



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

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# **Annual Report**

## **2008-2009**



*Papa, Mama, and Me* by Varya Shapaeva

# Annual Report

## 2008-2009



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*My Family by Alyosha Ivanov*

## About the Foundation

### THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN (NFPCC)

is a Russian non-profit organization founded in 2004 by prominent Russian specialists who have been working with children and families at risk both medically and socially since the late 1980s.

The mission of the Foundation is to ensure children's rights by improving the quality of assistance to children and families and working to provide every child with all he or she needs for a full and fulfilling life. Today the Foundation's priority is to assist state organizations lower the rate of child abandonment in Russia.

The Foundation implements projects and provides services to make state systems more effective and efficient, improve the qualifications of child welfare specialists, and develop innovative approaches to aid children and families. This report describes the activities of the National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children from January 2008 through June 2009.







## From the President

*Marina Egorova,*  
President of the NFPCC



**IN RECENT YEARS** there has been a sea change in Russian social policy: The Russian government is focusing its efforts on solving the problem of child abandonment. Moreover, the problem of child abandonment is no longer understood narrowly as the task of improving the lives of children who have already been abandoned by their parents. Today the guiding principle of the country's demographic policy at the federal level is the prevention of child abandonment. Now the emphasis is on preventing situations that lead to child abandonment, that is, working with families in crisis. Families at risk of child abandonment are now at the heart of social work.

This trend is already being reflected in regional programs to support families. However, in order for these programs

to be broadly implemented, social services must incorporate a new, systematic approach to child abandonment prevention, as well as master new methods and techniques for training of professionals.

The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has celebrated its fifth anniversary. But for much longer — since 1999 — the Foundation's specialists have been developing models of social services for families, programs to prevent child abandonment, methods of working with special-needs children, and ways to train child welfare specialists.

Given the current state of the Russian welfare system, the Foundation's main priority at the regional level is helping state organizations design programs to prevent child abandonment and rehabilitate children. At the federal level, our main priority is contributing to the development of national protocols and standards of quality for child welfare services.

**IN 2008 AND 2009, THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN PROVIDED EXPERTISE, CONSULTATIONS, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO RUSSIAN REGIONS. WE HOPE TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND THIS WORK IN THE FUTURE.**





## Foundation Projects and Programs

### Regional programs and projects to protect children and prevent child abandonment

#### Assistance to Russian Orphans

**THE MISSION** of the Assistance to Russian Orphans Program (ARO) is to curb the unprecedented increase in child abandonment in Russia by ensuring that all children without exception live in a family without abuse or neglect. The program encourages non-profit and state organizations at every level to reform the child welfare system in the Russian Federation. Work on this program began in 1999. At present, the NFPCC is implementing the third phase of work together with the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Under this program, work to develop innovative services, methods and models to prevent child abandonment is being carried out in the regions of Tomsk, Novosibirsk, Tambov, Altai, Khabarovsk, and in the city of St. Petersburg.

*Under this mission, the program's goals are to:*

- contribute to the reform of the Tomsk oblast child welfare system;
- develop national protocols and standards for child welfare services;
- promote innovative methods to prevent child abandonment in Russian regions;
- prevent HIV in a program of social adaptation for young adults leaving orphanages and other young people at risk, and provide social support for HIV-positive women with children;
- facilitate program institutionalization.

**IN TOMSK**, partner organizations are institutionalizing the innovative services and management systems developed during previous phases of the program. The main partner of the NFPCC in Tomsk, the Department of Children and Family Issues, is carrying out the program under the auspices of a decree by the governor of Tomsk "On the creation of a system to prevent child abandonment in Tomsk oblast." The main activities are developing, pre-testing, and institutionalizing service standards. Several standards guidelines were developed and pre-tested in



***Tomsk is serving as a venue to disseminate the oblast's experience in introducing innovative child welfare services to other Russian regions***

Tomsk from 2007 to 2009, including “Supporting guardian and foster families,” “Supporting children in an educational setting (“social living rooms”),” “Supporting children in a social setting (“rehabilitative leisure”). All the guidelines were approved by directives from the Department of Children and Family Issues. At present, they are being reviewed by a group of specialists from the NFPCC and the Department, and then will be signed into law at the oblast level.

Overall, development and implementation of innovative service programs in the Tomsk region is proceeding at a rapid pace. In 2008–2009, services were either developed or expanded at more than 40 institutions. Services initiated under the project continued after funding ceased. Under the regional system to arrange family placement of orphans, which was developed for the region jointly by the Department and the NFPCC, a network of services is being expanded to support surrogate families. Cooperation between the NFPCC and the Department was also responsible for expansion of these services and schools for foster parents at four orphanages and four social-rehabilitation centers in the Tomsk region.

A system of training and refresher courses for social workers is being developed to ensure that activities to reform the welfare system in the Tomsk region continue. The region has its own team of trainers and a training center under the Department of Children and Family Issues. Since 2007, the Tomsk State University Department of Social Work has been working with the University of Alaska (Anchorage) on a curriculum development project, “Professional Training of Social Work Students.” Under this project, curricula were developed for the program “Social Work with Families and Children,” including 15 new courses that meet modern standards for training specialists for work in child welfare. There are plans to establish a department major, begin a masters program in social work with families and children, and contract with the

regional Department of Children and Family Issues to retrain specialists at the Department's institutions.

Due to the joint efforts of the NFPCC and the Tomsk regional authorities, the child welfare system in the region has nearly completed its reform process. The region is now rolling out its experience in innovative child welfare services to other Russian regions. There are eight internship sites that provide methodological, supervisory, and educational support in the areas of early intervention for children with developmental problems, family placement of orphans, support in the school system for children from families in crisis, early identification of at-risk families, and provision of services for disabled children in rural areas.

Innovative methods and services to prevent child abandonment are being systematically introduced in regions served by the Assistance to Russian Orphans Program.

**Case management and early intervention for families at risk**

**CASE MANAGEMENT** is being introduced in the regions of Tomsk, Novosibirsk, Tambov, Altai and Khabarovsk. Early identification of and intervention with families at risk helps keep the child (or children) in the home and provides the social and psychological assistance necessary to keep the family intact and protect the rights and interests of the children. Early intervention has proven to be economical and cost-effective, and case management has been shown to improve social work through better planning and coordination of the activities of various services. To introduce case management, services are designed, the local administrations are consulted and provide approvals and permissions, and then family welfare specialists are trained. More than 160 specialists have undergone training so far.

***Early identification of families in crisis helps keep children in their homes and provides the families with the social and psychological counseling necessary to rehabilitate the families and protect children's rights and interests***

**Comprehensive support in educational and social environments for children and adolescents at risk**

**IN THE REGIONS** of Novosibirsk and Khabarovsk, innovative services are being introduced to rehabilitate children and adolescents who have found themselves in difficult life situations. These services are offered in public schools (social living rooms, tutors, rehabilitative services); libraries (social clubs); and in supplemental educational institutions (rehabilitative leisure). The process to introduce these services is lengthy and involves work with the local administrations, project competitions, educational activities and supervision, as well as special workshops to prepare trainers who can then support the expansion of these services throughout the region. More than 150 specialists have been trained in this area.

**Early intervention for special-needs children (ages 0 to 4)**

**THIS PROJECT** is being carried out in two areas. First, early intervention services have been set up at health clinics or centers that provide psychological, medical, and social support. Rehabilitation is conducted with the active participation of the child's parents. Second, orphanages are being modernized to provide early intervention services and a family environment to rehabilitate special-needs children and facilitate their development. These approaches lower the risk that special-needs children will be abandoned to state care and decrease the number of children designated as disabled, which, in turn, makes it more likely that these children will be placed in families.

**Social adaptation of adolescents leaving state institutions and programs to develop independent living skills**

**THIS PROJECT** is being developed in the regions of Tambov

and Khabarovsk. Services are provided in orphanages and vocational schools, where trained specialists help young people develop independent living skills.

**Introduction of services to support foster and adoptive families**

**THIS IS** an extremely important aspect of child abandonment prevention, which ensures a child's right to live in a family. These services, established at orphanages, boarding institutions, and other organizations, provide professional training and support to foster parents. They increase the number of children taken in by families who will care for them and lower the risk of a second abandonment. The services, established with support from the Foundation in the regions of Tomsk, Novosibirsk, Tambov and Khabarovsk, employ social workers, psychologists, teachers, caregivers and medical personnel. They work with potential foster parents to clarify why they wish to foster or adopt an older child with a formed personality and a difficult past. They provide assistance and support to foster parents while the child is getting used to the family and the family is adapting to the child.

Emergency psychological aid to children and adolescents (Children's Helplines) and to families and children affected by HIV are also being introduced in Russia's regions and are described in greater detail in other sections of this report.

*Pilot projects clearly demonstrated that families are best served when specialists work together and coordinate their efforts in an organization close to the client's home*

## Medical and social services for families with children who are affected by HIV in St. Petersburg

**SINCE 2004** the Foundation has sought to develop a single integrated system to provide medical and social services to families with children who are affected by HIV. Under the Assistance to Russian Orphans program, the Foundation has working to create these services and to develop a system of prevention for adolescents at risk of contracting the disease.

### Integrated services for families affected by HIV

**PILOT PROJECTS** clearly demonstrated that families would be best served if specialists worked together and coordinated their efforts in an organization close to the client's home, for example, the Center for Social Assistance to Families and Children (CSAFC). This kind of service organization could meet the individual needs of each family.

St. Petersburg is one of the Russian cities working to create a model of care by place of residence for families affected by HIV. Two districts were chosen for the pilot project, which was supported with assistance from the NFPCC and implemented by local NGOs. In the Kalininsky district, the project was implemented by Doctors to Children; in the Krasnogvardeisky district, the project was implemented by Bethany Social Services. CSAFC coordinated the activities of

several organizations – AIDS prevention centers, women's health clinics, maternity hospitals, clinics, hospitals, drug clinics, educational institutions, pre-schools, the local administrations, and non-commercial organizations.

As a result of these joint efforts by the city authorities and the NFPCC, more than 100 families in two city districts are receiving comprehensive assistance in CSAFC and medical institutions close to their homes. All the mothers and children are being provided with medical care prescribed by the AIDS center, and 10 percent are receiving antiretroviral therapy. With the assistance of the Foundation, 20 specialists at CSAFC were trained to work with families affected by HIV and learned case management. To improve the effectiveness of work in CSAFC, a system to monitor the health and development of the children was put in place.

On the basis of the work done in these pilot districts, a model was developed for inter-agency cooperation to provide comprehensive assistance to families affected by HIV. This model can now be used as the basis for citywide services to provide medical and social assistance to HIV-positive citizens.

### HIV prevention among vulnerable groups of children and adolescents

**VULNERABLE POPULATIONS** include students in vocational schools of various levels as well as children who have aged out of orphanages and boarding schools.

*Joint efforts by the Foundation and its partner in St.*

*Petersburg, the NGO Stellit, achieved the following results:*

- establishment of an Expert Council for HIV prevention in St. Petersburg;
- creation of Health Councils in 11 city institutions;

— development of a long-term program of HIV prevention activities and its inclusion in school programs. (These programs are continuing to function after the project officially ended.)

In addition, 50 consultants on HIV prevention were trained from among the students at various levels of vocational schools (peer counselors). A team of volunteers was also formed. About 4,000 students at vocational schools took part in HIV prevention activities.

For work on the project, training was provided for 35 specialists from the Committee on Education and its subsidiary agencies and 111 specialists in vocational schools. Two methodological pamphlets were prepared for specialists and three informational brochures were distributed to students.

**IN THE FUTURE**, the Palace of Students will take on the project's organizational and training functions to create Health Councils and expand the volunteer movement.



*Theoretical and practical conferences analyzed the experience of Siberian, Northwestern and Far Eastern federal districts in pre-testing and introducing innovative child abandonment prevention strategies*

*Vyacheslav Nagovitsyn, President of the Republic of Buryatiya: “The system needs to be fundamentally changed. I’m not the only one who understands this – my administration does, too. Buryatiya has a team of like-thinkers who are eager to implement the child abandonment prevention program”*

## To Hear a Child

In 2009, the NFPCC initiated a project called “To Hear a Child.” The project is designed to improve the work of existing agencies providing emergency psychological aid through telephone helplines and to acquaint a large number of specialists with Russian and international experience in early identification of families in crisis and/or cruelty to children.

The project was carried out with state financing provided as a grant signed by Directive 192 of President of the Russian Federation on April 14, 2008 and administered through the National Charity Foundation.

### *The project consists of the following stages:*

- 1) Training supervisors for helpline operators and managers;
- 2) Providing helplines with supervisory oversight and conducting campaigns to inform children about the helplines and the assistance available to them;
- 3) Conducting a series of conferences for managers and specialists in child welfare on early identification of families in crisis and cruelty to children, as well as on organizational aspects of assistance.

### *At the start of the project, the Foundation conducted the following seminars in Moscow and Barnaul:*

- “Skills for supervisors of helpline emergency psychological assistance with early identification of families at risk and violations of children’s rights,” a workshop to train supervisors who would provide support to helpline operators throughout Russia;
- “Organizing and running helpline emergency psychological assistance with early identification

of families at risk and violations of children’s rights,” a workshop to train service managers overseeing helplines.

### *In addition, two conferences were held in 2009 by the NFPCC under the auspices of this program:*

- An inter-regional theoretical and practical conference, “Implementing the Russian family policy to prevent child abandonment: Experience of Siberian regions,” March 31-April 1, 2009 in Tomsk jointly with the Department of Children and Family Issues of Tomsk oblast;
- An inter-regional theoretical and practical conference, “Protected childhood: Early identification of violations of children’s rights and rehabilitation of the family,” May 27-29, 2009 in Petrozavodsk, with support from the Government of the Republic of Karelia.

More than 300 people attended the conferences, including representatives of the RF Ministry of Education and Science and the RF Ministry of Health and Welfare; representatives of the executive branch and specialists from the Siberian, Northwestern, and Far Eastern federal districts; prominent scholars and experts in child welfare; representatives of non-commercial organizations.

The conference reviewed and analyzed the local experience of pre-testing and introducing innovative methods of early identification of families at risk and violations of children’s rights; the organization of preventive aid to families; family placement of orphans and children without parental care.

The conference participants discussed proposals to improve the legal foundation and mechanisms to protect children’s rights, to introduce cost effective models and methods to prevent child abandonment, and to identify and rehabilitate families and children at risk.

## Developing a republican system of child abandonment prevention in Buryatia

In 2008, the NFPCC and the Republican Agency on Families and Children in Buryatia signed an agreement to work jointly on developing a republican-wide system of child abandonment prevention. The presidential Coordinating Council introduced preventive services for families and children at risk in three districts and put in place organizational systems to identify troubled families at early stages.

### *The program has four main objectives:*

1. Institute a system of early identification of families at risk;
2. Make available comprehensive, inter-agency, systematic assistance to families at risk;
3. Put in place a republican system of family placement for orphans and children without parental care;
4. Review, analyze and disseminate positive experience throughout the republic.

Foundation experts held workshops and project design seminars for managers and specialists of institutions that work with children and families in crisis. To jump-start the process, the Foundation held a grants competition for projects to prevent child abandonment. The 15 grantees of the competition’s first round began to receive training and, with the help of the Foundation, will have an opportunity to carry out their projects at the organizations where they work.

Experienced trainers from the NFPCC proposed programs to train specialists and introduce child abandonment

prevention services that have been pre-tested in other regions and then modified for the particular conditions in Buryatia. A second and third series of workshops on preventive services will be held in the second half of 2009.

The residents of Buryatia have been enthusiastic about the efforts of the NFPCC to prevent child abandonment and institute family placement for orphans.

### *ArigUS Television Company:*

“In many cases parents can be helped, and then the child’s situation normalizes. You simply need to provide timely and appropriate assistance to the family. When children are taken out of the home and put under the protection of the state, it’s an extreme measure but, unfortunately, all too common. Aiming to bring the number of such cases down to the minimum is an entirely new approach. Today this is the priority of the state organizations tasked with protecting children.”

### *Vyacheslav Nagovitsyn, President of the Republic of Buryatia*

“The system needs to be fundamentally changed. I’m not the only one who understands this – my administration does, too. Buryatia has a team of like-thinkers who are eager to implement the child abandonment prevention program, including new methods of modern management. By providing specialists in institutions that provide care to children with new methods to identify child neglect and abuse at the early stages, we will be able to decrease the number of parents who lose their parental rights. In the future we expect this to bring down the number of orphanages and institutions to the bare minimum. Our goal is ambitious: By 2017 we want to close the last orphanage in the republic.”



*Early intervention helps children acquire crucial skills and lowers the number of children designated as disabled. In the future, it will improve children's educational trajectory and help families accept their children instead of rejecting them*

*At present, two thirds of the newborns identified by the service that provides assistance to women during pregnancy and after childbirth are living with their birth families*

## Introducing early intervention in Krasnoyarsk

**THE NFPCC** and the inter-regional Siberian Center for Support of Public Initiatives are jointly carrying out two early intervention projects in Krasnoyarsk krai (territory). The projects are part of the program, Contributing to the Social and Economic Development of Krasnoyarsk Territory, supported by the local government in Krasnoyarsk and USAID.

### Decreasing the numbers of orphans and children designated as “disabled” in orphanages

**THE KRASNOYARSK** territory specialized orphanages #3 (Krasnoyarsk) and #5 (Sosnovoborsk), both part of the state health care system, are the project pilot institutions. These environments are like large families, with caregivers in the role of professional mothers. This living situation enhances the children's personal and social development and encourages greater initiative. The children suffer less from depression and anxiety, and their physical and psychological health improves.

### Establishing a territory-wide system of psychological and educational support for young children living at home

**THE TERRITORY** Territory Center for Psychological, Medical and Social Support and its branches in Lesosibirsk, Kansk, Achinsk, and Minusinsk are piloting early intervention. Center specialists work with children who have cerebral palsy, vision

and hearing impairments, Down syndrome, hydrocephalus, and delays in motor development. A tremendous amount of work is being done with parents: counseling on their children's development, helping them make their children's lives as normal as possible, showing them how to effectively use the home environment to improve development in children with functional disabilities.

In cooperation with the local health care authorities, a system is being put in place to identify young children and families in need of assistance. In February 2009, a concept paper on the development of education for children with special health needs in Krasnoyarsk territory was ratified. The project's strategies to train and support personnel for early intervention services were incorporated into this concept paper.

Fifty specialists from the pilot institutions were trained in workshops organized by the Foundation. Structural changes were made in the institutions' work, new protocols were put in practice, interdisciplinary case evaluations were instituted, and individual assistance programs were introduced.

These successful innovations have been incorporated into the territory's system of health care and education. There are plans to open a territory-wide training center on early intervention and develop a public information system to inform potential clients about the early intervention services and medical institutions in Krasnoyarsk. In addition, continuity models will be developed to help special needs children as they grow older.

## Preventing newborn abandonment in Elektrostal (Moscow region)

gram Future Generation, CAF Russia, and Trust, a city social rehabilitation center for young people.

The project works to lower the number of young mothers who give up their children and improve the quality of life of newborns at risk through social and psychological support for the disadvantaged families.

A special service to help women during pregnancy and after childbirth was set up at the Trust center. Five specialists received theoretical and practical training to work with women and their families when there is a risk of child abandonment. In the course of six months, the service provided assistance to twelve families. At present, two thirds of the newborns identified by the service are living with their birth families. The young mothers, supported by specialists from the service, are providing for their children's needs. And the city budget saved the money that would have been spent to support a child in an institution – more than 15,000 rubles per month.

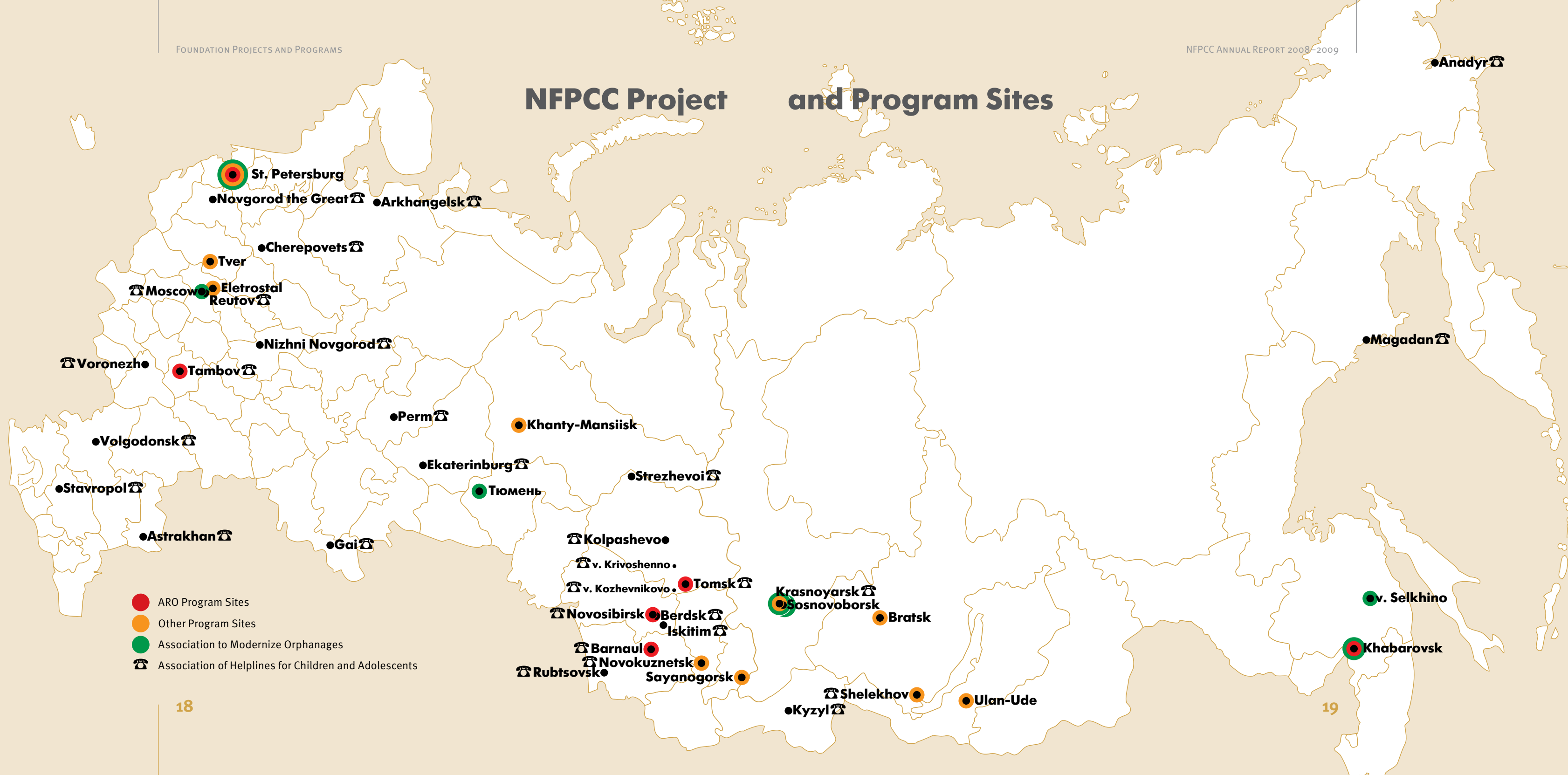
After the project ended, the service was made a permanent part of the Trust center.

**ONE OF THE MOST** important aspects of child abandonment prevention is encouraging mothers to keep their newborn children rather than institutionalize them. Adolescent and young mothers are more likely to abandon them to institutional care due to their poor housing and low income, lack of child-raising skills, and fear of losing family support. Counseling these women and their families is a common aspect of work with troubled families, where early pregnancies are not infrequent. But if young mothers are provided with social and psychological support, they often keep their newborn children in their birth family.

A project to provide social and psychological support to pregnant teenagers and young mothers in Elektrostal was begun in 2008 by an initiative of the NFPCC, the charity pro-



# NFPCC Project and Program Sites



- ARO Program Sites
- Other Program Sites
- Association to Modernize Orphanages
- ☎ Association of Helplines for Children and Adolescents



*Project design helps personnel determine what steps should be taken to incorporate various forms of family placement in each boarding school*

*In Russia, about 20,000 children aged 0-4 years old are being raised in orphanages. More than 90 percent of these children experience developmental and personality disorders*

## Developing modern methods of family placement for orphans and children without parental care at their boarding schools in Bratsk, Sayanogorsk, Shelekhov and Novokuznetsk

participants at the Regional State Educational Center for orphans and children without parental care, Zyryansky Orphanage (Tomsk region), where they could get practical experience organizing and providing support to foster and guardian families. They were later able to apply what they learned in their own institutions.

Under the project design component, a special two-day workshop was held. With technical assistance from a Foundation consultant, each group of specialists analyzed their institutional resources and designed projects to introduce family placement at their boarding schools. The projects to design and manage support services for foster and guardian families included the services' goals and objectives, descriptions of current personnel and other resources, detailed work plans with descriptions of specific activities, expected results and evaluation criteria. This work not only helped the staff consolidate their theoretical knowledge base, but also helped them determine the next steps to incorporate various forms of family placement in each boarding school.

**IN 2008-2009**, the NFPCC carried out a project with funding from the Together into the Future charity program funded by the company RUSAL. It was designed to create a social and rehabilitative environment for the healthy development of children as they age out of institutions. The project goal was to develop modern methods of family placement for orphans and children without parental care at their boarding schools in Bratsk, Sayanogorsk, Shelekhov and Novokuznetsk. The project had two components: training and social project design.

Under the training program, which was designed jointly with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Family and Child (St. Petersburg), four state certified professional training workshops were held for 16 specialists (four from each boarding school). In addition, a two-day internship was arranged for the

## Networks to protect children and prevent child abandonment

**IN 2006-2007**, the NFPCC began to support to projects involving networks – the Association to Modernize Orphanages and the Association of Helplines for Children and Adolescents.

### The Association to Modernize Orphanages project

**IN RUSSIA** about 20,000 children aged 0-4 years old are being raised in orphanages. More than 90 percent of these children experience developmental and personality disorders. The most widespread problems are chronic anxiety; delays psychological, communicative, and physical development, socialization, and personality formation.

Until recently the problems associated with the care of these children received very little attention from state and non-governmental organizations. However, there needs to be fundamental changes to the way young children are cared for in these institutions. The living conditions of these children can be changed to approach those of families, and individualized educational plans can be designed for each child. These interventions lead to a decrease in the percentage of children in orphanages designated as disabled and improve their chances for being adopted or placed with guardian or foster families.

The NFPCC conceptualized and drafted the necessary documents to found the Association to Modernize Orphan-

ages, which has the objective of introducing modern methods into orphanages and reorganizing their work. Membership is voluntary and at the member's initiative. The Association has its own Council.

By April 2009, 11 orphanages in seven regions of Russia had received certificates from the NFPCC confirming their membership in the Association. Local Health Departments are being encouraged to support the Association and permit the Foundation to carry out innovative work in orphanages. The Moscow Health Department and the St. Petersburg State Health Committee have already offered their support.

### The Association of Helplines for Children and Adolescents project

**TELEPHONE HELPLINES** are social and psychological services that are widely accessible and reach a great number of people in a short period of time. In times of emergency and dire need (social unrest, an extreme personal crisis), helplines are used by people who would not ordinarily seek one-on-one psychological counseling.

Helplines for children and adolescents play a special role: They are early indicators that a child is in crisis. They make it possible to quickly take measures to prevent unwanted consequences that might arise from a family conflict, running away from home, or an attempt at suicide.



**According to statistics, more than 500,000 calls have been made to helplines for children and adolescents in Russia. Of them, 6.8 percent (34,000 calls a year) are from children in crisis, experiencing cruelty, neglect or violence**

**Current Russian legislation stipulates a series of steps that must be taken when working with a family at risk of abandoning children to state care and in which a violation of children's rights has been registered**

According to statistics, more than 500,000 calls have been made to helplines for children and adolescents in Russia. Of them, 6.8 percent (34,000 calls a year) are from children in crisis, who are experiencing cruelty, neglect or violence. These telephone helplines have been incorporated in the system to protect children and their rights: When children call, they are signaling psychological or social problems and/or reporting direct violations of their rights.

Children's helplines are an effective part of child abandonment prevention programs. According to surveys conducted by the Foundation, the number of telephone help services grew threefold over the last five years. At present, there are about 200 services in Russia that provide emergency psychological care. However, as many new services appeared, the quality of the professional training of its specialists fell, along with the quality of the care. Providing technical assistance and training to new helplines is one of the Foundation's main priorities. In 2008 and early 2009, the Foundation facilitated the opening of four telephone services providing emergency psychological counseling to children and adolescents in three Russian regions: Novosibirsk, Perm and Tambov.

The NFPCC founded the Association of Helplines for Children and Adolescents in order to expand the reach and quality of these services.

***The goals of the Association are:***

- Ensuring children's rights to be protected from all forms of violence and neglect of their needs;
- Raising the quality of emergency psychological counseling for children and adolescents by raising the professional qualifications of the personnel and introducing universal counseling standards;
- Advocating telephone helplines among the public, state organizations and the professional community as effective

instruments to identify children in crisis and an important link in the system to prevent child abandonment in Russia today.

At present, 153 services in 56 Russian regions have benefitted from the work of the Association of Helplines for Children and Adolescents.

To make telephone helplines more accessible to children, the UN Committee on Children's Rights recommended that the Russian government "create a single, toll-free, 24-hour telephone service with a three-digit number to provide for the needs of children in particular (Commentary to the 31 Recommendations of the UN Committee on Children's Rights). In response to these recommendations, the NFPCC requested that all Russian regions support the creation of a three-digit number and service. So far, 48 regions have expressed their support.

**THE FOUNDATION REPRESENTS THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN CHILDREN'S HELPLINE INTERNATIONAL, WHICH WAS FOUNDED AS A GLOBAL NETWORK OF TELEPHONE SERVICES PROVIDING AID TO CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**

**Creating a helpline for children and adolescents in the city of Perm**

**THE FOUNDATION** provided technical assistance and training to help organize a helpline in Perm. This service was regarded as the first step in the creation of a single inter-agency system to identify families in crisis at the early stages and work with cases of violations of children's rights throughout the Perm territory (krai). For the system to work, it was essential that the helpline be toll-free and had a convenient three-digit number.

To ensure the success of this project, an agreement was signed by the Perm Territory Administration, the Perm City Administration, and the NFPCC. The first stage was to organize and open a telephone helpline for children and adolescents in the city of Perm. The Foundation hired and trained a team of operators and supervisors, provided technical assistance to publicize the service, and gave the staff essential regulatory and methodological materials. The service began its work on February 1, 2009.

Before the helpline began its work, the City Administration and the Helpline ensured that all the telephone operators in the territory knew that the number was toll-free for all residents. Today all the children in the territory have access to free professional counseling. The service works from 9am to 9pm, Monday-Friday. The number is an eleven-digit 800 number, but there are plans to change it to a three-digit number. The phones lines are staffed by practicing psychologists with extensive work experience, often in emergency care. The staff and territory administrators proposed calling the helpline "Change," which was approved by children in pre-testing.

The Change helpline began its work at a high professional level and was accepted as a member of the Association of

Helplines for Children and Adolescents. About half the calls are from children and adolescents, but parents also call the helpline for help in resolving conflicts with their children.

On March 17, 2009, a round table discussion was held in Perm on "Prospects for providing emergency social-psychological counseling to children and adolescents in crisis." The participants concluded that the problem of domestic violence and cruelty to children has become more critical and presents a threat to society itself. It must be resolved through comprehensive measures. In particular, a system must be put in place to coordinate the actions of all relevant structures to provide emergency social and psychological assistance to children in crisis. The participants recommended that a permanent working group be founded in Perm to plan this coordination, and to draft an inter-agency plan of activities to prevent cruelty to children and provide counseling and assistance to victims of abuse. These plans are to be included in the municipal program, Children in the City.



*The Foundation developed criteria and indicators to qualify efforts to support and protect families*

*On June 5, 2007 Dmitry Medvedev spoke at the Russian National Forum “On the work of governmental organizations in social development.” President Medvedev emphasized the need to create an infrastructure for preventive work and a comprehensive system for rehabilitating children at risk*

## Research and scholarship

In 2008, the RF Ministry of Health and Social Development commissioned the Foundation to conduct research on families in crisis, child abandonment, homeless children, and children suffering from neglect and abuse. The Ministry requested that the Foundation study the practical experience of institutions providing social services to protect children's rights in disadvantaged families and review the scope of social support accessible to surrogate families.

The Foundation developed criteria and indicators to qualify efforts to support and protect families. Data provided by the executive branches in the regions were collected and analyzed, and the Foundation chose 26 regions that were representative of the seven federal districts to conduct a more detailed analysis and systematize the data.

After the research was completed, the Foundation recommended new models and methods of work to institutions providing social services in order to raise their effectiveness and lower the numbers of disadvantaged families and children abandoned to state care.

The Convention on Children's Rights mandates the state to provide adequate care for children who, for whatever reason, cannot live with their birth family. The priority is to place a child without parental care with a surrogate family. The

mission of a temporary placement institution is to provide the child with a safe and congenial environment with appropriate conditions for his physical, emotional and intellectual development, as well as to support and mediate for the child in his dealings with his birth or surrogate family.

In 2008, the Department of Education and Science of the Khanty-Mansiisk Autonomous District-Yugra commissioned the Foundation to develop a comprehensive monitoring system that would evaluate living and developmental conditions of orphans and children without parental care in both temporary and permanent placement institutions and surrogate families.

The monitoring uses a number of methods to measure the overall well-being of children in institutions and surrogate families, their care, and how well their basic needs are being met. This monitoring is a key factor for ensuring the quality of life of children who, for various reasons, are not living with their birth families.

The Foundation also developed methodological recommendations to change institutions into centers of family placement. The recommendations included evaluation instruments to measure how prepared an institution is to become a family placement center; template organizational structures

and job descriptions; programs to train and retrain specialists; programs to prepare children for family placement; as well as methodological tools for the center.

The effectiveness of child abandonment prevention measures directly depends on how violations of children's rights are identified and how help is provided to the family in the early stages of a family crisis. At this time, the family still has the potential to be rehabilitated, and there is still an opportunity to normalize conditions for the child's healthy development without terminating parents' custodial rights.

On June 5, 2007 Dmitry Medvedev spoke at the Russian National Forum “On the work of governmental organizations in social development.” President Medvedev emphasized the need to create an infrastructure for preventive work and a comprehensive system for rehabilitating children at risk so that families in crisis can be identified as soon as possible. With early identification, problems can be addressed at the earliest stages of a crisis, and the family, whenever possible, can be preserved intact.

In 2009, the Foundation published a collection of methodological materials on introducing early identification of families in crisis organizing family assistance (by individual case). The collection was published under To Hear a Child, a key social project which received state funding through a grant under an order of the Russian President signed on April 14, 2008.

The methods delineated in the collection allow specialists not only to identify families in crisis at the early stages, but also to work with them on an individual basis, taking into account each family's specific conditions and the optimal way to provide assistance. They also facilitate effective inter-agency cooperation in preventive work with families and

children. Current Russian legislation stipulates a series of steps that must be taken when working with a family in which a violation of children's rights has been registered and which is at risk of abandoning the children to state care. The collection contains information on legislative and regulatory norms governing early identification and case work, the basic stages of assistance, professional standards, documentation, and regulations for work in various parts of Russia.



*Since 2005, the Foundation has been supporting the informational website Prevention of Child Abandonment in Russia ([www.sirotstvo.ru](http://www.sirotstvo.ru)), which publicizes news and analytical materials*

*At the present stage development of the Russian child welfare system, the main task of the Foundation on the regional level is to help state organizations and agencies set up child abandonment prevention programs and rehabilitate children*

## Public outreach and book publishing

**FOR THE FOUNDATION** to successfully achieve its mission goals, it must have support in society – citizens' understanding and support for the efforts specialists to ensure children's rights. In order to do this, the Foundation is working intensively with the mass media. Foundation staff members frequently appear on television and radio programs. Foundation specialists write regular columns in professional journals such as Social Work, Journal of Practical Psychology, and Psychologist in the Kindergarten. They also publish articles in the journals Social Services, Issues of Social Services, Orphanage, Protect Me, and Family Psychology and Family Therapy.

The Foundation initiates and participates in conferences and round table discussions on child rights and the prevention of child abandonment. Since 2005, the Foundation has been supporting the informational website Prevention of Child Abandonment in Russia ([www.sirotstvo.ru](http://www.sirotstvo.ru)), which makes news and analytical materials available to specialists and the public.

The book publishing program, Library of Child Abandonment Prevention, serves to educate and provide methodological support for professionals, one of the main objectives of the Foundation's programs. The Library publishes five series: The Disadvantaged Family: Overcoming the Crisis; Children at Risk: Methods to Provide Assistance; Child Orphans: Family Placement and Social Adaptation; Special Needs Children in the Family: Developing Services; and Russian Experience: Innovation in Practice.

**IN 2008-2009**, the Foundation published the following books:

- Telephone Helplines: Services of Understanding in Society. A Collection of Articles and Abstracts of Presentations at the International Conference on Telephone Helplines (Astrakhan, October 21-23, 2008).
- Judith S. Rycus, Ronald C. Hughes. Field Guide to Child Welfare in Four Volumes, Volume I: Foundations of Child Protective Services.
- Judith S. Rycus, Ronald C. Hughes. Field Guide to Child Welfare in Four Volumes, Volume II: Case Planning and Family-Centered Casework.
- Judith S. Rycus, Ronald C. Hughes. Field Guide to Child Welfare in Four Volumes, Volume III: Child Development and Child Welfare.
- Judith S. Rycus, Ronald C. Hughes. Field Guide to Child Welfare in Four Volumes, Volume IV: Placement and Performance.
- B. Boreson, S. Britten, S.. Dovbnya, T.. Morozova, C. Puckering: Early Relationships and Child Development.
- Implementing the State Family Policy in Child Abandonment Prevention: Experience of Tomsk Oblast. A Collection of Articles and Legislative Documents.

**THE FOUNDATION PLANS TO FURTHER EXPAND THE PUBLISHING PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT TO PEOPLE IN THE HELPING PROFESSIONS.**

## Contributing to the development and implementation of the state child welfare policy

### Cooperating with federal organizations and agencies

**THE FOUNDATION** collaborates with federal organizations and agencies in the executive and legislative branches in order to improve the child welfare system in the Russian Federation. For example, members of the Foundation staff took part in the Inter-Agency Working Group (formed by Directive 248 of the Ministry of Health and Social Development and ratified on April 9, 2007) and contributed to the draft of the state program to provide government assistance to children in crisis. At present, Foundation specialists are members of the Expert Council of the Foundation to Support Children in Crisis, which was founded by a Directive of the Russian President on March 26, 2008.

In 2007 and 2008, under the federal program Children of Russia 2007-2010, together with the RF Ministry of Health and Social Development and the Ministry of Education and Science, the Foundation held nationwide grant competitions for innovative models of family placement for orphans and children without parental care. In 2009, under the auspices of

the project, To Hear a Child, which is implemented with state financing issued under Directive 192 by the Russian President, signed on April 14, 2008, the Foundation is conducting regional and nationwide conferences on early identification of families in crisis and organizational aspect of service provision. This project is being implemented with support from the Presidential Administration.

The Foundation is also working with the Sub-Committee on Child Welfare under the RF Federation Council. Foundation staff members are part of Technical Standardization Committee 406, Social Services for the Population, and the Expert Council on the Development of the Market for Social and Educational Services under the RF Federal Anti-Monopoly Service.

### Supporting the development of regional systems to prevent child abandonment

**THE FOUNDATION** has signed long-term agreements to develop preventive child abandonment systems with the



administrations in Tomsk, Novosibirsk, and Tambov regions, Khabarovsk and Altai territories, and the Republic of Buryatiya, and is managing comprehensive programs in these regions.

The Foundation is participating in the implementation of Directive 693R, Creating Systems to Prevent Child Abandonment in Tomsk Region, signed into effect by the Head of the Administration (governor) of the region on November 25, 2005. On the basis of Directive 247-r, signed by the Governor of the Novosibirsk region on February 12, 2007, Optimizing Activities to Prevent Child Abandonment, Homeless Children, Neglected Children and Violations of the Rights of Minors in the Novosibirsk Region, the Foundation is helping design and implement a model to prevent child abandonment in the region. The Foundation is also participating in the implementation of the program, The Family and Children of the Republic of Buryatiya. The Foundation staff members are part of the Coordinating Council formed to create a system of child abandonment prevention under the Buryat Presidential Administration.

#### **Building the legal foundation to protect children's rights**

**THE FOUNDATION** is providing its expertise to draft legislative and normative acts in child welfare and the prevention of child abandonment. In Tomsk, Foundation specialists are participating in the drafting of the law “On organizing and implementing activities connected with guardians and trustees of minors in the Tomsk region,” and the law “On implementing activities connected with guardians and trustees of minors in the Tambov region.”

Foundation specialists have been working on the development of the Children of the Tomsk Region program for

2007-2010, Children of the Tambov Region for 2007-2010, and Children of the Novosibirsk Region for 2008-2010. The Foundation prepared proposals to design a program in the Republic of Buryatiya: The Development of a Republican System to Prevent Child Abandonment and Introduce Family Placement of Orphans and Children without Parental Care. In Tomsk, basic standards in work to prevent child abandonment were drafted and pre-tested.

# The Dynamics of Development

*Dmitry Lisitsyn,*  
Executive Director of the NFPCC



**THE FOUNDATION'S** strategy for development is through expanding partnerships with the federal and regional state organizations that are responsible for ensuring children's rights. All the projects and programs that the Foundation proposes to its partners for implementation are evidence-based, having been tested by rigorous research and many years of practical experience. To develop services and methods, the Foundation invites prominent Russian and foreign experts in the most critical issues of children's rights, as well as renowned specialists from leading universities and research centers.

One of the achievements of our many years of work is an innovative, comprehensive, inter-agency model of child

abandonment prevention, which responds to the challenges of our present situation and has served as the organizational backbone for work in more than ten Russian regions.

In order to support and consolidate the pioneering work the Foundation has done, we will continue to develop and implement training programs for social welfare specialists and managers, standardize social services for families and children, and introduce modern methods to design organizational and managerial modifications for the child welfare system.

The Foundation owes its stable development to the constant improvement of systems to manage our programs, consistent refinement of our fiscal policies, and the professional growth of our staff and specialists.

**I'M CERTAIN THAT THE RESULTS WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED WILL ALLOW THE FOUNDATION TO CONTINUE ITS DEVELOPMENT AS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST COMPETENT AND PROMINENT PROJECT DESIGN AND EDUCATIONAL CENTERS, WHICH WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CARRYING OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL POLICY.**





## Partners of the National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

- RF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
- RF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- FEDERAL EDUCATION AGENCY
- ADMINISTRATION OF ALTAI KRAI
- CITY ADMINISTRATION OF BARNAUL
- GOVERNMENT OF IRKUTSK OBLAST
- MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF KRASNOYARSK KRAI
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF KRASNOYARSK KRAI
- ADMINISTRATION OF NOVGOROD OBLAST
- ADMINISTRATION OF NOVOSIBIRSK OBLAST
- MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NOVOSIBIRSK
- GOVERNMENT OF PERM KRAI
- CITY ADMINISTRATION OF PERM
- ADMINISTRATION OF TAMBOV OBLAST
- ADMINISTRATION OF TYER OBLAST
- ADMINISTRATION OF TOMSK OBLAST
- GOVERNMENT OF Khabarovsk Krai
- CITY ADMINISTRATION OF Khabarovsk
- Buryatiya Republican Agency on Families and Children
- Tatarstan Republican Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Welfare
- DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE KHANTI-MANSIISK AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT-YUGRA
- CITY GOVERNMENT OF ST. PETERSBURG
- NATIONAL CHARITY FOUNDATION, MOSCOW
- NEW STEPS CHARITY FOUNDATION, ST. PETERSBURG
- NEW DEVELOPMENT CHARITY FOUNDATION, TOMSK OBLAST
- INTER-REGIONAL SIBERIAN CENTER TO SUPPORT SOCIAL INITIATIVES, NOVOSIBIRSK
- FOUNDATION OF THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMS, UNITED COMPANY RUSAL
- CENTER FOR FISCAL POLICY, MOSCOW
- RAUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTE OF FAMILY AND CHILD, ST. PETERSBURG
- EARLY INTERVENTION INSTITUTE, ST. PETERSBURG
- YUGO-ZAPAD STATE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SUPPORT, MOSCOW
- BUTOVO STATE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SUPPORT, MOSCOW
- THE NOVOSIBIRSK CITY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION SibMama
- THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND SOCIAL WORK NON-COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIP, NOVOSIBIRSK
- VIKTORIYA CHILDREN'S CHARITY FOUNDATION, MOSCOW
- THE CENTER FOR ASSISTANCE TO HOMELESS CHILDREN CHARITY FOUNDATION, RF CHAMBER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
- TOMSK STATE UNIVERSITY
- STELLIT REGIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS
- CHUKOTKA AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE RUSSIAN RED CROSS, CHUKOTKA AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT
- AGENCY FOR SOCIAL INFORMATION, MOSCOW
- SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL
- PSYCHOLOGIST IN THE KINDERGARTEN JOURNAL
- SOCIAL SERVICE JOURNAL
- ISSUES OF SOCIAL SERVICE JOURNAL
- ORPHANAGE JOURNAL
- PROTECT ME JOURNAL
- FAMILY PSYCHOLOGY AND FAMILY THERAPY JOURNAL
- JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL PSYCHOLOGY
- ISSUES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS JOURNAL
- EVENING NOVOSIBIRSK NEWSPAPER, NOVOSIBIRSK
- USAID MISSION, RUSSIA
- INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH & EXCHANGES BOARD (IREX), U.S.A.
- CHILD HELPLINE INTERNATIONAL, AMSTERDAM
- MATRA/KAP PROGRAM, ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY, MOSCOW
- EVOLUTION AND PHILANTHROPY, UNITED KINGDOM
- CHARITY AID FOUNDATION (CAF), U.K.
- INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES, U.S.A.
- UNICEF
- THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, NEW YORK
- UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE, ANCHORAGE
- DE KINDERTELEFOON, AMSTERDAM
- EVERYCHILD, LONDON
- KEK VONAL CHILD CRISIS FOUNDATION, BUDAPEST





# Foundation Financial Report

SOURCE	RUBLES
FEDERAL MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS AND AGENCIES	
Ministry of Health and Social Development	850,000
Federal Education Agency	2,200,000
Department of Education and Science of the Khanti-Mansiisk Autonomous District-Yugra	3,393,630
Buryatiya Republican Agency on Families and Children	1,674,210
Novosibirsk Oblast Department of Education	101,400
Directorate for Social Issues, Khabarovsk Administration	65,000
Regional State Institution for Social Welfare, Barnaul	86,000
Center for Psychological, Medical and Social Support, Perm	54,750
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN FOUNDATIONS, EMBASSIES	
International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)	28,666,972
UNICEF	45,286
Evolution and Philanthropy, United Kingdom	523,761
Charity Aid Foundation (U.K.)	250,000
Matra/KAP Program, Royal Netherlands Embassy	415,413
Child Helpline International, the Netherlands	525,781
Institute for Human Services (U.S.A.)	143,697
COMPANIES, CORPORATIONS AND PRIVATE RUSSIAN FOUNDATIONS	
National Charity Foundation	10,000,000
Foundation of the Center for Social Programs, United Company RUSAL	690,000
Siberian Center to Support Social Initiatives, Novosibirsk	952,102
Early Intervention Institute, St. Petersburg	213,000
The Novosibirsk City Non-Governmental Organization SibMama	102,133
TOTAL	50,953,135



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