

ROOF-tops ROOF

Newsletter of the Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund

December 2008

PROVIDING SUPPORT AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORPHANED YOUTH IN RUSSIA



www.roofnet.org/sponsor-a-student



ORPHAN STUDENTS SEEK YOU AS THEIR PERSONAL SPONSORS!

As Christmas 2008 approaches, ROOF's Post-Orphanage Education Centre lives with the irony that in this year of financial crisis — just when it is harder than ever to find sponsorship for the school — we have more students, and more serious students, than ever before. This year, 96 orphan grads have come to ROOF to pursue various levels of education ranging from primary through university level, necessitating the recruitment of new mentors and the opening of extra student groups. Club activities are in full swing, and more enthusiastically attended than ever before.

More than ever, we've come to believe that the funding solution for ROOF's Post-Orphanage Education Centre is to be found in matching students with their own personal sponsors.

Therefore, as of 1 December 2008, ROOF launches its "Sponsor a Student" programme, which seeks to match each of ROOF's post-orphanage students with one or more specific sponsor — whether individuals, church parishes, school classes, or simply groups of friends.

The "Sponsor a Student" idea has been around at ROOF for 5 years, and on a limited basis the program has been tried before.

The 2008 launch, however, differs significantly from past trials:

- ROOF's web interface for sponsoring students is now fully functional for credit/debit card donations;
- over 70 post-orphanage students have photos and biographical information on the website as of 1 December, and more are being added every day;
- ROOF has a team in place to handle feedback to sponsors — even those who live half a world away;

although the price tag for full (100%) sponsorship of a single student is higher than before (at \$200/month), this amount reflects the real cost of the post-orphanage programmes in which the student is taking part;

Due to the high price tag for 100% sponsorship, it is now possible to pledge *any monthly amount* toward the sponsorship of your chosen student, meaning that many students may have multiple sponsors.

Our students need your support. Please visit roofnet.org/sponsor-a-student now!!

Detailed information about this year's Post-Orphanage programmes can be found at: www.roofnet.org/edu-centre

Some of the students who seek your help are profiled on the back of this newsletter. Please do have a look! Are you able to help out with a repeat monthly donation, however small the amount?

Our students will be grateful.

Their school will stay open.

Their support community will stay, as ever, a beehive of interesting and horizon-broadening activity (see the diagram below)!

Q: Would you like to establish contact with and receive progress reports on an orphanage graduate?

Each of our students has hopes and dreams. Read about some of them on the back of this newsletter. For more, visit roofnet.org

Q: Can *you* help make *their* dreams come true?

A: YES!!!

Each ROOF student needs total sponsorship of \$200 per month, which reflects the real cost of his/her participation in ROOF programmes.

If you can't cover \$200 per month, your student will be glad for your monthly donation, whatever the size! ...Or consider sponsoring a student together with a group of friends, school or church parish.

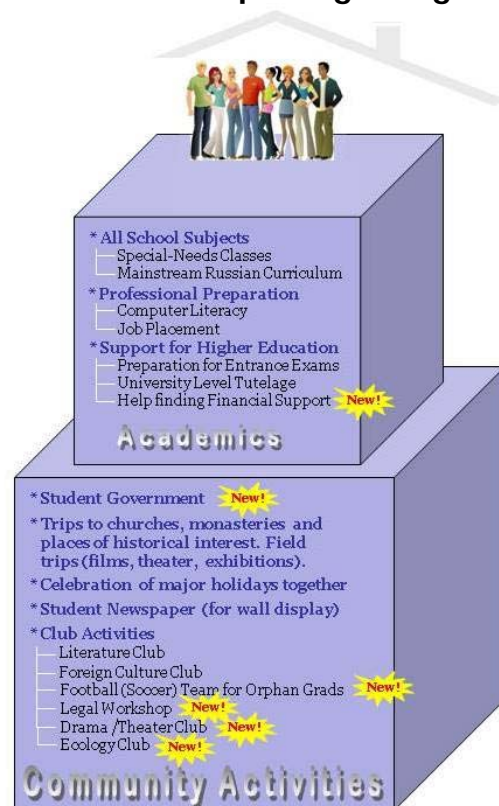
Q: Will I receive updates on my student?

A: We will post updates on the site twice a year. To sponsor a student you will need to provide an email address which we may use at any time, in case of major developments (positive or negative) with your student.

Q: May I correspond with my chosen student?

A: ROOF especially wishes to encourage Russian language **correspondence** and can't promise translation services if correspondence arrives in a different language, though we will make every effort. See website for details.

ROOF's Post-Orphanage Programme



ROOF-TOPS

MEET JUST A FEW OF OUR POST-ORPHANAGE STUDENTS....!



Alexander Olkhovsky. Sasha is 17 years old. In 2008-09 he aims to complete 11th grade at ROOF and also at a mainstream school. He is one of the very few graduates of an orphanage for chil-

dren with special needs who get to continue their education in a mainstream school. Normally, when they reach 16 those teenagers go to a specialized vocational school, but Sasha's academic achievements and abilities which he constantly develops have allowed him a chance to continue to study the standard curriculum in a regular high school. To give him an opportunity to attend high school, the director of his orphanage proposed that he reside at the orphanage for two more years, since Sasha won't be assigned an apartment until he reaches 18. For over a year Sasha has been working Sundays at the IKEA cafeteria to make sure he has his own money for personal expenses. Sasha is not only a good and hard-working student—he is also great company, has an excellent sense of humor, and an endless supply of entertaining stories. He also loves to listen to stories about "life in the Soviet Union". Sasha has not made a final decision about his future: he has a number of plans, for example, to become a flight attendant.

matches her grade level. Natalia is an active and independent student, has practical skills and is emotionally stable. In the future she sees herself a student of a pedagogical college.



Evgeny Botarev. Evgeny is 19 years old and is studying this year at the 8th grade level in ROOF Group No.8. He came to ROOF in January 2007, at which time his education was at the 4th grade level. He is a clever student for his grade level, but he has a job which takes a lot of his time, and for this reason he does not always have enough time to prepare his homework. His hobby is football. Evgeny's goal at ROOF is to complete 9th grade (lower-secondary education) and enter a professional or technical training college.



Konstantin Linkin. Konstantin is 23 years old and came to ROOF not long ago through a friend. He is studying in ROOF Group No.2 at the grade school level. He lives in an adult psycho-neurological institution (internat). He has difficulty articulating, writing and reading. At ROOF, he never misses a class. He is hard-working, calm and kind. Previously he worked in the kitchen of the internat where he lives, but he is now looking for a job as a furniture remover. His goals at ROOF is to learn basic literacy, writing and numeracy.

Irina Gvozdeva. Ira is a good-tempered, friendly, and determined person. She plans to take college entrance exams in 2009, and is therefore preparing herself with supplementary tutorials at ROOF. She is 29 years old and came to ROOF in 2001 with only a grade-school knowledge level. As she worked through school, she always attended classes and completed homework. Despite her initial low academic level, after three years of studies she was able to pass her 9th grade exams. After that Ira became a mother and continued her studies at home (she sent her homework in by e-mail, and a math teacher visited her at home). Despite all the difficulties, Ira completed the 10th grade, having also learned to organize her work and to study independently. The following year she attended classes together with her one-year-old son. It was difficult, but she succeeded. In 2007 she finished high school. Now Ira works and hopes to go back to school when her family situation allows. She wants to become a proof-reader.



Natalia Senina. Natalia is 23 years old and graduated from a special-needs school (equivalent of 5 years education, or grade school, in the mainstream system). At the moment she lives by herself without any close relatives. She

would like very much to finish the ROOF's school, where she's been studying since 2006. In 2008-09 she is attending 9th grade classes. Natalia is good at singling out primary from secondary material, can generalize and draw conclusions. She completes her assignments independently without a teacher's help. Her active vocabulary



Aleksey Golubkin. Aleksey is 20 years old and is a graduate of a special-needs school (equivalent of 5 years education in the mainstream system). He lives by himself and has no close relatives. He has studied in ROOF since 2006, and is now attending 9th grade classes. He would like to finish his schooling at ROOF and go on to further studies. Aleksey does well in main subjects. He has good analytical, comparative and classifying skills and good logical reasoning and has developed independent thinking. He's a creative personality: he can draw well, sings accompanied by guitar, writes poems and music, is quite successful in dramatization (active in ROOF's Literary Club's presentations). He's very sociable, is fond of football and is part of the school football team.

www.roofnet.org

Caring for the ones who aren't adopted...

ROOF

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To SPONSOR AN ORPHAN, just visit:

www.roofnet.org/sponsor-a-student