

☐ I would like more information about the Chernobyl Children's Project (UK)

☐ I enclose a donation of £ .....

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Date: .....

*On behalf of the children of Belarus we would like to thank you for your interest and for any help you are able to give.*

### **Chernobyl Children's Project (UK)**

Kinder House, Fitzalan Street, Glossop,  
Derbyshire SK13 7DL

Tel: 01457 863534/862112 Fax: 01457 857169

E-mail: linda@ccprojectuk.fsnet.co.uk



Chernobyl Children's Project (UK)  
is a company limited by guarantee.  
Registration No. 3220045.  
Registered Charity No. 1059832.  
September 2003

## **How You Can Help the Children of Chernobyl**

**£20**

*will transport 10 boxes of humanitarian aid to Belarus on one of our trucks*

**£60**

*will pay the wages of a carer in our new respite care home for one month*

**£200**

*will provide an airfare for a holiday in Britain which will boost a child's immune system.*

**You could join or help to establish a local group and host children in your home for a recuperative holiday**

#### **National Co-ordinator**

Linda Walker 01457 863534

#### **Honorary Treasurer**

Sandy McLaren 01457 854496

#### **Aid Co-ordinator**

Mike Allison 01977 684632

#### **Trustees:**

Mags Whiting (Glossop) 01457 865805

Mike Allison (Selby) 01977 684632

Harold Bowden (Leeds) 0113 293 1633

John Gater (Stoke) 01782 535000

#### **Consultants:**

Dr. Hazel Padfield Community Doctor

Peter Marks Pharmacist

Jean Holt Foster Care Trainer

Geoff Wright Child Care Officer

Sue Carlyon Disability Specialist

David Walker Building Projects Manager

## **CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)**

**ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ**



In Belarus, a small country between Russia and Poland, over a million children are at risk of developing cancer or other serious illness because of a nuclear accident which happened over seventeen years ago.

Holidays abroad are needed to boost the children's immune systems and increase their resistance to serious disease, and Belarussian hospitals and orphanages are reliant on the support they receive through humanitarian aid.

Chernobyl Children's Project (UK) was launched in Manchester in January 1995. The charity now includes 30 groups in England, Scotland and Wales; providing holidays for about 350 children each Summer. We also organise holidays in clean parts of Belarus for children who cannot come to the UK; deliver medical supplies and other humanitarian aid; support a Children's Hospice; train orphanage staff to prepare children for fostering; and we work with partners in Belarus to establish better care for children and young people with disabilities.



## The Chernobyl Nuclear Accident

On 26th April 1986 there was an explosion at a nuclear power plant at Chernobyl, on the border between Ukraine and Belarus. Many tons of radioactive materials were thrown into the air. Some of these were carried around the world, but 70% of the radioactive substances blew north over the population of Belarus.

A quarter of the country's best farmlands and forests have been poisoned for hundreds of years by caesium 137 and strontium 90. Where there is plutonium the land will be uninhabitable for ever. Hundreds of towns and villages were evacuated, many of them buried and wiped off the map.

Within five years of the accident the incidence of thyroid cancer among the children of Southern Belarus had increased by more than 100 times, due to the large amounts of radioactive iodine they ingested. There have been rises in many other types of cancer, diabetes, heart disease, respiratory problems, ailments of the digestive system and birth defects. Time has not been a healer for the people of Belarus and the greatest fear is for the children of future generations.

Hospitals are desperately short of drugs and even the most basic supplies, such as syringes and sutures. Ambulances are urgently needed and incubators are also vital as many women give birth to tiny babies, who cannot survive without intensive care. In some of the heavily contaminated areas children have been born with leukaemia. Ill health and stress amongst the adult population has resulted in a huge rise in the number of children living in orphanages, where they are often short of food, clothes and toys. Many of their carers lack training, work long hours and are poorly paid.

In the Summer, when airborne dust causes radiation levels to rise, it is important for as many children as possible to leave their contaminated homeland for a few weeks of fresh air and clean food. Doctors in Belarus say that this boosts the children's immune systems for at least two years, helping them to resist, or recover from, serious illness.

## The Chernobyl Children's Project

Each Summer we bring around 350 children to Britain for a recuperative holiday and we organise holidays in clean parts of Belarus for children whose disabilities make it difficult for them to travel.

Many of the children we bring to this country are in remission from leukaemia or cancer. They are chosen by an organisation in Minsk called 'Children in Trouble' which is run by parents of children with cancer. Holidays abroad are vital for their children, particularly in their teens, when many fall ill for a second or third time, and the death rate is very high. We also include groups of very young children, accompanied by their mothers.

Other children may come from some of the most contaminated parts of the country. There are still many children living in tiny rural villages, sometimes just a few miles from the Chernobyl exclusion zone. These children may not be ill yet, but their future is bleak if they continue to live in such a radioactive environment. A happy, healthy holiday in the Summer may give them a better chance.

The Project delivers medical aid, school equipment, disability aids, toys, toiletries, nappies and bedding to hospitals, schools, orphanages and family associations in the affected region. We work closely with homes for children with disabilities and we have established a family home for young disabled adults and another for young children with disabilities. We fund Gomel Children's Hospice and organise training for hospice nurses. We also run a training programme in Gomel for orphanage staff, helping them to successfully foster children into local families, and in December 2003 we will open a Centre in Gomel which will provide regular breaks for families caring for their severely disabled children.



Representatives of the charity visit Belarus regularly maintaining close contact with the children's homes, hospitals and family associations we support. These visits also enable us to:

- ensure that we are sending appropriate aid and it is being used effectively
- plan and carry out our training and exchange programmes
- manage our building projects
- and provide ongoing support for our family homes.

All our work in Gomel is organised through our partners the 'Education Association'

We receive financial and practical support for our projects from many companies, church groups, voluntary organisations and generous individuals. We are particularly grateful to the Medical Equipment company 'KeyMed', the Department for International Development, the British Embassy, UNICEF, Sam Lupton and 'Elegant Homes'. Our local groups raise a large part of our funds. They are based in:

Aberystwyth, Blantyre, Buxton & Longnor, Carmarthen, Catterick, Craven, Crewe, Colchester, Dales, Endon & Stoke, Glossopdale, Gloucester & Cheltenham, Liverpool, Llandinam & Newtown, Leeds, London, London SW1, Lunesdale, Mid Essex, Monk Fryston, Moray, Rugby, Solihull, Southend, Teesdale, Teifi Valley, Totnes, Vale of Evesham and West Pennines.