

Shore of Hope

East Russian Orphanages

Summer 2007 Newsletter

Dear Friends: We have returned from our latest trip from this remote region and are encouraged by the progress that is being made. First, let's focus on the children. The sad news is that all adoptions from Russia have been suspended. It is so very important that we continue to provide the care, love and support to the children of the orphanages at this time. There is less hope for a bright future because of this change in government policy. We visited the 6 orphanages that you support and brought clothing, shoes and American sweets to the children.



(Every child received a pair of shoes with their name on them)

I (Natalie) would like to tell you a story about a little boy that I met many years ago. I call him Little Roma.



(Roma at 6 years old)

I met Roma for the first time at the orphanage in Ilinka. He was a little boy - I thought - of about three years old and when I was told, that he was seven I was very much surprised. He spoke very poorly for a seven-year-old, was small and often cried. I think he cried from pain. On his ear was a large bandage. At my question, the caregiver answered that Roma's wound had not been treated at home and now was not healing with treatment because the illness had already gone into the bone next to the ear.

Each time we came to visit, Roma was there with the same bandage. I decided to ask a doctor whom I knew, to

examine and treat Roma in the hospital. At the hospital Randy, my husband, got acquainted with Roma. He and Roma became good friends. After all of the treatments, Roma again returned to the orphanage.

On a later trip to visit the children, I did not see Roma and the caregiver informed me that his grandmother had taken him home. We all were glad at such a happy event. This is not usual in the orphanages.

In June of this year we again arrived in Khabarovsk, bringing gifts and footwear to the children in Mirnoe. And suddenly Roma ran out towards us, joyfully hugged and kissed Randy and exclaimed, "I know you, I know and I remember!!! And do you remember me?" ...

Tears appeared in my eyes. Certainly I remember Roma, as if it were possible to forget. Now Roma is 14 years old. And there is pain in his sad eyes.

We very much love these children. They require our love. They always put their heads under our hands when we come, for us to pat their heads, and we speak to them with kind and warm words of love and support. To us, they are simply children who need us.

We should all be reminded of how difficult life is in this region. We all become very comfortable with our lives, but must remember how others live. Each day I think about a saying in Russia and it is, "If I wake in the morning without pain, I am probably dead". This small sentence speaks so clearly the life that many must live. Many must live only for the present and not worry about the next day or week or

month. On behalf of the Russian team I thank you for your help and contributions. This support gives hope of a better future for those you touch. For the complete story of Little Roma and other children that you support, please visit our website at <http://shoreofhope.com>. The love for these little ones has moved your hearts to help children who can not help themselves. We have a dedicated Russia team who sacrifice many things to be in the field caring for the children. Please always keep these children and your Russia team in your thoughts and prayers



(Roma at 14 years old)

-----Our Work and Witness-Support It-----

Your gift to the *Shore of Hope* is tax deductible to the extent that the law allows. We provide receipts. *Shore of Hope* is a **not for profit** organization.

Contributions can be mailed to *Director of Shore of Hope*
Natalie Smith
692 Willet Way
East Lansing, MI 48823

WE THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

Checks payable to *Shore of Hope*

Your gift is appreciated!

<http://shoreofhope.com>