



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ФОНД
ЗАЩИТЫ ДЕТЕЙ
ОТ ЖЕСТОКОГО ОБРАЩЕНИЯ

SUCCESS STORY

Alyssa Leggoe Puts in Every Effort to Improve Child Welfare in Russia

Alyssa Leggoe was able not only to bring USAID, NFPCC and Gorbachev Foundation together for the sake of child welfare, but also secure concrete aid for the orphanages in Novosibirsk



Photo: A. Rudakov

Alyssa Leggoe holds discourse with William Slater, USAID/Russia Health Office Director, at the presentation of 'A Compass for Childhood' Program implemented by NFPCC. The event was held in Moscow on September 9, 2010 to raise awareness about new USAID-funded program intended to consolidate the best practices and create the Toolkit for Regional Planning in child welfare to improve the well-being of children in Russia.

As part of the Memorandum, signed by NFPCC and Gorbachev Foundation, the parties will share their respective strengths, experience, technologies, methodologies, and resources to improve child welfare, health, and well-being of children in Russia.

National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC) has a long record of interaction with Ms. Alyssa Leggoe, Deputy Director of Health Office, USAID/Russia. In early 2010 Ms. Leggoe facilitated between USAID and the International Non-Governmental Foundation for Socio-Economic and Political Studies (Gorbachev Foundation). Her efforts resulted in signing a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the above-mentioned parties in March 2010, with the purpose to establish a framework for collaboration between USAID and the Gorbachev Foundation to further the goals of child welfare, health and well-being of children in Russia.

Ms. Leggoe's efforts subsequently lead to an award from USAID to NFPCC to implement program that facilitates policy dialogue on child welfare reform in Russia in partnership with the Gorbachev Foundation through expanded discussions on child welfare issues and enhanced involvement of the government at regional and federal levels into policy development.

Furthermore, in 2009 Ms. Leggoe was successful in negotiating with Hewlett Packard to donate, deliver and install 30 computers in the pilot institutions of Novosibirsk identified with the help of NFPCC and the Government of Novosibirsk. For this purpose Ms. Leggoe traveled to Novosibirsk to site-visit the orphanages and vocational schools there with a purpose to assess the needs and plan the project activities. The computers are intended for use by children without parental care who are limited in their ability to gain communication skills and contact outside orphanages. It is even more difficult for them to find employment when they graduate from orphanages. In Novosibirsk, almost 95 percent of orphanage graduates go to vocational schools, where they live in dormitories and continue to be isolated from their peers. The low level of self-organization, communication and information about life outside orphanages or dormitories place them at high risk of negative outcomes, including being trafficked or abused.

The proposed U.S.-Novosibirsk Digital Kids Pilot Project will address the above issues by providing laptops with Skype and accessories and training to staff and orphans of the selected government-run orphanages and vocational schools in Novosibirsk on how to use the computers.