

# BIG FAMILY

Mission to Children

November 2005

*“Worship that is pure and unblemished in the sight of God the father is this: to visit and help and care for the widows and orphans in their affliction and need....” James 1:27 (AMP)*



***Sasha from Kommunar and Irina from Luga are two of our Big Family children who might be able to participate in summer hosting program...***

## ***Host a Russian orphan this summer?***

What have you planned for a family adventure for the summer of 2006? How about a vacation filled with love, joy, and excitement? You can have an incredible adventure right in your own home by hosting one of the older Russian orphans whom we would like to bring to the Pennsylvania area for 3 to 4 weeks during July-August of 2006.

Imagine for a moment that you are a 10-year-old Russian orphan. You are one of several million children who struggle to survive in the Russian orphanage system. Your future is bleak. Then one day you are invited to take part in the adventure of a lifetime: a vacation trip to America!

Big Family Mission would like to invite 6 to 10 orphan children to come to the United States during the summer of 2006.

To make this adventure possible, we need families and individuals who are willing to share part of their life with one of God's children. For four weeks, these children will share life with American families who offer a loving home along with summer fun and organized activities.

Host families may be prospective adoptive parents or families who are just willing to welcome an orphan into their home for part of the summer.

Big Family has been encouraged to participate in this hosting program by MIR, our ministry partner in

Russia. If you would like to read more about how this kind of program has impacted lives in America and in Russia, please visit the website of [www.newhorizonsforchildren.org](http://www.newhorizonsforchildren.org), a ministry that hosts children in the Atlanta and Orlando area.

How much will it cost for you to host a Russian orphan in this program? We estimate that the cost to cover air transportation, passport, visa, and a share of the Russian chaperone's expenses will be about \$1400, certainly less than the average cost of a "normal" family vacation.

The summer is months away but we need to begin planning now in order to make this "experience of a lifetime" possible. Please pray about the possibility of participating in this great adventure. If you believe that God is calling you to be a part of this program, please let us know as soon as possible, and we will give you additional information. You can either e-mail us or give us a call (see contact information on the reverse side).

The children who will be invited to participate in this program are children that we now work with in Kommunar and Luga. The children at St. Petersburg Orphanage No. 14 have an opportunity to take part in this kind of program through other ministries, but the children at Kommunar and Luga have never been invited to come to America.



***We have been introducing our Big Family team members in Russia who go into orphanages and minister to the children. We are happy to report that the team ministering at Orphanage No. 14 in St. Petersburg is growing. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Russia who are "hands and the feet" of this ministry.***

## ***Showers for Luga...when?***

Each time we go to Luga, we talk with Sergei, director of the internat/orphanage, about the need for showers at the orphanage. Currently, the children go to the public bathhouse in Luga to take their bath (usually once per week).

Through the faithful giving of a few Big Family Friends, the Luga shower fund has grown but we are still about \$1400 away from having the funds needed to buy and completely install two showers for the orphanage.

We pray that God will provide the funds so that we can proceed with the shower project before the end of the current school year.

## ***You can help us spread the word!***

Do you know of a church group, a youth group, a club, or a Sunday School class who would like to learn more about Big Family Mission and opportunities to minister to Russian orphans?

We pray that the Lord will bless us in the year ahead with opportunities to spread the word about Big Family. We want to see more and more individuals and families being blessed by becoming Family Friends!

Our presentation can be as brief as five minutes, or we can present a full program in about 30 minutes.

You can be a huge blessing to this ministry by helping us find opportunities to speak about Big Family Mission!

## ***E-mail addresses?***

What is the best way to stay in touch with our Big Family Friends? Certainly, we feel that it is important to publish a newsletter on a regular basis, and plan to continue to do so.

Many of our Big Family Friends have e-mail, and we are planning to begin using e-mail more often to keep Family Friends aware of the need for prayer for the situations that often spring up in the lives of our children in Russia. It gives us great joy when we receive a little message about one of the children, so we would like to share as much of that joy as possible with our Family Friends.

So, dear Family Friends, even if you have already given us your e-mail in the past, can you send us an e-mail so that we can be sure that we have your e-mail address correct and up-to-date?

Just send us an e-mail with subject "Big Family" to [kendockery@bigfamilyministry.org](mailto:kendockery@bigfamilyministry.org).

## ***Christmas at the orphanages...***

We thank all of you who have contributed to help buy Christmas presents for our Big Family children in Russia. A few people have asked, "Am I too late?" And the answer is "no"... we plan to wire funds to Russia for the Christmas gifts sometime in early December, so if you would like to send a gift and haven't done so, there is still time!

What will be the gift for the children? Originally, we had planned to buy things like socks, under wear, house slippers. But the need for some of these items has been so critical in some of the orphanages that we couldn't wait for Christmas, so Big Family has already provided for many of these needs.

As we write this newsletter, we are a few days away from leaving for our Thanksgiving week mission trip to Russia. So, we have decided to ask the children what they would like for a Christmas gift while we are there. We will have much to write about when we return from Russia!

## ***Mission trip for summer camp...***

Our local church, in cooperation with our Russian partner MIR, is planning a summer mission trip to Russia. Adults and young people, ages 13 and older, are being invited to participate.

Participants will live in a Russian state camp for orphans, and have the opportunity to minister through music, skits, and recreation programs.

Look for more information in a future newsletter.

## ***Prayer requests...***

- A large house or building for our foster family in Kommunar, which would enable them to expand their family;
- Opportunities for Eva and Misha to present orphan ministry to church groups in Russia;
- Homes and families for the orphans of Russia, both in Russia and the U.S.;

## ***Contact information:***

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**Big Family Mission is an inter-denominational mission outreach of Lighthouse Community Church**