

# The Russia Review

*A publication of Comfort Foundation, USA*

**Comfort Foundation, USA**  
...financially and emotionally supports the staffs of Comfort Foundation, Russia and Living Word Bookstore as they minister to orphans and underprivileged children in the Vologda Oblast of northern Russia. By God's grace we are working to create a network of prayer and financial supporters from churches, organizations and individuals in the USA who will partner with us in long term ministry and enable us to meet the needs of our Russian staff and the children they serve.



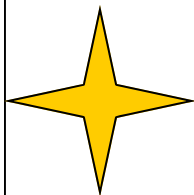
***SEROZHA GETS A FAMILY!***



***Sometimes, saying goodbye is a joy!***

I'll let you guess which one of these children is Serozha. Every orphan dreams for this moment. A Russian family adopted Serozha and the look on his face lets us know how he feels about it! What a precious moment. What a precious goodbye. But, wait. There are other faces in this photograph. Faces that reflect a longing to know Serozha's joy. What happens to those faces? Our Comfort Foundation Russian staff are there to hold the hands of those children who remain in the orphanages. They will be there to celebrate their first day of school. They will remember them on their birthdays. They will whisper in their ears how much God loves them. They will watch them sing in the choir, give piano recitals and celebrate holidays with them. They will be there help them navigate the murky waters of transition to adult living once they leave the orphanages. Comfort Foundation personnel are mobilizing Christian adults in Vologda and Cherepovets to embrace these children into the family of God. Aren't you glad to be a part of this ministry? I sure am.

**Sherri Brock, Executive Director**



# VISION TRIP 2008



**OCTOBER 31—NOVEMBER 9**

**MOSCOW, VOLOGDA, CHEREPOVETS, ST. PETERSBURG**

**COST: \$2,200**

*(includes airfare, lodging, transportation)*

- *Come and see the exciting ministry of our staff in Vologda and Cherepovets with social orphans and underprivileged children.*
- *Come and hear from our staff in their own words as they share the joys and highlights of their ministry.*
- *Come and meet some of the children with whom they work.*
- *Sherr Brock, Executive Director, Comfort Foundation, USA will be leading the trip.*
- *We will spend time visiting orphanages and children's ministry centers.*
- *We will explore opportunities for ways that individuals and churches can encourage and inspire our Russian staff.*
- *We, ourselves, will be inspired by the faith and courage of our Russian staff.*
- *We will have the opportunity to explore Moscow and/or St. Petersburg.*

*Please email Sherri Brock at [sherrinvolgda@yahoo.com](mailto:sherrinvolgda@yahoo.com) or call 314.909.9197 to learn more.*

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL BY AUGUST 31, 2008**

## *Summer Camp at Orphanage 41*



*Grace Bible Fellowship Church of Wallingford,  
PA and Comfort Foundation staff  
hosted  
a one week camp this summer for children ages  
three—seven in Vologda.*

## Summer Camps in Cherepovets...



In our New Corners outreach camp to children, all it took to draw them there was an invitation, a blanket, a ball, a snack and most importantly, Comfort staff and volunteers.

## And in Vologda...



Roughing it out in the forest with a group from Bethel Baptist Church, friends from St. Louis, MO and kids from Orphanage 1.



## COMFORT FOUNDATION RUSSIA HAS A NEW ADDRESS!

The great news is that we bought our new office and program space outright! We own it completely. No mortgage, no interest, no debt. Truly one of God's mighty miracles for Comfort Foundation Russia!

The good news is that the bathroom and two rooms are completely finished.

The other news is that the remaining four rooms look like this:



Will you help us finish renovating our office and program space so that we can use it this fall to begin an image class for young teenage girls and an adaptation ministry for teens preparing to leave the orphanages?

**We need \$13,000 to finish these rooms and get them ready for the fall.**

Please send your tax deductible gift marked for the building fund to:

Comfort Foundation, USA  
P.O. Box 220261  
St. Louis, MO 63122

### Notable Nuggets

As of June 30, 2008, Comfort Foundation, USA received \$200,521.00 in donations. Thank you!!!

- Our fiscal year begins in September and ends in August.
- This amount reflects an **increase** in giving from last year by approximately 8%.
- For our projected 2007/2008 budget normal operating contributions are down by \$40,300.
- Interest income is up by \$1,800.
- Normal operating expenses are down by \$23,000.
- This resulted in a shortfall against the project budget of \$15,500.



From Left  
Misha  
Pasha  
Maxim



Part of your gift helps support these boys. Maxim and Pasha are foster children raised by Sergei and Julia Shipilov who also have two children of their own. Sergei is an assistant pastor in a church located near the White Sea. Thanks so much for giving so that these boys and other boys and girls like them may grow up hearing and experiencing the love of Christ through adults.

### Comfort Foundation, USA, Board Members:

- |                  |                 |                               |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Laura Bing       | St. Louis, MO   | labrph@sbcglobal.net          |
| Georgia Bishop   | Cincinnati, OH  | gbishop@fuse.net              |
| Kristine Bishop  | Chicago, IL     | kristine.bishop@macquarie.com |
| Gretchen Blasé   | St. Louis, MO   | gnblase@sbcglobal.net         |
| Julia Davis      | Dallas, TX      | davis_russia@yahoo.com        |
| Rob Ellsworth    | Cincinnati, OH  | rellsworth@fuse.net           |
| Pat Grace        | St. Louis, MO   | grace1pat@sbcglobal.net       |
| Chris Kostow     | Wilmington, DE  | ctinamk@msn.com               |
| Jean Lee         | Claymont, DE    | djeanmlee@msn.com             |
| Sherry Le Master | St. Louis, MO   | sherrylemaster2@aol.com       |
| Nathan Merrick   | St. Louis, MO   | Nathan@fishwindowcleaning.com |
| John Roach       | Wallingford, PA | johnroach5@comcast.net        |

### Participating Churches:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Bonhomme Presbyterian                    | St. Louis, MO   |
| Central Presbyterian                     | St. Louis, MO   |
| Greentree Community                      | St. Louis, MO   |
| Harrodsburg Community                    | Harrodsburg, KY |
| Kenwood Fellowship                       | Cincinnati, OH  |
| Sycamore Presbyterian                    | Cincinnati, OH  |
| Grace Bible Fellowship                   | Wallingford, PA |
| Bethel Baptist                           | Wilmington, DE  |
| International Community Church of Surrey | London, England |



### Partnering Mission Agency:

BCM, International      309 Colonial Drive Akron, PA 17501      www.bcmintl.org

### Comfort Foundation, USA Contact Information:

Comfort Foundation, USA	P.O. Box 220261	St. Louis, MO 63122	314 909 9197
Sherri Brock, Director	sherrinvologda@yahoo.com		314 221 9464

**WWW.COMFORTFOUNDATIONUSA.ORG**

## **RANDOM THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS**

***These are the personal thoughts and experiences of  
Sherri Brock, Executive Director of Comfort Foundation, USA.***



1. My plane to New York left on time at 7:15 a.m. The only problem was that I *thought* it left at 11:00 a.m. OOPS! So much for stress free traveling.
2. Perrey, the 17 year old with whom I *should* have been traveling from JFK, was forced to sit next to a very chatty Russian man who liked her so much he bought her a carton of duty free cigarettes and small bottles of vodka. I, on the other hand, had an empty seat beside me on the plane ride from Atlanta. Nice for me but somewhat nerve racking for Perrey and her parents. I think they still like me but they were thinking about it for a while.
3. This summer I spent 13 nights out of 30 on trains and planes. Did I mention that I had salmonella? Needless to say the ladies who work the bathrooms at the train station in St. Petersburg got to know me pretty well.
4. Three times when I was very sick and still needed to travel, God intervened and protected me. One time I was literally running into walls before I had to get on the metro to meet a group at the airport. I told God that I would walk out of the hotel room and was trusting Him to get me to the airport. I bounced into walls as I made my way to the door to leave my room and the minute I crossed the threshold of the door, my balance returned and not only did I make it to the airport but was able to lead the gang on tours around St. Petersburg. Slava Bogu! Praise God!
5. When I returned from Russia I continued to experience rather intense chest and stomach pains. When a friend asked me how I planned to deal with the pain, I answered that I would drink a carbonated beverage, pass gas and go to bed. I thought that was a reasonable plan. She didn't. Ten minutes later she and another friend were walking in my condo and herding me into a car for a trip to the hospital.
6. I typically don't burp in public. I do now. I have even gotten to the point that I don't get into a car with anyone without warning them first that I burp randomly. That's a nice way to start a conversation. "Hi, my name is Sherri, and I burp."
7. I think there were about 50 Russians and 30 Americans at our Comfort Foundation Russia 10 year anniversary party. It was a joy filled (albeit, very long) time of praise and celebration.
8. On the same day that our Comfort Foundation Russian staff was congratulated by the mayor's office on 10 years of service to Russian orphans, a letter was sent by the governor to orphanage directors in Vologda and Cherepovets warning them not to work with Comfort Foundation staff because they are a dangerous sect.
9. So, the battle continues. "And we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved." Hebrews 10:39
10. I thought about giving up this time when I came back. I was sick, tired and overwhelmed by responsibility. But then I remembered whose battle it is. God is fighting for the hearts of those orphans and He needs warriors. I'm still in.