

## Highlights of TOUCH 10 Delegation's Trip to Ukraine - September 2010

Nineteen members of the TOUCH10 Delegation traveled to Ukraine including:

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

The TOUCH10 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.

Highlights of the TOUCH 10 trip for many delegation members included:

- Taking the Rehabilitation Center staff, families and children out to lunch and then enjoying dancing and music with them. Imagine a "Congo Line" with wheelchairs!
- Celebrating with select children at Public School #14 who worked hard to achieve good grades.
- Shopping at the outdoor bazaar with about 100 children from New Family Center & Chaslivtsi.
- Meeting with Uzhhorod's mayor and vice-mayor.
- Discussing the domestic abuse situation in Ukraine with Regional Officials and talking about future partnerships.
- Watching New Family, PS14, and Chaslivtsi youth sing & dance in concerts for the delegation.
- Visiting Mukachevo Castle and recent graduates in 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.
- 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.
- Surviving a harrowing bus accident in Hungary on the drive into Ukraine. Sadly, the suicidal driver of the car which hit the bus was killed. Various members of the delegation on the bus incurred abrasions, broken ribs, bruises, a concussion, but no life threatening injuries.

Many delegation members 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 distributed 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.