

Highlights of TOUCH 8 Delegation's Trip to Ukraine in October 2008

Twenty-three members of the TOUCH 8 Delegation traveled to Ukraine including:

Nancy Boom	Hannah Killen	McKenzie Olson	Mark Rampton	Marjorie Storm
Dixie Hall	Maureen Larson	Addy Palagy	Leon Roland	Mary Forson
Anne Hart	Erin Larson	Nadya Patapoff	Marilyn Roland	Caitlin Turnbull
Roy Hart	Els Lofgren	Jacob Patapoff	Beverly Smith	
Sabra Killen	Judy Norman	Alice Rampton	Russ Smith	

The delegation included a retired librarian, artist, medical doctor, retired sheriff, nurses, retired teachers, home-makers, professors, business owners, social workers, 6 teenagers including 5 Girl Scouts, scientists, and an ordained minister. Most delegation members were from Oregon, but Washington, Texas, and Utah were represented, also. Everyone paid for their own food, airfare, and lodging. The visit by members of the Marimba Band from Corvallis overlapped with the TOUCH Delegation and it was our privilege to enjoy their music. They taught a group of Ukrainian youth how to play the marimbas and left the instruments in Uzhhorod as a gift from Corvallis.

TOUCH delegation members carried over 1500 pounds of humanitarian supplies in their suitcases including 30 quilts, 210 hygiene kits (hat or scarf, toothbrush, toothpaste, toy, soap, wash cloth), 24 bulletin boards, school supplies, paint brushes, rollers, and drop cloth for painting a school, sponsor letters, 50 pair of gloves, 50 pocket dolls, 40 shirts for boys, 100 stuffed hearts, \$800 worth of jewelry making supplies, microscope, ostomy supplies, glucometers, lab supplies, and several bags of candy.

Highlights of the activities by Delegation members include:

1. Attending concerts by the Maharimba Band from Corvallis, Oregon in an Uzhhorod city park, at the Roma School, the Chaslivtsi Orphanage, the Philharmonic Performance Hall and the Youth Center.
2. Shopping with 80 children from the Chaslivtsi Orphanage.
3. Painting Public School #14 (one of the oldest Roma schools still in use in Europe) from a dingy, dirty white to a bright yellow with brown trim. Colors were chosen by the school principal and staff.
4. Having snacks with New Family Program children and enjoying their dance performance.
5. Celebrating with the Girl Scout troop and their leaders when they were finally able to meet Anna Yurik, the young girl that they have sponsored for about 8 years.
6. Attending a concert of the Transcarpathian Folk Choir, Dancers and Orchestra at the Philharmonia.
7. Meeting with the Uzhhorod Sister Cities Association at a city park and enjoying Hungarian Bograch soup and dancing to the lively music of the Maharimbas together.
8. Touring the Pavlovo Farm Home, the New Family Center and Rehab Center for Children with Disabilities.
9. Attending the 8th birthday celebration of the Rehabilitation Center
10. Participating in a Social Work Conference sponsored by Uzhhorod National University where the future of children at risk was discussed.
11. Viewing the DVD of the 2nd Petrovo Summer Camp-2008 and seeing the remarkable benefit to the children from particular efforts of Pat Fahlbusch (of Darmstadt, Germany) and her Circus Trainers.
12. Visiting Pavlovo Farm Home and initiating the beginnings of a jewelry making micro-business through sharing and instruction with the young women who live at this home.
13. Treating our 30+ teen interpreters and volunteers to pizza in appreciation for their volunteer work.
14. Enjoying the fun and festivities in Uzhhorod during City Days, a celebration of their 1115th birthday!
15. Feeling gratitude for a caring and hardworking TOUCH Coordinator in Ukraine- Zita Batori-Tartsi and all of the program directors, teachers, and volunteers who take care of TOUCH kids on a daily basis in Ukraine.

Many delegation members met with their sponsor child and participated in individual activities while in Uzhhorod. Nancy Boom and Els Lofgren, both Corvallis RNs, meet with Uzhhorod citizens with ostomy needs and presented them with hundreds of supplies. Dr. Mark Rampton lectured to Family Practice Residents at the Medical School. At the Social Work Conference, Dr. Judy Norman presented on how to do an assessment of children with special needs and Dixie Hall gave a presentation on art and music therapy for children. Dixie also taught marbling to children at Public School #14 and the Chaslivtsi Orphanage. Retired librarian Bev Smith met with officials from Uzhhorod's library and the Rotary Dental Clinic. She and her husband, Russ, also represented Corvallis at the Sister City celebration during City Days. Els Lofgren taught a health class to high school students. Alice Rampton and Sabra Killen took about 15 graduates of the Chaslivtsi Orphanage out for lunch. Anne and Roy Hart were able to meet with many of the Ukrainian students who participated in a student exchange 3 years ago. Addy Palagy, Dixie Hall and the Girl Scouts helped instruct the Pavlovo girls on the art of jewelry making.

Thank you to everyone who supports The TOUCH Project. Without your support, none of this would exist.