

The TOUCH Project

Highlights of the TOUCH 5 Delegation Trip, September 2005

We had a marvelous TOUCH 5 Delegation trip in September 2005. The delegation were a great bunch of volunteers who all paid their own way and expenses on the trip. Some of the highlights during the trip included:

- Distributing the 1100 pairs of underwear, 220 stuffed animals, 200 dolls, 150 packs of floss, 120 boxes of crayons, 120 boxes of colored pencils, 50 Heart of the Valley Children's Choir red blazers, 27 quilts, 25 knitted hats, 20 t-shirts, 8 purses, 4 toy trucks, 3 sensory tables, and 1 frisbee that were brought over in suitcases by the TOUCH delegation members. Thank you for your material and financial donations, which provided these many items.
- Observing the new laundry facility at the orphanage in action. The children are learning to wash, sort, dry and iron the clothes.
- Listening to the newly formed choir at the Chaslivtsi Orphanage sing in 3-part harmony. It brought tears to many eyes. They were wearing folk costumes purchased through a "pass the hat" donation gathered at a Cantus Concert in Corvallis. Later they proudly donned their new red blazers, which were a gift from the Heart of the Valley Children's Choir in Oregon.
- Spending time meeting with the older youth in the Vocational Training programs and taking them out to dinner.
- Learning that some of the girls at Pavlovo are now employed in a sewing factory.
- Visiting the Children's Hospital and holding the newborn babies that have been abandoned. One three year old took her first step on the day of our visit.
- Enjoying pizza at a restaurant and then playing at a city park with children from the Rehabilitation Center.
- Taking children in the New Family Program on an excursion to the mountains where we all enjoyed a nice lunch, relay games, a hike to a waterfall, and horseback rides
- Enjoying a picnic and shopping trip with children from the Chaslivtsi Orphanage
- Watching the New Family children put on a concert for the delegation. Their numbers included folk, ballroom, ballet, and modern dancing.
- Attending and presenting at the Educational Conference on the "Situation with Orphans in Ukraine". This round table conference was one of the firsts of its kind in Uzhgorod, Ukraine and TOUCH was one of the sponsors of the conference with a \$500 contribution. Attendees came from Uzhgorod, Kyiv & Lviv in Ukraine and Segred, Hungary.
- Getting to know our wonderful and talented Ukrainian teenage interpreters who accompanied us on our many activities with the TOUCH children. The teenagers were our "voices" and allowed us to communicate during our trip.
- Meeting with 10 members of the media (TV and newspapers) regarding The TOUCH Project.
- Reconnecting with and making new friends in Uzhgorod.

In addition, 3 members of the delegation did an assessment on the availability of mammograms in Uzhgorod and paved the way for the establishment of a mammography clinic at the Municipal Hospital. Three delegates represented the city of Corvallis, Oregon at the "City Days Celebration" for Uzhgorod, Ukraine's 1120th birthday year.

Delegation members included: Peggy Giles, Elaine Selberg, Kathleen Kendall, Alice Rampton Mike Sweeney, Sabra Killen, Dave Conklin, Carol Sweeney, Els Lofgren, Bonnie Jackson, Carey Batschi, Judy Batschi, Terry Trombley, Pat Norman, Judy Norman, and Pat Jaworsky.