

### ROOF's Mission:

We are a supportive community for children and young people in Russian orphanages and for young people who have previously been institutionalized.

We focus on:

- finding and offering opportunities and encouragement;
- developing each person's own unique talents and gifts;
- working towards overcoming the disadvantages of past lives and experiences;
- providing a context in which we can all find the confidence to flourish as ourselves.

### Personal Growth – Together

At ROOF, the central value is *relationship*. We believe that relationship is transformative, and has the potential to be so for every person involved as we all offer what gifts, talents and resources we can to help each other.

### Education and Vocation

From "in orphanage" tutorials to new educational methods and contexts; from post-orphanage education and job placement to summer camps for special-needs children, we help orphaned young people find their way in the world through educational and vocational opportunities.



### Would you like to...

- Learn innovative new techniques in working with children with learning difficulties by shadowing a specialist trained in adaptive physical education?
- Be part of an afternoon or evening club activity that breaks down barriers of prejudice between orphans and the rest of society?
- Join a volunteer group that regularly visits a particular group of orphanage children in the Moscow or Pskov Oblasts?
- Become a "weekend visitor" to ROOF's social hotel program or another ROOF program?



**Moscow Office:**  
**14 Chistoprudniy Bulvar**  
**Metro: Chistiye Prudy/**  
**Turgenevskaya / Sretensky**  
**Bulvar**

Or do you have your own project ideas that complement and support ROOF's core mission? **If so, we want to hear from you!**

### COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

ROOF is now recruiting volunteers for current and new projects both in Moscow/Moscow Region and far from the nation's capital. If you might be interested in becoming part of ROOF's volunteer corps and would like to learn more, please call us at the number below or write to us at

**volunteer@roofnet.org**

**Moscow Telephone:**  
**+7 (495) 649 48-09**  
**www.roofnet.org**

*Growing as Persons – Together!*

# Expecting the Unexpected from orphans



The Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund (ROOF) was founded in 1997 to support orphans and orphanage graduates in all areas relating to education and preparation for a healthy and fulfilled life.

We support children from all types of orphanages, including those from special children's homes for those labelled as mentally handicapped.

We strive to equip these young people to thrive morally, intellectually and physically in the modern world by living in the tradition of Russia's finest spiritual and cultural values.



# Programs & Achievements

## Current Programs

- Educational programs in orphanages in Moscow, the Moscow Oblast and in the Pskov Oblast;
- A social hotel program – the “Abilitation Center” – for graduates of Belskoye-Ustye Children’s Home for the Mentally Handicapped to help them escape a life-time of institutionalization. ROOF hopes soon to extend this program and open another social hotel in the regional center – the city of Pskov!
- The Baranovo Volunteer House, to which visitors can come year-round to contribute to developmental programs for the children and graduates of Belskoye-Ustye Children’s Home for the Mentally Handicapped;
- ROOF’s international educational summer camp each year in the month of July, bringing volunteers from Russia, the UK, the USA, France, Germany, Poland, Italy and other countries together to work with the children in Belskoye-Ustye;
- Programs to integrate “adaptive physical education” methods into work with mentally and physically handicapped orphans. Adaptive physical education is an exciting, new practice which has already proved effective in stimulating mental development by means of physical/motor activity and vice versa.



## Successes

- Pioneering post-orphanage education programs which have helped scores of adult orphans return to school, complete their high-school education, get a job or go on to higher education;
- Pioneering “social hotel” programs for young adult orphan grads, to rescue them from life-time institutionalization;
- Helping eight children remove debilitating diagnoses of “oligophrenic”, making them eligible for housing, employment, and life outside the institution;
- Wrestling housing rights from the state for several young adults who grew up in institutions for the handicapped, even without removing diagnoses of “oligophrenic”;
- Tirelessly advocating for specific children against labels that paralyze, such as “unteachable” and “weak-minded”. Advocating for countless children in cases of category confusion and showing that lack of stimulation in early childhood should not be treated as permanent mental handicap.



**The clear goal** of ROOF’s programs is to give orphans at least the same opportunities for self-realization as any other child in Russia. ROOF has been a pioneer in providing not merely for the material needs of orphans, but in doing the much harder, often thankless, long-term work of giving orphans a chance at a worthy education and enabling them for life in society.

**In Special Children’s Homes** for children labelled “mentally handicapped” (previously called “psycho-neurological” inter-nats), an extra goal is to provide special residences called social hotels. These are warm and welcoming family-style homes for graduates who would otherwise be bound for adult institutions (sometimes called “homes for the elderly for the young”). Social hotels only stay open with generous support from private sponsors.

**Spreading our Legacy.** Over 12 years, ROOF has become an example to other organizations working in this arena of social work, and has seeded and nurtured three other independent Russian charities that continue quality work in the same field.