



# Sister Cities News

Vol. 21 Issue 2

Newsletter of the Uzhhorod-Corvallis Sister Cities Association

Fall 2010

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

Ken Trueba - President

[\(Ken's email\)](#)

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Charlie Tomlinson, Mayor

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## Presidents Message

As you will see in this newsletter, this year has already been a great success with the delegation of 19 going to Uzhhorod and all their good work. Over the years and under the leadership of Alice Rampton and Sabra Killen, **TOUCH** has greatly increased the quality of life for not just the orphans at Chaslivtsi, but to many other children in need in the community of Uzhhorod. We are very thankful that the delegation returned from their trip in one piece!

Carla Francis with others initiated an inquiry into the needs of the Uzhhorod community for the response to child abuse. The response was positive and further exchange is anticipated to continue this very important work.

Mary Dean Snelling applied for and received approval for Corvallis Sister Cities to be qualified as an Oregon nonprofit cultural organization with the Oregon Cultural Trust. This gives our donations to Sister Cities much greater leverage. (See details in the newsletter)

The board is announcing the first increase in membership dues in 20 years. We were reluctant to do this, but felt it was needed to deal with the increased cost of producing a printed newsletter and mailing it out. Most of the membership will not see this increase as we will eliminate the increase in membership for those who receive their newsletter by email.

Lastly, another way to contribute to Uzhhorod Corvallis Sister Cities is to purchase cards of the artwork of Myroslav Hresko. He donated his beautiful artwork to help fund our many projects and many of these would make great Christmas or holiday cards. Samples are shown below.

Wishing you all the best for the holidays and the New Year,

Ken Trueba



## ADVISORS

Evelyne Hendrix  
Sabra Killen  
Marion McNamara  
Alice Rampton  
Mark Rampton  
Bill Smart  
Beverly Smith  
Bob Stebbins  
Naomi Weidner

## HONORED MEMBERS

Carol Paulson  
Bob Stebbins

## CALENDAR

Sister Cities Week  
May 8 - 14

## SISTER CITY NEWS

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Corvallis, OR. 97339

## Tax Advantages of the Oregon Cultural Trust

The Oregon Cultural Trust supports grants that benefit cultural activities across Oregon. It is an innovative way of funding Oregon's cultural activities through an endowment.

This year Corvallis Sister Cities Association became a qualifying Oregon nonprofit cultural organization and is listed as such with the Oregon Cultural Trust. We qualified because we operate within a mission where culture is central.

Contributions to the Cultural Trust are eligible for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit against your Oregon income tax liability when you also donate an equal amount or more to Corvallis Uzhhorod Sister Cities Association and other eligible organizations. The Oregon credit for the Cultural Trust contributions is up to \$500 for individual filers and \$1,000 for those filing joint returns.

This tax credit is subtracted from the total amount of Oregon tax due. For example, if you donate \$30.00 to the Oregon Cultural Trust and \$30.00 to Corvallis Uzhhorod Sister Cities, you would have an Oregon tax credit of \$30.00. **This tax credit reduces your Oregon taxes more than a tax deduction.** It allows you to redirect a portion of your Oregon taxes into the Cultural Trust.

Because of the tax credit of \$30.00 your net cost is only \$30.00 instead of \$60.00. And if you itemize on your Federal taxes you can deduct both contributions, a total of \$60.00, thus reducing your net cost below \$30!

Please consider a contribution to Corvallis Uzhhorod Sister Cities Association along with your Oregon Cultural Trust contribution. You will find the membership renewal form at the end of this newsletter.

See [www.culturaltrust.org](http://www.culturaltrust.org) for more details. Donations can be made online, by phone, or by mail to the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Phone: 503 986-0088

The Oregon Cultural Trust  
775 Summer Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

## The TOUCH Project Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Year

Nineteen members of the tenth delegation with The TOUCH Project (Take One Ukrainian Child's Hand) participated in a successful 2-week trip to Uzhhorod, Ukraine in September. The TOUCH Project, which supports over 350 children in Ukraine, maintains a sponsorship program with sponsors and donors in 21 states and 4 countries.

## OUR SPONSORS

Altrusa International, Inc. of Corvallis  
Benton Co. Schools Credit Union  
Brooklane Specialty Apples  
Citigroup – Smith Barney  
Corvallis Clinic  
Corvallis Country Club  
Corvallis Family Medicine, PC  
Corvallis Sports Park  
Edward Jones (Kay Dee Cole)  
First Alternative Co-op  
Gracewinds Music  
Jack Scoville Ltd.  
Jazzy Looks (Sue Tetzker)  
La Mancha Ranch & Orchard  
Michael's Jewelers  
New Morning Bakery  
Papa's Pizza  
Pathfinder Travel  
ProPrint  
R-3 Engraving Signs  
Rice's Pharmacy, Gifts & Wine  
Law Offices of Ringo, Stuber, Ensor & Hadlock, P.C.  
Samaritan Health Services  
Starker Forests, Inc.  
Teel's Travel Planners  
Timberhill Athletic Club  
TriAxis Engineering, Inc.  
Valley Eye Care  
Wells Fargo Business Banking  
White's Electronics, Inc.  
Woodstocks Pizza Parlor  
Zonta Club of Corvallis



Delegation members included Crystal and David Cox, Becki Goslow, Lupe and Bardon Maginnis, Tammy Skubinna, Sabra Killen, Judy Norman, Ann Sokoloff, Carla Francis, Els Lofgren, Addy Palagyi, Mary Dean and John Snelling, Peggy Giles, Chris Low, Alice and Mark Rampton, and Devon Templeman.

The delegation included librarians, teachers, social workers, a physician, nurses, accountants, homemakers, a high school student, a college student, an Episcopalian minister, and a retired 4-H director. They came from Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Utah. Everyone paid for their own food, airfare, ground transportation, and lodging.

The delegation rendezvoused in Budapest and then traveled into Ukraine on a large chartered bus. While traveling through Hungary to Uzhhorod, a depressed young man decided to take his life by driving head-on at a high speed into the oncoming bus. The driver of this car was killed instantly. Many delegation members were thrown from their seats and suffered abrasions, bruises and a few broken ribs, but fortunately no one was injured seriously except the bus driver who broke his foot.

Despite the difficult beginning, the delegation was able to accomplish all that they had planned. Some of the highlights of the **TOUCH** 10 trip included:

- Taking the Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disabilities' staff, families and children out to lunch and then enjoying dancing and music with them. Imagine a "Congo Line" with wheelchairs!
- Honoring select children at Public School #14 who worked hard to achieve good grades with a pizza party
- Shopping at the outdoor bazaar with about 100 children from New Family Center & Chaslivtsi Orphanage/Boarding School



New Playground at school #14



Taking kids shopping



Alice Rampton and Emily Watson,  
Peace Corp volunteer



Shopping in Uzhhorod with  
Chaslivtsi students

- Meeting with Uzhhorod's mayor and vice-mayor
- Discussing the domestic abuse situation in Ukraine with Regional Officials and talking about future partnerships
- Watching youth from the New Family Center, Public School #14, and Chaslivtsi youth sing & dance in concerts
- Visiting Mukachevo Castle
- Meeting with recent graduates of Chaslivtsi Orphanage at a nearby vocational training center
- Painting the Chaslivtsi playground bright new colors
- Seeing the excitement on the faces of kids at Public School #14 when they first saw their new school playground which was paid for and installed with funds from **TOUCH** donors
- Spending an evening with the youth at Pavlovo making duct tape wallets, doing art projects, visiting, touring their lush gardens, and filling out annual reports
- Seeing the candle making project which will be a fund raiser for the Rehabilitation Center
- Attending a program at the Regional Library promoting volunteerism
- Enjoying a Farewell Party, complete with sunshine and Bogrash soup, at a city park with Uzhhorod Sister City members, **TOUCH** volunteers, and our wonderful **TOUCH** Coordinator in Ukraine, Zita Batori-Tartsi. We are so fortunate to have Zita on this team!
- Taking a 16.5 hour train ride to Kiev at the end of the trip and traveling through the Carpathian Mountains at night with full moon lighting up the landscape

Many delegation members also participated in individual activities while in Uzhhorod. Els Lofgren distributed supplies to citizens with ostomy needs which were gathered by Nancy Boom of Corvallis. Els, Becki Goslow and Devon Templeman visited the public schools. Dr. Judy Norman and Carla Francis presented at Uzhhorod National University's Social Work Conference. Judy also was on TV twice discussing the humane treatment of animals and distributing 250 t-shirts for "Paws Cause." Mary Dean Snelling and Peggy Giles met with local librarians. RNs Ann Sokoloff and Chris Low lectured to faculty at the Uzhhorod Medical School. John Snelling and David Cox met with Biology professors at the university. David also distributed bags of supplies he had gathered for his Eagle Project. Dr. Mark Rampton and Alice Rampton met with city and medical officials to discuss the future shipment of Humanitarian Aid to Uzhhorod. Sabra Killen negotiated the purchase and installment of a playground for Public School #14 in 2 days, without an interpreter!

Thank you to the loyal sponsors and donors who support the children in The **TOUCH** Project. For ten years, you have made a difference in the lives & futures of these children. The renewal process for the sponsorship of the children in the program is underway. Anyone interested in sponsoring a child in The **TOUCH** Project should contact one of the co-chairs:

Alice Rampton, [ramptonfam@proaxis.com](mailto:ramptonfam@proaxis.com) or  
Sabra Killen, [rankil@live.com](mailto:rankil@live.com)

## Child Abuse Information Gathering

This past September a few members of The **TOUCH** Project delegation met with government officials in Uzhhorod, Ukraine through the coordination of Zita Bathori-Tartsi, Ukrainian **TOUCH** Director. These team members included Sabra Killen, Alice Rampton, Carla Francis, Lupe Maginnis, and Dr. Judy Norman.

The purpose of our meeting was to gather information regarding how issues of child abuse allegations are addressed. The team met with the Department of Youth, Family and Sport, a local NGO affiliated with this issue, and a professor at Uzhhorod University. It was discovered that there is government legislation which makes child abuse unlawful. Additionally, they have professionals who respond to child abuse. There is a concern that these professionals, who work with abused and neglected children, have varying degrees of skills level. Additionally, the community at large is somewhat reluctant to report concerns of child abuse to law enforcement.

Since the delegations return from Ukraine a sub-committee (C-USCA Child Abuse Sub-Committee) has been formed. The committee is comprised of Carla Francis, Alice Rampton, Lupe Maginnis, Gary Meddaugh, Robert Kykyneshi, Michael Donatz, Vita Rosoha, and Sabra Killen. It is the hope of this committee to form a cooperative relationship with interested officials in Uzhhorod to address issues of the prevention of child abuse in their Region.

Written by, Carla Francis, M.S.W, C-USCA Board Member.

## *Holiday Gift Idea*

Give the gift of support to Corvallis Sister Cities programs for the holidays. You will find the membership renewal form at the end of this newsletter. Membership is very important to our organization. It is the support from you, our members, that provides us with the ability to reach out and provide the services we do. If you know anyone that might be interested in joining, please forward this newsletter to them.

Another way to provide support is to purchase some cards of artwork donated by Myroslav Hresko, shown below in groups. They make beautiful holiday cards and help support our programs. Cards are \$2 each and you can email Ken Trueba (ktrueba@comcast.net) or Jack Peterson (jackpeterson@comcast.net) to purchase them.

Visit our website at: <http://sistercities.corvallis.or.us/uzhhorod/uzhhorod-member>

# Happy Holidays!



*Still Life Flowers by Myroslav Hresko 6 Cards for \$12*



*Landscape Paintings by Myroslav Hresko 6 Cards for \$12*



*Mythical Icons by Myroslav Hresko 6 Cards for \$12*



*Mary and Child Icons by Myroslav Hresko 8 Cards for \$16*



*Religious Icons by Myroslav Hresko 7 Cards for \$14*



*Romantic Icons by Myroslav Hresko 5 Cards for \$10*

**Corvallis-Uzhhorod Sister Cities Association  
P.O. Box 176, Corvallis, Oregon 97339**

2011 Membership Registration and Renewal --- Renewal Date January 1

Family \$25.00 (receive newsletter by e-mail) \$ \_\_\_\_  
 Family \$30.00 (receive newsletter by U.S. mail) \$ \_\_\_\_  
 Individual \$10.00 (receive newsletter by e-mail) \$ \_\_\_\_  
 Individual \$15.00 (receive newsletter by U.S. mail) \$ \_\_\_\_  
 Youth \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_

{Patron \$100 or more \_\_\_\_ {Sustaining \$ 75 \_\_\_\_ {Friend \$ 50 \_\_\_\_  
 (Please indicate e-mail or U.S. mail if you select one of these 3 membership levels) e-mail \_\_\_\_ U.S. mail \_\_\_\_

Other donation \$ \_\_\_\_

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
<b>Email</b>	Please indicate if this is a new e-mail address ____
<p><i>Please make checks payable to C-USCA and mail to address above.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you.</i></p>	

***I'm interested in volunteering in the following areas: (please check all that apply)***

- |                    |                |                 |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| { Public Relations | { Fund raising | { Arts/cultural |
| { Hosting          | { Membership   | { Newsletter    |
| { Youth Exchange   | { Education    | { Translation   |
| { Grants           | { Homestays    |                 |

Your membership and donations help support the activities and exchanges between our two cities, the most recent project being last summer's Globetrotters program held in Corvallis. Two Ukrainian instructors in art and dance were brought to Corvallis to teach Corvallis elementary students Ukrainian arts and dance. We hope you had the opportunity to see the children dancing at DaVinci Days.