

BIG FAMILY

Mission to Children

October 2006

"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)



These are the smiling faces of some of the children and chaperones who were involved in the summer of 2006 New Horizons for Children hosting program. The hosting program provides a life-changing experience for the children and for the U.S. families who participate. You can be a host in the summer of 2007!

Orphan hosting program coming to Northeast in 2007!

Big Family Mission is working with New Horizons for Children to start a hosting program for orphans in the Northeast section of the United States. We expect the first orphans to be hosted by families in the Northeast during the summer of 2007.

New Horizons for Children is a Christian, non-profit organization located near Atlanta, GA. For many years, New Horizons has conducted hosting for Eastern European orphans in the Atlanta and Orlando regions of the U.S.

The New Horizons for Children hosting program allows an orphan to come to the United States and have the wonderful experience of living with a Christian family or individual for 3 to 4 weeks. Although adoption is not the objective of the program, many of the children are eventually adopted by either the host family or other families who meet them during their visit.

Big Family Mission became familiar with the work of New Horizons through our affiliation with the MIR

organization in Russia. MIR partners with New Horizons in St. Petersburg, Russia.

We are delighted that three children from the Luga orphanage where Big Family ministers will participate in the New Horizons hosting program for this Christmas. Pasha, Alonia, and Alisa (who prefers to be called Lena) will be hosted by families in Georgia.

Each March and September, LeAnn Dakake, director of New Horizons, leads a small missions team to orphanages in Eastern Europe. LeAnn and her team look for children who could most benefit from experiencing life in a loving, stable, Christian family in America. Through personal experience and prayer, LeAnn and her team select a few children who will come to America for a short visit.

U.S. families agree to cover the cost of airfare and other incidentals and provide these children with an intimate view into what a Christian family is by having them stay in their home for



Three of our Big Family children are coming to America at Christmas this year. Alonia, Pasha, and Lena will be hosted by families in Georgia.

approximately four weeks. Many of these children have never had a positive family experience. They get a first hand glimpse of what healthy relationships can be! Some of these children have never experienced love in a healthy manner or been able to show affection. They also learn about hygiene, American culture, and they're immersed in the English language! Their lives can be impacted greatly by their time in the USA. and in your family.

Orphans usually feel left out, left behind and unworthy. Their self esteem is many times so low because they have been labeled in their home city by peers as "orphan". After coming to the U.S. for 3-4 weeks over Christmas holidays or during the summer months, most children learn as much English as they would typically learn in 4-5 semesters if taught in their school. This gives the children pride in themselves and helps boost their self esteem tremendously! Receiving unconditional love and nurturing and being treated as a member of their host family (who will usually maintain contact even after the child returns to their orphanage) gives them hope!

The orphans learn they do have a Father, the same Father in Heaven that we all have: a Father who loves us dearly, who is always with us, and who always cares for us.

You can learn more about New Horizons and see the children who will participate in this year's Christmas program by visiting their website:

www.newhorizonsforchildren.org .

Big Family Mission and New Horizons need much help in order to bring this hosting program to the Northeast. Here's how you can help:

- Consider hosting a child;
- Help us spread the word about the hosting program to other families who might be interested;
- Help us publicize the hosting program in churches throughout the Northeast;
- Consider giving a financial donation to help a family who would like to host;

- And most important of all: pray fervently for the children and families who will participate in the 2007 summer program.

If you would like to help with the Northeast hosting program, please contact Ken or Dianne Dockery at Big Family Mission (see contact information below) or contact LeAnn Dakake at New Horizons.

November mission trip

We (Ken and Dianne) will be making our seventh journey to Russia during the period of November 16 through 26. As usual, we plan to visit with as many of the Big Family children as we can. Thanks to Eva's meetings with the directors at the Ukki and Gatchina orphanages, we will be able to make our first visits to these orphanages. Our children at Kommunar were moved to Ukki and Gatchina when the Kommunar orphanage was closed in August.

There are 20 orphans at Ukki and about 40 at Gatchina, so we will have the opportunity to meet some new children!

Christmas gifts for orphans

Those of you who have been Big Family Friends for a while know that Big Family provides Christmas gifts for the children in the orphanages where our volunteers minister. Instead of sending gifts from the U.S., we purchase appropriate gifts in Russia for the children. (We have tried sending Christmas gifts from the U.S. in the past, and because of the high rates for air parcel post, it is far more cost-effective to buy gifts in Russia.)

As you plan your giving for Thanksgiving and Christmas, please consider donating for our Christmas gifts program. Last year, each child's gift cost about \$25.

Prayer Requests

- Orphan children of Russia and around the world;
- Ken and Dianne as they journey to Russia;
- The Luga children who will be coming to the U.S. at Christmas and their host families.
- Invitations to present Big Family in churches.

Contact information:

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Big Family Mission is an inter-denominational mission outreach involving churches and Christians from many different denominations.