

National Foundation for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Children
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National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Annual Report 2006-2007





Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In the past year we have witnessed astounding changes in the Russian child welfare sector. The government has made it a priority to strengthen families and improve the situation of abandoned and orphaned children by adopting many of the solutions nonprofit organizations have spent years advancing. For the first time in 15 years, the Russian government increased maternity subsidies for mothers with children between the ages of 0-3 and passed legislation conducive to reform in the child welfare sector.

The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC) is one of the leading organizations in Russia working to reform child welfare policy and pave the way for new legislation that addresses the issues children face. The NFPCC is pleased to have an extensive portfolio of trainings and consultations on innovative services such as early intervention, foster care, and case management for children and families in crisis. Since 1994, the NFPCC and its partners have worked with the most progressive and talented child welfare practitioners throughout Russia to create a new child welfare system oriented towards preserving families, helping children suffering from abuse and neglect, and supporting family forms of care for orphaned and abandoned children.

In 2006-2007, the NFPCC placed an emphasis on lobbying and protecting the interests of children on both a federal and regional level. NFPCC representatives helped the Russian government develop a state program to support orphaned, abandoned, neglected, and special-needs children. The NFPCC also provided consultation to government administrations on new child welfare legislation in the Tambov Region, Novosibirsk Region, Tomsk Region, Republic of Buryatiya, and the Khanty-Mansiisk Autonomous Region.

Together with new partners, donors, and volunteers, the NFPCC continues to work to bring an end to children's suffering. Please join us in our mission to protect our children, their health, and wellbeing!

Best wishes,

Marina Egorova
NFPCC President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Egorova".





Who are we?

The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC) is a Russian nonprofit organization that seeks to foster sustainable change in Russia's child welfare system by promoting policy reform and developing social welfare services that improve the lives of disadvantaged children and their families. Since its inception in 1994, the NFPCC has touched the lives of well over 80,000 children from St. Petersburg to Khabarovsk through the implementation of innovative child welfare services and models developed under the guidance of NFPCC experts.

Orphans, children with disabilities, and families affected by HIV are among those who ultimately benefit from the technical assistance and training the NFPCC provides for organizations offering services to those in need across Russia. Specialists are now receiving the skills and knowledge they need to effectively work with children and families previously thought to be beyond hope. The NFPCC's combination of services, policy development, and advocacy is resulting in a synergy that is transforming the landscape of child welfare in Russia.

"Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give."
– U. N. Declaration

Mission Statement

The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC) is dedicated to ensuring children's right to lead a full life in a loving family free of abuse and neglect. The NFPCC actively engages families, communities, organizations, and the government on all levels in reforming the child welfare system in the Russian Federation. Through training seminars and consultations, as well as the development and implementation of innovative best practice models proven effective in Russia, the NFPCC improves and protects the lives of society's most valuable asset – children.

"Children are our most valuable natural resource."
– Herbert Hoover

Who do we help?

The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC) draws from its rich experience in developing and implementing innovative services for at-risk groups of the population to curb the unprecedented rise in child abandonment currently facing Russia as a result of the social and economic instability that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. According to official data provided by the Russian government, the number of orphaned and abandoned children reached a total of 734,100 in 2004, up 1.8% from the previous year. By working with local governments to develop solutions to the causes of child abandonment, the NFPCC ensures that socially marginalized children and families receive the support they need to stay together and realize their potential as valuable members of society.

"Happy is he who lives in a happy home."
– Leo Tolstoy

Children and Families At-risk of Child Abandonment

UNICEF estimates that over 1 million children in Russia suffer from or are at risk of child abuse and neglect, which is why the NFPCC seeks to preemptively stop child abandonment and neglect through preventative services. By identifying troubled families and working with them at the earliest stages possible, NFPCC-trained specialists are able to resolve family issues that often lead to child abandonment and the institutionalization of children in orphanages. In the ten years of social instability that followed the fall of the Soviet Union, the number of orphanages increased by over 100% to accommodate the staggering number of abandoned children.

Orphaned and Abandoned Children

With over 200,000 children already living in orphanages across Russia, the NFPCC strongly advocates humane forms of family care for abandoned children in Russia. The NFPCC has also developed programs to assist orphans aging out of the system in their transition into society by teaching them important independent living skills. For those children still living in institutions, NFPCC assistance helps transform drab interiors into colorful environments and provides much-needed equipment to stimulate children's minds and improve their physical fitness. As the Russian government begins to replace institutions with family forms of care for abandoned children, the NFPCC also provides consultation and training to help state institutions reprofile as providers of foster care screening and support services.





Children with Disabilities

Until recently, many people with disabilities in Russia were labeled as “uneducable” based on a 30-minute examination and were subsequently hidden away from society in state institutions without receiving any treatment for the rest of their lives. The NFPCC is helping to stop this trend by training specialists in therapy techniques that stimulate developmental progress, including early intervention for children aged 0-4 years old. Parents who once believed their special-needs children hopeless can now hardly believe they once considered giving them up to state care.

Children and Families Affected by HIV

Due to the overwhelming stigma faced by people with HIV, intravenous drug abuse, and the absence of a fundamental support system for HIV-positive persons, up to 18% of children born to HIV-positive mothers in Russia are abandoned to the state. In response, the NFPCC has designed innovative programs to provide HIV-positive women with support to help them fully understand their condition and properly care for their children. The NFPCC is also addressing the startling rise in HIV infections sweeping Russia today by conducting HIV-prevention trainings for high-risk groups of youth.

“Children are holy and pure. Even those of bandits and crocodiles belong among the angels.... They must not be turned into a plaything of one’s mood, first to be tenderly kissed, then rabidly stomped at.”

— Anton Chekhov

Where do we work?

Although the National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC) has spearheaded change in the child welfare systems of over 60 cities in 25 regions of the Russian Federation, it is currently focusing its efforts on five carefully-selected, priority regions.

- Altay Krai
- Khabarovsk Krai
- Novosibirsk Oblast
- Tambov Oblast
- Tomsk Oblast

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”

— Charles Dickens

What do we do?

The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC) is an advocate of preventative services and the deinstitutionalization of orphanages, regularly organizing large-scale conferences and events to promote child abandonment prevention models and services. Our efforts in reforming Russia’s child welfare system over the past 13 years through our consulting and training services have affected the lives of thousands of children and families in crisis and have influenced the work of human service professionals and government officials across the country. Along with our many esteemed partners in Russia and abroad, including The Children’s Aid Society in New York City and University of Alaska Anchorage, the NFPCC is proving that change in Russia is possible.

As a result of our projects in the Tomsk Oblast, a decree was issued in 2005 mandating a regional strategy to prevent child abandonment using services piloted by the NFPCC; to this end, the Tomsk Department of Children and Family Issues was created in 2006. Similarly, the administrations in Khabarovsk and Magadan in the Russian Far East issued decrees in 2005 and 2006, respectively, allocating government funds to institutionalize NFPCC child welfare services. The NFPCC extended its reach to five new regions of the Russian Federation in 2006-2007 and began establishing methodological centers that will serve to train specialists throughout the country in cutting-edge technologies and services proven effective in Russia.

Below you will find brief descriptions of some of the exciting projects and services the NFPCC and its partners provide to prevent child abandonment and significantly improve the lives of children and families in Russia.

“There is no higher religion than human service.
To work for the common good is the greatest creed.”

— Albert Schweitzer





Child Welfare Training and Consultation: Service Provision and Management

Comprehensive support to children and families at risk of child abandonment

In 2006-2007, nearly 500 children benefited from after-school programs developed by the NFPCC for children in crisis. These programs provide valuable psychological support, positive role models, and a safe environment where children can get help with their schoolwork and in some cases warm meals and shelter. Similarly, NFPCC trained specialists at organizations such as NGO “Family Renewal” in Khabarovsk are working with alcoholic parents and their children to mend torn ties and preserve family bonds while simultaneously providing vital substance abuse counseling. Noting the success of these initiatives, the Khabarovsk City Administration allocated funds from the municipal budget to support and institutionalize these programs for at-risk children and families in 2005.

Early intervention for children aged 0-4 years old

The NFPCC has made it a priority to train specialists in early intervention due to the monumental progress that can be made in a child's development between the ages of 0-4 given the appropriate treatment and care. This system of services involves a team approach to the evaluation of the child and his or her development, the creation of individualized developmental programs to meet the particular needs of the child, and counseling and support for the child and his or her family. The results of these services are impressive and can lead to full integration of special-needs children in non-specialized schools. In the past year, 87 families and 110 children enjoyed the benefits of early intervention as a result of NFPCC projects at organizations such as the Tomsk Hobby Center, which provides vital developmental services in addition to recreational activities ranging from ballroom dancing to art classes for at-risk children.

Family intervention for families at risk of child abandonment

By identifying and working with families in crisis as early as possible, social welfare professionals are able to prevent child abandonment before it happens. The NFPCC trains specialists to provide the support necessary to solve issues putting families at risk of child abandonment. Through family intervention services, family members receive individual and family counseling, substance abuse treatment, and assistance in finding employment to restore balance to the home environment and prevent abandonment. The NFPCC is creating case management systems in each of its priority regions to ensure that families receive the ongoing, personalized support from social workers necessary for long-term change and success.

Comprehensive support to families and children affected by HIV

The NFPCC has created effective counseling and crisis intervention programs for HIV-positive women and their children to prevent child abandonment. HIV-positive women are adhering to their medical treatment and keeping their children in their own care as they build a network of peer and professional support through NFPCC programs and realize they are capable of raising their children. Organizations working with populations affected by HIV are seeing firsthand the effectiveness of these programs; in the first nine months of the ROSA Center's (an NFPCC beneficiary) work with HIV-positive mothers in Magnitogorsk, none of the 70 women receiving support services ranging from free daycare to psychological counseling gave up their child. NFPCC partners also ensure that HIV-positive children are able to receive an education and grow to be healthy members of society through dedicated advocacy work.

Assistance to surrogate families caring for abandoned children

The NFPCC firmly believes that growing up in a loving family is always preferable to living in an orphanage or state institution. Beginning in January 2007, a new federal law providing stipends to guardian and foster families went into effect, signaling positive change in Russian policy. The legislation, however, does not stipulate for important services, such as screening and training for surrogate families and orphanages. At the request of local orphanages, the NFPCC is providing extensive instruction to orphanage staff on how to screen potential families and effectively prepare them for the challenges involved in caring for abandoned and orphaned children. These services offer families ongoing support during their tenure as surrogate families in the form of support groups for both the children and guardians, regular visits to check in on the family's progress, and counseling to help them find viable solutions to problems that might arise with the children in their care; 121 surrogate families caring for 168 children received comprehensive support vital to the wellbeing of the children living in their homes through NFPCC projects in 2006-2007.

Independent living and life skills for at-risk, abandoned, and special needs children

Abandoned children face unique challenges as they age out of the system and enter the real world. After leading sheltered lives within the walls of state institutions, many young people are easily taken advantage of, are unable to properly care for themselves and their families, and frequently begin a life of crime. In fact, the majority of youth leaving orphanages does not live past the age of 30 as a result of suicide, drug abuse, and violent crime. Special-needs children often face similar, if not greater, challenges. In response, NFPCC projects teach valuable independent living and life skills, such as cooking, using public transportation, money management, personal hygiene, and nutrition. The NFPCC also seeks to improve the quality of life of abandoned and special-needs youth by giving them marketable trade skills they can use to support themselves. In 2006-2007, nearly 600 children and young people took part in NFPCC projects that include independent living or life skills components at organizations such as the “Doctors to Children” NGO in St. Petersburg, which helps provide children at risk of abandonment with professional training and consultations.

HIV prevention training among at-risk youth

In response to the rise in HIV infections among vocational school students in St. Petersburg, the NFPCC and its partners have developed an HIV-prevention program that utilizes peer-counseling and training-of-trainers techniques that promote abstinence and faithfulness to one's partner. The program creates “Health Councils,” which are school-based working groups made up of dedicated school staff and active students, who are provided with the training, information, and resources to conduct HIV prevention activities tailored to meet the needs of each vocational school. One caretaker who was once too embarrassed to even broach the topic of HIV with her students at vocational school #70, went on to write and stage a moving play with her students about love, faithfulness, and HIV after participating in NFPCC HIV-prevention trainings. In the past year, 2,012 vocational school staff and students have received accurate information about HIV as a result of HIV-prevention events, including peer counseling, films, and discussion groups.

Training and education of child welfare and government specialists

The NFPCC regularly organizes conferences and training seminars on topics ranging from program management to supervision for child welfare specialists and government officials to improve the caliber of services available to at-risk groups of the population. In November 2006, the NFPCC organized the first all-Russia conference on child abandonment in Russia, which was opened by the minister of health and social development and the minister of education. Likewise, in the summer of 2007, two groups of Russian social workers and government representatives had the unique opportunity to study the state of Alaska's child welfare system and receive training as part of study tours organized by the NFPCC and its partner the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). The NFPCC also prepares the next generation of social welfare professionals by working with schools of social work at local universities in Tomsk and Tambov to create specializations in child welfare and implement curriculum that includes more effective methods. NFPCC educational consultants cooperate with representatives from these universities to provide professional insight on training social workers using social work curriculum based on interaction with families and children.

Training of emergency youth helpline specialists

While over 300 telephone helpline services currently function on the territory of the Russian Federation, few specialize in working with children and the unique issues they face. The NFPCC regularly organizes trainings and seminars for helpline specialists on how to best provide emergency psychological assistance to youth in crisis by telephone, such as workshops conducted for helplines opened in Reutovo and Anadyr' in 2007 with support from the NFPCC. During the Second Annual International Child Helpline Conference held in Moscow in 2007, the NFPCC also created the Helpline Association to unite helpline workers across Russia and establish standards of practice for use among helpline specialists. Interested specialists can obtain additional news on child helplines in Russia and abroad through the monthly NFPCC helpline bulletin available at www.sirotstvo.ru/telefon/.

"Every kind of service necessary to the public good
becomes honorable by being necessary."
— *Nathan Hale*



Advocacy, Analysis, and Policy Work in the Child Welfare Sector

Analysis of information on child abandonment in regional and federal news

The NFPCC Information Center collects and analyzes items in the media related to child abandonment and is regularly expanding its expansive library of information on federal and local legislation, international law, and documents on children's rights. This resource also traces the progress of NFPCC projects in order to provide models of successful child abandonment prevention programs that can be legally and organizationally justified and implemented at the local level. By providing this information online at www.sirotstvo.ru, the NFPCC stimulates nationwide dialogue among interested professionals about key child welfare issues.

Advocacy and Policy Work

The NFPCC works with local child welfare advocates, government authorities, and community-based service providers to increase awareness of child welfare services and reprioritize government policies to support preventative and family care services. The NFPCC and its partners use their close relationships with the media to bring their message, successes, and needs to a wider audience. In 2007, the NFPCC began regularly contributing articles on issues related to child abandonment and social work to key professional journals, including the *Social Work* research journal, in addition to making regular appearances on local radio and television programs. In Tomsk, the NFPCC helped the local administration design the "Children of Tomsk Oblast" budgeting program to promote the implementation of a regional system of support services to guardian families. These services are being disseminated to all 16 municipalities of the region through pilot sites, and the New Development Foundation, a local NFPCC-partner, has been selected to serve as the training center for social workers throughout the Tomsk Region.

Publication of books and manuals devoted to child welfare issues

The NFPCC makes significant contributions to the social welfare and academic communities in the form of publications. Drawing from its vast experience in child welfare work, the NFPCC provides unique information on a variety of topics of interest to Russian government ministries, social welfare workers, psychologists, special education teachers, and individuals. To date, the NFPCC library offers 27 different books at no charge on topics ranging from foster care to children's psychiatry.

NFPCC books published in 2006-2007

- 1 Russian Library of Developmental Games and Materials.
- 2 Creation of Early Intervention in the Municipal Healthcare System.
- 3 Child Abandonment Prevention in the Social Policy of the Russian Regions. Series. Book 3.
- 4 Social Adaptation of Orphanage Graduates (I.A. Bobyleva)
- 5 Early Intervention. Methodological recommendations for working with children in early intervention service.
- 6 All-Russian Conference “Paths to Solve the Child Abandonment Problem in Russia.” Collection of theses.
- 7 The Role of Emergency Psychological Assistance by Telephone in Solving the Problem of Child Abandonment in Russia. First International Child Helpline Conference. Collection of theses.
- 8 Helpline Reference Book. 1 and 2 editions.
- 9 Psychology of Orphans (republished) (A.M. Prikhodzhan, N.N. Tolstykh).
- 10 Innovative Services in Child Abandonment Prevention. Experience of the Tomsk Oblast (Edited by M.O. Egorova)

Finance Report 2007

National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC)

INCOME	USD
USAID/IREX grant	1 195 641
Global Development Alliance (GDA) – Krasnoyarsk Krai Administration/USAID grant1	52 647
The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs Program MATRA/KAP grant	4 123
“VOSTOKGAZPROM” company grant	28 571
Federal Agency for Education contract	62 204
Khanty-Mansiisk Autonomous Okrug Administration contract	10 204
Academy for Educational Development (AED) grant	19 605
TOTAL	1 372 996



Key NFPCC Partners in Russia: 2006-2007

Irkutsk Oblast

Vesta Municipal Social Welfare Center (Angarsk)
NGO “Anti-AIDS-Priangar’e. Prevention and Support” (Irkutsk)
Russian Red Cross (Irkutsk)
Municipal Clinical Hospital #8 (Irkutsk)

Khabarovsk Krai

Special-needs Boarding School #31, Type VII (Khabarovsk)
Municipal Primary School “First Steps” (Khabarovsk)
Children's City Polyclinic #3 (Khabarovsk)
Khabarovsk City Department of Health (Khabarovsk)
Family Support NGO “Family Renewal” (Khabarovsk)
Family Reading Library #7 (Khabarovsk)
Orphanage #8 (Khabarovsk)
Secondary School #3 (Khabarovsk)

Magnitogorsk

NGO “Civic Initiative” Charity Foundation (Magnitogorsk)

Moscow

SANAM Clinic (Moscow)

St. Petersburg

NGO “Doctors to Children” (St. Petersburg)
NGO “AIDS, Statistics, Health” (St. Petersburg)
NGO “Stellit” (St. Petersburg)
NGO Charity Foundation “Korchak Center” (St. Petersburg)

Tomsk Oblast

Kargasok School #1 (Kargasok)
Social Support Center (Kargasok)
Srednetymenskaya School (Kargasok)
House of Child Creativity (Kargasok)
Vertikosskaya School (Kargasok)
NGO "Hearth and Home" (Kozhevnikovo)
Municipal Secondary School #2 (Kozhevnikovo)



Urtamskaya School (Kozhevnikovo)
Kozhevnikovo District Athletic School for Children and Youth (Kozhevnikovo)
Secondary School #1 (Kozhevnikovo)
Mirnenskaya Middle School (Mirny Village)
Nel'machevskaya School (Nel'mach Village)
Novoilinskaya Secondary School (Novoilinka Village)
Novosel'tsevsкая School (Novosel'tsevo Village)
Vocational School #28 (Parabel')
Parabel' High School (Parabel')
Zavolokin Children's Art School (Parabel')
Youth Social Rehabilitation Center (Parabel')
House of Child Creativity (Parabel')
Inter-village Library (Parabel')
Pesochnodubrovskaya Secondary School (Pesochnodobrovka Village)
Trubachevskaya School (Shagarsky District)
Babarykinskaya School (Shagarsky District)
Municipal Secondary School #2 (Shegarsky District)
NGO "Hand in Hand" (Shegarsky Region)
Starouvalinskaya Secondary School (Staraya Uvala)
NGO "Hobby Center" (Tomsk)
NGO "New Development" (Tomsk)
NGO "Kristall" (Tomsk)
Municipal Secondary School #49 (Tomsk)
Zyryansky Orphanage (Zyryanskoe)

Tverskaya Oblast

Konakovo Baby Home (Konakovo)

Child Helpline Program

The NFPCC cooperates with 115 organizations in 50 regions of the Russian Federation as part of its Child Helpline Program, which unites and trains helpline workers across the country.



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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