful hearing some of the kids during individual reading sessions (who had clearly never really been given the opportunity to read out loud before) quickly gain fluency and confidence. Mistakes like the incorrect pronunciation quickly disappeared. I also enjoyed when group 6 (a group of teenage girls) came for a lesson to Baranovo in the classroom which I created. Usually in the orphanage they never work together and most refuse to do the activities. In Baranovo, however, all 11 sat on the carpet with me as we read a book.

I am coming back to Belskoye Ustye on 9th March, for another 2/3 month period."

How to make donation for ROOF

Bank Transfer to RF

ANO «ROOF's Education Center»
TIN/KPP 7703576584/770301001
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