

Highlights of the 15th delegation with The TOUCH Project- September 2015

- ◆ Worked together as a cohesive group of 11 members of the TOUCH-15 Delegation.
- ◆ Attended the wedding of Denis Dobrianski, a former member of the New Family Program who arranged his wedding date to fit our schedule.
- ◆ Shopped with approximately 60 children and teens from the New Family Program and 100 youth from the Chaslivtsi Orphanage and Boarding School. Each child had \$41 to spend on school clothes, supplies, and a toy or item of their choosing.
- ◆ Visited Pavlovo Farm Home where we enjoyed each other's company, ate food and sang together, took photos of each young woman and annual reports for sponsors.
- ◆ Lunched with university students from the Dept. of Applied Linguistics who were some of our interpreters during this visit, along with wonderful high school students.
- ◆ Met with Mayor Victor Pohorelov and participated in a TV interview after the meeting where we explained the purpose of TOUCH.
- ◆ Enjoyed dinner with and courtesy of Dr. Volodymyr Smolanka (Rector/President of Uzhhorod National University), Dr. Mykola Palinchak (Dean of International Relations), and Dr. Yaroslav Lazur (Dean of Law School).
- ◆ Spent a morning at Public School #14 and watched the students perform in music and art. TOUCH delegation members, Evelyne Hendrix and Tammy Skubinna, shared that their Altrusa Club in Corvallis is willing to support the first female Roma student at a university in the future.
- ◆ Painted the outside wall of Public School #14. TOUCH funds from supporters helped pay for the repair, new plaster and paint for the outside of the school.
- ◆ Enjoyed a rehearsal by the Cantus Choir, a performance by the Transcarpathian Folk Singers and Dancers, a puppet show, dancing and singing by New Family Youth and additional performances during Uzhhorod's City Days Celebration. TOUCH children attended the puppet show and Transcarpathian concert.
- ◆ Participated in the TOUCH scholarships interviews. 17 youth, from each of the 5 TOUCH programs, received scholarships for university, technical school or for educational resources.
- ◆ Toured the new facility for the Rehabilitation Center for Children with disabilities. All services are now under one roof instead of located at 5 different sites.
- ◆ Attended the International Social Work Conference organized by our leader - Zita. Presented on the last fifteen years of The TOUCH Project. Heard many other presentations including a report by Social Work students on 2015 TOUCH summer camp programs.
- ◆ Honored our 50 teen and college-age volunteers/interpreters with certificates & pizza party.
- ◆ Attended a Gala Concert at the Philharmonia with excellent performances by an organist and other musicians including delegation member, Lynne Abbey Lee, who played her harp and presented another small harp to Anna Stynych, music director at Chaslivtsi Boarding School.
- ◆ Spent quality time with our TOUCH children.